



General Secretariat

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To:

- ITU Member States
- ITU-T Sector Members
- ITU Academia
- UN and Specialized Agencies and the IAEA;
- Regional telecommunication organizations; Intergovernmental organizations operating satellite systems; Other regional or international organizations

**Subject: ITU WISE (The Women in Standardization Expert) Group Event
Why Gender Matters in Setting Standards
(Geneva, Switzerland 8 March 2022, 12:30 -14:00)**

Dear Sir/Madam,

It is my pleasure to inform you that on the occasion of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA-20), the ITU Women in Standardization Expert group (WISE), is organizing an event to recognize valuable contributions to ITU-T's standard works in terms of impact, continuity, and leadership, followed by a panel discussion on why gender matters in setting standards.

The event will take place on **Tuesday, 8 March 2022 in Geneva, Switzerland from 12:30 to 14:00**, which is also International Women's Day 2022.

WTSA-20 is a major event for the Union to define structures, rules and procedures of ITU-T's standardization work. The ITU WISE event will serve as the opportunity to continue promoting gender equality within the standardization sector and to advocate women in leadership roles in the telecommunication/ICTs and standardization industry. The detailed program of the event will be published in due course at <https://www.itu.int/net4/mob/wise/>

To participate in this event, please ensure to register for WTSA-20. I invite and encourage all participants from your country's delegation to attend. No financial support from ITU will be provided.

For more information, please contact Ms Florence Tunzi at wise@itu.int

Yours faithfully,

(signed)

Houlin Zhao

ITU WISE – Why Gender Matters in Setting Standards

Introduction

ITU is organizing its second Women in Standardization Expert Group (WISE) event on 8 March 2022 during the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly 2020 to be held from 1 March to 9 March 2022 at **CICG** in Geneva, Switzerland.

The WISE event will consist of a ceremony to recognize entities (individuals, organizations and Administrations) that have made remarkable contributions to the ITU-T's standardization works in gender equality and the empowerment of women in terms of impact, continuity and leadership, followed by a panel discussion on "Why gender matters in setting standards." The discussion will also tackle how frontier technologies such as AI and machine learning could be used to minimize or eliminate bias in recruitment processes and potentially lead to the increased number of women leadership roles.

Objectives

The event will serve as an opportunity to continue promoting gender equality within the standardization sector and to advocate women in leadership roles in the telecommunication/ICTs and standardization industry. It will also be a networking occasion to connect with delegates from all regions of ITU.

Target audience

This event will bring together delegates and ITU staff attending WTSA, with a focus on heads of delegations and CEOs /leaders of national standards bodies/organizations, to learn, connect and celebrate the continued efforts towards gender equality in standards development processes.

Leaders of the WISE

Chairman: Dr Rim Belhassine-Cherif (Tunise Telecom, Tunisia)

Vice-Chairman: Dr Hyoung Jun Kim (ETRI, Rep of Korea)

Draft Agenda

Time	Activity
12:30 – 13:15 (Brown bag lunch)	Opening remarks: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Dr Rim Belhassine-Cherif, Chairman of WISE- Dr Chaesub Lee, Director, TSB ITU Keynote: "AI & Recruitment Bias" <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Dr Rena Nigam, Founder & CEO, Meytier Inc. Report of WISE in ITU-T: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Ms Florence Tunzi, Gender Focal Point, TSB Recognition ceremony
13:15-14:00	Panel Discussion: Why gender matters in setting standards <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Moderator: Dr Rim Belhassine-Cherif, Chairman of WISE- Panellists: TBC Wrap up: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Mr Bilel Jamoussi Chief of the Study Groups Department, TSB