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| itu_logo | **International telecommunication union****Telecommunication Standardization Bureau** |  |
|  | Geneva, 28 June 2016 |
| Ref: | **TSB Circular 228**bsg/LS | - To Administrations of Member States of the Union;- To ITU-T Sector Members;- To ITU-T Associates;- To ITU Academia |
| Contact: | **Lara Srivastava** |
| Tel: | +41 22 730 5884 |
| Fax: | +41 22 730 5853 |
| E-mail: | tsbbsg@itu.int | **Copy:**- To the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of ITU-T Study Groups;- To the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau;- To the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau;- To the members of the Study Group 3 Regional Group for the Arab Region (SG3RG-ARB);- To ITU Regional Office for Arab Region |
| Subject: | **ITU Regional Standardization Forum for the Arab Region for Bridging the Standardization Gap (Tunis, Tunisia, 26 July 2016)** |

Dear Sir/Madam,

1 The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is organizing a Regional Standardization Forum for the Arab Region, which is kindly hosted by AICTO and CERT at the Ramada Plaza Hotel in Gammarth, Tunisia on 26 July 2016. The event will be held back to back with the 4th Meeting of the ITU-T Study Group 3 Regional Group for the Arab Region (SG3RG-ARB) which will take place from 26-29 July 2016 at the same venue.

The Forum will open at 0930 hours. Participants’ registration will begin at 0830 hours.

2 Discussions will be held in English only.

3 Participation is open to ITU Member States, Sector Members, Associates and Academic Institutions and to any individual from a country which is a member of ITU who wishes to contribute to the work. This includes individuals who are also members of international, regional and national organizations. Participation is free of charge.

4 The main objectives of the event are to provide an overview of the ITU Bridging Standardization Gap programme, hot topics under discussion in ITU-T and at WTSA-16, and an overview of preparations for WTSA-16.

The target audience of the event includes ITU Member States, national standards bodies, ICT regulators, ICT companies, ICT research organizations, service providers and academia.

5 A draft programme can be found in **Annex 1** of this circular. The draft programme of the Forum will also be made available on the ITU website: <http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/Workshops-and-Seminars/bsg/201607/Pages/default.aspx>. This website will be regularly updated as new or modified information become available. Participants are requested to check periodically for new updates.

6 General information for participants including hotel accommodation, transportation and visa requirements will be made available at the above-mentioned ITU website.

7 To enable ITU to make the necessary arrangements concerning the organization of the Forum, I should be grateful if you would register via the online form at <http://itu.int/reg/tmisc/3000905> as soon as possible, but **not later than 10 July 2016.** **Please note that pre-registration of participants to our events is carried out exclusively *online*.** Participants will also be able to register on-site on the day of the event.

8 I would remind you that citizens of some countries are required to obtain a visa in order to enter and spend any time in Tunisia. The visa must be obtained from the office (embassy or consulate) representing Tunisia in your country or, if there is no such office in your country, from the one that is closest to the country of departure.

Participants who require a letter of invitation to facilitate their visa application are kindly asked to complete and return the visa support Form 1 in **Annex 2** no later than **15 July** to: Mr Sami Trimech, E-mail: strimech@aicto.org, Mobile: (+216) 98 381 738 and Mrs Wala Turki, E-mail: wala.latrous@cert.mincom.tn, Mobile: (+216) 98 269 301.

Please be aware that visa approval might take time so kindly send your application as soon as possible.

Yours faithfully,

Chaesub Lee
Director of the Telecommunication
Standardization Bureau
 **Annexes: 2**

ANNEX 1
(To TSB Circular 228)

**Regional Standardization Forum for Bridging Standardization Gap (BSG)**

**26 July 2016**

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| **08:30-09:30** | ***Registration***  |
| **9:30-10:00** | **Opening Ceremony** |
| **10:00-10:30** | **Coffee Break** |
| **10:30-10:50** | **Introduction to ITU-T’s activities in Bridging the Standardization Gap** |
| **10:50-11:10** | **Mobile Roaming: International and Regional Perspectives** |
| **11:10-12:00** | **Economic impact of OTTs** |
| **12:00-12:30** | **Discussion** |
| **12:30-14:00** | **Lunch** |
| **14:00-14:20** | **The impact of standardization on innovation** |
| **14:20-14:40** | **Trust and Big Data: A brave new world** |
| **14:40-15:00** | **Coffee Break** |
| **15:00-15:30** | **Mobile Financial Services: Banking the Unbanked** |
| **15:30-16:30** | **Preparations for WTSA-16** |
| **17:30** | ***Close*** |
| **16:30-17:30** | **Meeting of the ITU-T Study Group 3 Regional Group for the Arab Region (SG3RG-ARB)** |

ANNEX 2

(To TSB Circular 228)

 **FORM 1 – VISA SUPPORT**

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| --- | --- |
| **1. First Name:** |  |
| **2. Last Name:** |  |
| **3. Job Title:** |  |
| **4. Company / Organization:** |  |
| **5. Address:** |  |
| **6. E-mail and Telephone:** |  |
| **7. Date & Place of Birth:** |  |
| **8. Nationality:** |  |
| **9. Date of Arrival:** |  |
| **10. Date of Departure:** |  |
| **11. Passport Number:** |  |
| **12. Date of issue:** |  |
| **13. Expiry Date:** |  |
| **14. Place of issue:** |  |

Please complete and return this form, with a copy of your passport, no later than **15 July 2016**, to: Mr Sami Trimech, E-mail: strimech@aicto.org, Mobile: (+216) 98 381 738 and Mrs Wala Turki, E-mail: wala.latrous@cert.mincom.tn, Mobile: (+216) 98 269 301.

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