



**Telecommunication
Development Bureau (BDT)**

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Geneva, 12 September 2014

To ITU Member Administrations and ITU-D
Sector Members in the Americas Region;
Academia and Regional and International
Organizations

Subject: **Accessible Americas: Information and Communication for ALL
São Paulo, Brazil, 12 to 14 November 2014**

Dear Sir/Madam,

It is my great pleasure to invite your organization to participate in the “Accessible Americas: Information and Communication for ALL” event that will take place in São Paulo, Brazil, from 12 to 14 November 2014. This regional event for the Americas will be organized by the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in partnership with the Secretariat of Human Rights of the Presidential Cabinet of the Brazilian Republic and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

This event aims at moving discussions from identification of principles to implementation of practices on how stakeholders from the Americas Region can ensure that accessible ICTs and assistive technologies are widely available to persons with disabilities (PwD) and can be used to safeguard and exercise their rights, considering equality and affordability. This event will further focus on the importance of ICTs to empower PwD, emphasizing that through cooperation, development of tools, capacity building and the development of policies and strategies, it is possible to remove barriers and enable human development and social inclusion.

In line with this, ITU, the Brazilian Government and UNESCO, with the support of the Government of the City of São Paulo, have joined forces to encourage governments, industry and other stakeholders to promote ICT accessibility in order to create fair and equal opportunities for PwD and support a regional disability-inclusive development agenda that will contribute to the emerging post-2015 global development agenda by treating ICT accessibility for persons with disabilities as a cross-cutting development issue. An Americas Regional Work Plan on ICT Accessibility, which will identify realistic goals to be achieved by the Paralympics in 2016 in addition to medium and long term targets, is one of the main expected outcomes of the event.

Registration for the event will be exclusively on line until 11 November 2014 at http://www.itu.int/online/regsys/ITU-D/workshop/edrs.registration.form?_eventid=4000206 , where you may also register for the Working Group of your choice.

For more details, I invite you to visit the event website at <http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/Americas/Pages/EVENTS/2014/1112-BR-Accssblty.aspx> where information on the agenda, venue, fellowships, logistics, event focal points, and other useful links are available. Please be informed that there is no participation fee.

I am pleased to inform you that fellowships will be awarded, subject to available funding, to facilitate participation from eligible countries (Least Developed (LDC) or Low Income Developing Countries (LIC)) in the Americas Region. Applicants requesting fellowships, limited to one person per eligible country, are required to submit their fellowship request forms duly signed by their respective Administration together with their registration form no later than 10 October 2014.

I very much hope that you will attend this event and share your experiences to support the future definition of strategies and implementation of policies, regulations and industry codes of conduct to promote the equal inclusion of PwD in the Information and Knowledge Society.

Yours faithfully,

[Original signed]

Brahima SANOU
Director

Annex: provisional agenda