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To: All WSIS Stakeholders

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

**WSIS Forum 2021, 17-21 May**  
**Invitation to Contribute to the Open Consultation Process on Shaping the Themes and Format**

Dear Sir/Madam,

On behalf of the co-organizers of WSIS Forum (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 2021.

The annual WSIS Forum is a global multi-stakeholder platform facilitating the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines for advancing sustainable development organized in close collaboration with all WSIS Action Line co-/facilitators and other UN organizations (FAO, ILO, ITC, UNDESA, UNEP, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNITAR, UNODC, UPU, UN Women, WFP, WHO, WIPO, WMO 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 2021 is scheduled to be held from 17 to 21 May 2021 at ITU Headquarters premises in Geneva, with the fallback option of a fully virtual event along the lines of WSIS Forum 2020, or a combined event with physical and virtual components, depending on the evolving COVID-19 pandemic situation.

The WSIS Forum is the only event of its kind where the programme and agenda are completely crowdsourced. Therefore, we are pleased to announce the start of the Open Consultation Process on thematic aspects and innovations on the format of WSIS Forum 2021. The 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 2021 is structured in five phases as follows:

- **Phase I: 9 September 2020, 15:00-16:00 CEST:** Launch of the Open Consultation (Virtual Launch, open to all Stakeholders) - Organized during the final week WSIS Forum 2020  
<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2020/Agenda/Session/397>

- Launch of the WSIS Forum 2021 website for the Official Submissions
- Official submissions to the WSIS Secretariat on the Thematic Aspects and Innovations on the Format to be made via [www.wsis.org/forum](http://www.wsis.org/forum)
- Open call for nominations for WSIS Forum 2021 multi-stakeholder High-Level Track Facilitators
- Launch of the WSIS Photo Contest 2021
- **Phase II: 6 November 2020, 10:10-11:10 CET:** 1<sup>st</sup> Virtual Meeting: Open Forum on Implementation of WSIS Action Lines and WSIS Forum (during IGF 2020)
- **Phase III: 29 January 2021:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Virtual/Physical Meeting
- **Phase IV: 8 March 2021:** Deadline for Submissions of Official Contributions and Binding Requests for Workshops
- **Phase V: 19 April 2021:** Final Virtual/Physical Brief on the WSIS Forum 2021

Please refer to [www.wsis.org/forum](http://www.wsis.org/forum) for updates. The Open Consultation Process will include a collection of inputs from regional and national WSIS related events and 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 2021.

Yours faithfully,



Houlin Zhao  
ITU Secretary-General