**Telecommunication**
**Development Bureau (BDT)**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Ref.: | BDT/IEE/DID/DM/008 | Geneva, 22 January 2018 |

To:

- ITU Member States
- ITU-D Sector Members and Academia

**Subject:**   **Girls in ICT Day Celebrations 26 April 2018**

Dear Sir/Madam,

International Girls in ICT Day is an initiative backed by ITU Member States in Plenipotentiary Resolution 70 (Rev. Busan, 2014) to create a global environment that empowers and encourages girls and young women to consider studies and careers in the growing field of information and communication technologies (ICTs). Resolution 70 calls for all ITU members to celebrate and commemorate International Girls in ICT Day on the fourth Thursday of April every year. To date, over 300,000 girls and young women have been involved in more than 9,000 celebrations in 166 countries worldwide offering them the opportunity to experience personally the potential of ICTs and to learn more about the opportunities this sector can offer.

Even in the face of the global youth employment crisis, there will be tens of millions of jobs in the coming years for young women and men equipped with sought-after digital skills. Despite these opportunities recent research and data highlight how women continue to be underrepresented in the ICT sector. Considering the pervasive presence of ICTs in our everyday life, the growing need for digital skills in nearly all professional careers and the increasing and often unmet demand for ICT professionals worldwide, it is essential to increase our efforts to make sure women and men are equally represented in ICT studies and careers.

For this reason I would like to encourage all ITU Members to become part of this global campaign by **organizing Girls in ICT Day events this year on 26 April 2018** to introduce girls and young women to ICT career opportunities, involve them in hands-on ICT creation workshops, and directly contribute to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal Targets 4.4, 5.b and 8.6.

The Girls in ICT Portal, which can be found at www.itu.int/girlsinict, is available in all six ITU languages and provides several resources, such as a toolkit for Girls in ICT Day organizers, branded promotional materials that I encourage you to use for your events, contact details for ITU regional Girls in ICT Day Focal Points, as well as detailed information about the events organized around the world in previous years (https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Digital-Inclusion/Women-and-Girls/Girls-in-ICT-Portal/Pages/Girls-in-ICT-Day-events.aspx) to spark your imagination for how to organize your own event.

I would also like to encourage you to share information about the Girls in ICT Day activities you are planning in your country by writing to girlsinict@itu.int if you have not yet already done so. The Girls in ICT team can

put you in touch with other stakeholders, promote your events and activities as well as share ideas on how to make your event a success. In addition, kindly make sure you add your event to the map on the Girls in ICT Portal including information on your activities, photos, videos, testimonials and success stories so that they can be shared with the whole community. You will also find the Girls in ICT Facebook page and social media feed on the Portal (http://www.facebook.com/ITUGirlsInICT and #Girlsinict), which I invite you to use.

I would like to thank in advance all ITU Members for their dedication to the Girls in ICT initiative and to empowering girls and young women through ICTs. I am looking forward to a very successful celebration of Girls in ICT Day on 26 April 2018.

Yours faithfully,


[Original signed]

Brahima Sanou
Director