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| Ref.: | Circular BDT/IP/CSTG-5 | | Geneva, 13 June 2018 |
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|  |  |  | To:   * Administrations of ITU Member States * Resolution 99 (Rev. Busan, 2014) * ITU-D Sector Members, Associates and Academia * Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen for ITU-D Study Group 1 and 2 * Rapporteurs and Vice-Rapporteurs for ITU-D Study Group 1 and 2 Questions |
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| **Subject:** | **Rapporteur Group meetings of ITU-D Study Group 1 (17-28 September 2018) and Study Group 2 (1-12 October 2018), Geneva, Switzerland** | | |
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| Dear Sir/Madam,  In consultation with Ms Regina Fleur Assoumou Bessou (Côte d’Ivoire), Chairman of ITU-D Study Group 1 (SG 1) and Dr Ahmad Sharafat (Islamic Republic of Iran), Chairman of Study Group 2 (SG 2), I am pleased to invite you to the ITU-D SG 1 and 2 Rapporteur Group meetings, which will be held from 17 to 28 September 2018 and from 1 to 12 October 2018 respectively at ITU headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.  These meetings will review the outlines for Question deliverables, present contributions that are of relevance to the work, draft surveys and decide on other means of collecting required information, such as case studies and lessons learned. Membership is encouraged to submit contributions to the work of the study Questions in accordance with the outlines of the Question deliverables and scope of work. An integral part of the Rapporteur Group meetings includes focus sessions/workshops that will target and discuss in-depth specific topics of a Question’s work plan.  The ITU-D SGs are open to participation by ITU Member States, ITU-D Sector Members, Associates and Academia who are invited to attend SGs and their Rapporteur Group meetings and provide contributions to the relevant study Questions.  The time management plans and draft agendas for these meetings will be shared in due time on the website for each meeting (see Annex 1). Detailed information on how to register and apply for fellowships, how to submit contributions, along with other practical information is attached in Annex 2.  Ms Christine Sund and Mr Kyung-Tak Lee, Advisors for ITU-D study groups, are at your disposal should you require further information. Tel: +41 22 730 5999, Fax: +41 22 730 5484, E-mail address: devsg@itu.int  I look forward to your continued active participation in the work of our ITU-D SGs and their Rapporteur Groups  Yours faithfully,  [Original signed]  Brahima Sanou  Director  cc: ITU Regional Offices  Focal Points at Headquarters and in the Regional/Area Offices for ITU-D Study Group 1 and 2 Questions | | | |

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| **Annex 1**   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | Draft agenda and schedule of meetings  The draft agendas and schedules for the **ITU-D Study Group 1 and 2 Rapporteur Group meetings** can be found at the links below:  ITU-D Study Group 1 Rapporteur Groups  Relevant websites:   * [Meeting page](https://www.itu.int/net4/ITU-D/CDS/sg/blkmeetings.asp?lg=1&sp=2018&blk=20350) * [Draft agendas](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-SG01.RGQ-OJ/) * [Draft time management plan](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-SG01.RGQ-ADM/) * [Reports of the April/May 2018 meetings with work plans and draft outlines of deliverables](https://www.itu.int/md/d18-sg01-r)   ITU-D Study Group 2 Rapporteur Groups  Relevant websites:   * [Meeting page](https://www.itu.int/net4/ITU-D/CDS/sg/blkmeetings.asp?lg=1&sp=2018&blk=20351) * [Draft agendas](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-SG02.RGQ-OJ/) * [Draft time management plan](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-SG02.RGQ-ADM/) * [Reports of the May 2018 meetings with work plans and draft outlines of deliverables](https://www.itu.int/md/d18-sg02-r)   **ANNEX 2**  Registration, visa support and fellowship requests  ***Registration online***  **Registration** will be carried out **exclusively online**.Under the new registration system, each participant interested in attending the meetings in person or remotely should complete and submit a registration form to be accessed from the following link: <http://www.itu.int/net3/ITU-D/meetings/registration/>  With your TIES log-in credentials, you can register for the ITU-D SG 1 and 2 Rapporteur Group meetings, including related focus sessions/workshops. In case you do not have TIES access, you can create your user account by following the steps available [here](https://www.itu.int/en/ties-services/Pages/default.aspx).  **Note:** If you already created your user account when you registered for ITU-D SG meetings in April and May 2018, then your user account is still valid.  Online registration will open on **Monday, 18 June 2018** at the following link: <http://www.itu.int/net3/ITU-D/meetings/registration/>  All registration requests for participation in these meetings must be **validated by the Designated Focal Points (DFPs)** of administrations and entities entitled to participate. The list of Designated Focal Points is available at the following link: <http://www.itu.int/net3/ITU-D/meetings/registration/>. To modify the contact details of a Designated Focal Point or to change the Designated Focal Point, an official letter from an authorized official should be sent to the BDT Meetings Registration Service (by fax: +41 22 730 5545/+41 22 730 5484 or by e-mail to: [bdtmeetingsregistration@itu.int](mailto:bdtmeetingsregistration@itu.int)), providing the new DFP’s last name, first name and e-mail address.  ***Visa support***  When needed, **visa support** must also be requested by the participant during the online registration process. Please note that a strict procedure for visas is in force in Switzerland and participants are urged to read carefully the visa procedure available on the [website](http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Study-Groups/2018-2021/Pages/delegate-resources/visa-procedures.aspx). Please note that the processing of a request for a Schengen visa takes a **minimum of three weeks**.  ***On-site badging***  **On-site** badging will begin at 08h00 on **Monday, 17 September 2018**, in the Montbrillant building. Registered delegates must bring their “Confirmation of Registration” letter received from ITU, along with their identification card or passport.  You will find registration details and all other logistical information such as accommodation and visa arrangements on the dedicated websites for the meetings: **SG 1 Rapporteur Group** [website](https://www.itu.int/net4/ITU-D/CDS/sg/blkmeetings.asp?lg=1&sp=2018&blk=20350) and **SG 2 Rapporteur Group** [website](https://www.itu.int/net4/ITU-D/CDS/sg/blkmeetings.asp?lg=1&sp=2018&blk=20351).  ***Fellowship requests***  Within the budget available, **onefellowship or two partial fellowships per country for each study group** may be granted to participants from countries with a gross domestic product (GDP) per capita of less than USD 2000, with priority to least developed countries (LDCs), and to participants who will present a contribution of direct relevance to at least one specific Question under study. Fellowship applications, limited to one person per eligible country, must be authorized by the relevant Administration of the ITU Member State and submitted before the deadline (**26 July 2018**). Member States are encouraged to put forward qualified women candidates for fellowships.  In order to maximize the participation of eligible Member States within the very limited budget, and taking into account the large number of fellowship requests, an appropriate **daily subsistence allowance** intended to cover cost of accommodation, meals and miscellaneous expenses will be provided. ITU will also provide **an economy class air ticket** by the most direct route.  Please note that depending on the number of eligible requests, the countries that are beneficiaries of a fellowship may have to contribute partially to the cost of the fellowship.  Please note that you must first **submit** your registration for the specific study group meeting before you can receive the fellowship form. During the registration process, please **tick** the box “I will request support in obtaining a fellowship” **and** the sub-meeting(s) you are interested in. You will receive the pre-filled fellowship form.  **The approved and signed fellowship form** must be returned to the Fellowship Service(by e-mail to [fellowships@itu.int](mailto:fellowships@itu.int) or by fax: +41 22 730 57 78), **no later than** (**26 July 2018**).  *Forms received after the deadline will not be considered.*  Interpretation  Interpretation will be provided based on the requests of participants. You are, therefore, invited to indicate on the registration form, before **2 August 2018**, whether you require a language other than English.  Remote participation in the meetings  Interactive remote participation services will be provided for the ITU-D SG 1 and 2 Rapporteur Group meetings. In parallel, the standard webcast in all languages of the respective meeting will be provided.  A **TIES account** is required to access both the interactive remote participation and the webcast services. Information on how to request a TIES account can be found [here](http://www.itu.int/TIES/index.html).  Details on Questions under study  The titles and definitions of the Questions to be dealt with by the study groups, as approved by WTDC-17, can be found on the ITU-D SGs website in all official languages: SG 1 [website](https://www.itu.int/net4/ITU-D/CDS/sg/questions.asp?lg=1&sp=2018&stg=1) and SG 2 [website](https://www.itu.int/net4/ITU-D/CDS/sg/questions.asp?lg=1&sp=2018&stg=2).  Contributions to the ITU-D study groups  Your contributions to the work of the ITU-D study Questions will be highly appreciated. You may of course feel free to coordinate your proposals with other Administrations and organizations. A joint contribution requires the written approval of the parties involved in order to authorize its release.  As per Resolution 1 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017), inputs to SGs or Rapporteur Groups may be of three types: a) Contributions for action; b) Contributions for information; and, c) Liaison statements. The following applies:   * All contributions *for action* received **45 calendar days** before a meeting shall be translated and published not less than seven calendar days before the said meeting. Beyond this 45-day deadline, the contributor may submit the document in the original language and in any official language into which they may have been translated by the author. * All contributions received less than **45 calendar days but at least 12 calendar days** before a meeting shall be published but not translated. The secretariat shall publish these delayed contributions as soon as possible and not later than three working days after receipt. * Contributions received less than **12 calendar days** before a meeting shall not be entered on the agenda. They shall not be distributed but shall be retained for the next meeting. No contributions shall be accepted after the opening of the meeting. * All contributions should be submitted with an **abstract** providing an overview of the content of the document. If appropriate, present **lessons learned and suggested best-practices** in the document. The contribution should clearly indicate what kind of action the meeting is requested to take. * Contributions submitted to a meeting *for information* are those which do not require any specific action under the agenda of the meeting (e.g. descriptive documents submitted by Member States, Sector Members, Associates, Academia, or duly authorized entities and organizations, general policy statements, etc.), as well as other documents considered by the Study Group Chairman and/or the Rapporteur, in consultation with the author, as being for information. These documents should be published in the original language only (and in any other official language into which they may have been translated by the author) and appear under a separate numbering scheme from the contributions submitted for action. * Contributions *for information* need to be submitted with a **detailed abstract** which will be translated for the meeting. * Documents submitted to the study groups as **contributions should not exceed five (5) pages**. For existing texts, cross-references should be used instead of repeating material *in extenso*. Information material can be placed in annexes or provided on request as an information document.   Contributions must be submitted using the online template available at: <http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/CDS/contributions/sg/index.asp>. Please attach the original Word version of your contribution to the online submission form to ensure that all hyperlinks, graphics and tables are correctly displayed.  In accordance with provision in § 13.2 of Resolution 1 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017), the deadline for the submission of contributions for translation has been set to **2 August 2018** for SG 1 RGs and **16 August 2018** for SG 2 Rapporteur Groups. Documents arriving after the deadline will be distributed in the original language only.   | **Meeting** | **Date** | **Deadline for fellowship applications** | **Deadline for interpretation requests** | **Deadline for submission of documents for translation** | **Deadline for submission of documents without translation** | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **SG 1 Rapporteur Groups** | 17-28 September 2018 | 26 July 2018 | 2 August 2018 | 2 August 2018 | 4 September 2018 | | **SG 2 Rapporteur Groups** | 1-12 October 2018 | 26 July 2018 | 16 August 2018 | 16 August 2018 | 18 September 2018 |   Documentation, collaboration and networking  The ITU-D SG related meetings will be paperless. Delegates are urged to bring their laptops in order to download all meeting documents locally and to access the website for new documents. A user guide to synchronize documents is available [here](http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Study-Groups/2018-2021/Pages/delegate-resources/synchronization-application.aspx).  The **ITU-D Events Mobile and Desktop Application** provide meeting participants with a simple and fast way to access, on computers, smart-phones and tablets, all relevant documents and other practical information related to the meetings. Details on how to download the application can be found [here](http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Conferences/Pages/mobileapp.aspx).  Various **collaborative tools** are available to facilitate collaborators’ electronic participation in the work of the ITU-D SGs. While **mailing lists** allow for the exchange of e-mails amongst experts interested in the topics under study, the collaborative SharePoint sites provide a virtual meeting place for participants, with a calendar of activities, announcements, and a document exchange area to facilitate the work in between and during the meetings. An area exclusively for the management teams of the study groups is also available with similar facilities. Information on the collaborative tools can be found [here](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Study-Groups/2018-2021/Pages/collaborative-tools.aspx).  Delegates are asked to ensure that they have TIES accounts to be able to access the documents for the Study Group meetings through the website, collaborative sites, synchronization tool and ITU-D Events Mobile and Desktop Application. Information on how to request a TIES account can be found [here](http://www.itu.int/TIES/index.html).  Sponsorship opportunities  Please be informed that sponsorship opportunities are proposed for activities taking place around the ITU-D SG 1 and 2 Rapporteur Group meetings and associated focus sessions/workshops (e.g. exhibition, coffee/tea breaks, breakfasts, etc.).This is a great opportunity for your entity to enhance visibility and promote your brand.  Details on these opportunities and related benefits can be found online at: <http://www.itu.int/go/itudsponsorships>. **If you have any questions, BDT remains at your disposal and can be contacted by e-mail:** [bdtpartners@itu.int](mailto:bdtpartners@itu.int)**.**  Practical information  A list of Geneva hotels offering preferential ITU rates can be found on the website [here](http://www.itu.int/travel/).  Do not hesitate to contact the **ITU-D Study Group Secretariat** with any questions you may have regarding these meetings and the activities of the ITU-D SGs (by e-mail: [devsg@itu.int](mailto:devsg@itu.int) or tel.: +41 22 730 5999).  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | |