



**Telecommunication
Development Bureau (BDT)**

Ref.: BDT/DNS/TNS/DM/172

Geneva, 24 November 2020

To: Emerging Technologies stakeholders in the
Arab and African regions

Subject: ITU Inter-Regional Week on “Emerging Technologies for Development” In the Arab and African Regions, 13-18 December 2020

Dear Sir/Madam,

We are pleased to announce the first ITU Inter-Regional Week on “Emerging Technologies for Development” in the Arab and African Regions scheduled to take place from 13 to 18 December 2020. The objective of this year’s ITU Inter-Regional Week is to promote the wide-scale deployment of emerging technologies including, Artificial Intelligence, IoT, Big Data, low orbiting satellites, and 5G, to ultimately contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

We plan to hold this event annually with a new theme each year that focuses on specific emerging technologies and targets a number of SDGs. The focus this year will be on SDG 3 (Health and Well Being), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) and SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure).

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we face a global recession that is adversely impacting the global economy at large and developing countries more acutely. Nevertheless, as countries plan for the new normal, there is potential for increased investment in emerging technologies. The Emerging Technologies for Development Week provides an excellent opportunity for countries to share their experiences in using emerging technologies to mitigate the socio-economic impact of COVID-19, with a view to achieving the SDGs in the long run.

This week will help highlight potential challenges as countries plan for economic recovery and prepare for the new normal. It will showcase best practices, enlarge the space for participation and support efforts to leverage emerging technologies in endeavors to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

We invite stakeholders in the Arab and African regions to organize at least one activity during the week, to shed light on their key activities in the domain of emerging technologies. Stakeholders are free to design the nature, scope and location of activities and associate them to the theme. Virtual events are highly encouraged, considering the circumstances imposed by the current COVID-19 pandemic. Activities should reflect the theme of using any emerging technology to achieve SDGs 3, 8 and 9.

To raise the visibility of all stakeholder activities during the Emerging Technologies for Development Week, a promotional campaign will be organized with regional press and on social media. BDT will avail a dedicated

webpage to promote all associated activities, including events organized by all stakeholders. Participating stakeholders are also encouraged to promote their activities and the Emerging Technologies for Development Week through their media channels including use of the common hashtag: #Emergingtechnologies4development.

Please provide information on the event(s) organized in your region or country during the Emerging Technologies for Development Week by completing the attached form. Duly filled forms should be submitted to Ms. Aminata Amadou Garba (Aminata.amadou-garba@itu.int), Mr. Ali Drissa Badiel, Area Representative, ITU Area Office for West Africa (alidrissa.badiel@itu.int) or Mr. Karim Abdelghani Programme Coordinator, ITU Arab Regional Office (karim.abdelghani@itu.int), by **30 November 2020**.

Any queries may also be submitted to either of the team members above, with “2020 Emerging Technologies Week” as the subject line in the email.

We look forward to receiving your response on this request and collaborating with you to ensure the success of the Emerging Technologies for Development Week.

Yours faithfully,

[Original signed]

Doreen Bogdan-Martin
Director