



**Telecommunication  
Development Bureau (BDT)**

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Geneva, 20 September 2017

To

- ITU-D Sector Members
- International Development Banks
- United Nations
- Specialized agencies of the United Nations
- International Development and Cooperation Agencies
- Other Regional or International Organizations
- Foundations
- Private Sector

**Subject: Meeting of Senior Experts on Financing Information and Communication Technology Projects: 21-22 February 2018, Geneva, Switzerland**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to invite your Organisation to a Meeting of Senior Experts on Financing Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Projects, which will take place at the Headquarters of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in Geneva, Switzerland, from 21 to 22 February 2018.

Information and Communication Technology play a catalytic role in the successful implementation of the 2030 agenda for sustainable development by countries. However, financing of ICT related projects has become a challenge for most of the development partners. This meeting seeks to provide a platform for experts to exchange views based on their experiences, on challenges and opportunities for financing and implementing of ICT projects in the current socio-economic environment.

The event will be attended by representatives of the private sector, development banks, national and regional development agencies, and foundations. The meeting will have a number of interactive roundtable sessions composed of diverse panelists who will share their perspectives, knowledge, and experience gained from implementing ICT projects under co-financing mechanisms based on partnerships. The experts are expected to propose concrete recommendations on how to avoid duplication, attract funds for ICT projects through co-financing arrangements based on win-win outcomes.

Please find hereto attached the draft programme. Further information on the meeting, including practical information, registration and other logistical information can be found on our website at:

<http://itu.int/go/MEFICT2018>. In addition, for any inquiries or any document submission to the meeting, please send to [bdtprjhq@itu.int](mailto:bdtprjhq@itu.int).

I look forward to the presence and active participation of your designated expert at this important meeting.

Yours faithfully,

[Original signed]

Brahima Sanou  
Director

Annex: Draft programme

# **Meeting of Senior Experts on Financing Information and Communication Technology Projects**

**Geneva, Switzerland**

**21-22 February 2018**

**DRAFT PROGRAMME**

## Wednesday, 21 February 2018

**08:30 – 09:30** Registration

**09:30 – 10:00** Opening

**10:00 – 10:30** Keynote address

- *To be confirmed: “The current and future state of financing projects for sustainable development – challenges, and opportunities.”*

**10:30 – 11:00** Group photo and coffee break

**11:00 – 12:30** Roundtable 1: Experience sharing related to ICT Project Financing and Implementation

The Senior Experts from participating Organizations will share information related to their work on ICT projects including project financing, working methods, and implementation.

**12:30 – 14:00** Lunch break

**14:00 – 15:00** Roundtable 1: Experience sharing related to ICT Project Financing and Implementation *(Continued)*

The Senior Experts from participating Organizations will share information related to their work on ICT projects including project financing, working methods, and implementation.

**15:00 – 15:30** Coffee break

**15:30 – 17:30** Roundtable 2: Co-financing mechanisms: how to achieve win-win outcomes for ICT projects for sustainable development

Participants will share information based on their past and current co-financing activities. The panelists will also highlight Key Success Factors in considering such arrangements.

## Thursday 22 February, 2018

### 09:00 – 10:00 Second keynote address

*To be confirmed: “From the private sector perspective - the current and future state of financing projects for sustainable development and social entrepreneurship – challenges, and opportunities”.*

### 10:00 – 10:30 Coffee break

### 10:30 – 12:30 Roundtable 3: Key findings – how do we build synergies?

Based on the discussions in Roundtables 1 & 2, the roundtable will look at key findings and develop key recommendations on how to build synergies and pool resources for future effective financing and implementation of ICT projects for sustainable development.

### 12:30 – 14:00 Lunch break

### 14:00 – 16:00 Roundtable 4: Discussions on the way forward – our future work

Participants will be invited to share and discuss their organizations ‘priority areas in the area of ICTs taking into account the contribution to the 2030 development agenda. ITU will present its priority areas for 2018-2021 in the form of the Regional Initiatives, adopted by Member States during WTDC-17 and showcase how ICT projects have the potential to fast forward progress on the SDGs. Based on participating organizations’ priorities, discussions will revolve around building multi-stakeholder engagements through public-private sector partnerships and a call to co-financing ICT projects by development partners.

### 16:00 – 16:30 Coffee break

### 16:30 – 16:45 Final conclusions

### 16:45 – 17:00 Closing