



**Telecommunication
Development Bureau (BDT)**

Ref.: BDT/DNS/EET/DM027

Geneva, 20 March 2024

To :
Administrations of ITU Member States

Subject: Pre-positioning of ITU' satellite equipment for disaster response

Dear Sir/Madam,

For many years, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) has been supporting countries in response to natural disasters through the deployment of satellite terminals. ITU' satellite equipment is used to restore vital communication links, which are often damaged or destroyed when disasters strike. This equipment is critical for the coordination of humanitarian assistance by government and humanitarian agencies.

We note that the number of requests from Member States has been increasing proportionately with the frequency of disasters due to climate change impacts. In order to reduce the response time in our interventions, I have decided to preposition our equipment in the regions closer to countries. The pre-positioning has been done as follows:

- Harare, Zimbabwe, at the Postal and Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (POTRAZ), with the aim of supporting the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Member States.
- Bridgetown, Barbados, at the ITU Area Office for Caribbean Countries, has been chosen as a hub to support the Caribbean countries as well as the Americas region.
- Dubai, United Arab Emirates hosted at the World Food Programme (WFP) – Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) warehouse in Dubai to support countries within the Arab, rest of African countries, and Asia and the Pacific regions.

Negotiations are underway with the Government of Thailand to preposition equipment there for the region. Once that is finalized, part of the equipment currently stored in Dubai will be re-located to Bangkok. Some equipment remains stored in Geneva, at ITU HQ premises to support deployments where demand outstrips the available supplies.

It is my fervent hope that the prepositioning of this equipment will ensure rapid response to requests from countries affected by disasters. Please note that, we will ensure continued close coordination between our teams in Geneva and in the regions.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava', is positioned above the printed name.

Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava
Director