



International Telecommunication Union
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR AFRICA

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Addis Ababa, 9 September 2014

To: ITU Administrations, Regulators, Sector Members, Associates and Academia Members, Telecom Operators and Service providers, Manufacturers and Academic Institutions of the SADC region

Subject: Workshop for SADC countries to promote the development and implementation of Conformity Assessment programmes, Livingstone (Zambia), Date 13-15 October, 2014

Dear Sir/Madam,

I have the pleasure to inform you that the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is organizing the **Workshop for SADC countries to promote the development and implementation of Conformity Assessment programmes**. This Forum is kindly hosted by the Government of Zambia and will take place from 13th-15th October, 2014 at Zambezi Sun Hotel, Livingstone.

The Workshop is open to both Members and non-Members of the ITU wishing to contribute to the work, covering various aspects of the ITU Conformity and Interoperability (C&I) programme. This will include: tasks, efforts and priorities to increase interoperability of products between various providers/manufacturers, capacity building and creation of test centres in the Africa region, accreditation, certification, mutual recognition agreements of quality certificates, legal and regulatory framework which establishes technical requirements for products and services to be legally imported and deployed in the marketplace, establishing and maintaining a registry/repository of Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRA) signatories and related information such as scopes of operation, technical standards covered etc. Many leading international experts will be invited to speak at the event.

The objective of the workshop is to share information and to discuss strategies and methods to address and promote Conformity and Interoperability programmes on a Regional Basis. This workshop, based on the results and the recommendations coming for the assessment study on C&I conducted for SADC countries, aims at identifying all the necessary elements and promote the Collaboration among Regional and Sub-regional Organizations for establishing a common C&I Programme and (MRA), seeking to present possible scenarios to meet the needs and interests of Member States and Regions (Programme Annex 1).

Discussions will be held in French and English. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided.

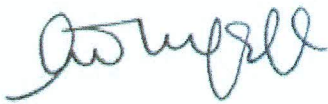
Please note that there are no participation fees for this event. Travel arrangements and accommodation should be made and borne by the participating entity. The draft Programme is attached as Annex 1 to this invitation letter.

I invite you to visit our website (<http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/tech/events/index.html>) in order to obtain additional/detailed information, including the latest Programme, registration, logistics information (hotels, visa, etc.) and other relevant material. We encourage participants to kindly confirm their participation by **3rd October 2014** at the latest.

For any question please contact ITU Area Office for Southern Africa, Harare (Zimbabwe)
Tel: +263 4 775941/775939, Fax: +263 4 771257, E-mail: anne.rita.ssemboga@itu.int

I very much hope that you will be able to participate and share your views and valuable experience with the participants, which will contribute to enrich the discussions and the outputs of the Workshop.

Yours faithfully,



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



cc: BDT Director

Annex 1: Draft Programme

Annex 2: Registration Form