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இலங்கையின் பிரதம அமைச்சர்  
Prime Minister of Sri Lanka

### **MESSAGE FROM THE HON. PRIME MINISTER**

Information and communication technology (ICT) today is a key for innovation that caters economic growth. People are frequently exposed to information in the present society making it difficult to avoid. Nevertheless, unraveling its gains from setbacks is a serious challenge facing us.

The 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD) is celebrated this year with the aim of creating awareness on the possibilities that the use of ICT can bring into societies and economies. At the same time it is focused on the implementation of international standards in developing countries so as to achieve Sustainable Development Goals and to explore ways to bridge the digital divide.

This years' theme "bridging the standardization gap" will facilitate us to participate in the standards-making process of International Telecommunication Union and it will empower local experts in the process.

It is my fervent belief that deliberations with regard to the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the WTISD will accelerate our efforts to comply with international standards in achieving national progress.

**Ranil Wickremesinghe**  
Prime Minister

08<sup>th</sup> May 2019