**Telecommunication
Development Bureau (BDT)**

Ref.: BDT/PKM/LSE/DM/103	Geneva, 15 December 2015

To All:
ITU Member States
ITU-D Sector Members

Subject: Invitation to the 2nd Global Forum on Emergency Telecommunications (GET-2016): Saving Lives (Kuwait City, Kuwait, 25-28 January 2016)

Dear Sir/Madam,

It is my pleasure to invite you to the *2nd Global Forum on Emergency Telecommunications: Saving Lives* organized by the International Telecommunication Union and hosted by the Ministry of Communications of the State of Kuwait. The forum, which will be held at the Regency Hotel in Kuwait City from 26 to 28 January 2016, will provide a platform and opportunity for participants to discuss the role of telecommunications/ICT for disaster risk reduction and management.

This forum will be attended by Government Ministers, Heads of Telecommunication Regulatory Authorities, Chief Executive Officers of private-sector entities, Heads of United Nations Agencies, Non-Governmental Organization representatives, and other senior level participants from humanitarian organizations, Development Banks, Regional Disaster Management Organizations, Academia and Media. The participants will use this platform and opportunity to share experiences and practices in the use of modern technologies for humanitarian purposes. A number of state-of-the-art ICT solutions looking at how emerging technologies could be leveraged for saving lives will be presented by experts.

Pre-event sessions related to the forum will be held on 25 January 2016 and are aimed at information sharing on topics such as the Tampere Convention, regulation, and other topical issues on the use of ICT in disaster risk reduction and management.

An exhibition showcasing new technologies for disaster monitoring, early warning, search and rescue, and coordination among other activities for disaster management and climate change mitigation and adaptation will run for the duration of the forum. In this regard, Member States and Sector Members are invited to take advantage of allocated free space to exhibit their ICT solutions that could contribute to disaster mitigation and management. Detailed information on space availability will be provided in the Information Note which will be posted in due course at: http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Emergency-Telecommunications/Pages/Events/2016/GET-2016.aspx. Please note, exhibition booths will be allocated on a "first-come, first-served" basis.

To facilitate planning and preparations, I encourage you to register online here or
http://www.itu.int/online/regsys/ITU-D/workshop/edrs.registration.form?_eventid=4000267

The draft programme and practical information are available at:

http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Emergency-Telecommunications/Pages/Events/2016/GET-2016.aspx.

I look forward to your participation and invaluable contribution towards the success of this important forum.

Yours faithfully,

[Original signed]

Brahima Sanou
Director

Annex: Draft agenda

2ND GLOBAL FORUM ON EMERGENCY TELECOMMUNICATIONS (GET-2016): SAVING LIVES

26-28 JANUARY 2016
KUWAIT CITY, KUWAIT

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Venue: The Regency Hotel, Kuwait City, Kuwait

www.itu.int/get2016

WELCOME TO GET-2016

Mr Houlin Zhao Secretary-General
Inernational Telecommunication
Union - ITU

H.E Eng. Salim Alozainah, Chairman
and CEO, Communication and
Information Technology Regulatory
Authority, Kuwait

Eng. Hameed H. Al-Qattan
Undersecretary, Ministry of
Communications, Kuwait

Mr Brahima Sanou, Director
Telecommunication Development
Bureau ITU

What is GET-2016

First held in 2007 with the title, "Global Forum on Effective Use of Telecommunications/ICT for Disaster Management: Saving Lives", the ITU Global Forum on Emergency Telecommunications has evolved to become the main global event focusing on emergency telecommunications and climate change mitigation and adaptation. The Forum brings together delegates from all over the world, ranging from Government Ministers to Regulators, national disaster management stakeholders, lead academicians, private sector leaders, United Nations entities and non-governmental organizations.

The 2nd Global Forum on Emergency Telecommunications: Saving Lives – known as GET-2016, will address issues of high importance on how information and communication technology can help in implementing the Sendai Declaration adopted by the United Nations Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction held in Sendai, Japan, in March 2015. The event provides an opportunity for policy makers and other participants to debate and adopt concrete strategies on how effective disaster risk reduction and management supported by information and communication technology could contribute to the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals recently adopted by the United Nations General Assembly.

Outcomes

The adopted outcomes of GET-2016 will provide strategic guidance to the national and international community, including ITU, and will result in an increased knowledge of the role that each of the participating entities could play in giving telecommunications/ICT a central role in disaster mitigation and management.

Participants

GET-2016 expects to attract about 500 participants from around 90 countries worldwide, as well as from regional and national organizations. Panelists and speakers include Ministers, Director-Generals of Regulatory Authorities and of UN organizations, National Heads of Public Protection entities, Chief Executive Officers of private sector companies and experts in the field of ICT for disaster management. Several members of Academia are also expected to attend the Forum.

PRE-EVENTS SESSIONS – GET 2016
MONDAY 25 JANUARY 2016

10:00 – 11:00	**Registration**
11:00 – 12:30	**The Tampere Convention: Ratification and Implementation Process**
	Organizers: ITU & Administration Government of Kuwait
12:30 – 14:30	**Lunch break**
14:30 – 16:00	**ICTs Role in Disaster Risk Reduction**
	Organizers: UNISDR & ITU

TUESDAY 26 JANUARY 2016

08:00 – 09:30	**Registration**
09:30 – 10:00	**Opening Ceremony (Master of Ceremony, Government of Kuwait)**
10:00 – 10:30	**Group Photo and Coffee break**
10:30 – 12:30	**Ministerial Roundtable: Better Preparedness and Effective Response for Sustainable Development**

Ministers will debate the role of information and communication technology (ICT) in mitigating disasters before and after they strike. Interventions will draw from their own country's practices and experiences. They will also share their views on the contribution that well planned disaster risk reduction and management can contribute to the attainment of the recently adopted Sustainable Development Goals.

Setting the Stage

ITU Presentation on Role of ICTs in Saving Lives
Followed by Ministerial Interventions

Panel discussion

12:30 – 14:00	**Lunch Break**
14:00 – 15:45	**Leaders Dialogue**

This session will discuss technology, regulatory and operational issues. Heads of United Nations Entities, Director Generals of Telecommunication/ICTs, Regulatory Authorities and private sector CEOs will debate the role of their institutions in disaster risk reduction and management. They will address challenges and opportunities resulting from effective use of ICTs.

15:45 – 16:00	***Coffee Break***
16:00 – 17:300	**Trends and emerging technological innovations in disaster risk reduction and management**

This session focuses on emerging communication technologies and solutions that contribute to global efforts to mitigate disasters.

17:30 – 17:45	**End of Day One**
18:00	**Welcome Reception hosted by Government of Kuwait**

WEDNESDAY 27 JANUARY 2016

09:30 – 11:00	***Innovating for Sustainable Development: Presentation of the work of the Smart Sustainable Development Model (SSDM) Advisory Board*** *The session presents the work of ITU's Smart Sustainable Development Model (SSDM) initiative, which focuses on optimizing the use of ICTs for socio-economic development and for disaster management leading to sustainable development.*
11:00 – 11:30	***Coffee Break***
11:30 – 12:30	**Round Table on Financing Mechanisms** *This session addresses financing needs that are required to help countries prepare better, respond more effectively, and re-build when disasters destroy infrastructure and disrupt economic activities. Existing global, regional and national financing mechanisms are explored as well as new innovative ways.*
12:30 – 14:00	**Lunch Break**
14:00 – 15:45	**Country Case Studies: Lessons Learned from Past Disasters** *This session will focus on country Case Studies based on past natural disasters. Emphasis will be on how telecommunication infrastructure was disrupted/destroyed and eventually restored. The impact on human logistics will be discussed and lessons learnt will be shared.*
15:45 – 16:00	***Coffee Break***
16:00 – 17:30	**Challenges in deploying telecommunications/ICT for disaster response** *This session addresses legal and regulatory issues that include spectrum, licensing, and operational issues related to emergency telecommunications. Discussions will also look at the international legal framework provided by the Tampere Convention.*
17:30 – 17:45	**End of Day Two**

THURSDAY 28 JANUARY 2016

09:00 - 10:45	**Climate Change Issues: Mitigation and Adaptation**
	There is a strong link between climate change and emergency telecommunication initiatives for saving lives when natural disasters occur. This session discusses the use of ICTs for climate change mitigation and adaptation on examples from countries and other stakeholders.
10:45 – 11:00	**Coffee Break**
11:00 – 12:30	**Role of Private Sector and other non-state stakeholders**
	This session will discuss the role of the private sector and other non-State actors in contributing to public safety and ensuring resilience, better preparedness, and timely intervention when disasters strike.
12:30 – 14:00	**Lunch Break**
14:00 – 15:00	**Launch of ITU Initiatives**
	ITU will launch some innovative emergency telecommunications initiatives aimed at improving current disaster risk reduction and management based on a multi-stakeholder approach.
15:30 – 15:30	**Presentation of Chairman's Report**
	The Chairman will present his final summary and recommendations for adoption.
15:30 – 16:00	**Closing Ceremony**