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To: All WSIS Stakeholders

- Governments
- Private Sector
- Civil Society
- Academia/ Technical Community
- International Organizations

WSIS Forum 2023, 13-17 March 2023, Geneva, Switzerland
Invitation to Contribute to the Open Consultation Process on Shaping the Themes and Format

Dear Sir/Madam,

On behalf of the co-organizers of the WSIS Forum (ITU, UNESCO, UNCTAD and UNDP), I am pleased to invite you to contribute to the Open Consultation Process on the Thematic Aspects and Innovations on the Format of the WSIS Forum 2023.

The annual WSIS Forum is a global multistakeholder platform facilitating the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines for advancing sustainable development, organized in close collaboration with all WSIS Action Line co-/facilitators and other UN organizations (FAO, ILO, ITC, UNDESA, UNEP, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNITAR, UNODC, UPU, UN Women, UN Tech Bank for LDCs, UNU, WFP, WHO, WIPO, WMO and UN Regional Commissions). It provides an opportunity for information exchange, knowledge creation and sharing of best practices, while identifying emerging trends and fostering partnerships, taking into account the evolving Information and Knowledge Societies.

In follow up to the outcomes of the UN General Assembly Overall Review of the Implementation of WSIS Outcomes ([Res. A/70/125](#)) and with the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development ([Res. A/70/1](#)), the WSIS Forum is constantly evolving and strengthening the alignment between the WSIS Action Lines and the Sustainable Development Goals.

The WSIS Forum 2023 is scheduled to be held from 13 to 17 March 2023 at the ITU Headquarters premises in Geneva, with the support of remote participation. The theme of the WSIS Forum 2023 is *WSIS Action Lines for building back better and accelerating the achievement of the SDGs*.

The WSIS Forum is the only event of its kind where the programme and agenda are completely crowdsourced. Therefore, we are pleased to announce the start of the Open Consultation Process on thematic aspects and innovations on the format of WSIS Forum 2023. The process actively engages governments, civil society, the private sector, academia, the technical community and regional and international organizations in the preparatory process to ensure broad ownership and further improvements to the Forum.

The Open Consultation Process for the WSIS Forum 2023 is structured in five phases as follows:

- **Phase I: 7 September 2022, 13:00-14:00 CEST, Virtual Launch of the Open Consultation Process (OCP)**

- Launch of the WSIS Forum 2023 website for the Official Submissions to the WSIS Secretariat on the thematic aspects and innovations on the format to be made via www.wsis.org/forum
- Open call for nominations for WSIS Forum 2023 multistakeholder High-Level Track Facilitators
- Launch of the WSIS Special Initiatives, WSIS Prizes, WSIS Photo Contest 2023
- **Phase II: 30 November 2022, 11:00-12:00 CET/12:00-13:00 EAT:** 1st Meeting: Open Forum on Implementation of WSIS Action Lines and WSIS Forum (during IGF 2022 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia).
- **Phase III: 13 January 2023, 14:00-15:00 CET:** 2nd Meeting of OCP (Room A, ITU Headquarters, Geneva, Switzerland with remote participation).
- **Phase IV: 1 February 2023, 13:00-14:00 CET:** Special WSIS Forum 2022 Chairman Session (*WSIS+20: Highlighting the achievements and challenges of the WSIS Action Lines for achieving the SDGs*) and Deadline for Submissions of Official Contributions and Binding Requests for Workshops.
- **Phase V: 13 February 2023, 14:00-15:00 CET:** 3rd Meeting of OCP (Room A, ITU Headquarters, Geneva, Switzerland with remote participation).

Please refer to www.wsis.org/forum for registration, physical/virtual meeting rooms, and other updates. The Open Consultation Process will include a collection of inputs from regional and national WSIS related events and any physical meetings of the Open Consultation Process will provide for remote participation.

We look forward to your active participation and to seeing you at the WSIS Forum 2023.

Yours faithfully,



Houlin Zhao
ITU Secretary-General