



**Telecommunication
Development Bureau (BDT)**

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Subject: Workshop and Frequency Coordination meeting on the Transition to Digital Terrestrial Television and the Digital Dividend, Bamako (Mali), 12-15 March 2012

Dear Sir / Madam,

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the African Telecommunications Union (ATU) and the Government of Mali are pleased to invite your organization to participate in a workshop and frequency coordination meeting on transition to digital television and digital dividend that will be held from 12 to 15 March 2012 in Bamako, Mali. This event follows the ATU Digital Migration and Spectrum Policy Summit that took place in Nairobi, Kenya from 29 November to 1 December 2011.

This workshop and frequency coordination meeting, held in French and English with simultaneous interpretation, hosted by the Administration of Mali, aims to promote cooperation and exchange of experience within the Western and Central African countries on spectrum issues relating to the transition to digital terrestrial television and the digital dividend.

As recommended by the above-mentioned Nairobi Summit, this event is also intended to coordinate sub regional Roadmaps and initiate frequency coordination, with a view to facilitating harmonization and use of the digital dividend spectrum.

The workshop will give emphasis to regulatory and practical cases on spectrum issues within the context of transition to digital and digital dividend. This is especially important for the social, political and economic aspects of all countries.

The frequency coordination meeting will also focus on re-evaluating the frequency plan adopted by the ITU Regional Radiocommunication Conference in 2006 (GE06 Plan) for terrestrial television broadcasting in the 174-230 MHz and 470-862 MHz bands and necessary consequential actions, while taking into account:

- Short and medium term spectrum needs of broadcasting and mobile industries and ensure equitable and efficient access to the spectrum
- Establishment of proper timelines and activities for the review and modification of GE06 Plan using the procedure of the GE06 Agreement.

This event is open to all relevant stakeholders (governments, regulators, broadcasters, mobile operators, etc.). The presence of national coordinators for the transition to digital broadcasting and the digital dividend is **highly recommended** during the workshop. The frequency coordination meeting is primarily intended for experts in the domain of broadcasting frequency planning and the presence of experts having participated in the Regional Radiocommunication Conference of 2006 (RRC-06) is **highly recommended**.

All documents relating to this event (final program, registration and hotel reservation form, fellowship application and information of participants) will be published on the ITU website : <http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/tech/events/index.html> and on the ATU website (<http://www.atu-uat.org>) Participants are kindly requested to download these documents.

For further information, please contact Jean-Jacques Massima (ITU):

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Registration

On-line registration is available at the above-mentioned ITU website.

Fellowships

The ITU will provide fellowships to two eligible participants per country from the African region, within the limits of the budget available. Fellowship applicants must be fully accredited by their administration, which must be a least developed country or a developing country, with a per capita income of less than 2000 USD. One of the beneficiaries of fellowships **must** be a frequency-planning expert from the broadcasting sector.

Fellowship applicants must submit their application through the attached form (Annex 2) duly signed by their Administration, no later than 15 February 2012.

The number of delegates per country is not limited.

Participants requiring entry visas to Mali are invited to contact the Malian embassy in their country in order to obtain the relevant information at the appropriate time.

Hotel reservations must be made on the form, by contacting directly the hotel.

I look forward to your participation at this event and to your contribution to help strengthen ties between the countries of the region in the spectrum management field.

Yours faithfully,

Original signed

Brahima Sanou

Director

Annex 1 – Preliminary Program

Annex 2 – Fellowship Application Form

Cc: Mr. François Rancy

Director, Radiocommunication Bureau