



## General Secretariat (SG)

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To ITU Member States, Sector Members and  
Academia

Subject: **Global Youth Summit: 9-11 September 2013, San Jose, Costa Rica**

Dear Madam/Sir,

I have the pleasure of writing to you about an exciting new initiative, the *Global Youth Summit: BYND 2015*, which will be held in San Jose, Costa Rica, from 9 to 11 September 2013. This Summit is being hosted by the Government of Costa Rica, and organized by ITU together with other organizations in the UN family, as well as partners from government, industry, media and civil society.

The world today is faced with growing challenges including rising unemployment, the proliferation of non-communicable diseases and climate change, many of which concern young people more acutely than other groups. In 2012, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon declared youth as one of five main priorities in the run up to 2015, the date for delivering the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The Global Youth Summit in Costa Rica will bring young people from around the world together – both physically and virtually - to participate in a series of workshops, presentations and conversations. These interactive sessions will focus on the use of technology for social good – specifically information and communication technologies (ICTs) – while seeking to influence the United Nations and civil society engagement processes (often referred to as Beyond-2015) to prioritize ICT inclusion as a central pillar of the Post-2015 development agenda. The Summit will crowdsource a multimedia statement from young people onsite and virtually, for delivery to the United Nations General Assembly in September by the President of Costa Rica.

We expect about 500 youth to attend the Summit in person and many more will participate through online webcast and multiple social media channels. The sessions will be dynamic and fresh, and will encourage open dialogue, discussion, debate and the free flow of ideas between young participants and inspiring guest speakers, mentors, government and thought leaders. A draft programme is attached in Annex.

We are seeking a few key partners from among our members to make special contributions to the success of this Summit, including bringing 75-100 youth delegates to the Summit, contributing to a thematic session, or providing technology solutions or other services. We are offering attractive visibility packages for partners, such as on-site and on-line branding, recognition and visibility in the Summit's communications, as well as creative, co-branded social media activities to engage youth audiences. For more information, please contact [bynd2015@itu.int](mailto:bynd2015@itu.int).

In addition, we invite all ITU Member States, Sector Members and Academia to sponsor a delegation of between two and four young people aged 18 to 25 with appropriate gender balance, to participate in the Summit. While a number of youth under 18 years of age will participate from Costa Rica and neighbouring countries and via online platforms, all other participants must be 18 years and older. Typical youth profiles include coders, application developers, entrepreneurs, engineers specializing in ICT and subject specialists in the themes of the Summit. While some interpretation services will be provided, youth delegates should have a working knowledge of English and/or Spanish to ensure that they can fully interact with one another.

Participating Ministries and organizations will need to provide adult supervision and take legal guardianship of the young participants that they sponsor as well as fund their travel and accommodation costs. Support staff will be made available by the Summit organizers to facilitate delegations on the ground and special hotel and visa arrangements will be made for visiting delegations. During the Summit, meals, local transport and other related services will be provided at no cost to the participants.

We encourage Member States, Sector Members and Academia to confirm their interest in this Summit as soon as possible. As space will be limited, we will register participants on a first-come, first-serve basis, with some adjustment if required, to ensure regional balance.

We count on your support in making the Summit: BYND 2015 a truly global hit and the start of a series of conversations and events where the opinions and ideas of our youngest and brightest can be fully integrated into addressing the current and future challenges of our world.

Yours faithfully,



Dr Hamadoun I. Touré  
Secretary-General

# Global Youth Summit: BYND 2015

9 -11 September 2013, San Jose, Costa Rica

## Draft Programme

*This is the main programme for the international portion of the Summit, for youth aged 18+, with a limited number of youth aged 16-18 from neighbouring countries. A special "Safe Kids" national event will be organized by the Youth Ministry of Costa Rica, under the patronage of the President, for children from Costa Rica aged 8-12. This special event would take place during the Summit but the timing is to be determined.*

### 8 September (Pre-Summit)

<b>Time</b>	<b>Session</b>	<b>Details</b>
Day time	No sessions	Arrivals, hotel check-in and badge pick-up
Evening	<b>Summit Opening Gala</b>	Entertainment and Welcome; Setting the scene; Technology for social good; Innovation; Inspiring speakers/performers.

### 9 September

<b>Time</b>	<b>Session</b>	<b>Details</b>
09h00 – 12h30	<b>Get Ahead</b>	Themes: Training and employment in the ICT sector. Format: Off-site visit. Hands-on workshops and training specifically focused on software development and hacking.
12h30 – 14h00	Lunch and transport back to Summit venue	
14h00 – 16h30	<b>Change Your World</b>	Themes: Introduction to the United Nations Post-2015 process: public and civil society consultations on a future sustainable development agenda. Format: Setting the scene. Online platforms introduced and explored. Small break-out group discussions on thematic consultations.
16h00 – 16h45	Break and Entertainment	The breaks and entertainment should have an underlying theme relevant to the Summit.

16h45 – 17h45	Consolidation and Reporting	Report back
17h45 –	Evening activities, entertainment and/or free time	

**10 September**

<i>Time</i>	<i>Session</i>	<i>Details</i>
09h00 – 12h30	<b>Be Healthy</b>	Themes: Lifestyle awareness and mHealth. Format: Off-site visit. Demo of mHealth, lifestyle and anti-smoking messages. Sporting activity led by athletes.
12h30 – 14h00	Lunch and transport back to Summit venue.	
14h00 – 17h45	<b>Be Smart, Be Safe</b>	Themes: Cybersecurity; Child Online Protection. Formats: Situation training. Awareness-raising. Small break-out group discussions.
17h45 –	Evening activities and entertainment	

**11 September**

<i>Time</i>	<i>Session</i>	<i>Details</i>
09h00 – 12h30	<b>Respect your Environment</b>	Themes: Climate change and eco-tourism. Formats: Off-site visit. Hands-on experience with ICTs being used to help monitor and protect the environment.
12h30 – 14h00	Lunch and transport back to Summit venue.	
14h00 – 17h45	<b>Help Others</b>	Themes: Programming and app development, focusing on creating solutions for people with disabilities. Format: Coding, programming and training in basic app development. On-going hackathon with experienced IT experts targeting ICT solutions for people with disabilities.
17h45 –	Summit Closing	Gala dinner, entertainment.