



**Telecommunication  
Development Bureau (BDT)**

Ref. BDT/RO-190

10 June 2014

- Administrations of Member States of the ITU Americas Region
- ITU-D Members Americas Region
- Regional and International Organizations

**Subject: 1<sup>st</sup> Regional Connectivity Forum for the Americas, Asuncion, Paraguay, August 4, 2014**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I have the pleasure to extend a warm invitation to participate in the **1<sup>st</sup> Regional Connectivity Forum for the Americas** which will be held 4 August 2014 in Asuncion, Paraguay, at the kind invitation of the National Telecommunications Commission - Paraguay (CONATEL). The forum will be conducted prior to the CITEL XXV Meeting of Permanent Consultative Committee I (PCC I), to be held from 5-8 August at the same venue.

This Forum is organized by the International Telecommunication Union under the mandates arising from the Plenipotentiary Conference 2010 and the World Telecommunication Development Conference 2014 in relation to improving access to broadband networks and the need to reduce associated costs, in particular for landlocked developing countries and small island developing states.

The aim of the forum is to review activities related to interconnection of national networks within the region and, from this analysis, to assess the possibilities for coordinating future actions. The intent is to leverage the work done and avoid future duplication of tasks, which undoubtedly will lead to greater benefits for all parties in the region. Please find attached in Annex 1 the Draft Agenda. More information can be found in the web page of the event: <http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/Americas/Pages/EVENTS/2014/0804-PY-Cnntvity.aspx>

Registration of participants will be exclusively [online](#) and remain open until 2 August 2014. Please consider, if necessary, the application procedure for a Visa to enter Paraguay. For more information, see the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (<http://www.mre.gov.py>).

Please note that there is no participation fee for the event. All travel and accommodation arrangements must be made and paid by the participating entity.

I am also pleased to report that the ITU will award fellowships based on available funding, in order to facilitate the participation of representatives of the least developed countries (LDC) or low income developing countries (LIC). Fellowships will be limited to one person per country, and must be authorized by the appropriate Administration of the Member State of ITU. The Fellowship Application Form, attached to this letter as Annex 2, shall be submitted to the ITU no later than 16 July 2014.

I sincerely hope you can participate and share your valuable opinions and experiences on connectivity in the

Americas with the other participants, which will help to enrich the discussions and outcomes of the Forum.

Mr Sergio Scarabino (ITU Area Office in Chile, [sergio.scarabino@itu.int](mailto:sergio.scarabino@itu.int) , Telephone: +56 2 2632 6134 / +56 2 2632 6147) remains at your disposal should you require further information.

Yours faithfully,

*(Original signed)*

Brahima Sanou  
Director

**Annex 1:** Draft Agenda

**Annex 2:** Fellowship form