



General Secretariat (SG)

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To

ITU Member States, Sector Members, Associates & Academia

Subject: **Invitation to all stakeholders to participate in the Open Consultation of the CWG-Internet on "Bridging the Digital Gender Divide"**

Dear Sir/Madam,

Upon request of the Council Working Group on international Internet-related public policy issues (CWG-Internet), the 2017 Session of the ITU Council decided on 25 May 2017 to hold an open consultation (online and physical) on the following topic:

"Bridging the Digital Gender Divide"

CWG-Internet invites all stakeholders to submit contributions on achieving gender equality for Internet users, focusing on the following questions:

1. What approaches and examples of good practices are available to increase Internet access and digital literacy of women and girls, including in decision-making processes on Internet public policy?
2. What approaches and examples of good practices are available to promote the access and use of ICTs by SMEs in developing and least-developed countries, particularly those owned/managed by women, in order to achieve greater participation in the digital economy?
3. Which are the available sources and mechanisms for measuring women's participation in the digital economy with focus on SME's and micro-enterprises?
4. What measures/policies could be envisioned in order to foster the role of women as entrepreneurs and managers of SMEs, specifically in developing and least-developed countries?
5. What are the gaps in addressing these challenges? How can they be addressed and what is the role of governments?"

You are kindly invited to submit your response by **23 December 2017**, through the following link:

<http://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-internet>, where you can also find **important information and instructions on the submission process**. You are further encouraged to inform other interested stakeholders, who might wish to participate. All responses received will be made publicly available on the ITU website and a consolidated document will be submitted for consideration at the physical open consultation meeting, to be held on **22 January 2018** in Geneva, Switzerland. Further Information on the meeting will be published in due course on the ITU website linked above.

Please also find in the following link the Chairman's report of the previous CWG-Internet meeting, held on 20-21 September 2017: <https://www.itu.int/md/S17-RCLINTPOL10-C-0009/en> .

Yours faithfully,

(signed)

Houlin Zhao
Secretary-General