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

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

WSIS Forum 2015: Invitation to contribute to the Open Consultation Process on shaping the Themes and Format

Dear Sir/Madam,

The annual WSIS Forum has become a global multistakeholder platform for coordination of the implementation of the WSIS Outcomes. The Forum, co-organized by ITU, UNESCO, UNDP and UNCTAD, in close collaboration with all WSIS Action Line facilitators/co-facilitators and other UN organizations (UNDESA, FAO, UNEP, WHO, UN Women, WIPO, WFP, ILO, WMO, UN, ITC, UPU, UNODC, UNICEF and UN Regional Commissions), is a mechanism for the coordination of multistakeholder implementation of activities, for information exchange, knowledge creation and the sharing of best practices. The WSIS Forum also provides concrete opportunities in developing multistakeholder and public-private partnerships to advance the development goals. Regional commissions play a vital role in facilitating regional inputs, feeding outcomes of regional meetings, strategies and evaluation towards the WSIS Forum.

Following the outcomes of the WSIS Action Line Facilitators meetings held since 2006, and the exchange of views amongst several WSIS stakeholders, the organizers of the WSIS Forum, ITU, UNESCO, UNCTAD and UNDP are pleased to announce herewith the Open Consultation Process on the thematic aspects and innovations on the format of the WSIS Forum 2015.

This process aims at ensuring the participatory and inclusive spirit of the WSIS Forum 2015, scheduled to be held from 25-29 May 2015 at the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in Geneva. This process actively engages governments, civil society, the private sector and intergovernmental organizations in the preparatory process and ensures broad ownership and a constant evolution of this Forum.

The Open Consultation Process for the WSIS Forum 2015 is structured in five phases as follows:

- Phase I :** 30 November 2014: Opening of the Open Consultations
- Online dialogues on the WSIS Knowledge Communities at www.wsis-community.org (ongoing)
 - Official submissions invited at www.wsis.org/forum
- Phase II :** 30 January 2015 (15:00, Room H, ITU Headquarters): First Physical Meeting
- Phase III :** 6 February 2015: Deadline for Submission of Official Contributions and Binding Requests for Workshops

Phase IV : 2 March 2015: Final Review Meeting (3 months prior to the meeting)

Phase V : 24 April 2015: Final Brief on the WSIS Forum 2015

Please note that the dates for the physical meetings in 2015 are indicative and may be changed. Please refer to the www.wsis.org/forum for updates.

On behalf of 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 2015. We look forward to your active participation and to seeing you at the WSIS Forum 2015.

Yours faithfully,



Dr Hamadoun I. Touré
ITU, Secretary-General