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| The International Teleocmmunication Union - Connecting the World. | **International telecommunication union****Telecommunication Standardization Bureau** |  |
|  | Geneva, 16 April 2021 |
| **Ref:** | **TSB Circular 307** | **To:**- Administrations of Member States of the Union;- ITU-T Sector Members;- ITU-T Associates;- ITU Academia;- The African Telecommunications Union;- The ITU Regional Office for Africa Region |
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| **E-mail:** | u4ssc@itu.int  | **Copy to:**- The Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of Study Groups;- The Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau;- The Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau |
| **Subject:** | **ITU-T SG20 RG-AFR Virtual Forum on “Accelerating Digital Transformation in Africa”(2 June 2021)** |

Dear Sir/Madam,

1 I am pleased to inform you that­ the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), ITU-T SG20, is organizing the **RG-AFR** **Virtual Forum on “Accelerating Digital Transformation in Africa”**. This forum will take place virtually from 0900 to 1130 hours, Geneva time, on **02 June 2021**.

2 This virtual forum will be held in English only.

3 The forum will provide a platform to discuss the role of emerging technologies and standards such as IoT, digital twins, drones, AI, and other information and communication technologies to advance digital transformation. These technologies are essential to sustainability, liveability, inclusion, resilience and economic prosperity in the era of the 4th industrial revolution.

However, the digital transformation process can entail challenges just as it provides opportunities. Strategy setting and policy making tools supported by international best practices, evidence and standardization are needed to assist countries, cities, business and other organizations to undergo their digital transformation processes effectively and efficiently, maximize the desired positive outcomes and return on technological investment, and accelerate progress toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

This virtual forum will explore these themes in the African context.

4 The forum will be followed by the third meeting of ITU-T Study Group 20 Regional Group for Africa (SG20RG-AFR), which is planned to be run fully virtual on 3 June 2021 from 1000 to 1300 and 1400 to 1600 hours, Geneva time.

5 Participation in the virtual forum 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 and who wishes to contribute to the work. This includes individuals who are also members of international, regional and national organizations. Participation is free of charge.

6 Information relating to this virtual forum including the draft programme, speakers, remote connection details, registration link, etc. will be available on the event website at the following address: <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/climatechange/Pages/20210602.aspx>. This website will be updated regularly as new or modified information becomes available. Participants are encouraged to check the website periodically for the latest updates. Kindly note that registration to the forum is mandatory.

Yours faithfully,

Chaesub Lee
Director of the Telecommunication
Standardization Bureau