



**Telecommunication
Development Bureau (BDT)**

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20 June 2017

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

Subject: **Accessible Americas IV: Information and Communication Technologies for ALL**
Hotel Barceló San José Palacio, San Jose, Costa Rica, from 21 to 23 November 2017

Dear Sir/Madam,

It is our great pleasure to invite your organization to participate in the *“Accessible Americas IV: ICTs for ALL”* event that will take place in San Jose, Costa Rica, from 21 to 23 November 2017. This regional event for the Americas is being organized by the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in partnership with the Superintendencia of Telecommunications (SUTEL) of Costa Rica.

SUTEL has kindly offered to host the fourth edition of this important regional event, which will focus on promoting further the development of accessibility in countries and institutions, through the effort and cooperation of stakeholders and sharing successful outcomes of projects and initiatives already implemented, in order to interchange resources and solutions and make the Americas region a more inclusive society.

Telecommunications and the Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) have vital importance for people’s empowerment and in promoting accessibility policies. The event will highlight the relevance of joining efforts to remove barriers and enable human development and social inclusion of Persons with Disabilities (PwD) and other groups of people with specific needs, either through cooperation, programs and projects development, and generate partnerships, and training.

In line with this, the ITU and SUTEL have joined efforts to encourage Governments, industry, Academy and other stakeholders to promote ICT accessibility in order to create fair and equal opportunities for all people and support a regional development agenda by treating ICT accessibility for people with specific needs and in particular persons with disabilities, as a cross-cutting development issue. The organizers of the event are planning an effective integration of the participants in the activities of the programme.

Registration for the event will be exclusively on line from 25 June until 20 November 2017 at <http://www.itu.int/go/regitud>.

For more details, we invite you to visit the event website at <http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/Americas/Pages/EVENTS/2017/16948.aspx> where information on the agenda, registration, fellowships, logistics, and other useful links will be soon available and constantly updated. Please be informed that there is no participation fee.

We are also pleased to inform you that ITU will award partial or full fellowships, 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 form duly signed by their respective Administration together with their registration form no later than 14 October 2017.

The ITU and SUTEL are promoting a regional questionnaire which was sent to the relevant actors in the Americas for the development of a regional assessment to be concluded by the date of the event in Costa Rica, in order to be presented to participants. The effective participation of all to collaborate in this survey will be very much appreciated and of great value to the success of this important event.

This year's edition of the event will include in the last day, discussions on digital inclusion initiatives and projects that are designed to promote the empowerment of women and girls, youth, elderly and indigenous people.

We trust that you or a representative of your organization will attend the event to share your experiences and support the dissemination and implementation of best practices in the Americas region aiming at contributing for the future definition of strategies and implementation of policies, regulations and industry codes of conduct to promote reducing the digital divide and the equal inclusion of these groups of people and in particular, Persons with Disabilities in the Information and Knowledge Society.

Sincerely yours,

(original signed by)

Bruno Ramos

Director for the Americas

International Telecommunications Union

Gilbert Camacho Mora

President

Superintendencia de Telecomunicaciones

Annexes:

1. Provisional Agenda
2. Fellowship Request Form

