A Collaborative High Level Forum by
**the Permanent Mission of Ghana to the United Nations,
the Light Millennium NGO to the United Nations Department of Public Information,
Stevens Institute of Technology and GLOSAS/USA**

CONCEPT NOTE | *A High Level Forum on:*
**"HOW TELECOMMUNICATION AND SIMULATION CAN
CONTRIBUTE TO THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS)"**

Click here for links to each SDG: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs

*A Global Level Leading event in support of the
2016 Action Plan of the World Telecommunication and Information Society Day*

**DATE: WILL BE RESCHEDULED TO SEPTEMBER 2016.
VENUE:** United Nations Headquarters, New York City, Conference Rm# TBD
TIME: 10:00 a.m. to 6:00p.m. (10:00-1:00p.m. & 3:00-6:00p.m.)

INTRODUCTION:

The forum is intended to examine carefully "How Telecommunication and Simulation can Contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)" and to clearly establish the direct and indispensable linkage between Telecommunication and Simulation/Broadband Technologies on one hand and Sustainable Development Goals on the other, as a means of developing policies and implementation pathways for the SDGs at the national, regional and global levels.

CONCEPT:

The one-day High Level Forum is in commemoration of the World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD), which falls on May 17. It will consist of an Inaugural Session, three consecutive sub-theme based panels with interactive sessions in support of the core values of the World Telecommunication and Information Society as it relates to the attainment of the sustainable Development goals. Within the context of the Action Call by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) for 2016 along with the "Creating Electronic United Nations" project, the forum will carefully examine how innovative telecommunication, broadband-based and internet technologies in the pathways of mass communication and world-wide simulation-based developed/tested projects could be used to contribute to the attainment of the sustainable development goals in a manner that could ensure global transformation. The forum, which will be attended by ICT experts and innovators, diplomats, UN officials and business magnates in the ICT field, will explore in particular, practical actions to:

1. Close the huge gap in the technological divide between and within generations in both developed and developing countries;
2. Educate, prepare and protect vulnerable populations from potential effects of natural disasters and climate change as well as pursue health and social development projects, particularly, in situations where water, roads, hospitals and schools are not accessible;
3. Educate, inspire and connect young generations through simulation-based technologies for the purpose of equipping them with employable skills relevant to their societies;
4. Highlight the current capacity and potentials of the telecommunication and simulation-based technologies in three consecutive theme based panels with the view to establishing the inter-linkages and connections between telecommunication and simulation-based technologies and the attainment of the SDGs, and how a combination of these technologies can contribute to the efficient and effective implementation of the post 2030 development agenda by the Member States, United Nations and SDGs related agencies, policy makers, academia, IT Sector, private sector, experts, NGOs/CSOs, think-tank institutions and in particular by individuals and enterprises at the community level. Further, HOW to closely monitor the national and regional-based accomplishments and weaknesses on a fast and efficient form that yields positive developments and fast-track achievements that can also be replicated in other countries;
5. Create an electronic implementation plan and inclusive collaborative structure with specific focus on how to engage and enable all levels of society from individuals to governments and eliminating obstacles in the process of electronic democratization towards the implementation of the SDGs.
6. Foster connection between all levels of society through global awareness creation and better understanding of the SDGs via ICT technology for the purpose of working towards the attainment of the SDGs by 2030.

The High Level Forum will consist of four (4) components:

High Level Inaugural Session (HL-IS):

Presentations by Ambassadors of sponsoring and/or interested Missions and senior-level representatives of related UN agencies and Intergovernmental organizations will celebrate the World Telecommunication and Information Society as a global leading event based on the theme of the 151st Anniversary of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), which states: "*The story of ITU is one of international cooperation, among governments, private companies and other stakeholders. The Mission is to achieve the best practical solutions for integrating new technologies as they develop, and to spread their benefits to all.*"
In addition, as an overarching theme, the forum will illustrate how these technologies could be effectively and efficiently used towards implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.
(**Time:** 10:00 to 11:30a.m.)

Each of the proposed panels below will be grouped with a set of relevant SDGs to be presented in correlation with the Telecommunication and Simulation/Broadband technologies from national, regional and global perspectives.

PANEL I: "**ICT entrepreneurship for social impact".** The Panel will focus on the framework of the ITU's CALL for as follows: "Goals and targets for the entire ICT sector in the areas of growth, inclusiveness, sustainability and innovation, and partnerships." (Reference 1: "WTISD -16 Call for Action/Recalling 1"
Each speaker may present a project/action plan or vision within the frame works of the **SDGs# 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 16** [**Time:** 11:45a.m. – 1:00pm]

PANEL II: "**The vision of the Emerge Partnership"* and Creative Collaborations** based on the ITU Call for Action/Recalling III and "Creating Electronic United Nations" Project as follows: "*An initiative between ITU and partners, that rich ICT innovation and entrepreneurial ecosystems in emerging economies are built through close collaboration between public, private, academia and civil society actors, resulting in small, young and nimble firms with high-growth potential in the ICT/technology/Internet sectors.*" And, in the same approach, "Creating Electronic United Nations" propose also with multilateral collaborations and partnerships simulation-based solutions for the Sustainable Development Goals and through Internet/Broadband technologies. *(*Taken from the ITU's action plan*) **SDGs 5, 6, 12, 13, 14, 15** [**Time:**3:00 – 4:15pm]

PANEL III: **How to connect Telecommunication and Simulation with Public at Large Globally as the skeleton of the SDGs** as a powerful tool and mechanism to engage, involve, activate "untapped" potentials/resources in order to make them to be part of it—*on the individual, community, civil society, NGO, academia and students at all levels*—with the peoples from all the walks of life globally! This panel aims to woven Telecommunication Internet/Broadband Technologies and existing known and potential capacities along with innovations that are in the near and distant horizons with the representatives of all key stakeholders of the society that are also in line with the United Nations' Charter, and its three pillars. It also will illustrate ways and forms that people can actively engage and be part of part of it besides being a user or consumer of any form of existing and potential communication device… **SDG#1, 2, 3, 4 and 17** [**Time:** 4:20pm – 6:00pm.]

TARGETED AUDIENCE: All UN Member States, representatives of the intergovernmental organizations, and ALL UN Ground Pass-Holders at large; and as an OPEN REGISTRATION that will be in line with the UN DPI's Special Events or the UN High Level Forum on the Culture of Peace format/approach for OPEN REGISTRATION "non-Ground Pass" holders through an online form or email to be cut off in advance 4-5 days than actual event date.

EXPECTED ATTENDEES: 300/400

EXPECTED OUTCOME:
1. Bringing in the front line with the WTIS, Simulation Technologies and SDGs;
2. By doing so, paving the way for member states for collaborations/partnerships both at the national and global level;
3. Creating awareness and engaging all representatives of relevant sectors and the general public with the WTISD, Simulation Technologies and the SDGs as one co-existing and unifying power with the mass population of the world;
4. Making available all the sessions to the global public through web-casting to be archived on the UNTV and SIT websites; and/or video-recorded for a television series that will cover all the proposed sessions.
5. Webcasting is targeted for the full-day or video-recording. Based upon one of these, DVD copy will be provided to all participated speakers/collaborators and supporting missions/organizations.
6. Each presented statement during each session will be requested from the speaker(s) by the organizer(s) to be shared/posted on the Lightmillennium.Org and SIT websites under a specific sub-directory that all the statements will be available to all interested parties globally.
7. Social media page will be created for its overarching goal, extensive outreach and visibility based upon securing this project.

Disclosure:
• This full-day High Level Forum will be Webcasting.

Sources:
1. **International World Communication Day:**http://www.itu.int/en/wtisd/2016/Pages/default.aspx
2. *History* http://www.itu.int/en/history/Pages/ITUsHistory.aspx
3. **ITU Secretary-General's Call for Action:**
   http://www.itu.int/en/wtisd/2016/Documents/WTISD16_Call_for_Action-en-signed.pdf
4. **Creating the Electronic United Nations with Distributed Simulation for Decision-Making Video interview:**http://www.lightmillennium.org/lmtv/2016/dr-utsumi-creating-electronic-un.mp4
5. Synopsis of **"Creating Electronic United Nations":**
   https://www.dropbox.com/home/2016?preview=Synopsis+of+Creating+Electronic+United+Nations__v2.pdf
6. **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals**
   http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/

Updated on May5, 2016 I B.Ü.