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| ITU logo | **International telecommunication union****Telecommunication Standardization Bureau** |  |
|  | Geneva, 8 February 2018 |
| Ref: | **TSB Circular 73**TSB Events/TK | **To:**- Administrations of Member States of the Union;- ITU-T Sector Members;- ITU-T Associates;- ITU Academia |
| Contact: | **Tatiana KURAKOVA** |
| Tel: | +41 22 730 5126 |
| Fax: | +41 22 730 5853 |
| E-mail: | tsbevents@itu.int  | **Copy to:**- The Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of ITU-T Study Groups;- The Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau;- The Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau |
| Subject: | **6th SG13 regional workshop for Africa on "Standardization of future networks: What are the future opportunities for Africa?" (Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, 26 – 27 March 2018)** |

Dear Sir/Madam,

1 I would like to inform you that the **6th SG13 regional workshop for Africa on "Standardization of future networks: What are the future opportunities for Africa?"** will be kindly hosted by the Telecommunications Regulation Authority of Côte D'Ivoire (ARTCI) and will take place at Hotel Azalaï, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire from 26-27 March 2018. The workshop will be succeeded by the ITU-T Study Group 13 Regional Group for Africa (SG13RG-AFR) that will take place from 28-29 March 2018 in the same venue.

2 This workshop will be held in English only.

3 Participation in the workshop is open to ITU Member States, Sector Members, Associates and Academic Institutions and to any individual from a country that 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 at the workshop is free of charge.

4 This two-day workshop aims to deal with hot topics of Study Group 13 in this new study period, mainly IMT-2020, Machine Learning, Cloud Computing and Big Data. Sessions will be dedicated to discussing user experiences and successful stories from diverse African organizations with regard to the workshop’s topics.

5 Information relating to the workshop, including practical information and remote participation, will be available on the event website at: <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/Workshops-and-Seminars/standardization/20180326/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. The draft programme can be found in **Annex 1**.

6 Wireless LAN facilities will be available at the venue of the event.

7 Registration is mandatory for all participants planning to attend the workshop. You are invited to complete the online registration form available here: <http://itu.int/reg/tmisc/3001052> by 19 March 2018**. Please note that pre-registration of participants for this workshop is mandatory and will be carried out exclusively *online*.**

8 Entry into Côte d'Ivoire is subject to the presentation of a valid passport, a letter of invitation (when a visa is required), a certificate of air ticket reservation, a certificate of hotel or accommodation reservation, proof of means of stay and an international vaccination certificate. Participants are advised to contact the Embassy of Côte d'Ivoire in their country to find out if they require a visa to enter the country. If you do not have any Embassy or diplomatic representation of Côte d'Ivoire in your country of origin, it is possible to obtain the visa online by following the steps of the procedure available on the workshop webpage and contacting Mrs N'GUESSAN Harlette (nguessan.harlette@artci.ci) and Mr KODJO Celestin (kodjo.celestin@artci.ci).

Yours faithfully,

*(signed)*

Chaesub Lee
Director of the Telecommunication
Standardization Bureau

**ANNEX 1**

Draft Programme





 **Sixth SG13 Regional Workshop for Africa** on

*“Standardization of future networks: What opportunities for Africa?”*

**(Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire, 26-27 March 2018)**

**Draft Programme**

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| **Day 1: 26/03/2018** |
| **08:30 – 09:30** | **Registration** |
| **09:30 – 10:40** | **Opening Ceremony*****Welcome addresses***Welcome Address by the ARTCI Welcome by TSB Welcome by SG13 chairman Welcome by SG13RG-AFR chairman ***Opening Remarks*** |
| **10:40 – 11:10** | **Keynote Presentation**  |
| **11:10 – 11:30** | **Tea/Coffee Break** |
| **11:30 – 13:00** | **Session 1: ITU-T SG13 Standardization & Africa-related involvement** This session will discuss the main issues and challenges that African Countries are facing to participate in the international standardization work and will present some proposals in order to increase the involvement of Developing Countries in general, and African countries in particular, in the standardization processes and the ITU-T activities, mainly SG13 activities, in the objective to bridge the standardization gap between developed and developing countries. **Q&A** |
| **13:00 – 14:30** | **Lunch** |
| **14:30 – 16:00** | **Session 2: Standardization Hot Topics 1, IMT-2020**This session will present the main achievements of SG13 in IMT-2020 standardization and its ongoing related standardization work while giving an overview of the ITU-T future plan (but not limited to ITU-T) in relation to IMT-2020 infrastructures and applications.This session will also discuss the current IMT-2020 technical issues from the industry’s perspective and will focus on the requirements of African countries (including ongoing work of Q5/13) regarding this topic. **Q&A** |
| **16:00 – 16:20** | **Tea/Coffee Break** |
| **16:20 – 17:50** | **Session 3: Standardization Hot Topics 2, Machine Learning for Future Networks**This session will give an overview of the concept of Machine Learning in the context of future networks and the related technologies, use cases and platforms, while articulating visions on the current requirements and possible future standardization work on this topic. **Q&A** |
| **17:50** | **Closure of Day 1** |

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| **Day 2: 27/03/2018** |
| **08:30 – 09:30** | **Registration** |
| **09:30 – 09:40** | Brief summary of Day 1 discussion & programme of day 2  |
| **09:40 – 11:10** | **Session 4: Standardization Hot Topics 3, Cloud Computing and Big Data**The objective of this session is to highlight the main achievements in technologies, services and standards related to cloud computing and Big Data as well as the major current and future activities of SG13 and ITU-T on these topics.**Q&A** |
| **11:10 – 11:30** | **Tea/Coffee Break** |
| **11:30 – 13:00** | **Session 5: Standardization Hot Topics 4, Trust and Technology Convergence**The objective of this session is to present the main updates regarding SG13 ongoing and future standardization work in the field of Trusted ICT infrastructures and services and to highlight the requirements of African Countries in this field. A specific focus will be given on the role of Trust in technology convergence as well as the other issues related to this technology convergence concept which could be addressed by standards.**Q&A**  |
| **13:00 – 14:30** | **Lunch** |
| **14:30 – 16:00** | **Session 6: Experiences & Successful Stories from Africa**This session will present some experiences and successful stories of different African telecommunication stakeholders in the workshop’s topics, with focus on the efforts made by these stakeholders to initiate standardization activities on these topics in the existent standardization activities. **Q&A** |
| **16:00 – 16:20** | **Tea/Coffee Break** |
| **16:20 – 17:10** | **Panel Discussion: SG13 hot topics standardization and Africa’s vision** This panel will discuss the importance of the SG13 hot topics, debated during the workshop, for African countries and the role of standards to facilitate and increase the adoption of the related cutting-edge technologies in these countries. Besides, this panel will present the vision of African Countries regarding the future standardization activities on these topics and their proposals for new work items which respond to their needs.  |
| **17:10 – 17:30** | **Closing session*** **Presentation of results and final summary on lessons learnt during the workshop**
* **Closure of the Workshop**
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