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| **Telecommunication Development Sector**  **Study Groups** | |  |
| **ITU-D Study Group 1 Rapporteur Group meetings** | | |
| **Geneva, 4 – 15 April 2016** | | |
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|  | | **Document** **[SG1RGQ/131-E](http://www.itu.int/md/D14-SG01.RGQ-C-0131/en)** |
| **21 January 2016** |
| **Original:** **French** |
| Question 7/1: Access to telecommunication/ICT services by persons with disabilities and with specific needs | | |
| SOURCE: | Mali | |
| TITLE: | Access to ITCs for persons with disabilities | |
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| Action required: | Participants are invited to consider this document. | |
| *Keywords:* | *Access, persons with disabilities* | |

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| **Abstract:**  Most countries in the African region lack clear and accurate statistics on the number of people with disabilities, the nature of their specific needs and the underlying causal factors. There are no periodic (annual) studies or surveys that might enable us to update available statistics on people with disabilities and their specific needs in the countries of the African region.  In the African region, people with disabilities have limited access to information and communication technologies, and those who have such limited access mostly live in urban areas. What is more, most African countries lack any telecommunication/ICT policy or measures intended for persons with disabilities.  Guaranteeing access to ICTs for everyone including people with disabilities undoubtedly contributes to equitable economic and social development for humanity leading to improved quality of life. |

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