Telecommunication
Development Bureau (BDT)

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- Administrations of ITU Member States
- ICT Ministries
- Regulators
- ITU-D Sector Members
- Academia
- Regional Organizations from Europe
- UN Organizations

Subject: **ITU-EC Forum for Europe "Accessible Europe: ICT for ALL" 12-14 December 2018, Vienna, Austria**

Dear Sir/Madam,

It is my great pleasure to invite your organization to participate in the Regional Forum for Europe on "Accessible Europe: ICTs for ALL" that will take place in Vienna, Austria, from 12 to 14 December 2018. This regional event for Europe is being jointly organized by the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and European Commission (EC), and is hosted by the United Nations Vienna.

Accessible Europe is held within the framework of the Regional Initiative for Europe on *Accessibility, affordability and skills development for all to ensure digital inclusion and sustainable development,* adopted by the World Telecommunication Development Conference 2017. This regional initiative aims to strengthen and support regional cooperation on the development of ICT accessibility policies and solutions in the Europe region.

In this context, the Forum will focus on further promoting the development of accessibility in countries and institutions, through the collective effort and cooperation of stakeholders and through sharing of successful outcomes of projects and initiatives implemented, in order to exchange resources and solutions in Europe on ICT accessibility. The event will highlight the relevance of joining efforts to remove barriers and enable human development and social inclusion of persons with disabilities and special needs and other groups of people with specific needs, either through cooperation, programs and projects development, and generate partnerships, and training.

In line with the above, the ITU and EC have joined efforts to encourage governments, the private sector, civil society, academia and other stakeholders to promote ICT accessibility in order to create fair and equal opportunities for all people and support a regional development agenda by treating ICT accessibility for people with specific needs and in particular persons with disabilities, as a cross-cutting development issue.

Registration for the event will be exclusively online from 22 October until 30 November 2018 at http://www.itu.int/go/regitud.

For more details, we invite you to visit the event website at https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/Europe/Pages/Events/2018/AE/AccessibleEurope.aspx, where information on the agenda, registration, logistics, and other useful links will be soon available and constantly updated.

Please be informed that there is no participation fee.

In addition, kindly note that the results of this event will be shared with relevant ITU Study Groups.

I trust that you or a representative of your organization will attend the event to share your experiences and support the dissemination and implementation of best practices in Europe on ICT accessibility to bridge the digital divide and promote inclusive societies.

Participants requiring an entry visa to Austria should contact their nearest Austrian Embassy or Consulate well in advance. Information on visa requirements can be found in the practical information for participants. Mr. Jaroslaw Ponder, Head of the ITU Office for Europe (email: EURregion@itu.int, phone: +41 22 730 5467) and Ms. Inmaculada Placencia-Porrero, Senior Expert, Disability and Inclusion Unit, DG for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion (email: Inmaculada.Placencia-Porrero@ec.europa.eu) are at your disposal should you require any further information.

I look forward to active participation from your Administration / Organization / Company.

Yours faithfully,

[Original signed]

Brahima Sanou
Director