



## Girls in ICT Day Event, 28 April 2018, Sofia, Bulgaria

Dear Madam/Sir,

Considering the pervasive presence of ICTs in our everyday life, the growing need for digital skills in nearly all professional careers and the increasing and often unmet demand for ICT professionals worldwide, it is essential to increase our efforts to make sure women and men are equally represented in ICT studies and careers.

International Girls in ICT Day is an initiative backed by ITU Member States in Plenipotentiary Resolution 70 (Rev. Busan, 2014) to create a global environment that empowers and encourages girls and young women to consider studies and careers in the growing field of information and communication technologies (ICTs). Resolution 70 calls for all stakeholders to celebrate and commemorate International Girls in ICT Day as part of actions that directly contribute to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal Targets 4.4, 5.b and 8.6.

Further, the European Commission has placed at the top of its political agenda the objective of stimulating girls' acquisition of digital skills, enticing them to follow Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education and careers. Indeed, the "Women in the Digital Era 2018" report of the European Commission, published the 8th March 2018, shows that girls account for only 17% out of 1.4 million people studying ICT in the EU in 2015.

In this context, ITU and European Commission, is pleased to invite you to the **Girls in ICT Day Event for Europe on 28 April 2018** in Sofia, Bulgaria. This event will include a role model policy panel followed by a set of educative hands-on workshops for participating girls who will also meet role models.

A draft agenda is set out in **Annex 1**. It is also made available on the event website at [https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/Europe/Pages/EVENTS/2018/Girls\\_in\\_ICT\\_Sofia](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/Europe/Pages/EVENTS/2018/Girls_in_ICT_Sofia).

Mr Jaroslaw Ponder, Head of the ITU Office for Europe (email: eurregion@itu.int, phone: +41 22 730 5467) are at your full disposal should you require any further information.

We look forward to your active participation.

Ms. Mariya Gabriel  
Commissioner  
Digital Economy and Society

Mr. Houlin Zhao  
Secretary General  
International Telecommunication Union