



General Secretariat (SG)

Ref: **CL-21/4** Geneva, 3 February 2021
Contact: Ms. Gitanjali Sah To: Ministers,
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Subject: **Invitation to the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Forum 2021
(From January until the Final Week: 17-21 May 2021)**

Sir/Madam,

The World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Forum 2021 has started in a virtual format in January, with pre-events including thematic workshops and other highlights. The final week of the WSIS Forum 2021 will be held from 17 to 21 May 2021. The Forum is hosted by the ITU and co-organized by ITU, UNESCO, UNCTAD and UNDP. The overall theme is "ICTs for Inclusive, Resilient and Sustainable Societies and Economies (WSIS Action Lines for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals)".

The UN General Assembly Overall Review of the implementation of the WSIS outcomes (UNGA Resolution 70/125) recognized the necessity of holding the WSIS Forum on an annual basis and called for a close alignment between WSIS and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In this context, the WSIS Forum 2021 will provide a platform to track the achievements of WSIS Action Lines in collaboration with the UN Agencies involved and provide information and analysis of the implementation of WSIS Action Lines since 2005.

The format, agenda, and thematic focus are the result of an open consultation process with the involvement of all WSIS Stakeholders and can be accessed at [wsis.org/forum](https://www.itu.int/net4/wsiforum)

Considering your country's significant efforts in fostering the development of information and knowledge societies, a policy statement during the High-Level Policy Sessions scheduled from 22-26 March 2021 would be most welcome. The Chairman Designate of the WSIS Forum 2021, H.E. Mr. Maxim Parshin, Deputy Minister of Digital Development, Communications and Mass Media, Russian Federation will be appointed during the opening of the High-Level Track. Furthermore, the track will continue during the Forum's Final Week consisting of an opening segment, a WSIS Prizes ceremony, a ministerial round table and High-Level dialogues.

I would be grateful if you could kindly confirm your acceptance before **1st March 2021** by correspondence or by visiting our website <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsiforum/2021/HighLevel>

Finally, I would like to draw your attention to the opportunities for enhanced visibility at the Forum through the *WSIS Forum 2021 Partnerships*, as presented at <https://www.itu.int/go/wsifund>

Accept, Sir/Madam, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(original signed)

Houlin ZHAO
Secretary-General