



Telecommunication Development Bureau

Ref. BDT/IEE/TND/DM/168 Geneva, 20 March 2012

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Subject: **Regional Workshop and Frequency Coordination meeting on the Transition to Digital Terrestrial Television and the Digital Dividend, Barbados, 21-25 May 2012**

Madam, Sir,

The International Telecommunications Union (ITU), the Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU), the Caribbean Broadcasting Union (CBU) and the Government of Barbados are pleased to invite your organization to participate in a regional workshop and frequency coordination meeting on transition to digital television and digital dividend that will be held from 21 to 25 May 2012 in Barbados. This event follows the Resolution adopted by the CTU 14th General Conference of Ministers on 7th December 2011 on the Coordination of the Transition to Digital Television Broadcasting and the Allocation of the Digital Dividend in the Caribbean Region.

This regional workshop and frequency coordination meeting will be hosted by the Administration of Barbados. It aims to promote the cooperation and exchange of experience within Caribbean countries on spectrum issues relating to the transition to digital terrestrial television and the digital dividend.

In line with the Resolution adopted by the 14th General Conference of Ministers of the CTU, this event is also intended to coordinate the use of the UHF spectrum in order to maximise the benefits of the transition to digital TV broadcasting and the Digital Dividend as well as to minimise interference.

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

The frequency coordination meeting will focus on satisfying the spectrum requirements of all countries in the region for digital terrestrial television broadcasting and mobile services in the UHF spectrum and taking the necessary consequential actions to secure international rights to use that spectrum, in particular in respect of the ITU rules. Concerning the broadcasting service, the objective will be to identify compatible frequency assignments (sites, power, antenna characteristics and frequency channels) that may be used by each country for digital television without harmful interference and a procedure through which these assignments may be brought in service. Concerning the mobile service, the objective will be to assess possible arrangements by which the higher part of the UHF band (i.e. above 698 MHz) may be used without harmful interference. The results obtained during this event will not be binding, but may be used hereafter as a basis for formal agreements between the concerned countries.

This event is open to all relevant stakeholders (governments, regulators, broadcasters, mobile operators, etc.). The presence of national coordinators for the transition to digital terrestrial television 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 and/or mobile frequency planning.

All documents relating to this event (final program, hotel reservation form, fellowship application and information for participants) will be published on the ITU website : <http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/tech/events/index.html>, on the CBU's website: www.caribunion.com and on the CTU's website: <http://ctu.int>.

Participants are kindly requested to download these documents.

For further information, please contact:

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or the following focal points:

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Registration

On-line registration is available at above-mentioned [ITU web-site](#)

Fellowships

The ITU will provide partial fellowships to two eligible participants per country from the Caribbean region, within the limits of the available budget. 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.

The number of delegates per country is not limited.

Fellowship applicants must submit their application on the form available on the above mentioned web-site duly signed by their Administration, **no later than 6th April 2012.**

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

Hotel reservations must be made, by contacting directly the listed hotels in the country.

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

Cc: M. François Rancy
Director, Radiocommunications Bureau

Annex 1 – Preliminary Program