



International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

Arab Regional Office

Ref. 018333

Cairo, 19 July 2017

**Administrations of ITU Member States,
Regulators, ITU-D Sector Members and
Academia in the Arab States
And Relevant International and Regional
Organizations**

Subject: **ITU Workshops in ICT Accessibility week**

Dear Sir/Madam,

In support of the implementation of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC 2014) Arab Regional Initiative titled "Ensuring access to telecommunications/ICTs, in particular for persons with disabilities", and in celebration of UNESCO's International Day for Universal Access to Information (IDUAI), which is commemorated each year on the 28th of September, ITU and UNESCO will be organizing an Arab Regional ICT Accessibility Week during the period 24-28 September 2017.

The purpose of this week is to raise awareness across the Arab region of the importance of facilitating access to information for Persons with Disabilities through the use of ICTs. Various regional and international fora, processes and agreements such as WSIS Plan of Action and the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals have repeatedly underscored the role of accessibility as a key enabler in ensuring the full participation, inclusion and equity of citizens with disabilities. Accordingly, this Week will be an excellent opportunity to strengthen collaboration among stakeholders and advance this shared commitment to achieving Accessibility across the Arab region through the use of ICT.

We invite all stakeholders in the Arab region to organize at least one activity during this week, so as to shed light on their key activities in this domain, whether at the national or regional level. Stakeholders are free to design the nature, scope and location of activities and associate them to the Week, as long they reflect the theme of ICT Accessibility in the Arab region.

We would appreciate if you could kindly provide us with information on the event(s) that you will be organizing during the ICT Accessibility Week. Please complete and submit the attached form to Mr. Karim Abdelghani Programme Coordinator, ITU Arab Regional Office (karim.abdelghani@itu.int) and Mr. Paul Hector, Advisor for Communication and Information, UNESCO Regional Bureau for Sciences in the Arab States & Cluster Office for Egypt, Sudan and Libya (p.hector@unesco.org) before 30 July 2017.

In this regard, ITU and UNESCO will be collaborating to organize two workshops that will take place in the American University of Cairo, Cairo, Egypt as follows:

- **Web Accessibility Training from 27-28 September 2017:** The course is designed for ITU Members in the Arab region, in particular for regulators in charge of creating ICT accessibility policies, as well as for project managers, website developers, designers, digital content creators, leaders in charge of social responsibility projects, human resources officers, media, etc. The course will cover related subjects including: what is web accessibility, how to implement it in terms of policy and internally within organizations, what the assistive technologies are and how they are used by persons with disabilities, what the Web Content Accessibility Standards are and how to implement them, and how to validate accessibility, including through user testing by PwD.
- **Workshop on Organizing Accessible Meetings, 28 September 2017:** This workshop will focus on raising awareness on the measures that should be taken by stakeholders, particularly regional and international organizations, in organizing their meetings, workshops, conferences and other activities to insure that they are accessible to persons with disabilities.

The above-mentioned workshops would be conducted in Arabic and English with interpretation and are open to all stakeholders of regional and international organizations.

In order to facilitate the participation of delegates from Arab Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in these events, there will be one full Fellowship to cover the travel and accommodation expenses of one delegate from each Arab Least Developing Country. Interested LDCs should fill in the Fellowship Request Form, which is available on the website of the event, indicated below, and return it to ITU no later than **17 August 2017**.

Please note that all the information related to ICT Accessibility Week in addition to all the events organized by all stakeholders, including the two workshops mentioned above will be available on the ITU website at ([click here](#)).

Should you have any inquiries, please feel free to submit them to Mr. Abdelghani or Mr. Hector whose contacts are mentioned above.

We look forward to receiving your positive feedback and more importantly to collaborating with you to ensure the success of the upcoming Arab Regional ICT Accessibility Week.

Yours sincerely,



Ebrahim Al Haddad
Regional Director
ITU Arab Regional Office