ITU General Secretariat (SG)

Ref: DM-12/1005

To:
Administrations of Member States of the Union;
ITU-R, ITU-T and ITU-D Sector Members,
Associates and Academia

Contact: Bilel Jamoussi
Telephone: +41 22 730 6311
Telefax: +41 22 730 5853
E-mail: tsbworkshops@itu.int

Copy to:
Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of ITU-R, ITU-T and
ITU-D Study Groups;
Directors of the Radiocommunication,
Standardization and Development Bureaux;

Subject: **Joint ITU-WHO Workshop on "e-Health Standards and Interoperability",
Geneva, 26-27 April 2012**

Dear Sir/Madam,

Across the world, health services and systems are changing to reflect the need for improvements in the quality, safety and cost-effectiveness of care. E-Health has already demonstrated its value and contribution to enabling these changes. As countries adopt e-Health, they will need to integrate a patchwork of legacy systems with medical devices and information systems. At the same time, they will need to ensure there is a foundation on which stakeholders can innovate, since e-Health can only meet its potential for achieving seamless, personalized and integrated care if based on open, global common and interoperable standards.

Much has already been done towards the development of e-health standards and frameworks for interoperability, yet full implementation has not been achieved. Moving forward, understanding the work still required and the role of all stakeholders will contribute to better use of resources and more focused work to fill the gaps. In addition, a clear e-health policy and strategic framework is needed to guide the development of an enabling and sustainable environment.

Towards that end, ITU, together with WHO, is **inviting** organizations working on health standards and other stakeholders to a **workshop**, in **Geneva, 26-27 April 2012**, to take stock of efforts to date, discuss barriers to adoption, and contribute to an ITU-WHO developed roadmap to guide future action.

Background documents and presentations will guide the discussions during the event.

The event will take place in ITU headquarters, Geneva, 26-27 April 2012 and it will open at 0930 hours. Detailed information concerning the meeting room will be displayed on screens at the entrances to ITU headquarters. Registration will open at 0830 hours at the Montbrillant entrance of the ITU building (http://g.co/maps/gqapr).

Participation is open to ITU members and WHO Member States and to any individual from an ITU or WHO Member State who wishes to contribute to the work. This includes individuals who are also members of international, regional and national organizations. No registration fees required for participation.

Information relating to the event is available in **Annex 1** as well as on the event website at http://itu.int/en/ITU-T/Workshops-and-Seminars/e-Health/201204.

I look forward with great anticipation to your participation in this event.

Signed by Dr. Hamadoun I. Touré, Secretary-General

Dr. Hamadoun I. Touré
Secretary-General

Annexes: 4

ANNEX 1

Information on the Joint ITU-WHO Workshop on "e-Health Standards and Interoperability"

Objectives

The key workshop objective is to start a dialogue towards a comprehensive roadmap on global standards development, interoperability, and adoption for enabling the sustainable development of e-health services.

The resulting programs could leverage resources from regions, countries, industry, and research institutions, and provide a solid platform for harnessing future innovations within specific national e-health roadmaps.

The specific objectives of the Workshop are:

1. Learn about different priorities of member states – low-, middle- and high-income countries; and identify common threads amongst identified priorities / needs.

2. Share experience gained from programs and pilots – needs, outcomes, barriers and next steps. This could be used to define specific use cases for which standards should be adopted, and to identify key elements of an e-health service architecture/framework specification.

3. Identify barriers to broad adoption of successful initiatives: A diagnosis and deep understanding of why standards are not used/applied in certain settings.

4. Assess transformative opportunities: Share advances in innovation that can transform delivery of healthcare (3-7 years). These include advances in mobile devices, portable medical devices, re-engineered healthcare workflows, clinical decision support systems, new business models, and novel distribution / logistics strategies in the supply-chain.

5. To identify future needs, roles and responsibilities of stakeholders in advancing e-health standards.

Venue

The event will take place in ITU headquarters, Geneva, 26-27 April 2012 and it will open at 0930 hours. Detailed information concerning the meeting room will be displayed on screens at the entrances to ITU headquarters. Registration will open at 0830 hours at the Montbrillant entrance of the ITU building (http://g.co/maps/gqapr).

Language

Discussions will be held in English only.

Participation

Participation is open to ITU members and WHO Member States and to any individual from an ITU or WHO Member State who wishes to contribute to the work. This includes individuals who are also members of international, regional and national organizations. No registration fees required for participation.

Advance programme

A draft programme of the event is found in **Annex 2**.

Additional information:

Information relating to the event will be available on the event website: http://itu.int/ITU-T/worksem/ehealth/201204.

Logistics

For your convenience, a hotel confirmation form is enclosed as **Annex 3** (see http://itu.int/travel/ for the list of hotels).

Registration for this event will be carried out exclusively *online* at http://itu.int/reg/tws/3000353. Deadline for registration is **18 April 2012**.

Contacts

Najeeb Al-Shorbaji
Director, Knowledge Management and
Sharing, WHO IER
shorbajin@who.int

Bilel Jamoussi
Chief, Study Group Department
ITU TSB
bilel.jamoussi@itu.int

Fellowships

ITU will provide a limited number of full fellowships to **one participant per eligible country** *and* within the available budget. The participant must be duly authorized by the respective ITU Administrations from Least Developed Countries and from developing countries with per-capita income under US$ 2,000. While the provision of fellowship is limited to only one participant per country, the number of delegates from a country is not limited provided the expenses of additional delegates are borne by the country. Participants requiring a fellowship are requested to complete the **Fellowship Request Form** in Annex 4 and return it to the ITU by **e-mail:** bdtfellowships@itu.int **or by** fax to: +41 22 730 5778 by **26 March 2012 at the latest**.

Visa

We would remind you that citizens of some countries are required to obtain a visa in order to enter and spend any time in Switzerland. **The visa must be requested at least four (4) weeks before the date of beginning of the workshop** and obtained from the office (embassy or consulate) representing Switzerland in your country or, if there is no such office in your country, from the one that is closest to the country of departure.

If problems are encountered by **ITU Member States, Sector Members, Associates or Academic Institutions**, and at the official request made by them to TSB, the Union can approach the competent Swiss authorities in order to facilitate delivery of the visa but only within the period mentioned of four weeks. Any such request should be made by official letter from the administration or entity you represent. This letter must specify the name and functions, date of birth, number, dates of issue and expiry of passport of the individual(s) for whom the visa(s) is/are requested and be accompanied by a copy of the notification of confirmation of registration approved for the ITU-T workshop in question, and must be sent to TSB by fax (+41 22 730 5853) or e-mail (tsbreg@itu.int), bearing the words **"visa request"**. **Please also note that ITU can assist only representatives of ITU Member States, ITU Sector Members, ITU Associates and ITU Academic Institutions**.

ANNEX 2

Draft Outline of Workshop Programme "e-Health Standards and Interoperability"

Note that the detailed programme is subject to change.

DAY ONE

08:30 – 09:30	Registration
09:30 – 10:00	– Welcome – Workshop objectives: ITU and WHO – Keynote: overall framework to further guide the discussions
10:00 – 11:30	**Session 1: Country perspectives** Inter-governmental panel comprising ministers of health and ministers of information and communication technologies
11:30 – 11:45	*Coffee break*
11:45 – 13:00	**Session 2: Current focus, status and challenges: organizations working on e-health standardization** – ISO, ITU, SDOs
13:00 – 14:30	*Lunch break*
14:30 – 16:00	**Session 3: Barriers to adoption: Stakeholders' perspectives (Part 1)**
16:00 – 16:15	*Coffee break*
16:15 – 17:45	**Session 4: Barriers to adoption: Stakeholders' perspectives (Part 2)**
17:45 – 18:00	**Wrap-up of DAY ONE**

DAY TWO

08:30 – 09:30	Registration
09:30 – 11:30	**Session 5: Innovation trends: Academic institutions, companies and research and development labs**
11:30 – 11:45	*Coffee break*
11:45 – 13:00	**Session 6: Identifying future needs: Health service providers and policy makers**
13:00 – 14:30	*Lunch break*
14:30 – 16:00	**Session 7: Advancing e-health standards: Roles and responsibilities of stakeholders** This session aims at covering the following topics: – ...
16:00 – 16:15	*Coffee break*
16:15 – 16:45	**Wrap-up of DAY TWO;** **Overall conclusions of both days and next steps**
16:45 – 17:00	**Concluding remarks: ITU and WHO**

ANNEX 3

---

*This confirmation form should **be sent direct to the hotel** of your choice*

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION

Joint ITU-WHO Workshop on "e-Health Standards and Interoperability" (Geneva, 26-27 April 2012)

Confirmation of the reservation made on (date) ------------------------ with (hotel) ------------------------------

at the ITU preferential tariff

------------ single/double room(s)

arriving on (date)--------------------------- at (time) ------------ departing on (date)------------------------------

***GENEVA TRANSPORT CARD** : Hotels and residences in the canton of Geneva now provide a free "Geneva Transport Card" valid for the duration of the stay. This card will give you free access to Geneva public transport, including buses, trams, boats and trains as far as Versoix and the airport.*

Family name ---

First name ---

Address -- Tel: -----------------------------

-- Fax: -----------------------------

-- E-mail: -----------------------------

Credit card to guarantee this reservation: AX/VISA/DINERS/EC (or other) ----------------------------------

No. ---   valid until   ---

Date ---   Signature   ---

ANNEX 4

	Joint ITU-WHO Workshop on "e-Health Standards and Interoperability" (Geneva, 26-27 April 2012)	
Please return to:	**Fellowships Service ITU/BDT Geneva (Switzerland)**	**E-mail: bdtfellowships@itu.int Tel: +41 22 730 5227 Fax: +41 22 730 5778**

Request for one full fellowship or two partial fellowships to be submitted before 26 March 2012

Participation of women is encouraged

Registration Confirmation I.D. No:

....

(Note: It is imperative for fellowship holders to pre-register via the on-line registration form at:
http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/Workshops-and-Seminars/e-Health/201204/Pages/default.aspx.)

Country: ....

Name of the Administration or Organization: ....

Mr / Ms: ....

             (family name)   (given name)

Title: ....

Address: ....

....

Tel: .... Fax: ....

E-Mail: ....

PASSPORT INFORMATION:

Date of birth: .... Nationality: ....

Passport Number: .... Date issued: ....

In (place): .... Valid until (date): ....

CONDITIONS (Please select your preference)
1.   ☐ One full fellowship or ☐ two partial fellowships (per eligible country)
2.   In case of two partial fellowships, chose one of the following :

     ☐ Economy class airticket (Duty station / Geneva / Duty station)
     ☐ Daily subsistence allowance intended to cover accommodation, meals and misc. expenses.

Signature of fellowship candidate: .... Date: ....

TO VALIDATE FELLOWSHIP REQUEST, NAME AND SIGNATURE OF CERTIFYING OFFICIAL DESIGNATING PARTICIPANT MUST BE COMPLETED BELOW WITH OFFICIAL STAMP.

N.B. IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT FELLOWS BE PRESENT FROM THE FIRST DAY TO THE END OF THE MEETING.

Signature: .... Date: ....