



Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT)

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Geneva, 24 June 2013

To:

- Member States and ITU-D Sector Members;
- Regional and subregional regulators' associations;
- Telecommunication/ICT operators;
- Financial and development institutions;
- Regional and subregional organizations.

Subject: 14th Forum on Telecommunication/ICT Regulation and Partnership in Africa (FTRA 2013), back to back with Working Party on Private Sector, Elephant Hills Hotel, Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, 3-6 September 2013

Dear Sir/Madam,

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the African Telecommunication Union (ATU) and the Government of the Republic of Zimbabwe are pleased to invite you to the 14th Forum on Telecommunication/ICT Regulation and Partnership in Africa (FTRA 2013), to be held at the Elephant Hills Hotel, Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, from 3 to 6 September 2013. The theme for the event this year is: ***“Development of broadband and Investments required to support sustained growth”***.

The forum is being organized by the ITU in collaboration with the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Infrastructure Development of the Republic of Zimbabwe in partnership with the African Telecommunications Regulators' Network and the African Regional Working Party on private sector issues. The Working Party on Private Sector will take place on 3 September and the FTRA from 4 to 6 September 2013.

Participation in FTRA 2013 is open to ITU Member States and ITU-D Sector Members, regional and subregional regulators' associations, telecommunication/ICT operators, financial and development institutions and regional and subregional organizations.

The theme for this year's forum was selected on the basis of proposals made by participants in the 13th FTRA, held in Libreville (Gabon), in June 2012.

The topics for discussion this year will include the role of stakeholders and foreign direct investment (FDI) in boosting the development of broadband, the necessary reform to adapt universal service in a broadband environment, the types of partnerships to finance broadband and the economic impact of broadband in Developing Countries.

Participants will further examine the situation and perspectives of ITU African regional initiatives on broadband development and regional interconnectivity and will discuss consumer protection and Quality of Service issues. The detailed provisional programme is attached.

The main objective of the forum is to share experiences and identify best practices for the creation of an enabling environment conducive to investments in ICT infrastructure, applications and services for countries' socio-economic development.

Interpretation will be provided in English and French.

Documents relating to the event and regular updates thereto (information note, provisional programme, registration and hotel reservation forms) will be available on the ITU website at: www.itu.int/ITU-D/afr/events/FTRA/2013.

The meeting will be paperless. Participants are therefore invited to download and print the needed documents before and during the event.

A practical information note concerning the venue can also be found at the above web address. Please pay particular attention to the section on entry visa requirements for Zimbabwe. Please be informed that in addition to the entry visa requirements for Zimbabwe, transit visa shall also be required for all persons transiting through South Africa. Therefore we urge every participant to get in touch with the South Africa Embassy in their area to obtain the transit visa.

In order to benefit from the preferential hotel rates negotiated by the national coordinator for this event, participants are requested to complete the form and return it directly to the selected hotel. The host country will provide transportation between the airport and hotels, and between the hotels and the forum venue, and vice versa, for all delegates. To facilitate the planning and coordination of airport transfers, delegates are requested to fax or e-mail the same form, indicating their flight numbers, dates and times (both arrival and departure) to Mr James Mutandwa MADYA, Deputy Director Communications (Ministry of Transport, Communications and Infrastructure Development/POTRAZ), e-mail: jamesmadya@rocketmail.com, Tel: +263 77 276 8314, with a copy to Ms Chali Tumelo, e-mail: chali.tumelo@itu.int, Tel: +263 4 775941/775939, Fax: +263 4 771257.

I should be grateful if you would return a duly completed copy of the registration form in Annex 2 (one form per participant), not later than 15 August 2013, by email to fta2013@itu.int or by fax to +263 4 771257.

The FTRA team will follow up with your focal point on the requested areas of interest. In ITU, Mr Makhtar Fall, Head, Regulatory and Market Environment, is available to respond to any queries you may have (Tel: +41 22 730 6256, email: makhtar.fall@itu.int), and of course, Ms. Chali Tumelo in ITU Area Office for Southern Africa (Tel: +263 4 775941/775939, Fax: +263 4 771257, e-mail: chali.tumelo@itu.int is also at your disposal.

I look forward to seeing you at the forum.

Yours faithfully,

[Original signed]

Brahima Sanou
Director