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| ITU logo | **International telecommunication union****Telecommunication Standardization Bureau**  |  |
|  | Geneva, 23 March 2018 |
| Ref: | **TSB Collective letter 1/SG2RG-AFR****SG2/ZHJ** | * To the members of the Study Group 2 Regional Group for Africa;
* To ITU-T Associates participating in the work of Study Group 2;
* To ITU Academia;

- To the ITU Regional Office for Africa |
| Tel: | +41 22 730 5855 |
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| Email: | tsbsg2@itu.int  |
| Web: | [www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/studygroups/2017-2020/02/sg2rgafr](http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/studygroups/2017-2020/02/sg2rgafr)  |
| Subject: | **The first Meeting of ITU-T SG2 Regional Group for Africa (SG2RG-AFR); Tunis, Tunisia, 26 and 27 April 2018** |

Dear Sir/Madam,

We are pleased to inform you that, at the kind invitation of the Centre of Information, Training, Documentation and Studies in Communication Technologies (CIFODE’COM) of Tunisia, and in collaboration with the ITU Regional Office for Arab States, **ITU-T Study Group 2 Regional Group for Africa** (SG2RG-AFR) will hold its first meeting in Ramada Plaza Hotel, **Tunis, Tunisia on 26 and 27 April 2018** (two days).

The SG2RG-AFR meeting will be preceded by a BSG interactive workshop on 24 April 2018, an ITU Regional Workshop on Telecom Numbering Planning and Policies for Arab and Africa Region on 25 April 2018 and is collocated with the meeting of ITU-T SG2 Regional Group for the Arab Region (SG2RG-ARB) on 26 and 27 April 2018 as follows:

* 24 April 2018: **BSG Interactive Workshop on Effectiveness in Standardization**
* 25 April 2018: **ITU Regional Workshop on Telecom Numbering Planning and Policies for Arab and Africa Region**
* 26 and 27 April 2018: **Meeting of ITU-T SG2 Regional Group for the Africa Region** (SG2RG-AFR)
* 26 and 27 April 2018: **Meeting of ITU-T SG2 Regional Group for the Arab Region** (SG2RG-ARB)

Participation in the workshops is free of charge, and open to any participants who share an interest in the numbering plan policy for the Africa and Arab Region. The workshop will start at 0900 hours on Wednesday,
25 April 2018.

The meeting of ITU-T SG2RG-AFR will start at 0930 hours on Thursday, 26 April 2018. Participation in the ITU-T SG2RG-AFR meeting is as per WTSA Resolution 1 (Tunis, 2016), hence restricted to delegates and representatives of administrations and operating agencies of the region. Please note that continuity of representation would be helpful to the group’s work.

Participant registration will begin at 0900 hours at the venue on 24, 26 and 27 April 2018 and at 8h30 hours on
25 April 2018. Detailed information concerning the meeting rooms will be displayed at the entrances of the venue. Additional information about the meeting is set forth in **Annex A**.

Practical information relating to the venue will be posted on the SG2RG-AFR webpage at: [www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/studygroups/2017-2020/02/sg2rgafr](http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/studygroups/2017-2020/02/sg2rgafr).

Remote participation will be provided. Please indicate whether you will participate remotely when you complete online registration on the [regional group homepage](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/studygroups/2017-2020/02/sg2rgafr/Pages/default.aspx).

The draft Agenda of the meeting prepared in agreement with the acting co-Chairs, Mr Anthony Ikemefuna from Nigeria and Ms Susan Nakanwagi from Uganda, is set out in **Annex B**.

In agreement with the acting co-Chairs, the meeting will discuss topics which are of interest to the region, such as Experiences and challenges in National Numbering Plan development, Administration of E.212 Mobile Country Code/Mobile Network Code and Q.708 International Signalling Point Code, Harmonization of important numbers including emergency numbers, Interworking between IP based telecommunication applications and the legacy PSTN/PLMN networks, IoT Identification, and numbering misuse/caller ID Spoofing/Alternative Calling Procedure.

The acting co-Chairs invite participants to share their views on the following topics:

1. Problems, difficulties and challenges in administering National Numbering/Naming/Addressing/ Identification resources, such as National Numbering Plan, E.212 Mobile Country Code (MCC)/Mobile Network Code (MNC), Q.708 International Signalling Point Code (ISPC);
2. Experiences in combating numbering misuse/misappropriation and/or caller ID spoofing;
3. Requirements and/or status of harmonization of important numbers with social values including emergency numbers;
4. Experiences, problems, challenges in IoT identification, including what identification schemes are used for IoT (Internet of Things) applications. It is noted that in addition to IP addresses, E.164 numbering resources (Telephone numbers) and E.212 identification resources (IMSI), there are many heterogeneous identification systems supporting IoT applications all over the world, such as the following:
* the Handle identification system operated and managed by the relevant international ([DONA](https://dona.net/)) and national organizations;
* the OID system proposed by ISO/IEC and [ITU](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/asn1/Pages/OID-project.aspx);
* the GS1 identification system proposed by [GS1](https://www.gs1.org/) (formerly EAN International);
* the EPC (Electronic Product Code) created by the MIT Auto-ID Centre, a consortium of over 120 global corporations and university labs. The EPC system is currently managed by [EPCglobal, Inc.](https://www.gs1.org/epcglobal), a subsidiary of GS1;
* the [uCode](http://www.uidcenter.org/) proposed by Japanese uID-center;
* the Ecode proposed by Article Numbering Centre of China and the CID identification system proposed by the Institute of Information and Communications of China, etc.

National Numbering Plans published on the ITU website based on the notifications received from national Administrations can be accessed at: <http://www.itu.int/oth/T0202.aspx?parent=T0202>. Records of assignments of E.212 MCC&MNC and Q.708 ISPC&SANC kept in the ITU database based on notifications from national Administrations can be accessed at: <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/inr/Pages/default.aspx>.

**Key deadlines**:

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| 29 March 2018 | - Submit fellowship requests (application form and guidelines can be found [here](https://staging.itu.int/en/ITU-T/studygroups/2017-2020/02/sg2rgafr/Documents/SG2RG-AFR_Fellowships.docx)) |
| 9 April 2018 | - Pre-registration (online via the [regional group homepage](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/studygroups/2017-2020/02/sg2rgafr/Pages/default.aspx))- Submit requests for visa support letters (Practical information will be made available on the [regional group homepage](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/studygroups/2017-2020/02/sg2rgafr/Pages/default.aspx)) |
| 13 April 2018 | - Submit ITU-T Member contributions (by e-mail to tsbsg2@itu.int) |

I wish you a productive and enjoyable meeting.

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| Yours faithfully,*(signed)*Chaesub LeeDirector of the TelecommunicationStandardization Bureau |  ITU-T SG2RG-AFR |
| Latest meeting information |

**Annexes**: 2

**ANNEX A**

**MAKING CONTRIBUTIONS**

**DEADLINES FOR CONTRIBUTIONS:** The meeting will be run paperless. Contributions should be submitted by
e-mail to tsbsg2@itu.int using the [appropriate template](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/studygroups/Pages/templates.aspx). The name, fax and telephone numbers and e-mail address of the person to be contacted about the contribution should be indicated on the cover page of all documents.

Access to meeting documents is provided from the regional group homepage, and is restricted to ITU-T Members/[TIES account holders](http://www.itu.int/TIES/).

The deadline for contributions is 12 (twelve) calendar days before the meeting and must therefore be received **no later than 13 April 2018**. We invite you to submit your contributions as early as possible to ensure there is sufficient time for translation.

**WORK METHODS AND FACILITIES**

**INTERPRETATION**: In agreement with the acting co-Chairs, the working languages of the meeting will be English, French and Arabic.

**TRANSLATION:** Documents for this meeting will be translated in English, French and Arabic. We invite you to submit your contributions as early as possible to ensure there is sufficient time for translation.

**WIRELESS LAN** facilities and Internet access will be available at the venue of the event.

**REGISTRATION and FELLOWSHIPS**

**REGISTRATION:** Pre-registration is to be done online via the study group homepage **at least three weeks before the start of the meeting**. Additionally, and within the same deadline, focal points are requested to send by e-mail (tsbreg@itu.int), letter or fax, the list of people who are authorized to represent their organization, indicating the names of the head and deputy head of delegation. The membership is invited to include women on their delegations whenever possible.

**Please note that pre-registration of participants for ITU-T meetings is carried out *online* on the ITU-T SG2RG-AFR homepage (**<https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/studygroups/2017-2020/02/sg2rgafr/Pages/default.aspx>**).**

**FELLOWSHIPS:** We are pleased to inform you that two partial fellowships per administration may be awarded, **within the Africa Region only**, subject to available funding, to facilitate participation from [Least Developed or Low Income Countries](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/gap/Documents/Fellowships_BSG_EligibleCountries.pdf). Pre-registration for the meeting is mandatory. Preference will be given to applicants attending all the ITU events in Tunis, 24-27 April 2018.

**ANNEX B**

**Draft Agenda**

**Tunis, Tunisia, 26-27 April 2018**

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| **1** | Opening of the meeting |
| **2** | Adoption of the agenda |
| **3** | Overview of ITU-T Study Group 2 and Working Methods |
| **4** | Review of Outcomes of previous SG2 parent and regional group meetings |
| **5** | Terms of Reference and working method for SG2RG-AFR |
| **6** | Appointment of leadership |
| **7** | Experiences and challenges in National Numbering Plan development |
| **8** | Demo for the new National Numbering Plans repository (WTSA Res. 91) |
| **9** | Administration of E.212 Mobile Country Code/Mobile Network Code and Q.708 International Signalling Point Code |
| **10** | Harmonization of important numbers of social values, such as emergency numbers, etc. |
| **11** | Interworking between IP based telecommunication applications and the legacy PSTN/PLMN networks |
| **12** | IoT Identification |
| **13** | Numbering for In car emergency calls and new UN regulation on Accident Emergency Call Systems |
| **14** | Standardized USSD codes |
| **15** | Standardized interconnection model for a 4G customer switching to 5G |
| **16** | Combating misuse of national numbering resources |
| **17** | Caller ID spoofing and Calling Party Number Delivery |
| **18** | Alternative Calling Procedures |
| **19** | Number portability for IoT/M2M numbering resources |
| **20** | Digital Financial Services and Telecom Finance |
| **21** | Potential Impact of EU's activity on GDPR and "Proposal for a Regulation on privacy in the electronic communications" on operational aspect |
| **22** | Highlights of AI for Good Global Summit, IoT week and WSIS Forum  |
| **23** | SG2RG-AFR and Member Contributions to ITU-T Study Group 2 of July 2018 |
| **24** | Venue and date of the next SG2RG-AFR meeting  |
| **25** | Any other business |
| **26** | Closure of the meeting |

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