



WHO-ITU stakeholders' consultation on the Make Listening Safe initiative

17, 18, 19 February 2020

It is estimated that over a billion young people worldwide are at risk of hearing loss due to unsafe listening practices (<https://www.who.int/activities/making-listening-safe>). In response to this growing public health problem, WHO launched the Make Listening Safe initiative in 2015. The initiative aims to reduce the risk of hearing loss posed by unsafe listening behaviour. In order to facilitate safe listening, WHO has identified the following three strategies:

- Implementation of WHO-ITU global standard for safe listening devices.
- Undertaking a public health campaign for listening behaviour change
- Develop a regulatory framework for control of recreational sound exposure

To advance this agenda, WHO and ITU have adopted a consultative approach. Since 2015, WHO has been regularly organizing stakeholders' consultation with experts in the field of hearing and sound; civil society organizations; professional groups; private sector and youth groups.

It is proposed to hold the next consultation with experts and other stakeholders, with the objectives to:

1. Discuss ways and means for promoting and implementing the WHO-ITU Standard for safe listening devices.
2. Share the progress made in different areas of work such as online approaches for raising awareness among different target audiences; a media brief on safe listening, and the Be Healthy, Be Mobile mHealth tool for safe listening.
3. Share progress and discuss the development of a regulatory framework for control of recreational sound exposure in entertainment venues.

**Participants:**

- Experts in the field of audiology, otology, public health, epidemiology, acoustics, sound engineering, including members of the Make Listening Safe working groups.
- ITU and its member organizations
- Standardization organizations
- Consumer organizations
- Youth groups
- Associations of musicians and venue managers

Dates:

- **17 February 2020:** Discussion on WHO-ITU Standard for safe listening devices (ITU-T H.870 guidelines).
- **18 February 2020:** Overview and updates on Make Listening Safe initiative and all its actions
- **19 February 2020:** Discussion on WHO Regulatory framework for control of loud sounds in entertainment venues.

Venue: Salle B, WHO headquarters, Geneva, Switzerland