

Ref: **DM-1049**

Contact:

9 July 2003

Tel:

To: Accredited NGOs and Civil Society Entities

Fax:

E-Mail:

Subject: **World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)**
Geneva, Switzerland, 10-12 December 2003

Dear Sir/Madam,

The first phase of the World Summit on the Information Society will take place in Geneva from 10-12 December 2003. The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is the lead organizing agency for the Summit and I am writing to invite your organization to be represented at the highest level at this important Summit.

This is the first Summit devoted to the issues of the Information Society. The WSIS will be a key opportunity for world leaders to pledge their commitment to use the power of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) to bridge the digital divide and harness the benefits of ICT to reach economic and development targets. The Civil Society has an important role to play in this process and the active presence of its representatives at the Summit will be a concrete demonstration of their commitment to achieving the goal of digital solidarity and a recognition of the importance of ICT as an engine for global economic growth.

An intensive preparatory process has been undertaken for the Summit. This includes the holding of five WSIS regional preparatory conferences in Bamako, Bucharest, Tokyo, Bávaro, Beirut and sub regional conferences in Bishkek and Moscow as well as two Preparatory Committee meetings. Invitations were extended to you to attend the first and second Preparatory Committee meetings held from 1-5 July 2002 and 17-28 February 2003, in Geneva. I am pleased that both these PrepComs were successful in terms of attendance and in moving forward the process. The third PrepCom, which will be held in Geneva from 15-26 September 2003, should further develop and forge consensus on the draft Declaration of Principles and Plan of Action.

I am confident that the steady progress being made in the preparatory process, will lead to agreement on many important issues that are vital to our future. Nonetheless, our joint efforts must be sustained, and indeed accelerated, if we are to ensure the successful outcome of the Summit. One important objective of the Summit will be to initiate a high level dialogue and foster true global consensus on issues related to the Information Society, between Heads of States and Governments and leaders of the Private Sector, Civil Society and International Organizations. We therefore attach high importance to the participation of representatives of the Civil Society in the WSIS.

We would be very pleased to receive information on the composition of your delegation to the Summit and would appreciate your completing and returning the [attached form](#) providing the name of your organization/entity's designated focal point and estimated number of participants.

Yours faithfully,

(signed)

Yoshio UTSUMI
Secretary-General, International Telecommunication Unit (ITU)
Chairman, High-Level Summit Organizing Committee (HLSOC)