



General Secretariat (SG)

Ref: CL-22/35
Contact: Ms. Gitanjali Sah
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Subject: **Invitation to the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Forum 2023
13-17 March 2023 in Geneva, Switzerland & Virtual Workshops in April and May**

Geneva, 7 October 2022

To: Ministers,

ITU Member States

Sir/Madam,

On behalf of the co-organizers of WSIS Forum (ITU, UNESCO, UNCTAD and UNDP) I am pleased to invite you to attend the WSIS Forum 2023, scheduled to be held from 13 to 17 March 2023 at ITU Headquarters in Geneva, with the support of remote participation. The Forum will continue in a virtual format during the months of April and May 2023. The theme of the WSIS Forum 2023 is WSIS Action Lines for building back better and accelerating the achievement of the SDGs.

The annual WSIS Forum is a global multi-stakeholder platform facilitating the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines for advancing sustainable development, organized in close collaboration with all WSIS Action Line co-facilitators and other UN organizations (FAO, ILO, ITC, UNDESA, UNEP, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNITAR, UNODC, UPU, UN Women, UN Tech Bank for LDCs, UNU, WFP, WHO, WIPO, WMO and UN Regional Commissions). It provides an opportunity for information exchange, knowledge creation and sharing of best practices, while identifying emerging trends and fostering partnerships, taking into account the evolving information and knowledge societies.

In follow up to the outcomes of the UN General Assembly Overall Review of the Implementation of WSIS Outcomes (Res. A/70/125) and with the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Res. A/70/1) the WSIS Forum is constantly evolving and strengthening the alignment between the WSIS Action Lines and the Sustainable Development Goals. The format, agenda, and thematic focus are the result of an open consultation process with the involvement of all WSIS Stakeholders and will be available on [wsis.org/forum](https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/HighLevel)

Considering your country's significant efforts in fostering the development of information and knowledge societies, your contribution with a policy statement during the High-Level Policy Sessions would be most welcome. Moreover, the WSIS Forum will consist of an opening segment, an Ambassadors Round table, WSIS Action Lines meetings, a WSIS Prizes ceremony, a Mayors Round table, knowledge cafés, WSIS TalkX, High-Level dialogues, a Ministerial round table, networking events, and an exhibition space.

I would be grateful if you could kindly confirm your acceptance before **15 January 2023** by correspondence or by visiting our website and submitting an online speaking slot request

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/HighLevel>

Finally, I would like to draw your attention to the opportunities for enhanced visibility at the Forum through the WSIS Forum 2023 Partnerships, as presented at <https://www.itu.int/go/wsisfund>

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

(original signed)

Houlin ZHAO
Secretary-General