



Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT)

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Subject: Regional study on the Telecommunication/ICT Sector Reform

Dear Sir/Madam,

Since the wake of the first wave of regulatory reform in the 1990s, ITU has steered a course towards extended reforms of the telecommunication/ICT market environment. These reforms were introduced, *inter alia*, by the publication of flagship reports such as the Africa Green Paper, the Arab Book and the Blue Book for the Americas, which served as guidelines for governments as well as tools to practically assist regulators facing the many challenges encountered in promoting reforms in the telecommunication sector.

After two decades of remarkable achievements that have deeply transformed the telecommunication sector converting it into today's thriving ICT sector, many lessons could be learned that would help establish a sound basis for the regulatory evolution required for the next decade.

With this in mind, ITU/BDT is undertaking regional studies of the impact of regulatory and policy reform over the past two decades, as well as an analysis of the new policy and regulatory challenges in the era of the converged telecommunication/ICT sector.

The main objective of this study is to support the harmonious development of telecom/ICT sector through recommendations on harmonized approaches at sub-regional and regional levels based on the evolution of the sector and best practices.

It is anticipated that the final report of the study for Arab Region could be used as an input to the Connect Arab Summit to be held in Qatar in 2012.

ITU will recruit a team of experts who will soon be contacting you to gather the required information to carry out this work, and I thank you in advance for your contributions and assistance. To ensure an effective coordination of the work at a national level, I hereby invite you to designate a focal point for this study.

The coordination from the ITU side will be carried out by Mr Ebrahim Al Haddad, Regional Director, ITU Regional Office for the Arab States (e-mail: bdtarabregreform@itu.int or alhaddad@itu.int); and Mr Makhtar Fall, Head, Regulatory and Market Environment Division (e-mail: bdtarabregreform@itu.int or makhtar.fall@itu.int).

I sincerely hope that you will be able to actively participate in this initiative. Please do not hesitate to contact me or my staff should you need any further information.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

[Original signed]

Brahima Sanou

Director