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| The International Teleocmmunication Union - Connecting the World. | **International telecommunication union****Telecommunication Standardization Bureau** |  |
|  | Geneva, 12 November 2018 |
| Ref: | **TSB Circular 125**TSB Events/VM | **To:**- Administrations of Member States of the Union;- ITU-T Sector Members;- ITU-T Associates;- ITU Academia |
| Contact: | **Vijay Mauree** |
| Tel: | +41 22 730 5591 |
| Fax: | +41 22 730 5853 |
| E-mail: | figi-symposium@itu.inttsbevents@itu.int  | **Copy to:**- The Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of ITU-T Study Groups;- The Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau;- The Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau;- The Head of the ITU Office for the Arab Region;- The ITU Regional and Area Offices  |
| Subject: | **Financial Inclusion Global Initiative (FIGI) Symposium (Cairo, Egypt, 22-24 January 2019)** |

Dear Sir/Madam,

1 I would like to inform you that the second edition of the **Financial Inclusion Global Initiative (FIGI) Symposium** will take place in Cairo, Egypt from 22 to 24 January 2019 at the Royal Maxim Palace Kempinski Hotel, First Settlement, Ring Road, 11477, Cairo, Egypt. The theme for the Symposium is *Enabling Inclusive Digital Financial Services Ecosystems: National and Thematic Insights*.

2 The Symposium is organized by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), jointly with the World Bank Group and the Committee on Payments and Market Infrastructures with the support of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and is kindly hosted by the National Telecommunication Regulatory Authority (NTRA).

3 According to the [World Bank 2017 Global Findex Report](https://globalfindex.worldbank.org/), an estimated 1.7 billion adults lack access to a transaction account and are excluded from the formal financial system. While the financially excluded comprise overwhelmingly of poorer, rural adults, particularly women living in developing countries, roughly two-thirds of excluded adults (approximately 1.1. billion) own a mobile phone that can be leveraged to gain access to financial products and services. Financial technologies and digital financial services (DFS) offer great potential to accelerate financial inclusion and address gender gaps by meeting the financial needs of poor and unbanked consumers.

4 The Symposium aims to:

* Provide a unique platform to share lessons learned about the different digital financial models and services, the regulatory sandbox approach, ways to mitigate risks in fast‑changing ICT and digital payment environments, and the impact of emerging technologies on the ecosystem;
* Showcase digital financial inclusion initiatives and innovations taking place at the international level; and
* Provide thought leadership on digital financial inclusion strategies and technological innovations in the area of DFS.

5 The Symposium will bring together telecom/ICT and financial regulators, policymakers, digital financial services providers, payment system organizations and other DFS stakeholders from around the world.

6 This Symposium will be held in English only.

7 Participation in the Symposium is open to ITU Member States, Sector Members, Associates and Academic Institutions and to any individual from a country that is a member of ITU who wishes to contribute to the work. This includes individuals who are also members of international, regional and national organizations. Participation in the Symposium is free of charge and open to all.

8 Information related to the Symposium, including the programme, visa application and practical information for participants, will be made available on the Symposium’s website at the following address: [http://itu.int/go/FIGI2019](http://www.itu.int/go/FIGI2019). Participants are advised to check the Symposium website periodically for updates.

9 To enable the host and ITU to make the necessary arrangements, I should be grateful if you would register online at [http://itu.int/go/figi2019reg](http://www.itu.int/go/figi2019reg) as soon as possible, but **no later than 10 January 2019.** **Please note that pre-registration of participants for the Symposium is mandatory and carried out exclusively online**.

10 Participants who wish to apply for funding to attend the Symposium will find the relevant information in **Annexes 1** and **2**. Participants who need to receive a personalized letter of invitation in order to attend are requested to fill in the form in **Annex 2**. Participants requiring assistance should contact Mr Vijay Mauree: figi-symposium@itu.int.

11 I would remind you that citizens of some countries are required to obtain a visa in order to enter and spend any time in Egypt. **The visa must be requested at least six (6) weeks before the date of beginning of the Symposium** and obtained from the office (embassy or consulate) representing Egypt in your country or, if there is no such office in your country, from the one that is closest to the country of departure. Participants needing a letter of support for their visa should refer to **Annex 2** for further information. **Please note that requests for visa support letters can be considered only after you have registered on the event website.**

 **Key deadlines:**

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| 30 November 2018 | * Submit requests for visa support letters (see Annex 2)
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| * Submit requests for a personalized letter of invitation (see Annex 2)
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| 7 December 2018 | - Submit requests for funding (see Annexes 1 and 2)  |
| 10 January 2019  | - Pre-registration ([http://itu.int/go/figi2019reg](http://www.itu.int/go/figi2019reg)) |

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| Yours faithfully,*(signed)*Chaesub LeeDirector of the TelecommunicationStandardization Bureau**Annexes:** 2 | C:\Users\restivo\AppData\Local\Temp\Rar$DIa9396.15483\Unitag_QRCode_1539850954233.pngLatest meeting information |

**ANNEX 1**

**Funding for participants from least developed
and low income countries**

Funding for participants from least developed and low income countriesmay be provided through ITU. Please note that the decision criteria to grant this funding include but are not limited to the following:

1. Available budget;
2. Participation of speakers from Least Developed Countries or low Income Developing Countries (<https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/gap/Documents/Fellowships_BSG_EligibleCountries.pdf>);
3. Equitable distribution among countries and regions; and
4. Gender balance.

Preference will be given to national regulators and public officials. Funding requests (please use enclosed form in **Annex 2**), must be returned to ITU no later than **7 December 2018**.

**ANNEX 2**

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| C:\Users\restivo\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\Content.Outlook\2XA4AODR\logo ITU blue UN (5) (003).png | **REQUEST FORM FOR FUNDING, VISA SUPPORT & PERSONALIZED INVITATION****2nd FIGI Symposium****22 -24 January 2019****Cairo, Egypt** | C:\Users\restivo\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\Content.Outlook\2XA4AODR\logo ITU blue UN (5) (003).png |

**All fields are mandatory.**

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| Registration ID (is required) |  | Register online for the meeting to obtain the registration ID ([http://itu.int/go/figi2019reg](http://www.itu.int/go/figi2019reg)) |
| Title (e.g., Mr, Mrs, Dr …) |  |
| First name  |  |
| Last name |  |
| Date of Birth (dd/mm/yy) |  |
| Gender (Male/Female) |  |
| Job title |  |
| Name of Company/Organization |  |
| Passport number |  |
| Nationality as written on passport |  |
| Passport Expiry Date (dd/mm/yy) |  |
| Company/Organization mailing address | Address |  |
| Postal Code |  |
| Country |  |
| Telephone number: | Email address: |
|  | **Note instructions to follow below so your request can be processed:** |
| **Participant Request** | **Response (Yes/No)** | **Instructions for each request** |
| I am applying for **funding** to attend the Symposium: (Yes or No) |   | E-mail the completed Annex 2 and an official letter of nomination from your employer to figi-symposium@itu.int before **7 December 2018** |
| I require a **personalized letter of invitation**: (Yes or No) |  | E-mail the completed Annex 2 to figi-symposium@itu.int by **30 November 2018** |
| I require a **visa support letter**: (Yes or No) |  | E-mail the completed Annex 2, an official letter of nomination from your employer and a scanned copy of your passport to the host at beltabie@tra.gov.eg with a copy to figi-symposium@itu.int before**30 November 2018** |
| Specify city and country of departure | City: Country: |
| Your stay in Cairo(dd/mm/yy) | Date of arrival  |  |
| Date of departure  |  |
| Participated in previous FIGI Symposium: (yes/no) |  |
| Date : | Signature:  |

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