

20 October 2023

ITU-EC Regional Forum for Europe "Accessible Europe: ICT 4 All" 13-14 December 2023, Madrid, Spain

Dear Sir/Madam,

Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) are integral in fostering inclusive environments and strengthening accessibility. The integration of accessibility requirements, standards, and universal design principles from the conception stage is essential for developing effective ICT products, services, and applications. By doing so, these technologies can remove barriers, thereby offering individuals with disabilities greater opportunities for independent living, educational access, employment, and active involvement in cultural and political spheres.

In this context, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the European Commission (EC), have joined forces to hold the fifth edition of <u>Accessible Europe</u>, which will be a multi-stakeholder platform to advance ICT accessibility across Europe, in line with the ITU Regional Initiative for Europe <u>"EUR 3: Digital</u> <u>inclusion and skills development</u>", in coordination with the AccessibleEU Resource Centre and within the framework of the Spanish Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

It is our great pleasure to invite your organization to participate in this Regional Forum for Europe that will take place in **Madrid, Spain, from 13 to 14 December 2023**, and will be hosted by Fundación ONCE.

For more details, we invite you to visit the Forum website at <u>http://itu.int/go/Accessible-Europe-23</u>, where information on the agenda, registration and logistics, together with other useful links, will be soon available and constantly updated. Please be informed that there is no participation fee.

We look forward to your active participation.

Yours faithfully,

[Original signed]

Mr. Joost KORTE Director General Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion European Commission [Original signed]

Mr. Cosmas Luckyson ZAVAZAVA Director Telecommunication Development Bureau International Telecommunication Union