AGENDA

Accessible Americas
Information and Communication Technologies for All

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) has been organizing the Accessible Americas series since 2014. These events have created a regional **Brand** of awareness on ICT accessibility as an enabler for digital inclusive societies that ITU aims to keep, promote and ensure its continuity in the coming years in ITU actions and initiatives in the region. The aim of these events is to raise awareness among governments in regard to the necessary measures to be taken in the area of ICT accessibility that enable persons with disabilities (PwD) to have equal opportunities and better access to information and communication technologies for a more independent life. These events also provided a networking opportunity and knowledge platform to assist ITU Members and stakeholders in the process of developing and implementing national ICT accessibility policies and facilitating promotion of national and regional partnerships in benefit of ALL.

Accessible Americas events, focuses on promoting the further development of ICT accessibility in countries and institutions, highlighting the efforts and cooperation of stakeholders to interchange resources, solutions and to share successful outcomes of projects and initiatives that contributed to make Americas region a more inclusive society. In addition, these events seek to exchange good practices on digital inclusion of persons with disabilities. Recognizing accessible ICTs as a facilitator for achieving inclusive digital societies, since 2017 Accessible Americas events also incorporated other groups with specific needs such as women and girls, youth, the elderly and indigenous people promoting the dialogue on the empowerment of all groups of persons with specific needs. These events have become a role model also for other regions. The work done so far has indeed contributed to the bridging of the digital divide, increased access to ICTs, creation of digital opportunities and ensured that a greater number of persons now benefit from the potential offered by ICTs for social and economic development.

Accessible Americas V: *ICTs for ALL* will provide additional key information and tools and will build capacity to enable participants to further promote the development of ICT accessibility. Awareness will be raised and promotion will be provided for projects, activities and initiatives aimed at increasing participation of persons with specific needs in the building process of digital societies and digital economies and thus reduce social inequalities. The event will also share the difficulties faced to access information, communication and knowledge by these groups with specific needs while focusing on identification of solutions. The importance of mapping, improving and implementing policies and practices on the use of accessible and affordable ICTs will be also highlighted inviting all stakeholders to increase efforts to ensure that the Americas region becomes inclusive for ALL.

The Accessible Americas V will also contribute to the World Telecommunication Conference-17 requirements and ITU Members' **Buenos Aires Declaration[1]**, to reduce the digital divide, inequalities in ICT access, use and skills as well as in the availability of accessible and affordable telecommunications/ICTs, in particular for the empowerment of women and girls, persons with disabilities and other persons with specific needs.

"*An inclusive information society should take into account the needs of women and girls, persons with disabilities and other persons with specific needs, and the needs of children in the use of telecommunications/ICTs*".

ITU WTDC
BUENOS AIRES 2017
9-20 October

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[1] World Telecommunication Development Conference (Buenos Aires, 2017). Buenos Aires, Argentina, from 9 to 20 October 2017. Theme: "ICT for Sustainable Development Goals" (ICT④SDGs).

DAY 1: 28 NOVEMBER 2018	
08:00 - 09:00	**Registration**
09:00 - 10:00	**Training session on "Fundamentals of ICT Accessibility"** The main purpose of the training is to provide participants with an overall understanding of definitions and principles of ICT Accessibility Ecosystem considering the following topics: Digital Inclusion of persons with disabilities (PwD), the difference between Accessible ICTs and Assistive technologies, the key ICT Accessibility principles to be considered and applied in policy and regulation, public spaces, mobile, TV and video programming, web and public procurement among others. Participants are expected to understand the role and related key actions that all stakeholders (governments, private sector, industry, academia and others) can play in promoting ICT Accessibility as an enabler of digital inclusion of PwD towards building national and regional inclusive societies. Complete information about the training: **Please click here** **Tutors:** • Ms. Roxana WIDMER-ILIESCU, Senior Programme Officer, Digital Inclusion Division, ITU • Ms. Monica DUHEM, ITU Consultant in ICT Accessibility
10:00 – 10:30	**Networking Coffee Break**
10:30 – 12:00	**Training session on ICT Accessibility (*continues*)**
OPENING OF ACCESSIBLE AMERICAS V	
14:00 – 15:00	**Opening Ceremony** • Mr. Cecil McCain, Director of ICT Division, Ministry of Science & Technology, Jamaica • Ms. Wahkeen MURRAY, Acting Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Science and Technology, Jamaica • Brahima SANOU, Telecommunication Development Bureau, Director, BDT/ITU • Senator the Hon. Ruel Reid, Minister of Education, Youth & Information, Jamaica
15:00 – 16:00	**Session 1: High-Level panel on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Digital Inclusion. Creating equal opportunities in the Information Society. ICT for a Sustainable World (ICT4SDG).** Information and Communication Technologies form the backbone of today's digital economy and have enormous potential to fast forward progress on the SDGs and improve people's lives in fundamental ways. In this session, Jamaican authorities and representatives from international/regional organizations are invited to discuss policies and strategies to achieve SDGs taking ICTs as a catalyst for sustainable development. **Moderator:** Mr. Ansord HEWITT, Director General, Office of Utilities Regulation (OUR), Jamaica • Mr. Bruno Ramos, Director, ITU Americas Regional Office • Ms. Elizabeth EMANUEL, Programme Director, Vision 2030, Planning Institute of Jamaica • Mr. David FAZIO, President, Helix Opportunity
16:00 – 16:30	**Networking Coffee Break**

16:30 – 16:45	**Keynote session: Governance and Digital Inclusion: Challenges and possible ways forward** Video message from Mr. Anthony CLAYTON, Alcan Professor of Caribbean Sustainable Development
16:45 – 18:30	**Session 2: Caribbean projects and initiatives for digital inclusion** In this session, representatives from Caribbean countries will present national projects and initiatives for the promotion of digital inclusion through ICT accessibility, taking into consideration trends, legal and regulatory reforms in the telecommunication/ICT sector in benefit of persons with specific needs, women and girls, persons with disabilities, youth and elderly, among others. **Moderator:** Ms. Maria MYERS-HAMILTON, Managing Director, Spectrum Management Authority (SMA), Jamaica - Mr. Robert LAWRENCE, Chairman, Universal Service Fund (USF), Jamaica - Mr. Trevor PREVATT, Consultant, Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU) - Ms. Anamaris SOLORZANO, General Deputy Director, Joven Club, Cuba - Ms. Christa BURKE-MEDFORD, Universal Service Fund Administrator, National Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (NTRC), Grenada
18:30 – 20:00	**Welcome reception**
	DAY 2: 29 NOVEMBER 2018
09:00 – 10:15	**Session 3: Presentation on national efforts for the promotion of digital inclusion: trends; legal and regulatory reforms in telecommunications and ICT accessibility in the region, with special attention to ICT accessibility for persons with disabilities.** In this session, countries from the Americas Region will present the national efforts and the legal and regulatory reforms implemented to promote accessibility and digital inclusion in their countries and the development of access and universal service programs. **Moderator:** Mr. Bruno RAMOS, Director, Americas Regional Office, ITU - Ms. Patricia RODRIGUEZ, Advisor, National Telecommunications Agency (ANATEL), Brazil - Mr. Humberto PINEDA, Director, National Telecommunications Fund (FONATEL), Costa Rica - Mr. Alfonso HERNÁNDEZ MAYA, Users Policy General Coordinator, Federal Institute of Telecommunications (IFT), México - Ms. Cláudia NUÑEZ DUARTE, Director, ICT Appropriation, Ministry of ICTs, Colombia
10:15 – 10:30	**Networking Coffee Break**

10:30 – 12:00	**Session 4: The ITU commitment with the digital and social inclusion** The ITU is committed to connecting the world. In this session, programs and initiatives implemented by the ITU for the promotion of digital inclusion will be presented. The session will also present trends on Smart Sustainable Cities for the improvement of quality life of all citizens and how you can be part of this international effort towards the digital inclusion. **Moderator:** Mr. Cleveland THOMAS, Representative for the Caribbean, ITU • Ms. Nyurka RODRIGUEZ, ITU Consultant in Smart Cities • Ms. Ana VENEROSO, Programme Administrator, Americas Regional Office, ITU • Ms. Roxana -ILIESCU, Senior Programme Officer, Digital Inclusion Division, ITU • Mr. Simão CAMPOS, Counsellor, ITU
12:00 – 14:00	**Networking Lunch Break**
14:00 - 14:30	**Session 5: Keynote Session: Empowering Women and Girls through ICTs** • Ms. Bridget LEWIS, Co-founder, She Leads IT, Canada
14:30 – 15:30	**Session 6: The contribution of the private sector: fostering innovation and ensuring digital inclusion.** The private sector is a key stakeholder in both social and economic development and plays an important role in the creation of opportunities for social inclusion, mainly in the field of ICTs. The private sector provides around 90% of employment in the developing countries and is encouraged to leverage those opportunities. In this session, speakers are invited to showcase private sector initiatives for digital and social inclusion, especially those to enable persons with disabilities to have better opportunities. **Moderator:** Ms. Christine HENDRICKS, Executive Director, Jamaica Council for Persons with Disabilities • Mr. Melarka WILLIAMS, CEO, Ingenuity Technologies • Ms. Melesia SUTHERLAND, Director and Committee Chair, Caribbean Association of National Telecommunication Organizations (CANTO) • Mr. David FAZIO, President, Helix Opportunity • Ms. Monica ACKERMAN, Digital Accessibility Lead, Scotiabank
15:30 – 16:00	**Networking Coffee Break**

16:00 – 17:00	**Session 7: Building truly inclusive and sustainable societies. The commitment of regional and international organizations to the social and economic empowerment of persons with specific needs.** In this session, representatives of regional and international organizations will share their projects and initiatives, as well as their experiences on how the international community can cooperate to connect the unconnected and pave the way to achieve better opportunities for all. **Moderator:** Mr. Sean THORPE, Head of School of Computing and Information Technology, University of Technology, Jamaica - Mr. Andrés YUREN, Regional Specialist for Employer's Activities, International Labour Organization (ILO) - Ms. Bernadette LEWIS, Secretary General, Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU) - Ms. Isabel VIEIRA BERMUDEZ, Adviser, Communication and Information, UNESCO
17:00 - 18:00	**Session 8: Women and Girls in ICTs: Empowering women and girls through technology and skills development - Sustainable Development Goal #5.** ICTs play a key role in achieving gender equality, empowering women and girls as well as advancing women's rights. In this session, speakers are invited to share good practices, the main challenges and discuss how women and girls can overcome the most critical cultural, economic and social barriers to have equal access to ICTs and achieve gender equality, especially those who are discriminated against because of any type of disability. **Moderator:** Ms. Wahkeen MURRAY, Acting Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Science and Technology, Jamaica - Ms. Bernadette LEWIS, Secretary General, Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU) - Ms. Bridget LEWIS, Co-Founder, She Leads IT, Canada - Ms. Yamile GONZÁLEZ, Director, Santiago de Cuba Joven Club, Cuba - Ms. Stacey HINES-WALKER, Group Strategic Planner, ICD Group Holdings Limited, Jamaica
19:30 – 22:00	**Jamaica Night at Rose Hall Great House**

	DAY 3: 30 NOVEMBER 2018
08:45 – 09:45	**Session 9: Digital Inclusion in Education: Developing skills for an inclusive society** There are large segments of the population that remain excluded from the digital society. This session will allow representatives from the education sector to share their experiences on skills development programs, specifically those aimed at ensuring digital inclusion of all citizens. **Moderator:** Ms. Indianna MINTO-COY, Senior Research Fellow, University of West Indies, Jamaica • Ms. Odalis LICEA, Founder of Computing Central Palace, Joven Club, Cuba • Ms. Roberta CANTARELA, Professor, Federal Brazilian Institute, Brazil • Mr. Floyd MORRIS, Director, Center for Disabilities Studies, University of West Indies* • Ms. Alexa TORRES, Digital Accessibility Consultant, University of Costa Rica *Remote participation*
09:45 – 10:15	**Tribute to Mr. Brahima SANOU, BDT Director, ITU** **Official Group Photo**
10:15 – 10:30	**Networking Coffee Break**
10:30 – 11:00	**Session 10: Presentation and awarding of the winners of the ITU-SAMSUNG regional contest "Mobile Applications for Accessibility".** • Mr. Shawn MEVILLE, Winner ITU-SAMSUNG regional contest - Category 1 • Mr. Bruno MAHFUZ, Winner ITU-SAMSUNG regional contest - Category 2
11:00 – 12:00	**Session 11: Stakeholders efforts towards implementing Digital Inclusion in the Americas region.** This session will present actions carried out in the Americas region to promote digital inclusion and social and economic empowerment of persons with specific needs through the access, use and knowledge of ICTs. **Moderator:** Mr. Cleveland THOMAS, Representative for the Caribbean, ITU • Mr. Andre COY, Department of Physics, University of the West Indies, Jamaica • Ms. Wendy A. KLASS-JAP-A-JOE, Acting Director, Telecommunication Authority of Suriname • Mr. Aderbal BONTURI PEREIRA, Director for Latin America, Mobile & Wireless Forum
12:00 – 12:30	**Session 12: Interactive Session** **Moderator:** Ms. Roxana WIDMER-ILIESCU, Senior Programme Officer, Digital Inclusion Division, ITU This session will give participants the opportunity to interact and give their contributions on good practices for digital inclusion supported by the organizations with which they are directly or indirectly involved. The relevant information will be included in the Guide of Good Practices in the Americas Region prepared by ITU, which will be posted in the website of this event.
12:30 – 13:30	**Networking Lunch Break**

13:30 – 14:30	**Session 13: Recent developments on ICT accessibility for Persons with Disabilities in the Americas region and the G3ict DARE Index 2018** This Session will present the ITU Report on the region's advancement on accessible ICTs based on the answers and information provided through the questionnaire distributed by the ITU and the G3ict Digital Accessibility Rights Evaluation Index. • Ms. Francesca CESA BIANCHI, Vice President, Institutional Relations, G3ict • Ms. Ana VENEROSO, Programme Administrator, ITU • Mr. Luis MAUCH, ITU Consultant in ICT Accessibility
14:30 – 15:00	**Session 14: Keynote closing session** • Ms. Claudia GORDON, Director, Government and Compliance, Sprint Accessibility
15:00 – 15:30	**Networking Coffee Break**
15:30 – 15:45	ITU Certificates awarded to successful participants in **"Fundamentals of ICT Accessibility"** training provided during the Accessible Americas event. Group Photo.
15:45 – 16:00	Announcement: Host country of the **Americas Accessible 2019**
16:00 – 17:00	**Closing ceremony** • Mr. Cecil McCAIN, Director of ICT Division, Ministry of Science & Technology, Jamaica • Ms. Wahkeen MURRAY, Acting Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Science and Technology, Jamaica • Mr. Bruno RAMOS, Regional Director, ITU Americas Regional Office • The Hon. Dr. Horace CHANG, Minister of National Security, Jamaica