

General Secretariat (SG)

Geneva, 8 September 2021

To ITU-T Sector Members

Ref: **DM-21/1018**

SG/TSB

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Subject: World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA-20)

(1-9 March 2022)

Global Standards Symposium (GSS-20) (28 February 2022)

Dear Sir/Madam,

Further to DM letter <u>DM-20/1017</u>, <u>DM-21/1002</u> and circular letter <u>21/6</u>, and as agreed during the Virtual consultation of councillors 2021, I have consulted with the Indian Administration regarding the ongoing restrictions on work and travel due to the COVID-19 pandemic. I have to inform you that, as a result of these continued restrictions, the Indian Administration has withdrawn its invitation to hold the WTSA-20. Therefore, the next WTSA will be held from 1 to 9 March 2022, preceded by the Global Standards Symposium (GSS-20) on 28 February 2022, both in Geneva, Switzerland.

I wish to express my gratitude to the Indian Administration for offering to host WTSA-20, for its cooperation and flexibility in adapting to COVID-19, and for proposing the fall-back option to hold WTSA in Geneva at the same dates.

In accordance with Article 25 of the Convention of the International Telecommunication Union and Section 3 of the General Rules of Conferences, Assemblies and Meetings of the Union, I therefore have great pleasure in hereby inviting you to send a representative to WTSA-20 and to the Global Standards Symposium (GSS-20). In accordance with No. 476 of the ITU Convention, ITU-T Sector Members will not be charged for their attendance at WTSA-20.

Under separate cover you will soon receive the relevant Circular of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau (TSB) containing information on the organization and arrangements of WTSA-20 and GSS-20.

In line with ITU gender equality and mainstreaming policy and Resolution 198 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) on empowerment of youth through telecommunication/ICT, I would also like to take the opportunity to encourage you to include women and young people in your delegation. As part of my commitments to the International Gender Champions, ITU ITU meetings.

Yours faithfully,

(signed)

Houlin Zhao Secretary-General