



**Telecommunication
Development Bureau (BDT)**

Ref.: BDT/IEE/SIS/DM/220

Geneva, 9 January 2017

To:

- ITU Member States
- ITU-D Sector Members and Academia

Subject: **Girls in ICT Day Celebrations 27 April 2017**

Dear Sir/Madam,

International Girls in ICT Day is an initiative backed by ITU Member States in Plenipotentiary Resolution 70 (Rev. Busan, 2014) to create a global environment that empowers and encourages girls and young women to consider studies and careers in the growing field of information and communication technologies (ICTs). Resolution 70 calls for all ITU members to celebrate and commemorate International Girls in ICT Day on the fourth Thursday of April every year. To date, over 240,000 girls and young women have been involved in more than 7,200 celebrations in 160 countries worldwide offering them the opportunity to experience personally the potential of ICTs and to learn more about the opportunities this sector can offer.

Considerable achievements have been reached since the first celebration of the Day in 2011; an increasing number of organizations have joined the initiative and created a global movement aimed at increasing the pipeline of young women entering ICT studies and careers. Nevertheless, recent research and data highlight how women continue to be underrepresented in the ICT sector. Considering the pervasive presence of ICTs in our everyday life, the growing need for digital skills in nearly all professional careers and the increasing and often unmet demand for ICT professionals worldwide, it is essential to make sure women and men are equally represented in ICT studies and careers.

For this reason I would like to encourage all ITU Members to become part of this global campaign by **organizing Girls in ICT Day events this year on 27 April 2017** to introduce girls and young women to ICT career opportunities, involve them in hands-on ICT creation workshops, and directly contribute to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal Targets 4.4, 5.b and 8.6.

In order to improve ITU's support to the organization of these events, ITU has integrated the Girls in ICT Portal into the ITU website. The Portal, which can be found at www.itu.int/girlsinict, is available in all six ITU languages and provides several [resources](#), such as a toolkit for Girls in ICT Day organizers, flyers, branded promotional materials, contact details for [ITU regional Girls in ICT Day Focal Points](#), as well as detailed information about the events organized around the world in previous years (<https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Digital-Inclusion/Women-and-Girls/Girls-in-ICT-Portal/Pages/Girls-in-ICT-Day-events.aspx>) to spark your

imagination for how to organize your own event.

I would also like to encourage you to share information about the Girls in ICT Day activities you are planning in your country by writing to girlsinct@itu.int if you have not yet already done so. The Girls in ICT team can put you in touch with other stakeholders, promote your events and activities as well as share ideas on how to make your event a success. In addition, after your event, kindly provide us with information, photos, videos, testimonials and success stories so that we can post them on the Girls in ICT Portal. You will also find the Girls in ICT Facebook page and social media feed on the Portal (<http://www.facebook.com/ITUGirlsInICT> and #Girlsinct), which I invite you to use.

I would like to thank in advance all ITU Members for their dedication to the Girls in ICT initiative and to empowering girls and young women through ICTs. I am looking forward to a very successful celebration of Girls in ICT Day on 27 April 2017.

Yours faithfully,



Brahima Sanou
Director
