



Ref: WSIS Forum 2022/ Mayors

Geneva, 28 April 2022

To: Mayors,
ITU Member States

Invitation to the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Forum 2022 Final Week 30 May to 3 June 2022 (physical with enhanced remote participation)

Dear Sir/Madam,

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU), Geneva Cities Hub and the City of Geneva are pleased to invite you to participate as a **High-Level guest speaker at the WSIS Forum 2022**, hosted by the ITU and co-organized by ITU, UNESCO, UNCTAD and UNDP with the engagement of more than 30 United Nations Agencies.

The WSIS Forum 2022 started on 15 March and will progress in a virtual format, culminating with a final High-level week from 30 May - 3 June 2022, which will take place physically, with enhanced remote participation, at the ITU Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. WSIS Forum 2022 theme is "ICTs for Well-Being, Inclusion and Resilience: WSIS Cooperation for Accelerating Progress on the SDGs".

The WSIS Forum represents the world's largest annual gathering of the 'ICT for development' community and is a global multistakeholder platform facilitating the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines for advancing sustainable development. The platform provides an opportunity for information exchange, knowledge creation and sharing of best practices, while identifying emerging trends and fostering partnerships.

Following the appreciation of WSIS Stakeholders for the Mayors' session that took place during the WSIS Forum 2021, ITU, in collaboration with Geneva Cities Hub and the City of Geneva are inviting you to participate to the Mayors' High-level events at the WSIS Forum 2022, scheduled on 30 May, including:

(i) Mayors' Round Table (restricted to Mayors) on *Challenges and best practices of innovative ICT solutions for urban development in a post-COVID19 world*, from 11:30 to 12:30 at ITU Headquarters with remote participation.

(ii) Mayors High-Level Lunch (restricted to Mayors) from 12:45 to 14:00 at Villa Rigot.

(iii) An Interactive High-Level Dialogue (open to all stakeholders) on *Smart Cities, Drivers of Innovative Sustainable Development*, from 14:30 to 16:15 at ITU Headquarters in person and remote participation.

This engagement of Mayors will be an opportunity to discuss how Smart Cities are the drivers of innovative sustainable development at a local level. The event provides a unique opportunity to discuss local and national experiences and best practices to identify and scale up technology and innovative solutions in the ICT sector for urban development in a post-COVID19 world. Furthermore, we invite you to attend the final week consisting of an opening segment on, WSIS Action Lines meetings, WSIS Prizes ceremony, knowledge cafés, WSIS TalkX, High-Level dialogues, networking events, and an exhibition space – providing you the possibility to exchange views about new technologies and innovations introduced by cities or states to advance smart urban development.

We would be grateful if you could **kindly confirm your acceptance to Ms. Gitanjali Sah (gitanjali.sah@itu.int) and Amb. Andras Szorenyi (andras.szorenyi@genevacitieshub.org) and participation in person before 16 May 2022.**

All relevant documentation and the agenda for the meeting are updated constantly and are available at www.wsis.org/forum.

We look forward to welcoming you to the WSIS Forum 2022.

Yours faithfully,

[original signed]

Mr. Malcolm Johnson
Deputy Secretary-General,
ITU

[original signed]

Mr. Sami Kanaan
Member of the Executive Council,
City of Geneva

[original signed]

Ms. Beatrice Ferrari
Vice-President, Geneva Cities Hub