**Telecommunication
Development Bureau (BDT)**

Ref.   BDT/PKM/LSE/DM/103   Geneva, 8 October 2015

Subject: Invitation to the 2nd Global Forum on Emergency Telecommunications (GET-2016): Saving
             Lives (Kuwait City, Kuwait, 25-28 January 2016)

Dear Sir/Madam,

It is my pleasure to invite you to the *2nd Global Forum on Emergency Telecommunications: Saving Lives* organized by the International Telecommunication Union and hosted by the Ministry of Communications of the State of Kuwait. The forum, which will be held at the Regency Hotel in Kuwait City from 26 to 28 January 2016, will provide a platform and opportunity for participants to discuss the role of telecommunications/ICT for disaster risk reduction and management.

This forum will be attended by Government Ministers, Heads of Telecommunication Regulatory Authorities, Chief Executive Officers of private-sector entities, Heads of United Nations Agencies, Non-Governmental Organization representatives, and other senior level participants from humanitarian organizations, Development Banks, Regional Disaster Management Organizations, Academia and Media. The participants will use this platform and opportunity to share experiences and practices in the use of modern technologies for humanitarian purposes. A number of state-of-the-art ICT solutions looking at how emerging technologies could be leveraged for saving lives will be presented by experts.

Pre-event sessions related to the Forum will be held on 25 January 2016 and are aimed at information sharing on topics such as the Tampere Convention, regulation, and other topical issues on the use of ICT in disaster risk reduction and management.

An exhibition showcasing new technologies for disaster monitoring, early warning, search and rescue, and coordination among other activities for disaster management and climate change mitigation and adaptation will run for the duration of the forum. In this regard, Member States and Sector Members are invited to take advantage of allocated free space to exhibit their ICT solutions that could contribute to disaster mitigation and management. Detailed information on space availability will be provided in the Information Note which will be posted in due course at: http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Emergency-Telecommunications/Pages/Events/2016/GET-2016.aspx. Please note, exhibition booths will be allocated on a "first-come, first-served" basis.

Within the budget available, one fellowship per country may be granted to participants from least developed countries (LDCs) and countries with a GDP per capita of less than USD 2000. Because of budgetary constraints, the countries benefiting from ITU fellowships may be required to partly contribute to expenses associated to their nominee's participation. Please note that the fellowship form must be received at ITU no later than 27 November 2015.

To facilitate planning and preparations, I encourage you to register online here or http://www.itu.int/online/regsys/ITU-D/workshop/edrs.registration.form?_eventid=4000267

The draft programme and practical information are available at:

http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Emergency-Telecommunications/Pages/Events/2016/GET-2016.aspx.

I look forward to your participation and invaluable contribution towards the success of this important forum.

Yours faithfully,

[Original signed by]

Brahima Sanou

Director