



The Secretary General

Geneva, 23 July 2019

Ref: **CL- 19/35**
Contact: Mr Christopher Clark To the Member States of ITU
E-mail: sme@itu.int
Subject: **Consultation Sessions for Member States: Promoting Tech SMEs and Innovation**

Sir/Madam,

I am pleased to invite your delegation to participate in a series of consultation sessions called “Promoting Tech SMEs and Innovation.” The first session will be held on 10 September 2019 during ITU TELECOM World, which is taking place in Budapest, Hungary. We intend to organize similar sessions during the Council Working Group meetings in early 2020 as well as during the WSIS Forum in 2020, among other opportunities.

ITU is organizing this series of consultations as a follow up to the excellent discussions during the last session of ITU Council regarding promotion and engagement of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in ITU’s work. As per Resolution 209 (Dubai, 2018), ITU Council finalized the eligibility criteria and decided to launch the new reduced Associate fee for SMEs in January 2020. Please visit the [SME page](#) of the ITU website for more information.

During the discussions at Council, it was noted that special efforts are needed to help SMEs join and become active members of the ITU family. In this context, these consultations will provide an opportunity for interested Member States to share best practices on existing national policies, initiatives and programs that support tech SMEs, as well as identify specific actions that can be taken to engage SMEs in the work of the Union, including ITU Study Groups, workshops, training, and ITU TELECOM World’s SME programme. A detailed agenda will be sent shortly.

Kindly submit your expression of interest and nominated participant for the first consultation session being held during ITU TELECOM World by 16 August 2019 to the ITU Secretariat at sme@itu.int.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed)

Houlin Zhao