



Telecommunication  
Development Bureau (BDT)



Ref.: BDT/PDD/MPS/DM/188

Geneva, 17 March 2021

To:  
Academia and Research Institutions

**Subject: Know Your Members: Consultative session with Academia members of the ITU (Virtual),  
15 April 2021, 13h00-14h00 CET**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am pleased to invite you to participate in our **Know Your Members** Series – a dialogue platform for Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) Members to interact and exchange views with the leadership of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT). This includes getting an update on ongoing and planned work within the Sector provided by the BDT, and views from Members on how we could strengthen our relationship and engagement in order to enrich your membership.

The first Know Your Members session will focus on the **Academia and Research Institutes community**. It will be held virtually (English only) on **15 April 2021 from 13:00 to 14:00 CET**. In order to get the best out of this upcoming consultative meeting, discussions will be under the Chatham House Rule.

Registration to participate is required. Please [register here](#).

As well as providing a unique opportunity to update you on ongoing and future work of BDT and partnership opportunities, I look forward to benefitting from your suggestions on how we could bring more value to Academia and strengthen your participation in the work of ITU-D. Further, this initiative comes at an opportune time as we prepare for the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-21, 8-19 November 2021, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia) so that your views could contribute to the inputs to the Conference.

I look forward to your participation and attach the concept note for this event for your information.

Yours faithfully,

[Original signed]

Doreen Bogdan-Martin  
Director



# Know Your Members

Consultative session with

**ITU Academia and Research Institutions**

15 April 2021, Virtual, 13h00-14h00 CET

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## Background:

Since 2019, the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) has been carrying out a series of consultative sessions with International Telecommunication Union (ITU)'s Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) Members with the aim of increasing participation in the work of the Sector.

To strengthen engagement and build strong relations between the ITU-D Membership and ITU affiliated Academia and Research Institutes, the Director of BDT has decided to launch the **Know Your Members** Series, by holding one on one sessions with each of ITU-D's Member community (see communities in annex). The sessions will be informal, two-way, and provide an opportunity for an exchange of information and strengthening relations with the Membership.

## Objective:

The **Know Your Members** Series was conceptualised to provide personalized and targeted opportunities for Membership to share views openly and freely with the BDT Director on their participation in the work of the ITU-D Sector and make suggestions, as necessary.

- ✓ Provide the Director of BDT with an opportunity to update Academia Members on ongoing and future work, and partnership opportunities.
- ✓ Gather her suggestions on how to strengthen participation in ITU-D work which could include Study Groups, Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG), and the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC) preparations.
- ✓ Get to know partners at a more personal level and the specificity of their community and address their needs.
- ✓ Use this platform to ensure retention of current members and encourage them in the recruitment of new members.

## Session Format:

This first Know your Members session will focus on Academia and Research Institutes affiliated to the ITU. It will be held virtually (English only) on **15 April 2021, from 13h00-14h00 CET**. The session will run as follows:

- Welcoming remarks by the Director of BDT.
- Update on ongoing work in BDT and opportunities which are of interest to the Academia Members.
- Academia and Research Institutions updates on ongoing initiatives and expression of interests on the ongoing and planned BDT work.
- Open conversation on how to strengthen collaboration.
- Concluding remarks.