

17 March 2016

Ref: WSIS Forum 2016/01
Contact: J.K.Ponder
Tel: +41 22 730 60 65
Fax: +41 22 730 64 53
E-mail: wsis-info@itu.int

To: All WSIS Stakeholders
- Governments
- Private Sector
- Civil Society
- International Organizations

**Invitation to the World Summit on the Information Society Forum 2016
(ITU Headquarters, Geneva, 2-6 May 2016)**

Dear Sir/Madam,

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), as the co-organizers, are pleased to invite you to the WSIS Forum 2016, which the ITU will host in Geneva (Switzerland) from 2 to 6 May 2016.

The WSIS Forum is organized with the engagement of other United Nations Agencies, including, World Intellectual Property Organization, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Food and Agriculture Organization, the International Labour Organization, the International Trade Centre, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Universal Postal Union, the World Meteorological Organization, the World Health Organization, the World Food Programme, United Nations Women and the United Nations Regional Commissions.

The WSIS Forum builds upon the outcomes of the UN General Assembly Overall Review of the implementation of the WSIS outcomes (UNGA Resolution 70/125) that recognized the necessity of holding this 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 will leverage the WSIS-SDG Matrix and serve as a key forum for discussing the role of ICTs as a means of implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets, with due regard to the global mechanism for follow up and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda (UNGA Resolution A/70/1).

The format, agenda, and thematic focus of the Forum are the result of an open consultation process with the involvement of all WSIS Stakeholders. The Forum will build upon two tracks, the *High-Level Track*, consisting of policy statements, interactive high-level dialogues, a WSIS prize ceremony, a ministerial round table, and the *Forum Track*, which will offer participants a series of action line facilitation meetings, country workshops, thematic workshops and knowledge exchanges, as well as an exhibition addressing issues that are critical to WSIS implementation and follow-up in multi-stakeholder settings.

Relevant documentation, the agenda and registration can be accessed at: www.wsis.org/forum.

We look forward to welcoming you to the WSIS Forum 2016.

Yours faithfully,

[original signed]

[original signed]

[original signed]

[original signed]

Mr. Houlin Zhao
Secretary-General, ITU

Ms. Irina Bokova
Director-General, UNESCO

Mr. Mukhisa Kituyi
Secretary-General, UNCTAD

Ms. Helen Clark
Administrator, UNDP