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ANNOUNCEMENT

ITU and Partners join forces to engage millions of young people for BYND 2015: Global Youth Summit

On the occasion of a blockbuster week of workshops and open debates on the future of technology and development during the WSIS Forum in Geneva, Dr Hamadoun Touré, ITU Secretary-General, announced some of the first partners of the upcoming *BYND 2015: Global Youth Summit*. To be held in San Jose, Costa Rica, from 9 to 11 September 2013, the Summit will gather some 500 youth in addition to engaging with millions more online, leveraging the networks of various partners.

The Secretary-General gathered the partners at ITU headquarters to thank them for their contributions and review preparations for the Summit. Partners include:

UNICEF has the leading role within the UN system for issues related to children and youth. UNICEF will leverage its expertise on child rights, youth and corporate social responsibility to provide substantive and technical input at the Summit. UNICEF will play a supportive role in the *Be Smart, Be Safe* track of the Summit bringing critical know-how on topics such as child online protection and safety, and adolescent girls and ICTs.

Kofi Annan Foundation and One Young World will launch a series of online sessions to engage youth in the lead up to and during the Summit, hosted by former United Nations Secretary-General, Kofi Annan and featuring young people from around the world. The first session took place during the WSIS Forum on 15 May from ITU's Geneva Headquarters' studio and the second Dialogue on 'Unemployment' will be held on 20 June. More information is available on the website of the [Kofi Annan Foundation](#).

Microsoft will support the participation of developers who will contribute to the Summit hackathon activities and programming workshops. Microsoft will leverage its [Youth Spark](#) network and Partners in Learning, including its 4.5 million teachers and 300 million students, in particular for the launch of the *Be Smart, Be Safe* campaign to raise awareness among children, youth, teachers and parents on responsible use of the internet and social media. Microsoft will be providing solutions for remote participation in the Summit.

America Movil/Claro will support the participation of youth in the Summit leveraging its [Aldea Digital](#) initiative. Aldea Digital was recently recognized by the Guinness Book of World Records as the largest ICT inclusion event in the world.

[Cisco Systems](#) will leverage its [Cisco Academy](#) of 10,000 locations and 1 million students to contribute to the success of the Summit. Cisco will be organizing its own event in Costa Rica, immediately following the Global Youth Summit.

[Telecentre.org](#) will engage its network of more than 180,000 telecentres around the world, including holding special sessions in telecentres to support the online engagement strategy of the Summit. Telecentre.org will play an essential role in helping the Summit partners reach youth that do not have access to ICTs at home. Most telecentre managers are themselves young entrepreneurs who offer community-based access to ICTs and training in underserved communities.

[Ooredoo](#) will support the participation of youth in the Summit mobilizing its current innovation and entrepreneurship initiatives across the Middle East, North Africa and South East Asia. Ooredoo will be especially involved in the Get Ahead theme of the Summit, bringing its experience in leveraging ICTs to support youth employability and entrepreneurship across emerging markets.

[The Walt Disney Company Latin America](#) will conduct a Train-the-Trainer workshop for Youth Summit participants. It will encourage leadership skills and teach participants how to use an online safety training kit developed by Club Penguin, a virtual world for children, to help younger ones use the web safely and responsibly.

[Azerbaijan](#) will support the participation of young IT specialists from the CIS region and mentors for entrepreneurship and business strategy, as well as contributing to one of the Summit sessions.

[PricewaterhouseCoopers \(PwC\)](#) will support the participation of a youth delegation from the [Ferney International School](#) near Geneva, as part of the Model UN Programme.

[ICT Qatar](#) will support the participation of youth from Qatar.

[Intel](#) As one of Costa Rica's largest employers and exporters Intel will support the World Youth Summit by leveraging its initiatives to spread digital literacy and to improve the education using ICTs through the [Intel World Ahead](#) programme.

About BYND 2015: Global Youth Summit

The [Global Youth Summit](#) is being hosted by the Government of Costa Rica, and organized by ITU together with other organizations in the UN family, as well as partners from government, industry, media and civil society. In 2012, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon declared youth as one of five main priorities in the run up to 2015, the date for delivering the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The Summit in Costa Rica will bring young people from around the world together – both physically and virtually – to participate in a series of workshops, presentations and conversations on how technology can be leveraged for social good and, specifically, how information and communication technologies (ICTs) can contribute to development goals. The Summit will seek to contribute to the United Nations and civil society engagement processes (often referred to as Beyond-2015) while prioritizing ICT inclusion as a central pillar of a post-2015 development agenda. The Summit will crowd-source a multimedia statement from young people onsite and virtually, for delivery to the United Nations General Assembly in September by the President of Costa Rica.

Some 500 youth will attend the Summit in person and many more will participate through online participation and multiple social media channels. The sessions will encourage open dialogue, discussion, debate and the free flow of ideas between young participants and inspiring guest speakers, mentors, government and thought leaders.

About the WSIS Forum

The [World Summit on the Information Society Forum 2013](#) represents the world's largest annual gathering of the 'ICT for development' community. This forum will provide structured opportunities to network, learn and participate in multi-stakeholder discussions and consultations on WSIS implementation. This event builds upon the tradition of annual WSIS May meetings, and its format is the result of open consultations with all WSIS Stakeholders. The WSIS Forum 2013 [Open Consultation Process on the Thematic Aspects and Innovations on the Format](#) was structured in five phases from October 2012 till April 2013. The [Agenda](#) and program of the WSIS Forum is built on the basis of the official submissions received during the Open Consultation Process.

[About ITU](#)

ITU is the United Nations specialized agency for information and communication technologies – ICTs.

We allocate global radio spectrum and satellite orbits, develop the technical standards that ensure networks and technologies seamlessly interconnect, and strive to improve access to ICTs to underserved communities worldwide.

ITU is committed to connecting all the world's people – wherever they live and whatever their means. Through our work, we protect and support everyone's fundamental right to communicate.