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To: All WSIS Stakeholders

- Governments
- Private Sector
- Civil Society
- Academia
- International Organizations

### **WSIS Forum 2016: Invitation to contribute to the Open Consultation Process on shaping the Themes and Format**

Dear Sir/Madam,

The annual WSIS Forum is a global multistakeholder platform facilitating the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines. The Forum, co-organized by ITU, UNESCO, UNDP and UNCTAD, in close collaboration with all WSIS Action Line co-/facilitators and other UN organizations (UNDESA, FAO, UNEP, WHO, UN Women, WIPO, WFP, ILO, WMO, ITC, UPU, UNODC, UNICEF and UN Regional Commissions), is also an opportunity for information exchange, knowledge creation and sharing of best practices, taking into account the evolving Information and Knowledge Societies. The WSIS Forum provides opportunities for developing multistakeholder and public-private partnerships to advance development goals.

With the newly adopted 2030 Development Agenda, the WSIS Forum may need to evolve and adapt, with a view to strengthening the linkages between the WSIS Action Lines and the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as in light of the outcomes of the UN General Assembly Overall Review of the Implementation of WSIS Outcomes.

As organizers, ITU, UNESCO, UNCTAD and UNDP, are pleased to announce herewith the Open Consultation Process on thematic aspects and innovations on the format of the WSIS Forum 2016. The process aims at ensuring a participatory and inclusive spirit of the Forum, scheduled to be held from 2-6 May 2016 at the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in Geneva. This process actively engages governments, civil society, the private sector, academia, technical community and intergovernmental organizations in the preparatory process to ensure broad ownership and further improvements of the Forum.

The Open Consultation Process for the WSIS Forum 2016 is structured in five phases as follows:

- Phase I:** 4 November 2015: Opening of the Open Consultations-
- Online dialogues on the WSIS Knowledge Communities at [www.wsis-community.org](http://www.wsis-community.org)
  - Official submissions to the WSIS Secretariat on the Thematic Aspects and Innovations on the Format invited at [www.wsis.org/forum](http://www.wsis.org/forum)
- Phase II:** 20 January 2016, ITU: First Physical Meeting\*
- Phase III:** 30 January 2016: Deadline for Submissions of Official Contributions and Binding Requests for Workshops
- Phase IV:** 26 February 2016, ITU: Final Review Meeting of the Open Consultation Process\*

**Phase V:** 1 April 2016: Final Brief on the WSIS Forum 2016\*

*\*Remote participation facilities will be available for all physical meetings*

Please note that the dates for the physical meetings in 2016 are indicative and may be changed. Please refer to the [www.wsis.org/forum](http://www.wsis.org/forum) for updates.

On behalf of ITU, UNESCO, UNCTAD, and UNDP, I am pleased to invite you to contribute to the Open Consultation Process on the Thematic Aspects and Innovations on the Format of the WSIS Forum 2016. We look forward to your active participation and to seeing you at the WSIS Forum 2016.

Yours faithfully,



Houlin Zhao  
ITU Secretary-General