



## **2012 United Nations Conference On Sustainable Development (Rio +20)**

### **The future we want with ICTs and Innovation**

*Side event at the 3<sup>rd</sup> RIO+20 Intersessional Meeting*

*Wednesday 21st March. 13:15-14:45- New York,*

*Conference room A, ECOSOC Chamber*

Dear Colleagues,

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) invite you to a side event to highlight the role of information communication technologies (ICTs) in achieving a sustainable future.

ICTs and innovation play a critical role in sustainable development in a modern, fast moving and technology-driven world. They are the cross-cutting drivers of sustainable development- fully integrating its three pillars: social equity and progress; sustainable economic growth; and environmental protection. Understanding the role that ICT and innovation play in the transition to the green economy and sustainable development pathways is understanding our modern, fast moving and technology driven world, with transformative applications that have a significant impact to improve resource efficiency and make several economic sectors more sustainable.

The strategic roles that ICTs and innovation play as enablers of the green economy transition are not properly highlighted in the existing zero draft outcome of the conference. Through appropriate actions and policies, ICTs can help induce economic transformation and job creation, achieve social goals such as social justice and poverty reduction and build sustainable, “smart” societies, in a systematic, integrated and meaningful way.

Join us at this dedicated side event to learn more about why and how ICTs and innovation should be incorporated into the outcomes of Rio+20.

Speakers:

- Gary Fowlie, Head, ITU Liaison Office to the United Nations, ITU
- Rama Rao Sankurathripati, Director of WIPO Office to the UN, WIPO
- Kathleen Reen, Vice President for Asia, Environment and New Media Programs, INTERNEWS