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| Telecommunication  Development Bureau (BDT) | | | |
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| Ref. | Circular BDT/IP/CSTG-6 | | Geneva, 16 November 2015 |
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|  |  | | * Administrations of ITU Member States * Observer (Resolution 99) * ITU-D Sector Members, Associates,  and Academia * Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of ITU-D Study Groups 1 and 2 |
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| Subject: | **ITU-D Study Group 1 Question 5/1 – Global survey on telecommunications/ICTs for rural and remote areas** | | |
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| Dear Sir/Madam,  I hereby invite the Membership of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) to contribute to a survey on telecommunications/ICTs for rural and remote areas. The rapid migration of populations in developing countries to urban areas may have an adverse effect on poverty alleviation unless measures are taken to improve the environment in rural and remote areas, possibly by deploying telecommunications/ICTs. The installation of cost-effective and sustainable infrastructure in these areas is an important aspect which calls for further studies into challenges which may be encountered and suitable approaches and solutions to meet the expressed needs.  At the September 2015 meetings of ITU-D Study Group 1, it was agreed to issue a circular to the Membership of ITU requesting input on specific aspects of access and connectivity in rural and remote areas. The requested input is related to the Rapporteur Group for Question 5/1 dedicated to “Telecommunications/ICTs for rural and remote areas”.  All inputs and contributions received through this survey will be compiled as part of the outputs of Question 5/1 to assist countries in strengthening their capacity to address challenges related to access for people living in rural and remote areas.  It would be appreciated if the online survey could be completed by **31 January 2016**. The success and value of this survey will depend on the input received from the Membership. I look forward to your active participation, support and contributions to the work of the ITU-D Study Groups.  I thank you in advance for your cooperation.  Yours faithfully,  [Original signed]  Brahima Sanou Director | | | |
| **Annex 1**  Expected output for Question 5/1  Detailed information on the outputs expected from the work of Question 5/1 can be found online at:  <http://www.itu.int/net4/ITU-D/CDS/sg/rgqlist.asp?lg=1&sp=2014&rgq=D14-SG01-RGQ05.1&stg=1>  The overall aim of ITU-D Study Group 1 Question 5/1 is to study the range and scope of techniques and solutions that are expected to play a significant role in the provision of e-application services for rural and remote areas. In order for the Question to successfully complete its work for the 2014-2017 further input is needed from the ITU membership on techniques that can be used to best deliver the range of services, and applications required by rural and remote communities and adapted to the needs of their users.  The purpose of this survey is to gather detailed information on Telecommunications/ICTs infrastructure in rural and remote areas, policy and regulatory measures that have been taken by the governments around the world and economic and business models for telecommunication/ICT growth in rural and remote areas. The survey also seeks to collect information on possible impact and analysis of such interventions/initiatives.  The input received through this survey will be used as part of the outputs of the Question for the 2014-2017 study period, intended to assist countries in strengthening their capacity to address challenges for the development of telecommunications/ICTs/broadband in rural and remote areas.  Submission of contributions and timing  The survey on policy and regulatory initiatives for developing telecommunications/ICTs/broadband in rural and remote areas can be filled in using an online form in any of the six official languages at:  <http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Study-Groups/Pages/surveys/2015-Q5-1-CSTG01.aspx>.  A word version of the survey is also available on the website to gather information from all stakeholders concerned before submitting it online.  We would be grateful if we would receive your input by **31 January 2016**.  Information requests  Queries or requests for further information regarding the survey can be addressed to the ITU-D Study Groups Secretariat (Tel.: +41 22 730 5999, e-mail: [devsg@itu.int](mailto:devsg@itu.int)).  Further information regarding the survey will also be provided by:   * Rapporteur for Question 5/1, Mr Shuichi Nishimoto, Japan  Tel.: +81 80 5944 8734, e-mail: [sh-nishimoto@kddi.com](mailto:sh-nishimoto@kddi.com) * BDT Focal Point for Question 5/1, Mr Désiré Karyabwite, BDT/IEE/TND,  Tel.: +41 22 730 5009, e-mail: [desire.karyabwite@itu.int](mailto:desire.karyabwite@itu.int)   More information about the ITU-D Study Groups can be found online at: <http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/study_groups/>.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | | | |