Addis Ababa, April 7, 2021

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To: Administrations of ITU Member States, Regulators, ITU-D Sector Members in Africa and Representatives of Disability Organizations and other relevant NGOs

Subject: Workshop for Contribution to the Regional Assessment Report of Member States on ICT Accessibility in Africa Region

Dear Sir/Madam,

We have the pleasure to invite you to a workshop aiming at supporting ITU members in their efforts to advance in the development of inclusive digital societies in their countries by developing their capacity to evaluate and further monitor related ICT accessibility implementation themselves.

ITU has already done a lot in ICT/digital accessibility as a key requirement to ensure digital inclusion of everyone regardless of gender, age, ability or location. Several resources were developed and are freely available online https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Digital-Inclusion/Persons-with-Disabilities/Pages/ResourcesOnICTAccessibility.aspx. We encourage you further to visit and learn more about ICT Accessibility at https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Digital-Inclusion/Persons-with-Disabilities/Pages/Persons-with-Disabilities.aspx .

Moreover, and in line with ITU Stategic Goal Nr. 2 and its target 2.9 calling on all ITU Members to enable accessible environments, including for persons with disabilities in all countries by 2023, ITU Regional Office for Africa would like to provide tailored support to the countries from our region through five (5) **interactive online knowledge development workshops to contribute to "How to assess and monitor countries' ICT accessibility level of implementation",** divided by sub-regions and languages. These workhops will be based on the new ITU toolkit and self-assesment "*Towards building inclusive digital communities*", which is available at https://www.itu.int/pub/D-PHCB-TOOLKIT.01-2021. A video tutorial on the topic is also availbe at https://youtu.be/O5WoLcZygNM

This letter invites all English speaking countries in East Africa (Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda) to an **online workshop to be held on Zoom at the following link** https://itu.zoom.us/j/95044986480?pwd=Yk1qSDVpQWpkL0ZuOXB1dEwvTExmUT09 **on Monday 12ᵗʰ April** from **11.00 to 13.00 GMT \14.00-16.00 EAT** (GMT+3). Participants should preferably include ICT Accessibility Focal Points at the Regulatory Authorities and ICT Ministries either by staff in charge of the topic of digital inclusion. In the event there is not such responsible persons, we hope that this workshop will encourage you to nominate such a focal point for ICT Accessibility issues, as a catalytic staff who may further achive knowledge and contribute to build inclusive digital society in your respective country.   ITU would also like to encourage participation of representatives from National Disability Representatives of Disability Organizations and other NGOs working at national levels on the issues of ICT accessibility.

Further details on access to the online workshops, agendas for the different meetings and additional resources will be available at the website of the ITU Regional Office here; https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/Africa/Pages/default.aspx

Should you need any additional information please do not hesitate to contact ITU Regional Office, either on Tel Number +251 11551 49 77 or by email to : Ms. Ida Jallow, Program Coordinator at email " Ida.Jallow@itu.int" and Ms. Meskerem Demissie, Administrative Assistant at email " meskerem.yadete@itu.int".

Sincerely Yours,

[Original Signed]

Andrew Rugege
Regional Director for Africa and
Liaison to ECA and AU