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| Telecommunication  Development Bureau (BDT) | | | |
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| Ref.: | Circular BDT/IP/CSTG-15 | | Geneva, 13 December 2016 |
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|  |  |  | * Administrations of ITU Member States * Resolution 99 (Rev. Busan, 2014) * ITU-D Sector Members, Associates, and Academia * Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of ITU-D Study Groups 1 and 2 * Observers (Regional and International Organizations) * United Nations, Specialized agencies, and IAEA |
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| Subject: | **2017 ITU-D Study Group meetings −  Study Group 1: 27-31 March 2017 and Study Group 2: 3-7 April 2017** | | |
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| Dear Sir/Madam,  In consultation with Ms Roxanne McElvane Webber (United States of America), Chairman of ITU-D Study Group 1 and Dr Ahmad Sharafat (Islamic Republic of Iran), Chairman of Study Group 2, I am pleased to invite you to the fourth and final meetings of the ITU-D Study Groups for the sixth study period. These meetings will take place at ITU Headquarters in Geneva.  Study Group 1 will meet from 27 to 31 March 2017 and Study Group 2 from 3 to 7 April 2017. The meetings aim to finalize the reports and other deliverables requested by WTDC-14 which consist of practical guidance, checklists, toolkits, guidelines and training material. They provide a unique opportunity to exchange ideas on possible study topics for the future. The deliverables for the study period will be submitted for approval during these final ITU-D Study Group meetings and subsequently presented to WTDC-17.  The ITU-D Study Groups are open to participation by ITU Member States, ITU-D Sector Members, Associates and Academia.  The time management plans and draft agenda for each of these meetings can be found on their respective websites (see **Annex 1**). Detailed information on how to register and apply for fellowships, how to submit contributions, along with other practical information is attached in **Annex 2**.  The meetings of the ITU-D Study Groups also provide the membership with the opportunity to showcase innovative ICT applications that are being implemented all over the world in areas related to the Questions under study (emergency telecommunication, e-waste, climate change, accessibility, etc.). Interest in sponsorship opportunities can be addressed to[bdtpartners@itu.int](mailto:bdtpartners@itu.int), as explained in **Annex 2**.  Ms Christine Sund, ITU-D Study Groups Coordinator, is at your disposal should you require further information. Tel.: +41 22 730 5999, Fax.: +41 22 730 5484, E-mail address: [devsg@itu.int](mailto:devsg@itu.int),  Website: <http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/study-groups> .  I look forward to your continued active participation in the work of the ITU-D Study Groups.  Yours faithfully,  [Original signed]  Brahima Sanou  Director  cc:   * Rapporteurs and Vice-Rapporteurs for ITU-D Study Group 1 and 2 Questions * ITU Regional Offices * Focal Points at the headquarters and the Regional/Area Offices for ITU-D Study Group 1 and 2 Questions | | | |

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| **Annex 1**  Draft agenda and schedule of meetings  The draft agendas and schedules for the meetings of the two **ITU-D Study Groups** can be found at the links below:  Study Group 1  Main meeting website for ITU:   * [Meeting page](http://www.itu.int/net4/ITU-D/CDS/sg/blkmeetings.asp?lg=1&sp=2014&blk=16861) * [Draft agenda](http://www.itu.int/md/D14-SG01-OJ) * [Draft time management plan](http://www.itu.int/md/D14-SG01-ADM)   Study Group 2  Main meeting website:   * [Meeting page](http://www.itu.int/net4/ITU-D/CDS/sg/blkmeetings.asp?lg=1&sp=2014&blk=16862) * [Draft agenda](http://www.itu.int/md/D14-SG02-OJ) * [Draft time management plan](http://www.itu.int/md/D14-SG02-ADM) |

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| **ANNEX 2**  Registration, visa support and fellowship requests  ***Pre-registration***  **Pre-registration** will be carried out exclusively online through the Focal Points designated by each administration and entity entitled to participate. Online pre-registration will open in the registration system on **Monday, 19 December 2016** at the following website: <http://www.itu.int/net3/ITU-D/meetings/registration/> .  ***Visa support***  When needed, **visa support** must also be requested by the participant during the online pre-registration process. Please note that a strict procedure for visas is in force in Switzerland and participants are urged to read carefully the visa procedure available on the [website](http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Study-Groups/2014-2018/Pages/delegate-resources/visa-procedures.aspx). Please note that the processing of a request for a Schengen visa takes a minimum of three weeks.  ***On-site registration***  **On-site registration** will begin on **Monday, 27 March 2017** at 08h00 and will take place in the Montbrillant building. Pre-registered delegates will only need to bring their letter of confirmation received and a photo ID. Delegates who do not pre-register will also require a letter of accreditation from the Designated Focal Point of their entity to register onsite. As before, the role of the **Designated Focal Point** is to handle registration formalities for his/her respective administration/entity. The list of Designated Focal Points can be accessed using a **TIES** log-in at this [address](http://www.itu.int/net3/ITU-D/meetings/registration/). To modify the contact details of a Designated Focal Point or to change the Focal Point, an official letter from an authorized official should be sent to the BDT Meetings Registration Service (by fax.: +41 22 730 5545/+41 22 730 5484 or by e-mail to: [bdtmeetingsregistration@itu.int](mailto:bdtmeetingsregistration@itu.int)), providing the updated details: last name, first name and e-mail address.  You will find registration details and all other logistical information such as accommodation and visa arrangements on the dedicated websites for the meetings: **Study Group 1** [meeting website](http://www.itu.int/net4/ITU-D/CDS/sg/blkmeetings.asp?lg=1&sp=2014&blk=16861) and **Study Group 2** [meeting website](http://www.itu.int/net4/ITU-D/CDS/sg/blkmeetings.asp?lg=1&sp=2014&blk=16862).  ***Fellowship requests***  Within the budget available, **onefellowship per country for each Study Group** may be granted to participants from countries with a gross domestic product (GDP) per capita of less than USD 2'000, with priority to least developed countries (LDCs), and to participants who will present a contribution of direct relevance to at least one specific Question under study. Fellowship applications, limited to one person per eligible country, must be authorized by the relevant Administration of the ITU Member State and submitted before the deadline (**10 February 2017**).  In order to maximize the participation of eligible Member States within the very limited budget, and taking into account the large number of fellowship requests, an appropriate **daily subsistence allowance** intended to cover cost of accommodation, meals and miscellaneous expenses will be provided. ITU will also provide **an economy class air ticket** by the most direct route.  Please note that depending on the number of eligible requests, the countries that are beneficiaries of a fellowship may have to contribute partially to the cost of the fellowship.  Please note that you must first **submit** your registration for the specific Study Group meeting before you can receive the fellowship form. During the pre-registration process, please **tick** the box “I will request support in obtaining a fellowship”. You will receive a separate fellowship form for each meeting.  **The approved and signed fellowship form** must be returned to the Fellowship Service(by e-mail to [fellowships@itu.int](mailto:fellowships@itu.int) or by fax.: +41 22 730 57 78), **no later than** (**10 February 2017**).  *Forms received after the deadline will not be considered.*  Interpretation  Interpretation will be provided based on the requests of participants. You are, therefore, invited to indicate on the registration form, before **10 February 2017** whether you require a language other than English.  Remote participation in the meetings  Interactive remote participation services will be provided for the ITU-D Study Group 1 and 2 meetings. In parallel, the standard webcast in all languages of the respective meeting will be provided.  A **TIES account** is required to access both the interactive remote participation and the webcast services. Information on how to request a TIES account can be found [here](http://www.itu.int/TIES/index.html).  Details on Questions under study  The titles and definitions of the Questions to be dealt with by the Study Groups, as approved by WTDC-14, can be found on the ITU-D Study Groups website in all official languages: Study Group 1 [website](http://www.itu.int/net4/ITU-D/CDS/sg/index.asp?lg=1&sp=2014&stg=1) and Study Group 2 [website](http://www.itu.int/net4/ITU-D/CDS/sg/index.asp?lg=1&sp=2014&stg=2).  Contributions to the Study Groups  Your contributions to the work of the Study Group Questions will be highly appreciated. You may of course feel free to coordinate your proposals with other Administrations and organizations. A joint contribution requires the written approval of the parties involved in order to authorize its release.  As per Resolution 1 (Rev. Dubai, 2014), input to Study Group or Rapporteur Group meetings may be of three types: a) Contributions for action; b) Contributions for information; and, c) Liaison statements. The following applies:   * All contributions *for action* received **45 calendar days** before a meeting shall be translated and published not less than seven calendar days before the said meeting. Beyond this 45-day deadline, the contributor may submit the document in the original language and in any official language into which they may have been translated by the author. * All contributions received less than **45 calendar days but at least 12 calendar days** before a meeting shall be published but not translated. The secretariat shall publish these delayed contributions as soon as possible and not later than three working days after receipt. * Contributions received less than **12 calendar days** before a meeting shall not be entered on the agenda. They shall not be distributed but shall be retained for the next meeting. No contributions shall be accepted after the opening of the meeting. * All contributions should be submitted with an **abstract** providing an overview of the content of the document. The contribution should clearly indicate what kind of action the meeting is requested to take. * Contributions submitted to a meeting *for information* are those which do not require any specific action under the agenda of the meeting (e.g. descriptive documents submitted by Member States, Sector Members, Associates, Academia, or duly authorized entities and organizations, general policy statements, etc.), as well as other documents considered by the Study Group Chairman and/or the Rapporteur, in consultation with the author, as being for information. These documents should be published in the original language only (and in any other official language into which they may have been translated by the author) and appear under a separate numbering scheme from the contributions submitted for action. * Contributions *for information* need to be submitted with a **detailed abstract** which will be translated for the meeting. * Documents submitted to the study groups as **contributions should not exceed five (5) pages**. For existing texts, cross-references should be used instead of repeating material *in extenso*. Information material can be placed in annexes or provided on request as an information document.   Contributions must be submitted using the online template available at: <http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/CDS/contributions/sg/index.asp> . Please attach the original Word version of your contribution to the online submission form to ensure that all hyperlinks, graphics and tables are correctly displayed.  In accordance with provision in § 13.1 of Resolution 1 (Rev. Dubai, 2014), the deadline for the submission of contributions has been set for **10 February 2017** for Study Group 1 and **16 February 2017** for Study Group 2. Documents arriving after the deadline will be distributed in the original language only.   | **Meeting** | **Date** | **Deadline for fellowship applications** | **Deadline for interpretation requests** | **Deadline for submission of documents for translation** | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **Study Group 1:** | 27-31 March 2017 | 10 February 2017 | 10 February 2017 | 10 February 2017 | | **Study Group 2:** | 3-7 April 2017 | 10 February 2017 | 10 February 2017 | 16 February 2017 |   Documentation  The Study Group related meetings will be paperless. Delegates are urged to bring their laptops in order to download all meeting documents locally and to access the website for new documents. A user guide to synchronize documents is available [here](http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Study-Groups/2014-2018/Pages/delegate-resources/synchronization-application.aspx).  The **ITU-D Events Mobile and Desktop Application** provide meeting participants with a simple and fast way to access, on computers, smart-phones and tablets, all relevant documents and other practical information related to the meetings. Details on how to download the application can be found [here](http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Conferences/Pages/mobileapp.aspx).  Delegates are asked to ensure that they have TIES accounts to be able to access the documents for the Study Group meetings through the website, synchronization tool and ITU-D Events Mobile and Desktop Application. Information on how to request a TIES account can be found at [here](http://www.itu.int/TIES/index.html).  Sponsorship opportunities  Please be informed that sponsorship opportunities are proposed for activities taking place around the ITU-D Study Group 1 and 2 meetings (e.g. exhibition, workshop, coffee/tea breaks, receptions, etc.).This is a great opportunity for your entity to enhance visibility and promote your brand.  Details on these opportunities and related benefits can be found online at: <http://www.itu.int/go/itudsponsorships> . **If you have any questions, BDT remains at your disposal and can be contacted by e-mail:** [bdtpartners@itu.int](mailto:bdtpartners@itu.int)**.**  Practical information  A list of Geneva hotels offering preferential ITU rates can be found on the website [here](http://www.itu.int/travel/).  Do not hesitate to contact the **ITU-D Study Group Secretariat** with any questions you may have regarding these meetings and the activities of the ITU-D Study Groups (by e-mail: [devsg@itu.int](mailto:devsg@itu.int) or Tel.: +41 22 730 5999).  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |