**Telecommunication
Development Bureau (BDT)**

Ref.: BDT/IEE/RME/DM/124

Geneva, 8 February 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,

[Original signed]

Brahima Sanou
Director

	15th Forum on Telecommunications/ICT Regulation and Partnership in Africa (FTRA 2016) "Challenges of regulating in an information society with no boundaries" Sofitel Hotel Ivoire, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire , 23 - 25 March 2016	
	DRAFT AGENDA FTRA 2016	

16.00–18.00	*Tuesday 22 March 2016: DELEGATES REGISTRATION OPENING*
Day 1 – Wednesday 23 March 2016	
08.00–09.00	**DELEGATES REGISTRATION**
09.00–09.30	**Plenary of Working Party on Private sector issues: Election of the Bureau of the Working Party and adoption of the agenda**
09.30–10.30	**Session 1: Workshop on Working Party on Private Sector issues "generalities".** • How to be more innovative and proactive in response to customers' needs? • What barriers actually hinder private sector development in Africa? • How to bring about real digital economy in Africa? **General discussion**
10.30–11.00	**Coffee / tea break**
11.00-12.00	**Session 2: Private sector's corner : technology** • What is new in Satellite networks?(SES) • What is trending in WiFi technology?(Blue Denmark) • Where are we with last mile Broadband?(FTTH) **General discussion**
12.00-13.00	**Session 3: Workshop on Over-the-top players : market and regulatory issues** • Definition and Characterization of OTT services and applications • The OTT market in Africa, situation and perspectives • Impact of OTT services in Telcos and ISP :New business models and opportunities • Regulatory frameworks **General discussion**
13.00–14.30	**LUNCH BREAK**

14.30–15.30	**SESSION 4: Workshop on Content industry development in Africa** • How to stimulate innovation, development and adoption of local applications, services and digital content? • How IXP can enhance local content? • How to raise consumer demand and promote confidence in the use of ICTs? • Policy, regulation and tools to facilitate availability of competitive ICT services and applications **General discussion**
15.30–16.00	**Coffee / tea break**
16.00–17.00	**Session 5: Workshop on African countries' experience sharing : Success stories and lessons learned** • Presentation of national experience on IXPs • Presentation of national experience on local content • Presentation of national experience on IPv6 deployment **General discussion**
	Day 2 – Thursday 24 March 2016
08.00–09.30	**DELEGATES REGISTRATION**
09.30–10.30	**FTRA-16 OPENING CEREMONY** • Director General of ARTCI, Cote d'Ivoire • Chairman of FTRA -2013, CEO of Postal & Telecommunications Regulatory Authority of Zimbabwe (POTRAZ), • Regional Director for Africa • Director of Telecommunication Development Bureau (ITU/BDT)(Key note address) • **The Minister in charge of ICTs Côte d'Ivoire** (opening address) **Group Photo/Media**
10.30–11.00	**Coffee / tea break**
11 .00–12.30	**FTRA-16 First Plenary** • Appointment of the Bureau and adoption of the agenda • Approval of last FTRA report • Report from the Private Sector Working Party **Q/A & General discussion**
12.30–14.00	**LUNCH BREAK**
14.00–15.00	**SESSION 6: Overview of the trends in ICT, services & regulation** • Regulatory challenges in the digital age • ICT market trends in Africa • Growth in IP traffic, applications and trends **Q/A & General discussion**

15.00–15.30	**Coffee / tea break**

15.30–16.30	**SESSION 7 : New trends in the telecoms/ICT sector**
	• Quality of Service and Quality of Experience: the invasion of the SIM-Box consequent service degradation
	• Net Neutrality issues:
	  ▪ policy and regulations
	  ▪ investment
	Q/A & General discussion

16.30–17.00	**SESSION 8: Closed session of Regulators**
	Day 3 – Friday 25 March 2016
09.00–10:30	**SESSION 9 : Some key technical challenges in Africa** • Keeping traffic in Africa: Internet Exchange points (IXP) • Status of IPv6 migration • International Mobile Roaming: the case of One Network Area for the Northern Corridor of Eastern Africa • Incoming traffic Monitoring **Q/A & General discussion**
10.30-11.00	**Coffee / tea break**

11 .00–12.00	**SESSION 10: Regulatory impact on technical and economic development**
	• Regulatory responses to technology developments:
	  ▪ Spectrum policy
	  ▪ Post WRC-15 and evolution to 5G
	  ▪ OTT's
	Q/A &General discussion

12.00-12.30	**FTRA-16 Final Plenary**: **Conclusions and ways forward** • Adoption of forum recommendations • Proposal of themes for FTRA 2017 • Date and venue for FTRA 2017
12.30-13.00	**Closing Ceremony**