



Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT)

Ref. BDT/DM/180

Geneva, 8 July 2016

To:

- Administrations of ITU Member States from the Arab region
- Palestine (Res.99 (Rev. Busan, 2014))
- ITU-D Sector Members from the Arab region
- Academia from the Arab region
- The United Nations and its Funds and Programmes
- Regional Funding Agencies
- Regional Telecommunications Organizations from the Arab region
- Intergovernmental organizations operating satellite systems
- Specialized agencies of the United Nations

Subject: **Regional Development Forum (RDF-ARB), 29 January 2017, and Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Arab region (RPM-ARB) for the 2017 World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-17), 30 January – 1 February 2017 Khartoum, Sudan**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am pleased to invite you to participate in the Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Arab region (RPM-ARB) for the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-17) which will take place in Khartoum, Sudan, from 30 January to 1 February 2017 at the kind invitation of the National Telecommunications Corporation (NTC) of Sudan.

In line with Resolution 31 (Rev. Hyderabad, 2010), the Regional Preparatory Meeting aims at engaging the Membership in the WTDC-17 process in order to achieve regional coordination before the Conference. It also seeks to identify issues at the regional level, that need to be addressed to foster the development of telecommunications/ICTs, taking into account the most pressing needs faced by the Member States and Sector Members of the region.

RPM-ARB is expected to identify priority areas which are essential for the telecommunication/ICT development of the countries of the region. To this end, and to facilitate effective preparations by the ITU Membership, a draft RPM-ARB agenda has been prepared and can be found in **Annex 1**.

Members participating at this meeting will also be able to review and provide input on the preliminary draft ITU-D contribution to the ITU Strategic Plan for 2020-2023, preliminary draft ITU-D Action Plan 2018-2021, and preliminary draft WTDC-17 Declaration ahead of WTDC-17. These documents, which will be available on the [RPM-ARB](#) website, are intended to assist in the written formulation of the issues and priorities for each of the regions.

The RPM-ARB will be preceded by the Regional Development Forum for the Arab region (RDF-ARB) at the same venue, on 29 January 2017. Regional Development Forums provide an opportunity for high-level dialogue, cooperation and partnerships among telecommunication/ICT policy makers, regulators, industry, academia, regional and international development agencies and organizations on specific regional telecommunication/ICT issues. They serve as a platform for assessing strategic orientations that may have an impact on BDT's regional work plan in between world telecommunication development conferences. A draft **agenda** for RDF-ARB will be available soon on [RPM-ARB](#) website.

Annex 2 to this letter provides detailed information about the submission of contributions, registration, fellowships and all the basic information to allow you to participate and make the best of these two events.

Please be informed that for the first time, sponsorship opportunities will be proposed for activities taking place during the RDF in order to enhance visibility and contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Details on these opportunities and related benefits will be available soon online at: <http://www.itu.int/go/itudsponsorships>. If you have any questions relating to sponsorship issues, BDT remains at your disposal and can be contacted by e-mail: bdtpartners@itu.int.

Should you require any further information, please contact:

ITU

Mr Ebrahim Al-Haddad
Regional Director for Arab States
Tel: +202 353 71777
E-mail: ebrahim.al-haddad@itu.int

Host country

Eng. Nadir Ahmed Gaylani
Technical Director
National Telecommunications Corporation (NTC)
Tel: +249 1 8356 2360
E-mail: arab.rpm@ntc.gov.sd

I look forward to your input to ensure that WTDC-17 is an effective and viable tool to guide our work in the coming years to meet the needs of the countries in the Arab region, based on the priorities set by you all.

Yours faithfully,

[Original signed]

Brahima Sanou
Director

Annexes: Annex 1: Draft agenda
 Annex 2: Detailed information

ANNEX 1

Draft agenda RPM-ARB

1. Opening ceremony
2. Election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen
3. Approval of the agenda
4. Consideration of the Time Management Plan
5. Reporting on the implementation of the Dubai Action Plan (WTDC-14), and contribution to the implementation of the WSIS Plan of Action and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
6. Report on the implementation of outcomes of other ITU Conferences, Assemblies and meetings related to ITU-D work: Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-14), Radiocommunication Assembly (RA-15)/World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-15), and World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA-16)
7. Preparations for WTDC-17
 - 7.1 Preliminary draft ITU-D contribution to the ITU Strategic Plan for 2020-2023
 - 7.2 Preliminary draft ITU-D Action Plan 2018-2021 (including Study Group Questions)
 - 7.3 Preliminary draft WTDC-17 Declaration
 - 7.4 Rules of procedure of ITU-D (WTDC Resolution 1)
 - 7.5 Streamlining WTDC resolutions
8. Priority setting for Regional Initiatives, related projects and financing mechanisms
9. Any other business

Brahima Sanou
Director

ANNEX 2

Venue

The two events will take place at the following venue:

Alsalam Rotana Hotel
Africa Street
Khartoum, Sudan
Tel: +249 1 8700 7777
Fax: +249 1 8700 7788
E-mail: sales.alsalam@rotana.com
Web: www.rotana.com

Registration and visa support

Pre-registration will be carried out exclusively online through the Focal Points designated by each administration and entity entitled to participate. Online registration will open on **27 June 2016** at the following [website](#).

On-site registration will begin on Saturday, 28 January at 1400h at the entrance of the meeting room in the Alsalam Rotana Hotel. Pre-registered delegates will only need to bring their letter of confirmation and a photo ID (passport, driving license, etc.). **Any participant registering directly on-site must present a letter of accreditation from their respective Designated Focal Point.**

The role of a registration Focal Point is to handle registration formalities for his/her respective administration/entity. The list of Designated Focal Points (DFPs) can be accessed using a TIES log-in at [this address](#).

When needed, visa support must also be requested to the host country by the Designated Focal Point. The contact details for the person from the host country dealing with visa support are:

Eng. Aryg Mohammed Ahmed
International Relations Officer
National Telecommunications Corporation (NTC)
Mob: +249 9 1297 3291
Fax: +249 1 8356 2356
E-mail: aryg@ntc.gov.sd

Please allow a minimum of two weeks for the visa to be processed. Additional information concerning visas is available from the [RPM-ARB](#) website.

If your Administration/Entity does not have a Designated Focal Point or wishes to modify the contact details and/or change the Designated Focal Point, you are kindly requested to send an official letter from an authorized official to the BDT Meetings Registration Service (by fax to +41 22 730 5545/+41 22 730 5484 or by email to: BDTMeetingsRegistration@itu.int) providing the updated details: the person's family name, given name and email address.

Participation fees

No participation fee is required for these events. However, all participants are to cover their own expenses for travel, accommodation and insurance.

Fellowships

Within the budget available, one fellowship per country may be granted to participants from countries with a GDP per capita less than USD 2 000, with priority to Least Developed Countries (LDCs), on a first-come, first-served basis.

Fellowship applications, limited to one full or two partial fellowships per eligible country, must be authorized by the relevant Administration of the ITU Member State and be submitted before the deadline **2 December 2016**.

In order to maximize the participation of eligible Member States within the very limited budget, and taking into account the potentially large number of fellowship requests, an appropriate **daily subsistence allowance** intended to cover the cost of accommodation; meals and miscellaneous expenses will be provided. If applicable, ITU will also provide **an economy class air ticket by the most direct route**.

Please note that you will only receive the fellowship request form after your registration has been submitted.

The **approved and signed fellowship form(s)** must be returned to the Fellowship Service no later than **2 December 2016**.

Forms received after the deadline will not be considered.

Contributions

Your contributions to the Regional Preparatory Meetings are the basis of its work.

Contributions must be submitted using the **online template** available at the [RPM-ARB](#) website in the languages of the meeting. Please attach the original Word version of your contribution to the online submission form to ensure that all hyperlinks, graphics and tables are correctly displayed.

In accordance with provision 12.1 of WTDC Resolution 1 (Rev. Dubai, 2014), the deadlines for the submission of contributions have been set as follows.

Dates of events	Deadline for submission of contributions with guaranteed translation	Final deadline for submission of contributions
RDF: 29 January 2017 RPM: 30 January-1 February 2017	30 December 2016	16 January 2017

Languages

Both events will be conducted in Arabic, English and French. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided into those languages.

Documents received within the deadlines will be translated into Arabic, English and French, as per provision 12.1 of WTDC Resolution 1 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) (30 days before the start of RPM-ARB).

Paper policy and access to documents

Please note that both events will be **paperless**: all material, including contributions and presentations, will be available at the [RPM-ARB](#) website.

It is to be noted that a TIES account will be required to access documents for RPM-ARB. If you do not yet hold one, you may request it at <http://www.itu.int/TIES/>.

Delegates are urged to bring their laptops in order to download all documents locally and to access the website for new documents.

The “**ITU-D Event**” application will be available, both for mobile devices and for computers, from the [RPM-ARB](#) website, as will a **synchronization tool**.

Practical information

Information on available hotels near the venue of the events, as well as practical information is available from the [RPM-ARB](#) website.

Contacts

ITU

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