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|  | | **International telecommunication union**  **Telecommunication Standardization Bureau** | |  |
|  | | | Geneva, 3 June 2019 | |
| Ref: | **TSB Circular 173**  TSB Events/DA | | **To:**  - Administrations of Member States of the Union;  - ITU-T Sector Members;  - ITU-T Associates;  - ITU Academia | |
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| E-mail: | [tsbevents@itu.int](mailto: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: | **Third ITU-T Study Group 11 Regional Workshop for Africa on “Counterfeit ICT Devices, Conformance and Interoperability Testing Challenges in Africa” (Tunis, Tunisia, 16 September 2019)** | | | |

Dear Sir/Madam,

1 I would like to inform you that the **Third ITU-T Study Group 11 Regional Workshop for Africa on “Counterfeit ICT Devices, Conformance and Interoperability Testing Challenges in Africa”** will be kindly hosted by the Centre d'Études et de Recherche des Télécommunications (CERT), and will take place at the Hotel Ramada Plaza Gammarth (<http://www.ramadaplaza-tunis.com/>) in Tunis, Tunisia on 16 September 2019.

The workshop will be followed by the ITU-T Study Group 11 Regional Group for Africa   
(SG11RG-AFR) meeting which takes place in the same venue from 16 to 18 September 2019.   
Please note that the SG11RG-AFR meeting will open at 1545 hours on 16 September 2019 once the workshop is adjourned.

2 This workshop will be held in English with simultaneous interpretation in French.

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 in the workshop is free of charge, however seats are limited. There are no fellowships granted for the Workshop, however please note that there are fellowships granted for participating in SG11RG-AFR (16-18 September 2019). The details are available in the [Collective letter 3/SG11RG-AFR](https://www.itu.int/md/T17-SG11RG.AFR-COL-0003/en).

4 This workshop aims to identify and discuss issues related to combating counterfeiting and Conformance and Interoperability (C&I) with a focus on the African region and activities going under ITU-T SG11 and ITU-T SG11RG-AFR.

The discussion will focus on:

* Problems and the impact of counterfeiting issues on the ICT market, ranging from lost taxes and other revenue to erosion of brand value, network disruptions and interoperability challenges resulting in poor service delivery; and risks to health, safety and environment;
* New trends and mechanisms in ICT counterfeiting, tampering and/or duplication of unique device identifiers;
* Mechanisms to secure the supply chain management (from manufacturing, importation distribution and marketing) to ensure traceability, security, privacy and trust of people, products and networks;
* Technical solutions to combat counterfeit ICT devices;
* Implementation of the ITU C&I Programme;
* C&I activities and testing laboratories in the Region;
* MRAs and Harmonized Standards Development for the Region;
* Joint ITU-T/IEC activities including CASC and joint certification schemes;
* ITU-T SG11 activities on C&I and combating counterfeiting ICT devices.

5 Information relating to the workshop, including practical information and the programme of the event, will be available on the event website at:

<https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/Workshops-and-Seminars/201909/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 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 at:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/CRM/xreg/web/Login.aspx?src=Registration&Event=C-00006179>

**by 12 September 2019**. **Please note that pre-registration of participants for this workshop is mandatory and will be carried out exclusively *online*.**

8 If required, visas must be requested as soon as possiblefrom the 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. As this meeting is organized outside Switzerland, visa support requests are to be addressed directly to the host of the meeting. Delegates who require a personal invitation letter are invited to complete the form available in the practical information and send it to **Mr Ahmed GHARBI** (E-mail: [ahmed.gharbi@cert.mincom.tn](mailto:ahmed.gharbi@cert.mincom.tn) ; phone: +216 98 215808) with copy to ITU: [tsbsg11@itu.int](mailto:tsbsg11@itu.int), bearing the words “Letter of support for visa” as the subject and should be sent before the deadline of **2 September 2019**. Instructions can be found in the “Practical information” section, which will be made available on the event [webpage](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/Workshops-and-Seminars/201909/Pages/default.aspx).

Yours faithfully,

*(signed)*

Chaesub Lee  
Director of the Telecommunication  
Standardization Bureau