



## General Secretariat (SG)

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To: ITU Member States, Sector Members,  
Associates and Academia

**Subject: Subject : World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD) 2018:  
"Enabling the positive use of Artificial Intelligence for All"**

Dear Sir/Madam,

The World Telecommunication and Information Society Day, celebrated each year on 17 May, marks the anniversary of the signature of the first International Telegraph Convention in 1865, which led to the creation of the International Telecommunication Union.

I am pleased to inform you that next year's World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD-2018) will focus on the theme, **"Enabling the positive use of Artificial Intelligence for All"**, in accordance with Resolution 68 and as endorsed by ITU Council 2017.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has enormous potential to assist global efforts to address challenges as great as poverty, hunger, health, education, equality and the protection of our environment. Inclusive global dialogue will be fundamental in building the common understandings necessary to guide AI innovation towards the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

AI is certain to influence many areas of ITU's technical work, with examples found in data management, network orchestration, video coding, intelligent transport systems, and Internet of Things and smart cities.

ITU membership is encouraged to plan activities throughout the year in preparation for the celebration and to report back to ITU on their events.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Houlin Zhao'.

Houlin Zhao  
Secretary-General