

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



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To: All ITU Member States from the Central African Region and ITU-D Sector Members Fax: See distribution list
Contact: Cosmas Zavazava, Head, LDCs, SIDs, and Emergency Telecommunications For your reply: Email: cosmas.zavazava@itu.int Fax: +41 22 730 5484 Tel: +41 22 730 5447
Subject: **Training Workshop on Emergency Telecommunications (São Tomé & Príncipe, 21-25 September 2009)**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am pleased to invite your Administration/Organization to the above captioned event on Emergency Telecommunications organized by the Telecommunication Development Bureau of the International Telecommunication Union, and hosted by the Government of **São Tomé & Príncipe**. This workshop is being held against the backdrop of a number of deadly disasters recently experienced in different regions of the world to include floods, earthquakes and cyclones.

At its World Telecommunication Development Conference held in Doha, Qatar from 7 to 15 March 2006, the Development Sector (ITU-D) of the International Telecommunication Union adopted resolution 34 entitled: *The role of telecommunications/information and communication technology in early warning and mitigation of disasters and humanitarian assistance*. The resolution called on ITU-D to help and support administrations in their work on emergency telecommunications, and on the implementation of the Tampere Convention. Further, resolution 36 entitled: *Telecommunications/information and communication technologies in the service of humanitarian assistance* that was adopted by ITU's 2006 Plenipotentiary Conference held in Antalya, Turkey from 6 to 24 November 2006, calls on the ITU to help Member States develop practical arrangements aimed at paving way for the implementation of the Tampere Convention. In 2008, ITU organized and held a Central African Sub-Regional Workshop on the role of telecommunications/ICT in Disaster Management in Kigali, Rwanda.

For the first time participants will receive hands-on training on the deployment and use of satellite terminals for disaster response/relief.

The purpose of this event which is scheduled for 21-25 September 2009 is to bring together stakeholders that are involved in disaster management from each of the countries in the Central African region.

The delegation from your country should ideally include officials from:

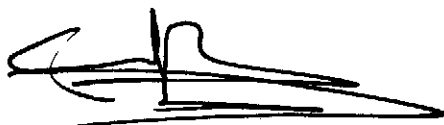
- the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications,
- other government agencies (such as Disaster Management, Immigration, Customs, and Civil Defense),
- the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and
- the Telecommunication Regulatory Agency.

Invitations to those entities mentioned above, and the final composition of your country's delegation are left to the discretion and decision of your Ministry. Your representative(s) will have an opportunity to contribute to panel discussions as outlined on the draft programme, and to intervene as necessary during the rest of the sessions. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in English and French.

Accompanying this invitation letter are: the provisional programme, registration form, and fellowship form. We request you to return both the **registration and fellowship forms** respecting the deadlines given therein. ITU has a limited number of fellowships available for this workshop. Fellowships will be given to participants from Least Developed Countries and to participants making presentations. Additional information regarding the meeting will be posted on the ITU/BDT Emergency Telecommunications site: <http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/emergencytelecoms/events>.

Although both natural and man-made hazards cannot be completely prevented, ICTs can help reduce their impact and avoid them turning into disasters and acting as impediments to sustainable development. I therefore, hope that many of your experts will participate and enrich the discussions at this important event.

Yours faithfully,



Sami Al Basheer Al Morshid
Director

Annexes: Draft Agenda
Registration Form
Fellowship Form
Information Note