The IEEE GHTC is an international flagship conference on the application of technology to meet the needs of underserved populations around the world and in support of United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDG).

To this end, a major focus is on cross-discipline/multi-discipline activities in the Sustainable Development and Humanitarian Technology space. An important focus is on community building.

Humanitarian Technology/Engineering involves the application of technology to improve the quality of life of the underserved populations, and to meet the challenges of both natural and man-made disasters.

GHTC strongly encourages submissions that utilize both applications of current technologies used in new ways and innovative technologies that address its goals. These submissions can include presentations, posters, workshops, panel discussions, and other formats which address the socio-cultural and socio-economical needs of vulnerable end user communities in both developed and developing countries. Submissions by public, private and end-user community representatives are very welcome.

Key focus areas for GHTC 2018 include (but are not limited to):

- Affordable & Clean Energy
- Agriculture & Food Security
- Clean Water & Sanitation
- Community engagement, Capacity-building, and Behavior Change
- Connectivity & Communication
- Disaster Mitigation, Preparedness, Response & Recovery
- Humanitarian Challenges & Opportunities
- Technology Enhanced Quality Education Delivery
- Technology Enhanced Healthcare
- Technology and Applications for Poverty Alleviation
- Other United Nations Sustainable Development Goals
- Technology Showcase (exhibit display)

Authors and Presenters must demonstrate a clear understanding of the interrelationship of their work with socio-cultural, socio-economic, policy and environmental factors, and clearly state whether they are presenting preliminary, expected or final results as well as expected or actual impact.

Proposals for Interactive Sessions [Panels, Case Studies, and Workshops] should be designed to stimulate dialogue, knowledge exchange and the co-design of ideas, concepts and implementation plans to inform and facilitate subsequent collaboration by conference attendees.

New for 2018 – GHTC has now added Social Science & Entrepreneurship as new topics for papers, panels, and workshops, in the context of technology design, adoption, and dissemination. Sample questions and topics include the following:

- How do we work with communities to design new products and technologies?
- How do we measure behavior change and technology adoption?
- How do we empower entrepreneurs and create successful business models to deploy and scale-up new innovations in developing countries?