INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION

General Secretariat

Ref: **CL-22**
       TSB/CB

Contact: Cristina Bueti

Tel: +41 22 730 6301

Fax: +41 22 730 5853

Email: greenstandard@itu.int

Geneva, 11 May 2011

To: -   Administrations of Member States of the Union

-   ITU Sector Members

-   ITU Associates

-   ITU Academia

-   Relevant international, regional and national organizations

Subject: **ITU Symposium on ICTs, the Environment and Climate Change Accra, Ghana, 7-8 July 2011**

Dear Madam/Sir,

1   ITU is organizing the *Sixth Symposium on ICTs, the Environment and Climate Change,* hosted by the Ministry of Communications of Ghana (MOC). The symposium will be held on **7-8 July 2011 in Accra, Ghana**. This is the sixth symposium on climate change following successful events held between 2008 and 2010 in Kyoto, London, Quito, Seoul and Cairo. The Symposium will be preceded by an ITU Regional Seminar on Conformity and Interoperability for Africa that will be held from 4 to 6 July 2011, in Accra, Ghana. Invitation for the ITU Regional Seminar will be sent separately and the related information will be made available on the ITU web at http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/tech/events/index.html.

2   The main purpose of the event is to move forward the agenda on using ICTs to monitor climate change, mitigate and adapt to its effects and, in this light, identify future requirements for ITU's related work – including standardization of ICT equipment and networks as well as development activities. (See Resolution 73 of the 2008 World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA-08), Resolution 66 of the 2010 World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-10) and Resolution 182 of the 2010 Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-10)).

3   The symposium in Ghana will focus on the issue of ICTs, the environment and climate change in Africa and the needs of developing countries. Topics to be discussed will include mitigation and adaptation to climate change, e-waste, disaster planning, cost-effective ICT technologies, methodologies for the environmental impact assessment of ICTs, challenges and opportunities in the transition to a green and resource efficient economy.

4   The symposium will identify possible goals, commitments and modalities of the ICT sector engagements to be developed in the process leading to the forthcoming 2011 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP17-CMP7), to be held in Durban, South Africa in November 2011. The event will also develop a set of recommendations for action in relation to ICTs, the environment and climate change towards a green economy, as a contribution to the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD 2012 or Rio+20).

5   The symposium will bring together leading specialists in the field, from top policy-makers to engineers, designers, planners, government officials, regulators, standards experts and others.

6   Participation in the event is open to ITU Member States, Sector Members and Associates and to any individual or company from a Member State of ITU who wishes to contribute to the work. This includes individuals who are also members of international, regional and national organizations.
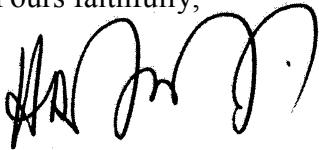
7   Participation in the symposium is free of charge. Discussions will be held in English. Interpretation will be provided to French.

8   A draft Programme is attached. More information including practical information and registration details for the symposium is available on the ITU website at: http://www.itu.int/ITU-T/go/ghana. We encourage participants to kindly confirm their participation by 30 June 2011 at the latest.

9   Please note that citizens of some countries are required to obtain a visa in order to enter Ghana and participants should take appropriate steps, well ahead of the meeting dates.

10   I look forward to your participation in the *Sixth Symposium on ICTs, the Environment and Climate Change* and to your views on ITU's future strategy in responding to the global challenge of climate change.

Yours faithfully,

Dr. Hamadoun I. Touré
Secretary-General

Annex 1: Draft Programme

Annex 1: Draft Programme

	Thursday, 7 July 2011
08:30 - 9:30	**Registration**
09:30 - 10:30	**Opening Ceremony** **Welcome:** ▪ **Mr. Malcolm Johnson**, Director, Telecommunication Standardization Bureau, ITU ▪ **H.E. Mr. Haruna Iddrisu,** Minister of Communications, Ghana and Co-Chairman of the Symposium ▪ **H.E. Ms. Sherry Ayittey,** Minister of Environment, Science & Technology, Ghana and Co-Chairman of the Symposium **Keynote Speaker:** ▪ **TBD**
10:30 - 11:00	**Coffee break**
11:00 - 12:30	**High-Level Segment: From Cancun via Accra to Durban – A Roadmap on ICTs, Climate Change and the Environment** The world community adopted at COP-16 the Cancun Agreements, a package of decisions that set all governments more firmly on the path towards a low-emissions future and support enhanced action on climate change in the developing world. This High-Level Segment will aim to set transparent policy objectives and targets to measure and improve government green ICT strategies, including ICT-enabled applications across the economy. This High-Level Segment will provide panelists with an opportunity to exchange views on how ICTs can help in the implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and in preparation for the Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD).
12:30 - 14:00	**Lunch Break**
14:00 - 15:30	**Session 1: Adaptation and Climate Change Impact** Changing global climatic conditions, due to both physical and anthropogenic factors, have an impact on ecosystems in general and on the human habitat in particular, for instance influencing access to natural resources such as drinking water and food, affecting health and migration processes, and causing severe atmospheric and oceanic disturbances. Citizens around the world are becoming more aware of the potential impact of climate change on their own lives. But effects and resilience skills vary from country to country. In particular, the most vulnerable countries in the developing world often do not have the technological, human, financial and governance resources needed to adapt to climate change. This session will look at how ICTs can help in adapting to the new environmental

	challenges, especially in developing countries. It will also look at national climate change adaptation, early warning systems, prevention, disaster risk reduction issues, and technological issues such as the use of remote sensing.
15:30 - 16:00	**Coffee Break**
16:00 - 17:30	**Session 2: ICTs As a Green Technology for Sustainable Development** In today's world, economy and environment are to be considered as a single imperative in order to achieve a durable economic growth. More than any other industrial sector, the ICT industry intersects both economy and environment interests. In the urgent fight of our time against climate change, the ICT sector brings a valuable contribution to the transition towards a low-carbon economy, enabling energy saving. This session will look at how ICT industry is reducing its own carbon footprint and will explore the ICT industry's potential role as enabler for the reduction of greenhouse gases (GHG) emissions and the savings created through ICT applications in other industry sectors.

	Friday, 8 July 2011
09:00 - 10:30	**Session 3: Methodologies for the Environmental Impact Assessment of ICT** This session will examine work underway in standardization organizations (e.g. ITU) and other international organizations to measure the impact of ICTs on climate change and ways to assist developing countries to obtain and make best use of ICTs to address climate change, and how to standardize the way to calculate the reduction of GHG that ICTs have.
10:30 - 11:00	**Coffee Break**
11:00 - 12:30	**Session 4: Space and Climate Change** A key element in addressing global warming and the impact of natural disasters is the effort to improve global climate monitoring. The use of accurate climate change indicators increases the possibilities of mitigating climate change and helping countries to adapt to extreme weather events. ICTs are a key to monitoring systems for weather forecasting, climate monitoring, and predicting, detecting and mitigating the effects of climate change. This session will provide an overview of: ▪ Use of ICTs to monitor climate change and predict climate change. ▪ ICTs to collect, analyze, plan and disseminate information on climate change.
12:30 - 14:00	**Lunch break**
14:00 - 15:30	**Session 5: E-waste**

	Over the last decades the electronics industry has revolutionized the world: electrical and electronic products have become ubiquitous of today's life around the planet. The alarming and increasing reports on the e-waste situation in many countries and in particular in Africa call for an urgent global action. This session will provide an overview of best practices and global standards related to e-waste issues.
15:30 - 16:00	**Coffee Break**
16:00 - 17:20	**Session 6: Review and Wrap up** This session will provide an overview of each session and will suggest recommendations on how ICTs can be used to tackle climate change and to protect the environment. The output of the meeting will identify possible goals and commitments of the ICT sector in the process leading to the next UNFCCC Conference of Parties – 17 to be held in Durban, South Africa in November 2011. It will also be used to develop a set of recommendations for action in relation to ICTs, the environment and climate change towards a green economy as a contribution to the Rio+20 UNCSD to be held in 2012.
17:20 - 17:30	**Close of Meeting** Closing Remarks by **Mr. Malcolm Johnson**, Director, Telecommunication Standardization Bureau, ITU

_____