



## General Secretariat (SG)

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To: Ministers,  
ITU Member States

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Subject: **Invitation for Ministers to the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Forum 2018 (ITU Headquarters, Geneva, 19-23 March 2018)**

Sir/Madam,

I have the honour to inform you that the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Forum, hosted by the ITU, will take place in Geneva, Switzerland, from 19 to 23 March 2018. The overall theme for WSIS Forum 2018 is *“Leveraging ICTs to Build Information and Knowledge Societies for Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)”*. The WSIS Forum is co-organized by ITU, UNESCO, UNCTAD and UNDP.

The UN General Assembly Overall Review of the implementation of the WSIS outcomes (UNGA Resolution 70/125) recognized the necessity of holding the WSIS Forum on an annual basis and called for a close alignment between WSIS and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In this context, the WSIS Forum will serve as a platform for discussing the role of ICTs as a means of implementation of the SDGs.

The format, agenda, and thematic focus are the result of an open consultation process with the involvement of all WSIS Stakeholders and can be accessed at: [www.wsis.org/forum](http://www.wsis.org/forum).

Taking into account your country’s significant efforts in fostering the development of information and knowledge societies, a Policy Statement during the High-Level Track on 20-21 March 2018 would be most welcome. The high-level track will consist of the opening segment, interactive policy dialogues, ministerial round table, a WSIS Prize ceremony and a high-level networking programme.

In line with ITU’s gender equality and mainstreaming policy, I would also like to take the opportunity to encourage you to include women in your delegation.

I would be grateful if you could kindly confirm your acceptance before **22 January 2018** by correspondence or by visiting our website [www.itu.int/go/wsispolycystatements](http://www.itu.int/go/wsispolycystatements).

Finally, I would like to draw your attention to the opportunities for enhanced visibility at the Forum through the *WSIS Forum 2018 Partnerships*, as presented at [www.itu.int/itu-wsis/fund](http://www.itu.int/itu-wsis/fund).

Accept, Sir/Madam, the assurances of my highest consideration.

*(original signed)*

Houlin ZHAO  
Secretary-General