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| The International Teleocmmunication Union - Connecting the World. | | **International telecommunication union**  **Telecommunication Standardization Bureau** | |  |
|  | | | Geneva, 6 March 2024 | |
| **Ref:** | **TSB Circular 182** | | - To: Regional Telecommunications Organizations;  - To: Administrations of Member States of the Union;  - To: ITU-T Sector Members;  - To: ITU-T Associate Members;  - To: ITU-T Academia | |
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|  |  | | **Copy to:**  - ITU Regional Offices | |
| **Subject:** | **Network of Women in Standards (NoW in ITU-T) for WTSA-24** | | | |
| Dear Sir/Madam,  I am delighted to extend an invitation to you to actively contribute to the promotion of gender equality objectives at the forthcoming World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly 2024 (WTSA-24), scheduled to take place from 15 to 24 October in New Delhi, India. In addition, this letter serves as an invitation to the Regional Telecommunication Organizations (RTOs) to appoint a regional representative for the Network of Women in Standards ([NoW in ITU-T](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/NoW/Pages/default.aspx)), by 5 April 2024, and to host training sessions for women delegates attending WTSA-24. Further details can be found in sections 3 and 4 of this letter.  In accordance with [WTSA Resolution 55 (Rev. Geneva 2022)](https://www.itu.int/dms_pub/itu-t/opb/res/T-RES-T.55-2022-PDF-E.pdf) on promoting gender equality in the activities of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T), the [NoW in ITU-T](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/NoW/Pages/default.aspx), formerly known as the Women in Standardization Expert Group (W.I.S.E), is dedicated to promoting the active and meaningful participation of women in ITU-T, mainstreaming a gender perspective in standardization activities, and advancing gender equality in ITU-T leadership positions. This commitment aligns with [PP Resolution 70 (Rev. Bucharest 2022)](https://www.itu.int/en/action/gender-equality/Documents/S22-PP-Res70-E.pdf) objectives, promoting equal participation of women and men in policy and decision-making, and mainstreaming gender equality across the work of the Union, and is also in line with United Nations SDG Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.  **1. Objectives for WTSA-24**  In reference to [TSB Circular Letter 176](https://www.itu.int/md/T22-TSB-CIR-0176/en), I strongly encourage your support in ensuring gender-balanced representation within your delegations at WTSA-24 through the active participation of women, including as heads of delegation, and the nomination of female candidates for ITU-T leadership positions. The [NoW4WTSA-24 campaign](https://www.itu.int/wtsa/2024/now/about/), which kicked off at the Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group (TSAG) meeting in January 2024, aims to achieve a **minimum of 35% female participation at WTSA-24**, with the objective to surpass the previous record of 32% set at WTSA-20 (2022).  Member States and Regions achieving those objectives will receive due recognition during the Assembly.  **2. TSAG outcomes**  At its meeting in January 2024, TSAG approved the updated [Terms of Reference](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/NoW/Documents/Terms%20of%20Reference.pdf) ([ToRs](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/NoW/Documents/Terms%20of%20Reference.pdf)) for NoW in ITU-T. This included the appointment of a regional representative from each of the six ITU regions to facilitate the network’s objectives at the regional level, specifically in the activities leading up to WTSA-24. More detailed information regarding the role, and length of appointment for the regional representatives is contained in Annex 1 of this letter.  **3. NoW in ITU-T regional representatives for WTSA-24**  RTOs are invited to appoint a regional representative to facilitate the accomplishment of the gender parity objectives for WTSA‑24 and to amplify the impact of NoW in ITU-T initiatives across their respective region in the lead-up to WTSA-24. This appointment should be communicated to me no later than **5 April 2024**. The chosen regional representatives will be invited to an initial management meeting with the Chair and Vice-Chair of NoW in ITU-T at the beginning of April to discuss strategies and plans for WTSA-24.  **4. Regional training for women delegates to WTSA-24**  As announced at the TSAG meeting in January 2024, RTOs are invited to host an in-person training programme for women delegates appointed to attend WTSA-24.  The training will complement the “Bridging the Standardization Gap” hands-on training series (information will be available on the [website](https://www.itu.int/wtsa/2024/now/trainings/) indue course) for WTSA‑24. It will provide women delegates with valuable networking opportunities, deep insight into the WTSA process, and essential negotiation skills. As a result, the training will provide women the opportunity to develop as ITU-T leaders and enhance the value of their participation in WTSA-24 and the broader ITU standardization work.  It is suggested that the regional training be organized alongside the upcoming Regional Preparatory Meetings (RPMs) for WTSA-24, with one session planned for each region between May and September 2024. To facilitate in-person attendance at the regional training, up to four partial fellowships will be awarded per ITU region.  **5. NoW in ITU-T event at WTSA-24**  Finally, NoW in ITU-T will organize a special event on 17 October 2024 at WTSA-24. The event will feature engaging and inspirational talks by female role models in the STEM fields, networking opportunities, a recognition ceremony honouring contributions to gender equality, and some mentorship aspects. I urge all delegates to participate in the event and in activities of NoW in ITU-T to come together and celebrate diversity and inclusivity in the standards community. Key logistics information will be posted on the [event’s webpage](https://www.itu.int/wtsa/2024/now/) in due course.  In summary, I would therefore be grateful if RTOs could:   * **appoint** promptly **a regional representative** for NoW in ITU-T * **provide** the **details** of their chosen regional representative for NoW in ITU-T by **5 April 2024** * **confirm their intention to** host **regional trainings** as part of the RPMs.   For further coordination, please liaise with Ms Charlyne Restivo, the focal point for NoW in ITU-T ([charlyne.restivo@itu.int](mailto:charlyne.restivo@itu.int)).  I look forward to seeing you in New Delhi and witnessing progress towards a more gender-balanced WTSA- 24. | | | | |

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| Yours faithfully,  Seizo Onoe  Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau |  |

Annex 1  
  
**Roadmap for NoW in ITU-T Regional Representatives for WTSA-24**

Approved at the TSAG meeting (Geneva, 22-26 January 2024)

1. NoW in ITU-T Governance

The current leadership of NoW in ITU-T comprises of a Chair, Dr. Rim Belhassine-Cherif, Tunisie Télécom, Tunisia, and a Vice-Chair, Dr. Hyoung Jun Kim, Electronics and Telecommunications Research Institute) (ETRI), Rep. of Korea.

TSAG meeting (22-26 January 2024) agreed to the inclusion of six (6) Regional Representatives to this governance structure, until the first TSAG of the new Study Period (2025-2028) following WTSA-24. Each appointed Regional Representative will aim to facilitate the objectives of the [NoW4WTSA-24 campaign](https://www.itu.int/wtsa/2024/now/about/) and help extend the network’s reach and impact in the regions for activities leading up to WTSA-24.

The six (6) Regional Representatives will report to the Chair and Vice Chairs of NoW in ITU-T through regular monthly meetings held in the run up to WTSA-24.

1. Outreach the Regional Telecommunication Organizations (RTOs)

It was agreed that the TSB Director would issue Circular Letter to the heads of RTOs inviting the appointment of one Regional Representative per region to advance the NoW4WTSA-24 campaign objectives and facilitate the expansion of the network towards WTSA-24.

1. NoW in ITU-T Regional Representatives’ mandate

The Regional Representatives will be appointed until the first TSAG of the new Study Period (2025-2028) following WTSA-24, with the option for their term to be renewed by TSAG for a subsequent 4-year (ITU-T Study Period). Their responsibilities will include actively promoting the Network at a regional level and providing regional perspectives and support in the implementation of NoW in ITU-T’s regional activities.

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