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To: All WSIS Stakeholders

- Governments
- Private Sector
- Civil Society
- Academia/ Technical Community
- International Organizations

**Invitation to the World Summit on the Information Society Forum 2019
(ITU Headquarters, Geneva, 8-12 April 2019)**

Dear Sir/Madam,

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), as the co-organizers, are pleased to invite you to the WSIS Forum 2019, which the ITU will host in Geneva (Switzerland) from 8-12 April 2019. The overall theme for WSIS Forum 2019 is *“Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)”*.

The WSIS Forum represents the world's largest annual gathering of the ‘ICT for development’ multi-stakeholder community and is a global multi-stakeholder platform facilitating the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines for advancing sustainable development. In 2019, we will be celebrating the 10th anniversary of the WSIS Forum, thereby continuing to provide a platform for a “just and equal information society” for all WSIS Stakeholders as set by the Geneva Plan of Action.

The WSIS Forum builds upon the outcomes of the UN General Assembly Overall Review of the implementation of the WSIS outcomes (UNGA Resolution 70/125) that recognized the necessity of holding this Forum on an annual basis and called for close alignment between WSIS and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In this context, the WSIS Forum will leverage the WSIS-SDG Matrix and serve as a platform for discussing the role of ICTs as a means of implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, with due regard to the global mechanism for follow up and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda (UNGA Resolution A/70/1).

The WSIS Forum is organized with the engagement of other United Nations Agencies, including, WIPO, UNDESA, FAO, ILO, ITC, UNODC, UNEP, UNU, UPU, WMO, WHO, WFP, UNWOMEN, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNITAR and the UN Regional Commissions.

Its format, agenda, and thematic focus are the result of an open consultation process with the involvement of all WSIS Stakeholders. The Forum will build upon two tracks, the High-Level Track, consisting of policy statements, interactive high-level dialogues, a WSIS prize ceremony, a ministerial round table, and the Forum Track, which will offer participants a series of Action Line facilitation meetings, country workshops, thematic workshops, a Hackathon (“Hacking Solutions for Lifelong Learning and Livelihoods”), an experience of virtual and augmented reality, artificial intelligence and robotics for development, drones for social good, a component on social entrepreneurship and knowledge cafés, as well as an exhibition addressing issues that are critical to WSIS implementation and follow-up in multi-stakeholder settings.

To ensure gender balance at the WSIS Forum 2019, we encourage all WSIS Stakeholders to plan gender balanced delegations and nominate women speakers for sessions and workshops, in particular the high-level segment.

Relevant documentation, the agenda and registration can be accessed at: www.wsis.org/forum. We look forward to welcoming you to the WSIS Forum 2019.

Yours faithfully,

[original signed]

Mr. Houlin Zhao
Secretary-General, ITU

[original signed]

Ms Audrey Azoulay
Director-General, UNESCO

[original signed]

Mr. Mukhisa Kituyi
Secretary-General, UNCTAD

[original signed]

Mr. Achim Steiner
Administrator, UNDP