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| The International Teleocmmunication Union - Connecting the World. | **International telecommunication union****Telecommunication Standardization Bureau** |  |
|  | Geneva, 9 April 2024 |
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| **E-mail:** | tsbevents@itu.int | **Copy to:**- The Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Study Groups- The Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau- The Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau- The ITU Regional Office for Africa- The ITU Area Office for Africa |
| **Subject:** | **15th Symposium on ICT, Environment, Climate Change and Circular Economy (Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso,** **7 – 9 May 2024)** |

Dear Sir/Madam,

1 I am pleased to inform you that the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), together with the One Planet Network, ECOS, and the Secretariat of the Basel Convention are organizing the “**15th Symposium on ICT, Environment, Climate Change and Circular Economy**”, taking place on **7-9 May 2024** in **Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.** The theme of this year’s symposium is *“Digital Solutions for a Sustainable Future: Integrating Climate Action, Circular Economy, Data, and International Standards”.* The symposium will be kindly hosted by the Ministère de la Transition digitale des postes et des communications électroniques at l'Hôtel Silmandé, Ouagadougou.

2 Advancing sustainability and promoting a circular economy are critical imperatives for African cities to address environmental challenges while fostering economic growth. This innovative 3-day event is designed to delve into solutions for addressing e-waste challenges, including issues related to conflict mineral extraction. Each day will focus on a specific theme, such as environmental efficiency infrastructure, data on e‑waste, circular economy principles, and the pivotal role of the ICT sector in fostering commitment. Additionally, the event will emphasize the importance and role of standards, providing hands-on training on the standards process, participation, and contribution, as standards play a crucial role in translating climate actions into tangible results. Through interactive sessions, presentations, and discussions, the event will bring together stakeholders from government, industry, academia, and civil society to exchange ideas, share best practices, and identify actionable strategies to advance sustainability initiatives.

3 The Symposium will be collocated with the meeting of the [ITU-T Study Group 5 Regional Group for Africa](https://www.itu.int/en/itu-t/regionalgroups/sg05-afr/Pages/default.aspx) taking place from 7-9 May 2024at the same venue. The Symposium will be held in English with interpretation in French. Remote participation will be provided.

4 The symposium aims to achieve the following key objectives:

- Providing information on the necessity of climate action and available standards.

- Emphasizing the importance of standardized data.

- Facilitating the exchange of best practices among African countries.

- Serving as a platform for collaboration, knowledge sharing, and partnership building.

- Accelerating the transition towards a sustainable and circular economy in African cities.

- Bringing together diverse stakeholders to foster innovative solutions.

- Paving the way for tangible actions contributing to environmental protection, economic growth, and social development in the region.

- Providing a hands on training on Bridging the standardization gap.

5 Participation in the Symposium is open to ITU Member States, Sector Members, Associates and Academic Institutions, as well as 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 is free of charge.

6 All relevant information pertaining to the event (i.e., draft programme, list of speakers, registration link, remote connection details) will be made available on the event website here: <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/climatechange/symposia/202405/Pages/default.aspx>.
The website will be updated regularly as new or modified information becomes available. Participants are encouraged to check the website periodically for the latest updates.

7 To enable ITU to make the necessary arrangements concerning the organization of the Symposium, I would be grateful if you would register via the [online form](https://www.itu.int/net4/CRM/xreg/web/Registration.aspx?Event=C-00013954) as soon as possible, and **no later than 30 April 2024.
Please note that pre-registration of participants for the symposium is mandatory and carried out exclusively *online*.**

8 I would remind you that citizens of some countries are required to obtain a visa to enter and spend any time in Burkina Faso. The visa must be requested and obtained from the office (embassy or consulate) representing Burkina Faso in your country or, if there is no such office in your country, from the one that is closest to the country of departure. Visa support requests are to be addressed directly to the host of the meeting. Further instructions on visa support and other relevant logistic details will be made available in the **“Practical information”** document found on the event website.

Yours faithfully,

Seizo Onoe
Director of the Telecommunication
Standardization Bureau