



**Telecommunication
Development Bureau (BDT)**

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Geneva, 28 January 2016

To:

- Member States and ITU-D Sector Members;
- Regional and subregional regulators' associations;
- Telecommunication/ICT operators;
- Financial and development institutions;
- Regional and subregional organizations

Subject: **15th Forum on Telecommunication/ICT Regulation and Partnership in Africa (FTRA-2016), Sofitel Hotel Ivoire, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire , 23 - 25 March 2016**

Dear Sir/Madam,

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the Government of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire are pleased to invite you to the 15th Forum on Telecommunication/ICT Regulation and Partnership in Africa (FTRA 2016), to be held at the Sofitel Hotel Ivoire Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, from 23 - 25 March 2016. The theme for the Forum this year is: "Challenges of regulating in an information society with no boundaries" and was selected on the basis of proposals made by participants in the 14th FTRA, held in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, from 3 to 6 September 2013.

The Forum is organized by the ITU in collaboration with the Autorité de Régulation des Télécommunications (ARTCI) of Côte d'Ivoire in partnership with the African Telecommunications Regulators' Network and the African Regional Working Party on private sector issues.

The main objective of the Forum is to share experience and identify best practices for the creation of an enabling environment conducive to investments in ICT infrastructure, applications and services for countries' socio-economic development.

The ICT market is changing ever more rapidly and convergence and market transformation has placed increasing challenges on existing policy and regulatory regimes. Discussion topics this year will include the role regulators and all stakeholders play in ensuring affordable access to ICTs and digital inclusion for all. Topics will also include IPv4 to IPv6 migration in Africa, impact and challenges of Over-the-Top players, net neutrality, as well as technology, evolution and generating local content for the continent.

Participation in FTRA 2016 is open to ITU Member States and ITU-D Sector Members, regional and subregional regulators' associations, telecommunication/ICT operators, financial and development institutions and regional and subregional organizations.

Documents relating to the event and regular updates thereto (information note, provisional programme, registration and hotel reservation forms) will be available on the ITU website at: www.itu.int/ITU-D/afr/events/FTRA/2016. Registration will be done **preferably online** at the same web address not later than **29 February 2016**. The detailed provisional agenda is attached in Annex.

The meeting will be paperless. Participants are therefore invited to download and print the needed documents before and during the event. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in English and French during the meeting.

A practical information note concerning the Forum can also be found at the above web address. Please pay particular attention to the section on entry visa requirements for Côte d'Ivoire.

In order to benefit from the preferential hotel rates negotiated by the national coordinator for this event, participants are requested to complete the form and return it directly to the selected hotel.

The host country will provide transportation between the airport and hotels, and between the hotels and the Forum venue, and vice versa, for all delegates.

To facilitate the planning and coordination of airport transfers, delegates are requested to fax or e-mail the same form, indicating their flight numbers, dates and times (both arrival and departure) to Ms. BESSOU Assoumou Régina Fleur, Chef Département de la Coopération Internationale (tel: +225 20 34 58 80, fax: +225 20 34 43 75, mobile: +225 07 81 52 08, email: bessou.regina@artci.ci; fleuregina@yahoo.fr), with a copy to Ms. Anna Barboza and Ms. Oumou Niang (tel: +221 33 859 70 10/21, fax: +221 33 868 63 86), e-mails: itu-dakar@itu.int, ftra2016@itu.int).

Mrs. Sofie Maddens, Head, Regulatory and Market Environment (tel: +41 22 730 6256, email: sofie.maddens@itu.int) and Mr Ali Drissa Badiel at ITU Area Office for West Africa (tel.: +221 33 859 70 10/21, email: AliDrissa.Badiel@itu.int) members of the ITU team in charge of FTRA, will follow up with your focal point on requested areas of interest.

I look forward to seeing you at the Forum.

Yours faithfully

Brahima Sanou
Director