



**Telecommunication  
Development Bureau (BDT)**

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Geneva, 1 December 2020

ITU Member States  
ITU-D Sector Members  
United Nations and Specialized Agencies  
Regional Telecommunication Organizations  
Academia

**Subject: Invitation to a joint ITU and USTTI webinar on “Building Disaster Resilience through Emergency Telecommunications,” 15 and 16 December 2020**

Dear Sir/Madam,

It is my pleasure to invite you to the 2020 Webinar on “Building Disaster Resilience through Emergency Telecommunications”, organized jointly by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the United States Telecommunication Training Institute (USTTI). This webinar will take place on 15 and 16 December 2020, from 9h00 to 12h00 EST (15h00-18h00 CET). ITU and USTTI are honoured to partner on this two-day event that will highlight the role of emergency telecommunications for disaster risk reduction and management, and discuss best practices for increasing ICT resilience and capacity for saving lives and limiting the impact of natural and manmade hazards.

This event comes at a time when natural hazards are having devastating impacts on people and economies across the globe. At the same time, COVID-19 has highlighted the strategic importance of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) networks and services for social welfare and the global economy, and created innovation in technologies. The webinar will emphasize the importance of national and international coordination for disaster preparedness and response and feature expert speakers from the ITU, international telecommunications associations, and ICT industry partners that provide solutions for connecting vulnerable communities to lifesaving information.

Building on the USTTI Emergency Telecommunications training sequence and ITU’s extensive experience in the area of emergency telecommunications, ITU and USTTI are piloting a targeted set of presentations in a webinar format, and are opening attendance to the public. Sessions on day 1 will focus on ITU’s global guidelines for the development of National Emergency Telecommunication Plans, and standards and best practices, including the implementation of the Common Alerting Protocol. It will also feature a case study for response to Hurricane Maria. Sessions on day 2 will include a regulatory perspective from the U.S. Federal Communications Commission, and an examination of emergency management from both mobile and satellite associations and operators. A panel discussion will analyze the importance of network capacity and resilient infrastructure in times of the COVID-19 pandemic.

To participate in the webinar, please [register here](#). The program agenda is attached in Annex 1. More details about the webinar are available [online](#).

I look forward to both your participation in and contribution to this event.

Yours faithfully,

[Original signed]

Doreen Bogdan-Martin  
Director

## ANNEX 1



International Telecommunication Union

United States Telecommunication Training  
Institute**Building Disaster Resilience through Emergency Telecommunications**Joint ITU and USTTI Webinar  
15 and 16 December 2020**AGENDA****Tuesday, 15 December** 9h00 to 12h00 EST (15h00-18h00 CET)

- |               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 09:00 – 09:20 | <p>Welcome Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Doreen Bogdan-Martin, Director, ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT)</li> <li>• Mr. Jim O'Connor, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, United States Telecommunication Training Institute (USTTI)</li> </ul> |
| 09:20 – 10:20 | ITU Guidelines: National Emergency Telecommunication Plans, Tabletop Exercises, Tampere Convention                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 10:20 – 11:20 | Common Alerting Protocol: Standards and Best Practices                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 11:20 – 12:00 | Case Study – Hurricane Maria Response and Recovery; Perspective from Loon LLC                                                                                                                                                                                                               |

**Wednesday, 16 December** 9h00 to 12h00 EST (15h00-18h00 CET)

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|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 09:00 – 09:05 | Session Overview                                                                                                     |
| 09:05 – 09:50 | Regulators Perspective on Emergency Preparedness and Response: US Federal Communications Commission                  |
| 09:50 – 10:30 | Network Disaster Recovery: AT&T                                                                                      |
| 10:30 – 11:10 | Satellite Communications and Disaster Response: Inmarsat                                                             |
| 11:10 – 12:00 | Round-table Discussion on COVID-19 and resilient networks: How to ensure business continuity in the telecom industry |