



**Telecommunication
Development Bureau (BDT)**

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Geneva, 27 August 2018

- Administrations of ITU Member States
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- Regulators
- Observer, Resolution 99 (Rev. Busan 2014)
- World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators contacts
- National Statistical Offices
- United Nations and Specialized Agencies
- Regional and Other International Organizations
- Regional Telecommunication Organizations
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**Subject: Invitation to the 16th ITU World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Symposium
Geneva, Switzerland, 10 - 12 December 2018**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am pleased to invite your organization to participate in the 16th World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Symposium (WTIS-18), which is the main global forum for telecommunication and information society measurements and brings together government ministers, business leaders, regulators, national statisticians, academics, and data producers and analysts to discuss the measurement of information and communication technology (ICT) trends. The Symposium is organized, and hosted by the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), and will take place in Geneva, Switzerland, from 10 to 12 December 2018.

WTIS-18 will feature high-level debates by government and technology leaders, telecommunication regulators and national statisticians who will discuss impacts of telecommunications/ICTs and emerging technologies on social and economic development. Other sessions of WTIS-18 will focus on measurement in an environment of artificial intelligence, big data, robotics and the Internet of Things. The work of the Expert Group on Telecommunication/ICT Indicators (EGTI) and the Expert Group on Household Indicators (EGH) will also be presented for adoption by WTIS-18. Through these Expert Groups, which are open to the ITU membership and to experts in the field of ICT statistics, ITU develops international standards on ICT statistics.

During WTIS-18, ITU will release the ICT Development Index (IDI), the global benchmarking tool that tracks countries' progress in the development of their information societies. The IDI 2018 will rank economies globally based on official, internationally comparable ICT statistics based for the first time on 14 indicators. Another highlight of the event will be a number of side events organized for countries to present their data collection and dissemination platforms.

WTIS-18, which will also look on how progress could be measured on implementing the United Nations adopted Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), is open to all the membership and is primarily targeted at those responsible for ICT statistics in relevant ministries, regulatory agencies, telecommunication operating companies and national statistical offices. Other experts interested in the subject of information society measurements are also welcome to attend the symposium.

Within the budget available, one fellowship per country may be granted to participants from the least developed countries and countries with a gross domestic product (GDP) per capita of less than USD 2000. Because of budgetary constraints, fellowships will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. However, priority will be given to applicants who submit a paper of direct relevance to an agenda item. Should you decide to submit a contribution/paper, this should be received together with the fellowship form no later than **1 October 2018**.

Further information on the symposium, including the programme, registration details, fellowship form and all other logistical information such as accommodation and visa arrangements, can be found on our website at: <http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Pages/events/wtis2018/default.aspx>.

For any enquiries, please write to wtis@itu.int or call +41 22 730 5410.

As the issues of measuring the information society and that of progress being made by the international community on implementing the Sustainable Development Goals have become increasingly important, I hope your organization will be able to participate in this important event.

Yours faithfully,

[Original signed]

Brahima Sanou
Director