

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



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To: - ITU Member States
- ITU-D Sector Members-
- United Nations and United Nations Specialized
Agencies
- Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of ITU-D Study
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Contact: Special Initiatives Unit
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Subject: Seminar on the "Sharing experience on best practices and services for people with disabilities",
Geneva, 17 September 2007

Dear Sir/Madam,

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-06) held in Doha, Qatar established a new Special Global Initiative on "Access to telecommunication services for people with disabilities". The conference further requested the ITU Development Bureau (BDT) to support Member States in implementing ICT initiatives and activities for people with disabilities within its work programmes, in particular through Study Group-1, Question 20/1. Development of relevant policies, strategies and actions is thus crucial for success of this endeavor.

Given the need to provide telecommunication/ICT access on an all inclusive basis, and that only a few countries have so far developed policies and legal frameworks ensuring access solutions for people with disabilities, **the ITU is inviting you to a one day seminar in Geneva, on September 17 at the ITU Headquarters, Room B**, second basement of ITU Tower building to:

- a) Discuss how to bring about the necessary conditions for people with disabilities to enjoy the same opportunities in life as the rest of the population by creating a global awareness on the importance of accessibility to the Information and Communications
- b) Share experiences with countries which have implemented policies, strategies and actions to eliminate obstacles in accessing telecommunication/ICT services faced by people with disabilities.
- c) Invite partnership and support from ITU Member States and Sector Members to work with the BDT to jointly promote and achieve the integration of the People with Disabilities into the Information Society.

Please find attached a Draft Program (Annex 1) and a Registration Form (*Annex 2*). Participant registration will start at 8:00 at the ITU **Montbrillant entrance**.

We recommend that participants from LDCs who will already be in Geneva for other ITU meetings apply for a one day, DSA fellowship (September 17). One fellowship per country will be granted within the limits of available resources. A Request for Fellowship Form is attached as Annex 3. Please note that such requests must be received NOT LATER THAN **July 10, 2007**. Fellowships received after this date will not be considered.

To share experience in this area, you are kindly invited to submit contributions (Annex 4) with a maximum of 10 pages via email to: cherifa.khalifaoui@itu.int before **3rd August 2007**.

I would like to draw your attention on the fact that this seminar will be preceded by the ITU Council scheduled for September 4-14, to be followed by Study Group 1 and 2 meetings from September 18 to 21 and 24-28 respectively. Other relevant documents for the meeting will be posted at: http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/study_groups/index.html.

I look forward to your active participation in this seminar and to its successful outcome.

Yours faithfully,

[original signed by Mr. Sami Al Basheer Al Morshid, Director]

Sami Al Basheer Al Morshid
Director

Annexes

- (1) Draft Program
- (2) Registration form and Note for visa procedures
- (3) Fellowship Form
- (4) Contribution Form