



**Telecommunication
Development Bureau (BDT)**

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- Administrations of ITU Member States
- ITU-D Sector Members
- Regulators
- Resolution 99 (Palestine)
- World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators
Contacts
- National Statistical Offices
- United Nations and Specialized Agencies
- Regional and Other International
Organizations
- Regional Telecommunication Organizations
- Academia Members

Subject: **14th ITU World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Symposium
Gaborone International Convention Centre, Botswana, 21 - 23 November 2016**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am pleased to invite your organization to participate in the 14th World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Symposium (WTIS-2016), which will take place in the Gaborone International Convention Centre in Botswana, from 21 to 23 November 2016. WTIS-2016 is organized by the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and hosted by the Government of Botswana.

WTIS-2016 will bring together ICT ministers, heads of national telecom/ICT regulatory authorities and national statistical offices, heads of international organizations, chief executive officers of private sector companies, and statistical experts from around the world. The WTIS serves as the main international forum to discuss international ICT statistics.

WTIS-2016 will feature high-level debates, including a Ministerial Roundtable and a Leaders' Dialogue. The Ministerial Roundtable will examine innovative policies on how to deliver the benefits of ICTs to all citizens and to ensure that no one is left behind. It will further debate the opportunities of ICTs to accelerate progress towards the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development. The Leaders' Dialogue will discuss the impact of ICTs in such areas as economic growth, employment and security, and address data needs and new data sources.

Other sessions of WTIS-2016 will focus on measurement issues related to cybersecurity, e-commerce, and big data and address developments in monitoring the price and affordability of ICT services. The results of the work of the Expert Group on Telecommunication/ICT Indicators (EGTI) and the Expert Group on Household indicators (EGH) will be presented for adoption by WTIS-2016.

During WTIS-2016, ITU will release the ICT Development Index (IDI), the global benchmarking tool that tracks countries' progress in the development of their information societies. The IDI 2016 will rank around 160 economies globally based on official, internationally comparable ICT statistics.

A limited number of side events will be organized during the event for countries to present their data collection and dissemination platforms.

The WTIS-2016, open to all the membership, is primarily targeted at those responsible for ICT statistics in relevant Ministries, regulatory agencies, telecommunication operating companies and national statistical offices. Experts interested in the subject of information society measurements are also welcome to attend the Symposium.

Within the budget available, one fellowship per country may be granted to participants from countries with a GDP per capita of less than 2'000 USD. Priority will be given to applicants who submit a paper of direct relevance to an agenda item. Due to budgetary constraints, the countries benefiting from ITU fellowships may be required to partly contribute to expenses associated to their nominee's participation. Please note that both the contribution/paper and fellowship form must be received at ITU no later than **26 September 2016**.

Further information on the meeting, including registration details, fellowship forms and all other logistical information such as accommodation and visa arrangements, can be found on our website at <http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Pages/events/wtis2016/default.aspx>.

Ms Susan Teltscher, Head, ICT Data and Statistics Division, ITU/BDT, Geneva, email: wtis@itu.int, phone: +41 22 730 5410 is at your disposal should you require any further information.

I hope your organization will be able to participate in this important event.

Yours faithfully,

[Original signed]

Brahima Sanou
Director