



**Telecommunication
Development Bureau (BDT)**

Ref.: BDT/DIR/DM/003

Geneva, 14 April 2023

To: - ITU Member Administrations and
Regulators in the African Region
- Sector Members and Academia in the
African Region

**Subject: Invitation to Information Session on Resilient Digital Infrastructure for Meaningful
Connectivity: Connect2Recover initiative**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am pleased to announce that the Telecommunication Development Bureau of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is organizing a virtual information session on Resilient Digital Infrastructure for Meaningful Connectivity on 2 May 2023 from 12:00 - 15:00 CET. The session will be conducted in English with interpretation in French.

The COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent increase of online activities and provision of services in education, medicine, government services and e-commerce, stress the importance and need for digital connectivity and resilient infrastructure.

Many countries unfortunately are confronted by coverage gaps. As part of implementing the outcomes of the Kigali Action Plan especially on expansion of broadband infrastructure for better connectivity, we have organized this meeting to provide a platform to exchange views on best practices and share knowledge under the Connect2Recover initiative. Connect2Recover focuses on ensuring available, affordable, and resilient digital infrastructure in beneficiary countries that are recovering from COVID-19 or from natural disasters. The agenda for the information session is attached in the Annex 1.

We would appreciate receiving your participation confirmation by submitting the nomination of participants with their name, designation, organisation, and email address. Please send to: connect2recover@itu.int. Mr. Sameer Sharma who is responsible for Special Initiatives (email: sameer.sharma@itu.int) and Mr. Emmanuel Niyikora from the ITU Regional Office for Africa (email: emmanuel.niyikora@itu.int) are at your disposal for any enquiries.

We look forward to your participation at the information session.

Yours faithfully,

[Original signed]

Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava
Director

Annex 1

Connect2Recover:
Information Session on Resilient Digital Infrastructure for
Meaningful Connectivity
2 May 2023, 12:00 - 15:00 CET

12:00 – 12:20	<p>Welcome Remarks: Mr. Osamu Onodera, Director-General, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, Japan</p> <p>Opening Remarks: Dr. Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava, Director, Telecommunication Development Bureau, ITU</p>
12:20 – 12:30	Group Photo
12:30 – 13:00	Connect2Recover Initiative: Mr. Sameer Sharma, Head, Special Initiatives, ITU
13:00 – 13:30	<p>Session 1: Measures to increase resilient infrastructure</p> <p>Objective: This session shares the role played by an assessment of gaps and bottlenecks in increasing resilience of digital infrastructure. In addition, migration to IPv6 enhances resilience and security of the network, in assisting a country transition to a digital economy.</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resilience assessments conducted in Armenia and Kazakhstan: lessons learned – Mr. Farid Nakhli, Programme Coordinator, Regional Office for CIS, ITU • Establishing IPv6 laboratory in Montenegro: an update – University of Montenegro (TBC) <p>Q & A</p>
13:30 – 14:00	<p>Session 2: Focus on emergency preparedness</p> <p>Objective: Emergency preparedness is an important aspect of resilience infrastructure, to better prepare for future natural disasters. In this session, there will be sharing on early warning systems, as well as lessons learned from Haiti in the aftermath of their natural disaster.</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early warning systems – Ms. Vanessa Gray, Head, Environment & Emergency Telecommunications Division, ITU • Post-disaster resilience assessment in Haiti: lessons learned - Mr. Gregory Domond, Chairman, Promotic <p>Q & A</p>
14:00 – 14:30	<p>Session 3: Capacity building and skills development</p> <p>Objective: Skills development and capacity building are fundamental pillars in ensuring resilience and to transform the economy into a digitally oriented economy.</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborating with BDT Skills and capacity development initiatives (Digital Transformation Centres & ITU Academy Training Centres) - TBC • Partnering with academia under C2R research competition - Strathmore University (TBC) <p>Q & A</p>
14:30 – 15:00	<p>Resilient digital infrastructure in Africa and way forward, Ms. Karen Woo, Project Officer, ITU</p> <p>Closing Remarks: Ms. Christine Sund, Senior Advisor, Regional Office for Africa, ITU</p>

