



Geneva, 12 September 2012

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To: ITU Administrations, Regulators, Sector Members, Associates and Academia Members, Telecom Operators and Service providers, Manufacturers and Academic Institutions of the Arab and African regions

Subject: 1) **ITU Forum on Conformance and Interoperability for the Arab and African Regions, 5-7 November 2012, Tunis (Tunisia)**
2) **Training Course on Conformance and Interoperability Testing, 8-10 November 2012, Tunis (Tunisia)**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I have the pleasure to inform you that the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is organizing the **ITU Forum on Conformance and Interoperability for the Arab and African Regions**. This Forum is kindly hosted by the **Centre d'Etudes et de Recherche des Télécommunications (CERT)** and will take place from 5 to 7 November 2012, in the **Hotel Ramada Plaza, Gammath, Tunis (Tunisia)**.

The Forum is open to both Members and non Members of the ITU wishing to contribute to the work, covering various aspects of the ITU Conformity and Interoperability programme. This will include tasks, efforts and priorities to be fulfilled in the international standardization field to increase interoperability of products between various providers/manufacturers, capacity building and creation of test centres in the Arab and African regions, accreditation, certification, mutual recognition agreements of quality certificates and the testing experience for system and network solutions, services and parameters of network functioning for ensuring the required quality of service (QoS). Many leading international experts will be invited to speak at the event.

Discussions will be held in French, English and Arabic. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided.

Please note that there are no participation fees for this event. Travel arrangements and accommodation should be made and borne by the participating entity. The draft Programme is attached as Annex 1 to this invitation letter.

I invite you to visit our website (<http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/tech/events/index.html>) in order to obtain additional/detailed information, including the latest Programme, logistics information (hotels, visa, etc.) and other relevant material.

The Forum will be followed by a **Training Course on Conformance and Interoperability Testing in the premises of Lab of CERT, 8-10 November 2012** that the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) will conduct with the collaboration of the Centre d'Etudes et de Recherche des Télécommunications (CERT) based in Tunis.

The Training Course is open to experts with the aim to conduct practical testing activities on Conformance and Interoperability. The training programme is attached (Annex 2). In case you wish to take advantage from this training programme, please send us the names of your candidates by filling in and returning the attached form (Annex 3) to ITU-RO-ArabStates@itu.int, by **15 October 2012**, clearly indicating the duties of interest to the candidates and their background knowledge on Conformance and Interoperability issues. Candidates for the Training Course will be selected based on their duties and background knowledge of Conformance and Interoperability issues according to the number of positions that are available in the class.

I am also pleased to inform you that partial fellowships will be awarded based on available funding to facilitate participation from Least Developed (LDC) or Low Income Developing Countries (LIC) for both Forum and Training Course. Fellowships will be granted separately for the Forum and for the Training Course. Application for Fellowship, limited to one person per country, should be done separately for the Forum and Training Course for the same person and must be authorized by the relevant Administration of the ITU Member State. The fellowship request form(s), annexed to this letter, should be returned to ITU not later than **30 September 2012**.

Following ITU's latest events, the Forum will also be a paperless event and participants are invited to download the documents needed for the event. We encourage participants to kindly confirm their participation by **15 October 2012** at the latest.

For any question please contact Ms. Rouda Alamir Ali, ITU Arab Regional Office, Cairo (Egypt), Tel: +202 3537 1777, Fax: +202 3537 1888, E-mail: rouda.alamirali@itu.int and Ms. Chali Tumelo, ITU Area Office for Southern Africa, Harare (Zimbabwe), Tel: +263 4 775941/775939, Fax: +263 4 771257, E-mail: chali.tumelo@itu.int

I very much hope that you will be able to participate and share your views and valuable experience with the participants, which will contribute to enrich the discussions and the outputs of the Forum.



Brahima Sanou
Director

Copy: Malcolm Johnson, Director, TSB
ITU ARB, AFR Regional Offices

Annexes:

1. Provisional Programme of the Forum
2. Training Program
3. and 3b. Application for the Training Course and Registration to the Forum
4. Fellowship Request Form for the Forum
5. Fellowship Request Form for the Training Course