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Contact: Mr Jaroslav Ponder
Tel: +41 22 730 60 65
Fax: +41 22 730 64 53
E-mail: wsis-info@itu.int

To: All WSIS Stakeholders

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

**WSIS Forum 2017, 12-16 June, Geneva, Switzerland: Invitation to Contribute to the
Open Consultation Process on Shaping the Themes and Format**

Dear Sir/Madam,

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 2017.

The annual WSIS Forum is a global multi-stakeholder platform facilitating the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines for advancing sustainable development. The Forum is 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). 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 WSIS Forum is the only event of its kind where the programme is completely crowdsourced. Therefore, as organizers, ITU, UNESCO, UNCTAD and UNDP, are pleased to announce the Open Consultation Process on thematic aspects and innovations on the format of the WSIS Forum 2017. The process aims at ensuring a participatory and inclusive spirit of the Forum, scheduled to be held from 12-16 June 2017 at ITU in Geneva. This process actively engages governments, civil society, the private sector, academia, the 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 2017 is structured in six phases as follows:

Phase I: 1 September 2016: Opening of the Open Consultations Process

- Online presentation of the Open Consultation Process
- Online dialogues on the WSIS Knowledge Communities at www.wsis-community.org
- Official submissions to the WSIS Secretariat on the Thematic Aspects and Innovations on the Format to be made via www.wsis.org/forum
- Open call for nominations for WSIS Forum 2017 Multi-stakeholder High-Level Track Facilitators

Phase II: 12 October 2016: First Physical Meeting (16:30-18:00, ITU Headquarters, Geneva)

Phase III: 14 February 2017: Second Physical Meeting (ITU Headquarters, Geneva)

Phase IV: 20 February 2017: Deadline for Submissions of Official Contributions and Binding Requests for Workshops

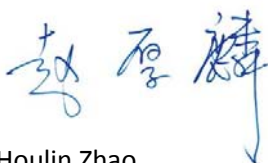
Phase V: 14 March 2017: Final Review Meeting of the Open Consultation Process (ITU Headquarters, Geneva)

Phase VI: 10 May 2017: Final Brief on the WSIS Forum 2017 (ITU Headquarters, Geneva)

Please note that the dates for the physical meetings in 2017 are indicative and may be changed. Please refer to www.wsis.org/forum for updates. The Open Consultation Process will include a collection of inputs from regional and national WSIS related events. The physical meetings of the Open Consultation Process will benefit from remote participation.

We look forward to your active participation and to seeing you at the WSIS Forum 2017.

Yours faithfully,



Houlin Zhao
ITU Secretary-General