



9 July 2014

Ref: DM-14/1014 -Government
Contact: Doreen Bogdan-Martin -Private Sector
Telephone: +41 22 730 6240 -Civil Society
Telefax: +41 22 730 6627 - International Organizations
Email: gem-tech-awards@itu.int - Academia

Subject: Gender Equality and Mainstreaming -Technology (GEM-TECH) Awards 2014

Dear Sir/Madam,

Women's digital empowerment and their full participation in the information society is a key objective of UN Women and ITU. UN Women has prioritized this objective within all aspects of its work, and the ITU Council, at its 2013 session, adopted the ITU Gender Equality and Mainstreaming Policy (GEM)¹. Realizing these goals within the development context presents many opportunities as well as challenges. While there is great potential and many examples of progress, gaps remain that require increased attention, visibility, understanding, investment and action.

The ITU-UN Women GEM-TECH Awards will honour special achievements and role models in empowering women and mainstreaming gender equality in the area of ICTs.

They will be conferred for the first time at the 2014 ITU Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-14) in Busan, Republic of Korea. The award ceremony will be organized in partnership with UN Women and will inter alia celebrate and commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and its impending implementation review in 2015.

The first ITU-UN Women GEM-TECH Awards will honour commitments to advancing gender equality and women's empowerment through ICTs in seven categories, covering crucial related areas (for further information on the categories, please visit www.itu.int/gem-tech-awards).

We invite and encourage all stakeholders to submit nominations for organizations and individuals, both within and outside respective organizations, for this prestigious award through www.itu.int/gem-tech-awards. Self-nomination is permitted.

Winners will be announced at PP-14 on the 21st of October 2014, followed by a series of activities to celebrate the winners' achievements.

Please note that:

- **Nominations open from 5 July- 5 September 2014**
- **Winners will be contacted by 5 October 2014**

We look forward to receiving your nomination and hearing about your inspiring work and the results you have achieved.

Yours faithfully,

[original signed]

Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka
Executive Director
UN WOMEN

[original signed]

Dr Hamadoun I. Touré
Secretary General
ITU

¹ ITU's Plenipotentiary Conference passed [Resolution 70](#) (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) on "gender mainstreaming in ITU and promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women through information and communication technologies".