



Sample letter to request to join a national delegation to the WCIT

In December, the world's governments will convene in Dubai for the World Conference on International Telecommunications (WCIT), a meeting organized by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), a UN agency.

At the WCIT, governments will be debating changes to the International Telecommunications Regulations (ITRs). A number of the proposed revisions could expand the ITU's treaty to include aspects of internet policy. This could threaten Internet openness and innovation, increase access costs, and erode human rights online. While Member States of the ITU (governments) and Sector Members (industry and others) participate, civil society and other stakeholders are largely excluded from the WCIT process.

There is still time to make your voice heard by requesting to join your government's delegation to Dubai. At the WCIT, each Member State has one vote, so multistakeholder delegations are important to ensuring that governments vote to keep the Internet open and accessible for all. Below is a sample letter to request to join a national delegation, which advocates should feel free to use and modify as appropriate.

Honorable [NAME OF DELEGATE/REPRESENTATIVE]:

The undersigned [ORGANIZATIONS/INDIVIDUALS] respectfully request to join [COUNTRY's] delegation to the World Conference on International Telecommunications (WCIT).

[Include a brief description of the expertise and experience brought by the signatories of this letter explaining the relevance of including them on the delegation.] We believe that we will bring additional technical, economic and legal expertise [delete/add as appropriate] and serve as a resource for the [NATIONALITY] government to advance our common goals at the WCIT.

While we are aware that some parts of the WCIT may be opened to the public, and therefore to civil society, we feel that genuine multi-stakeholder participation requires access to the working groups drafting the treaty text, which at this point, requires being on a national delegation. The ITU has encouraged member states to bring multistakeholder delegations to the WCIT because of the range of expertise they bring. As you may be aware, there is no deadline to register delegation members, nor is there any limit on number of delegates in a delegation.¹

The continued success of the Internet depends on the genuine participation of all stakeholders, including government, the private sector and civil society. Indeed, the [NATIONALITY] government made a commitment to a multi-stakeholder approaches to ICT and the Internet at the World Summit on Information Society (WSIS).²

¹ See the Convention of the ITU and the General Rules for Conferences, Assemblies and Meetings of the ITU (CV49 and GR Ch I, Sections 1&2) available here: <http://www.itu.int/net/about/basic-texts/index.aspx>

² <http://www.itu.int/wsis/docs/geneva/official/dop.html>



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We are also particularly interested in joining the delegation because we are concerned with proposed changes to the ITRs that could impact how [NATIONALITY] citizens and businesses access and use the Internet. We trust that we can work together in inclusive and transparent ways to ensure that the Internet is not imperiled, that it remains open and continues to facilitate and encourage economic development and the realization of human rights in [COUNTRY].

We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

[NAMES OF INDIVIDUALS/INSTITUTIONS]

Visit <https://www.accessnow.org/policy/itu> and <https://www.cdt.org/issue/ITU>
for additional advocacy tools for the World Conference on International Telecommunications.