



**Telecommunication Development
Bureau (BDT)**

Ref.: BDT/IEE/RME/DM/245

Geneva, 12 May 2017

To:

- Administrations of ITU Member States from CIS
- Regulators, ITU Sector Members, Associates, and Academia from CIS
- Regional telecommunication organizations from CIS
- Specialized agencies of the United Nations

Subject: ITU Regional Forum on *Digital Financial Services Development*, Astana, Republic of Kazakhstan, 4-5 July 2017

Dear Sir/Madam,

On behalf of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), I am pleased to invite you to the Regional Forum on Digital Financial Services, which is jointly organized by the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) of the ITU and the National Bank of the Republic of Kazakhstan. The Forum will be held in Astana, Republic of Kazakhstan, from 4 to 5 July 2017, following the International Conference on Payment Systems and Payment Services Market under Current Conditions, organized by the National Bank of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

The Forum will be attended by representatives of ministries and agencies, regulators, telecommunication operators and equipment manufacturers, Central Banks, financial institutions, Academia, software developers, and other interested stakeholders from CIS, including development and funding agencies.

The Forum will provide a platform for information sharing on the development of digital financial services, as well as for promoting constructive dialogue between regional, international, and national organizations, governments, banks, industry, consumers, and academia.

In particular, the Forum will cover the following topics:

- Impact of information technologies on the financial sector
- Digital economy and financial inclusion
- Success in diversity: incumbents and new market entrants
- Regional coordination and development of unified information space on the Eurasian Economic Union-based platform
- Priorities and prospects of regulatory practice
- Implementation of digital financial services and enhancement of regulatory body's activities
- Role of telecommunications regulators.

The draft agenda of the Forum is available in Annex 1 (attached hereto).

The Forum will be conducted in Russian and English with simultaneous interpretation.

The Forum will be paperless. All materials of the Forum, including presentations, will be available on the ITU website: https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/CIS/Pages/EVENTS/2017/07_Astana/Astana.aspx

There is no participation fee for this event. However, all expenses related to the travel, accommodation and insurance of participants should be covered by your Administration/Organization.

Participants are kindly requested to fill out the Registration Form (Annex 2) and send it as indicated in the form **by 13 June 2017**.

To encourage the participation of low-income countries and subject to the availability of funds, the ITU will grant one full or two partial fellowships per eligible country of the CIS Region. An application for a fellowship must be authorized by the relevant Administration. Those intending to apply for a fellowship are required to complete the Fellowship Form (Annex 4) and send it to the ITU Fellowships Service by email: fellowships@itu.int or by fax: +41 22 730 57 78 no later than **6 June 2017**.

Mr Farid Nakhli, Programme Officer, ITU Area Office for CIS (tel.: +7-495-926-60-70, email: farid.nakhli@itu.int) and Mr. Serzhan Balykbayev, Head, Protocol Division, International Cooperation Department, National Bank of Kazakh Republic, (tel.: +7 727 330 24 55; mob.: +7 701 362 47 35; email: serzhan@nationalbank.kz), are at your disposal, should you require any further information.

I look forward to active participation from your Administration/Organization.

Yours sincerely,

[Original signed]

Brahima Sanou
Director

Annexes:

1. Draft Agenda
2. Registration Form
3. Practical Information
4. Fellowship Form



National Bank of the Republic of Kazakhstan



International Telecommunication Union

**ITU Regional Forum on
Digital Financial Services Development**
Astana, Republic of Kazakhstan, 4-5 July 2017

DRAFT AGENDA

4 July 2017, Tuesday

14:30-16:00	Cultural program for participants of the Conference and the Forum Meeting in the Astana Marriott Hotel lobby. Astana city tour
16:00-18:00	Visiting the Astana EXPO-2017 International Specialized Exhibition

5 July 2017, Wednesday

09:00-09:30	Registration of participants
09:30-09:45	Opening remarks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Telecommunications Union (ITU) • National Bank of the Republic of Kazakhstan • Ministry of Information and Communications of the Republic of Kazakhstan
09:45-11:30	Session 1: Public and private perspectives on digital financial services development Session 1 will cover the following issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact of information technologies on the financial sector • Digital economy and financial inclusion • Success in diversity: incumbents and new market entrants.
11:30-11:45	Coffee break
11:45-13:00	Session 1 (continued) Session 1 will be continued with a roundtable discussion
13:00-13:15	Group photo
13:15-14:30	Lunch
14:30-16:00	Session 2: Regional coordination and development of unified information space on the Eurasian Economic Union-based platform Session 2 will be a panel discussion dedicated to regional coordination and development of unified information space on the Eurasian Economic Union-based platform
16:00-16:30	Coffee break
16:30-17:45	Session 3: Priorities and prospects of regulatory practice Session 3 will cover following issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priorities and prospects of regulatory practice • Implementation of digital financial services and enhancement of regulatory body' activities • Role of telecommunications regulators
17:45-18:00	Wrap up. Forum closing



National Bank of the Republic of Kazakhstan



International Telecommunication Union

**ITU Regional Forum on
Digital Financial Services Development**
Astana, Republic of Kazakhstan, 4-5 July 2017

REGISTRATION FORM

1. I will participate

☐ In the ITU Regional Forum on Digital Financial Services Development

☐ Mr.

☐ Ms.

First name:

Last name:

The institution's name:

Department/sub-dept/section:

Position (job title):

Address:

Postal code:

Country:

City:

Contact phone number:

Mobile number:

Email:

Passport No.:

Date of birth: day month year

2. Визовая поддержка

Do you need an official invitation for getting a visa?

☐ Yes, I do

☐ No, I don't

(For a relevant invitation to be issued, the duplicates of eligible documents have to be sent to the National Bank of Kazakhstan not later than 45 days before the supposed date of entry into Kazakhstan)

3. Transfer

☐ I need transfer: the airport—the hotel—the airport

☐ There is no need in transfer

Arrival date:

Arrival time:

Air lines:

Flight No:

Departure date:	Departure time:
Air lines:	Flight No:
Hotel:	

4. Program		I attend	
		I do	I don't
July 4, Tuesday:	City tour of Astana	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Visiting the EXPO 2017 exhibition	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
July 5, Wednesday:	Official dinner	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

5. Dietary requirements
Dietary restrictions (if any):

6. Accommodation

Please book a room for me in the Astana Marriott Hotel

www.astanamarriott.kz

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rate: 84 000 KZT (VAT and breakfast incl.)
Check-in date:	Number of nights:	
Check-out date:	Credit Card No.:	
Credit Card expiry date:		

Terms and Conditions:

The fitness centre, the pool and the sauna are available free-of-charge for guests. The Hotel provides extra services for the room: mineral water when checking-in, a tea pot; an electric iron and ironing board, an individual safe in the room and the wireless Internet.

The minibar, phone calls and laundry services are to be paid by the guest.

The Hotel accepts American Express, MasterCard, Visa, Maestro. Private cheques are not accepted.

Cancellation policy

The cancellation is non-refundable because this period enjoys the Specialized "Astana EXPO 2017"

7. Comments

Date: _____ Signature: _____

Please email the completed registration form **no later than 13 June 2017** to the Organizing Committee:

Mukhabbat Sabirova, Chief Specialist, Protocol Division, Department of International Cooperation

Phone: +7 727 27704754, Mobile: +7 777 555 25 29, Email: sabirova@nationalbank.kz

Serzhan Balykbayev, Head of Protocol Division, International Cooperation Department

Phone: +7 727 330 24 55; Mobile: +7 701 362 47 35; E-mail: serzhan@nationalbank.kz

ITU Area Office for CIS, email: itumoscov@itu.int



National Bank of the Republic of Kazakhstan



International Telecommunication Union

ITU Regional Forum on Digital Financial Services Development *Astana, Republic of Kazakhstan, 4-5 July 2017*

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

1. Forum Venue

Astana Marriott Hotel

Address: 2, Dostyk Str., 010016 Astana, Republic of Kazakhstan

Telephone: +7 7172 620 770

Website: <http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/tsemc-astana-marriott-hotel/>

2. Registration

Registration of participants will start on 5 July 2017, Wednesday, at 09:00 in the event venue.

3. Languages

The Forum will be held in Russian and English with simultaneous interpretation.

4. Recommended hotels

The event will take place at the **Astana Marriott Hotel**. National Bank of Kazakhstan has made a group booking for the participants at a special rate of 84,000 KZT (around 267 USD) for single standard room including VAT and breakfast. Room quantity is limited therefore participants are invited to contact representatives of the National Bank of Kazakhstan to ensure availability.

The cancellation is **non-refundable** because this period enjoys the Specialized "Astana EXPO 2017".

The following hotels are recommended by the hosts:

Astana Marriott Hotel

Address: 2, Dostyk Str., 010016 Astana, Republic of Kazakhstan

Telephone: +7 7172 620 770

Web: <http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/tsemc-astana-marriott-hotel/>

Hilton Garden Inn Astana

Address: 15, Kabanbay-batyr Ave., 010010 Astana, Republic of Kazakhstan

Telephone: +7 717 275 6700

Web : <http://www.hilton.ru/hotels/hilton-garden-inn-astana/>

Special rate for single standard room of 132,288 KZT (around 420 USD) including VAT and breakfast is valid for the period of the EXPO 2017.

Park Inn Radisson Astana

Address: 8A, Sary Arka Ave. 010000 Astana, Republic of Kazakhstan

Telephone: +7 (717) 2670000

Web : <https://www.parkinn.ru/hotel-astana>

Special rate for single standard room of 87,360 KZT (around 276 USD) including VAT and breakfast is valid for the period of the EXPO 2017.

Wyndham Garden Astana

Address: 6/1, Turar Ryskulov Str., Esil district, Astana, Republic of Kazakhstan

Telephone: +7 7172 670144; +7 7172 620 142

Email: reservation@wyndhamgardenastana.com

Special rate for single standard room of 67,200 KZT (around 213 USD) including VAT and breakfast is valid for the period of the EXPO 2017.

Hotels in Astana may be overbooked in the period of Astana EXPO 2017 from 10 June to 10 September 2017. Participants are recommended to make their accommodation arrangements well in advance.

5. Transportation

National Bank of the Republic of Kazakhstan will arrange arrival/departure transfer in accordance with the information provided in the registration forms. The participants will be met at the International Arrivals Gate of the Astana International Airport by the Organizing Committee member carrying a name plate.

6. Contacts

ITU Area Office for CIS Mr. Farid Nakhli Programme Officer Telephone: +7 495 926 60 70 Fax: +7 495 926 60 73 Email: farid.nakhli@itu.int	National Bank of the Republic of Kazakhstan Ms. Mukhabbat Sabirova Chief Specialist, Protocol Division Department of International Cooperation Telephone: +7 727 27704754 Mobile: +7 777 555 25 29 Email: sabirova@nationalbank.kz Mr. Serzhan Balykbayev Head, Protocol Division International Cooperation Department Telephone: +7 727 330 24 55 Mobile: +7 775 542 35 81 Email: serzhan@nationalbank.kz
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7. Currency/exchange/credit cards

National currency unit in the Republic of Kazakhstan is Kazakh tenge (KZT). Credit cards are approved for payments in banks, big hotels, and some tourist agencies and shops.

As of 13 April 2017, the exchange rates were as follows:

1 USD = 311,76 KZT

1 EUR = 330,53 KZT

Banks are open from 9:00 to 18:00, Monday through Friday. Currency exchange is done by all banks.

8. General information

Astana has been in 1830 the capital city of the Republic of Kazakhstan since 10 June 1998. Founded as Akmolinsk, it served as a defensive fortification for Siberian Cossacks and was granted a town status on 26 September 1862. The city was renamed to Tselinograd on 20 March 1961 to mark the city's evolution as a cultural and administrative centre of the virgin lands campaign. In 1992, it was renamed Akmola, the modified original name meaning "a white grave". On 10 December 1997 Akmola replaced Almaty as the capital of Kazakhstan and was renamed Astana on 6 May 1998, which means "the capital city" in Kazakh. As of 1 May 2016, the population of Astana was 880,191 – that is third largest city of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Astana is located on the Ishim River in the north of the Republic of Kazakhstan, in Akmola Region.

9. Climate

The climate of Astana is extremely continental, with a cold snowy winter and torrid summer. In July, daily average temperature is +21° C, night average temperature is +18° C.

10. Time zone

Time in Astana (summer) – UTC/GMT + 6 hours.

11. Electrical devices

Voltage power in Kazakhstan - 220V / 50 Hz.

12. Communication tools

In the event venue, Forum participants will be provided with a Wi-Fi Internet access.

For telephone calls inside the city of Astana, dialing code is +7 7172. For international telephone calls from Astana, please dial: + the country dialing code, the settlement dialing code, the subscriber code or follow instructions on IP telephony card.

13. Visa

Requirements for entry the territory of the Republic of Kazakhstan are available on the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs: <http://mfa.gov.kz/index.php/en/consular-issues12>

Those participants who need an **entry visa** to the Republic of Kazakhstan are recommended to apply in advance to the consulate of the Republic of Kazakhstan in their country for information on visa requirements.

To receive visa support letter, kindly mark relevant section in the Registration Form.

	<p align="center">ITU Regional Forum on Digital Financial Services Development <i>Astana, Republic of Kazakhstan, 4-5 July 2017</i></p> <p align="center">Региональный форум МСЭ «Развитие цифровых финансовых услуг» <i>Астана, Республика Казахстан, 4-5 июля 2017</i></p>	
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Please return to:	Support Services Division ITU/BDT Geneva (Switzerland)	E-mail: fellowships@itu.int Tel: +41 22 730 5487 Fax: +41 22 730 5778
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Request for a fellowship to be submitted by 6 June 2017

	<u>Participation of women is encouraged</u> <u>Участие женщин приветствуется</u>	
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Country: _____		
Name of the Administration or Organization: _____		
Mr. / Ms. _____	(family name)	(given name)
Title: _____		
Address: _____		

Tel.: _____	Fax: _____	
E-mail: _____		
PASSPORT INFORMATION:		
Date of birth: _____		
Nationality: _____	Passport number: _____	
Date of issue: _____	In (place): _____	Valid until (date): _____

CONDITIONS 1. One full fellowship per eligible country (Low income countries). 2. One return ECO class air ticket by the most direct/economical route 3. A daily subsistence allowance to cover accommodation, meals and incidental expenses in Astana 3. Imperative that fellows be present from the first day and participate during the entire duration of the event
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Signature of fellowship candidate: _____	Date: _____
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TO VALIDATE FELLOWSHIP REQUEST, NAME AND SIGNATURE OF CERTIFYING OFFICIAL DESIGNATING PARTICIPANT MUST BE COMPLETED BELOW WITH OFFICIAL STAMP.	
Signature: _____	Date: _____