Ref.:   BDT/DDR/SUP/DM/069   Geneva, 2 July 2015

- ITU Member States,
- ITU-D Sector Members,
- Regulators,
- Associates,
- Academia,
- Other stakeholders of the Centres of Excellence network for Africa,
- Regional organizations in Africa

Subject: **ITU Regional Development Forum for Africa, 9-10 September 2015, Dakar, Senegal**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am pleased to invite you to participate in the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Regional Development Forum (RDF) for the Africa region, which will take place at the King Fahd Palace, Dakar, Senegal, organized in collaboration with the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications of Senegal and the Africa Telecommunications Union (ATU). The Forum will be held on 9-10 September 2015, back-to-back with the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA) Preparatory Meeting, to be held in the same venue on 7-8 September 2015. The host country will also be celebrating the "SMART Senegal Days" on 11 September, to which you are cordially invited.

Regional Development Forums provide an opportunity for high-level dialogue between the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) and decision-makers of ITU Member States and Sector Members. They serve as a platform for assessing strategic orientations that may have an impact on BDT's regional work plan in between world telecommunication development conferences (WTDCs). In this context, these forums report on the activities of WTDCs, notably the Dubai Action Plan, with particular emphasis on regional initiatives in order to get feedback from membership to adjust BDT's work in each region of the world.

The Regional Development Forum for Africa will discuss in detail the five regional initiatives approved by WTDC-14, providing members with an opportunity to exchange experiences and best practices in their implementation within the scope of the ITU Strategic Plan for 2016-2019.

ITU is a unique neutral platform for organizations to network and collaborate with industry, governments, regulators and academia. ITU has a global membership of 193 Member States

(governments, administrators and regulators) and over 700 Sector Members from the information and communication technology (ICT) sector.

Established in 1865, ITU has reaffirmed its reputation worldwide as one of the most resilient and relevant organizations and continues its work as the specialized agency of the United Nations for telecommunications and information and communication technologies. This year's Regional Development Forum is linked to the worldwide calendar of events to celebrate ITU's 150th Anniversary (www.itu150.org). We invite your organization to participate in this worldwide campaign.

The Forum will be conducted in English and French, with simultaneous interpretation. The draft agenda is attached. Please note that all information related to the Forum, including presentations and country information note will be available on the ITU website at: http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/Africa/Pages/default.aspx.

No participation fee is required for this event. You are invited to register online using the following link: http://www.itu.int/go/regitud preferably before 31 August 2015.

Mr Ali Drissa Badiel, ITU Regional Office for Africa/ Area Office for Western Africa, is at your full disposal should you require any further information: E-mail: Alidrissa.Badiel@itu.int; Tel.:+221 338597010/21, Fax.: +221 338686386.

Yours faithfully,

[Original signed]

Brahima Sanou
Director

CC: Director of TSB
        Secretary-General, ATU

Annex: Draft agenda

ITU Regional Development Forum for Africa

9-10 September 2015

King Fahd Palace, Dakar, Senegal

DRAFT AGENDA

9 SEPTEMBER 2015

The ITU Regional Development Forum *"Delivering on Africa Regional Initiatives"* aims to share and discuss the achievements, experiences, work programmes and partnerships amongst ITU members and interested partners for effective implementation of World Telecommunication Development Conference Recommendations. In particular, the Forum seeks to:

- *Share best practices and past experiences in implementing the ITU Africa Regional Initiatives 2011-2014, associated ITU programmes, partnerships and projects;*

  - *Human and Institutional capacity building*
  - *Strengthening and harmonizing policy and regulatory frameworks for the integration of African telecommunication/ICT markets*
  - *Development of broadband infrastructure and achievement of regional interconnectivity and universal access*
  - *Introduction of new digital broadcasting technologies*
  - *Implementation of the recommendations of Connect Africa summit.*

- *Discuss the following ITU Africa Regional Initiatives (2015-2018) in relation to the Dubai Action Plan and ITU strategic plan and seek partnership opportunities for their implementation:*

  - *Strengthening human and institutional capacity building*
  - *Strengthening and harmonizing policy and regulatory frameworks for the integration of African telecommunication/ICT markets*
  - *Development of broadband access and adoption of broadband*
  - *Spectrum management and transition to digital broadcasting*
  - *Building confidence and security in the use of telecommunications/ICTs.*

The Forum will have detailed working group breakout sessions to focus on each specific regional initiative, look at expected results, identify the partners concerned, and discuss possible projects and their funding.

09:00-09:30	**Registration of participants and Forum opening**
09:30-09:45	**Welcome remarks:** • Director General of the Regulatory Authority of Senegal • Director, ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) **Opening remarks:** Minister, Ministry of Information and Communication Technology, Government of Senegal

9:45 – 10:00	**Group photo**
10:00 – 10:30	**Coffee break**
10:30 – 12:00	**Session 1: Implementation of WTDC-10 and WTDC-14 regional initiatives** **Chairman:** Permanent Secretary/Director General *The Session will: a) recall main results of the implementation of the programmes, projects under the Africa's regional initiatives approved by WTDC-10 and present Dubai Action Plan; b) report on the progress of the implementation of Africa's five regional initiatives approved by WTDC-14 and initiate the development of the strategic framework (a results-based framework and an action plan) related to these regional initiatives.* - Recall the main results of the implementation of WTDC-10 regional initiatives; - Present the Dubai Action Plan (programmes, regional initiatives, projects and study groups) - Report on the implementation, since January 2015, of WTDC-14 regional initiatives - ITU member experiences in the implementation of Africa's regional initiatives - Establishment of working groups for regional initiatives: - AFR 1: Strengthening human and institutional capacity building - AFR 2: Strengthening and harmonizing policy and frameworks for the integration of African telecommunication/ICT markets - AFR 3: Development of broadband access and adoption of broadband - AFR 4: Spectrum management and transition to digital broadcasting - AFR 5: Building confidence and security in the use of telecommunications/ICTs. - Election of the chairman, vice-chairman and rapporteur for each working group

13:00 - 14:30	Lunch
14:30 - 15:30	**Session 2: Breakout sessions of the established working groups** *Session 2 will present opportunities for each working group to have a close look at their regional initiatives, identify projects, possible partners and potential funding.*
15:30 - 16:00	Coffee break
16:00 - 17:00	**Session 3: Breakout sessions** *Session 3 will be a continuation of the breakout sessions and each working group will be supported by a rapporteur, who will capture the discussions and provide all required information to the group discussions.*

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09:30 - 10:30	**Session 4: Reports from breakout sessions** **Chairman: Brahima Sanou** *Session 4 will present ways of implementing projects/initiatives on all five regional initiatives approved by WTDC-14.*
10:30 - 11:00	Coffee break
11:00 - 12:00	**Session 5: Participation of the African Telecommunications Union (ATU), regional economic communities and their support to countries in the implementation of regional initiatives** **Chairman: African Union Commission (AUC)** *Session 5 will give an opportunity to ATU and* the regional economic communities to dialogue. o *African Telecommunications Union* o *Economic Community for West African States (ECOWAS)* o *Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS)* o *Southern African Development Community (SADC)* o *East African Community (EAC)*
12:00 - 13:30	**Lunch**

13:30 - 14:30	**Session 6: Multistakeholder round table on innovation and partnerships in delivering regional initiatives**
	
	Chairman: Andrew Rugege
	
	Session 6 will facilitate innovation dialogue with ITU's international partners to discuss ways of future collaboration in the implementation of projects/initiatives.
	
	    o *Innovation dialogue process*
	    o *Partnerships*

14:30 - 15:00	**Session 7: Private-sector specific actions**
	
	Chairman: ATU
	
	Session 7 will allow more of ITU's partners in the private sector to make presentations on specific areas that also have an impact on regional initiatives.
	
	    o *Satellite*
	    o *Optical fibre*
	    o *One area network*
	    o *Wireless broadband (4G)*

15:00 - 15:30	**Coffee break**
15:30 - 16:15	**Report on RDF conclusions and recommendation**
16:15 - 16:30	**Wrap up and closing**