



**International Telecommunication Union
Regional Office for Africa**

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Administrations of ITU Members States
Ministries and Regulators
ITU –D Sector Members
Academia

RE: The Multi-Stakeholder Workshop for SADC on Bridging the Digital Innovation Divide: Accelerating Digital Transformation towards 4th industrial revolution to be held in Gaborone, Botswana 11-12th December 2017

Dear Sir/Madam,

Following the SADC ICTs Ministers' meeting held in Kwa Zulu, Natal 6-7th September 2017 with the Preparing SADC for the 4th Industrial Revolution through ICTs, the International Telecommunication Union would like to invite you to a workshop on Bridging the Digital Innovation Divide and Accelerating Digital transformation towards 4th Industrial revolution to be held in Gaborone, Botswana, 11-12 December 2017

This workshop is organized by the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in partnership with SADC Secretariat within the framework of the [World Telecommunication Development Conference 2017](#) (WTDC-17), Buenos Aires. It also contributes to the Digital Integration, and SADC preparation for 4th Industrial Revolution through ICTs in particular focusing on promotion of the uptake of smart technologies and accelerating digital transformation as well as supporting skills development, access to digital talent and appropriate digital infrastructure.

The objective of this Multi-stakeholder Workshop aims at building regional and national capacities and skills in developing digital ecosystems including designing policies, formulating projects to integrate telecommunication/ICTs innovations in national development agenda, implementation of programmes and projects. The Programme of this workshop builds upon the recently launched toolkit on **Bridging the digital innovation divide: A toolkit for strengthening ICT centric ecosystems**, and will be supported by a series of national and regional best practices and initiatives fostering ICT centric innovation and digital transformation.

This multi-stakeholder workshop targets all stakeholders involved in nurturing and building digital innovation environment, favorable to entrepreneurship and creation of startups, growth and expansion of small firms, public service transformation, and sector specific digital transformation. In particular, its agenda has been customized for the needs of the ICT policy makers, regulators, national innovation agencies, development agencies, entrepreneurs, ecosystem builders, Financial stakeholders, academia as well as institutions willing to undertake a digital transformation journey fostering ICT centric innovation and developing coherent approaches to move countries towards an innovation driven economy.

Expected results range from Identification of stakeholders, champions and good practice programmes in the region interested in undertraining national ICT centric innovation ecosystem reviews, thereby advancing digital transformation and advancing digital integration to empowering participants with methodology, frameworks, tools



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and context relevant case studies to accelerate digital transformation through promoting innovation and entrepreneurship.

Please note that the event will be paperless. Documents related to the event including draft agenda and practical information of participants will be posted on the ITU website at http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Innovation/Pages/Events/2017/BDID_Gaborone.aspx

This workshop will be conducted in English only

Participants are requested to complete the registration form available at the ITU website not later than 5th December 2017

While there is no participation fee for this workshop, it is to be noted that all expenses concerning travel and accommodation and insurance of participants should be covered by participants' organizations.

Venue of the workshop: **Phakalane Golf Estate Hotel Resort, GABORONE, Botswana**

Ms. Chali Tumelo, ITU Representative for Southern Africa, Telephone +263 4 775939-41, e-mail: chali.tumelo@itu.int and Ms. Cecilia Mamelodi-Onyadile Senior Programme Officer SADC Secretariat, Telephone : 267 3951863 e-mail cmoneyadile@sadc.int are at your full disposal for any questions you might have concerning this event.

Yours sincerely,

[Original signed]

Andrew Rugege
Regional Director for Africa and
Liaison to ECA and AU

Copy: Mr Brahim Sanou, BDT Director