



**Telecommunication
Development Bureau (BDT)**

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Brasilia, 23 July 2015

To ITU Member Administrations and ITU Sector
Members in the Americas Region; Academia
and Regional and International Organizations

Subject: **Accessible Americas II: Information and Communication for ALL
Medellin, Colombia, from 4 to 6 November 2015**

Dear Sir/Madam,

It is my great pleasure to invite your organization to participate in the “**Accessible Americas II: Information and Communication for ALL**” event that will take place in Medellin, Colombia, at San Fernando Plaza Hotel, from 4 to 6 November 2015. This regional event for the Americas is being organized by the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in partnership with the Ministry of Information and Communication Technologies (MINTIC) of Colombia and with the collaboration of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), representation in Brazil.

This event is being organized considering the request made by the participants of the first “**Accessible Americas: Information and Communication for ALL**” carried out in Sao Paulo, Brazil, in November 2014, and the kind invitation of the Colombian ICT authorities to host the second edition of this important regional event, which will focus on the importance of ICTs to empower People with Disabilities (PwD), emphasizing that through cooperation, development of tools, capacity building and the development of policies and strategies, it is possible to remove barriers and enable human development and social inclusion.

In line with this, the ITU and the MINTIC, with the collaboration of UNESCO and the support of the Government of the City of Medellín, have joined forces to encourage governments, industry and other stakeholders to promote ICT accessibility in order to create fair and equal opportunities for PwD and support a regional disability-inclusive development agenda that will contribute to the emerging post-2015 global development agenda by treating ICT accessibility for persons with disabilities as a cross-cutting development issue. The event organizers plan in splitting participants into Working Groups (WGs) and intend to motivate them to present a best practices regional proposal that could be replicated by countries of the Americas to increase the conditions for PwD and improve their development and social inclusion.

Registration for the event will be exclusively on line until 30 October 2015 at <http://www.itu.int/go/regitud>.

For more details, I invite you to visit the event website at <http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/Americas/Pages/EVENTS/2015/1104-CO-2ndAcce.aspx> where information on the agenda, venue, fellowships, logistics, event focal points, and other useful links will be soon available and constantly updated. Please be informed that there is no participation fee.

I am pleased to inform you that fellowships will be awarded, subject to available funding, to facilitate participation from eligible countries (Least Developed (LDC) or Low Income Developing Countries (LIC)) in the Americas Region. Applicants requesting fellowships, limited to one person per eligible country, are required to submit their fellowship request forms duly signed by their respective Administration together with their registration form no later than 2 October 2015.

The ITU, the MINTIC and UNESCO's representation in Brazil will be sending a questionnaire to the relevant actors in the Americas for the development, up to the date of the event, of a regional assessment to be presented to participants. The effective participation of all to collaborate in this survey will be very much appreciated and of great value to the success of this important event.

We trust that you will attend the event to share your experiences and support the dissemination and implementation of best practices in the Americas region aiming at contributing for the future definition of strategies and implementation of policies, regulations and industry codes of conduct to promote the equal inclusion of PwD in the Information and Knowledge Society.

Yours faithfully,

(original signed by)

Bruno Ramos
Regional Director

Annexes:

1. Provisional Agenda
2. Fellowship Request Form