



**Telecommunication
Development Bureau (BDT)**

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Brasilia, 25 May 2018

Administrations of ITU Member States, National
Regulatory Authorities. ITU Sector Members.
ITU-affiliated academic and research institutes.
United Nations and specialized agencies.
Regional and other international organizations.

Subject: **Accessible Americas V: *Information and Communication Technologies for ALL***
Montego Bay, Jamaica, from 28 to 30 of November 2018

Dear Sir/Madam,

It is our great pleasure to invite your organization to participate in the “Accessible Americas V: ICTs for ALL” event that will take place in Montego Bay, Jamaica, from 28 to 30 November 2018. 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 Ministry of Science, Energy & Technology of Jamaica.

Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) have vital importance in the empowerment of individuals and in the promotion and development of accessibility policies. The event will highlight the relevance of joining efforts in seeking solutions to eliminate barriers to access, enable human development and promote social/digital inclusion of persons with specific needs such as women and girls, persons with disabilities, youth, the elderly and indigenous people.

This is the fifth edition of the Accessible Americas event and its main objective is to further strengthen the development of ICT accessibility in countries and institutions, highlighting the effort and the cooperation among stakeholders as to exchange experiences, best practices and the results of projects and initiatives that aim to strengthen the participation of persons with specific needs in society. In this way, we can promote the reduction of inequalities in the region and foster the dialogue on the empowerment of these individuals.

In line with this, the ITU is encouraging governments, industry, academia and other stakeholders to promote access to ICTs, in order to create fair and equal opportunities for all and support a regional development agenda.

Particularly, concerning access to ICTs for Persons with Disabilities (PwD), we inform that the ITU is promoting a questionnaire, which main objective is to collect information on the main achievements and development in the Americas region with regards to the implementation of ICT accessibility. The questionnaire has been sent to various actors in the Americas region and the outcome of this regional consultation is expected to be presented at the event. This is the opportunity to reiterate the importance of your contribution by sending this questionnaire to the ITU.

Accessible Americas will be conducted in English and Spanish and will be paperless. Further information on the event (provisional agenda, logistics information, visa, etc.) will be posted at <http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/Americas/Pages/EVENTS/2018/20545.aspx>. Registration will also be available soon at <http://www.itu.int/go/regitud>.

We count on your participation to share your experiences and support the promotion and implementation of the best practices in digital inclusion in the Americas region. Your participation will contribute to the definition of strategies and policies that bridges the digital divide and promotes the inclusion, on an equal basis, of persons with specific needs in the Information and Knowledge Society.

Sincerely yours,

(original signed by)

Bruno Ramos
Regional Director

Annex:

Questionnaire for the Regional Assessment



Regional Consultation for the Preparatory Work of the event

Accessible Americas V: ICTs for ALL

Jamaica, November 2018

1. What were the major achievements and developments of your institution, or your country, on implementing ICT accessibility to persons with disabilities?
2. What were the greatest challenges of your institution, or your country, regarding the implementation of ICT accessibility policies?
3. Which actions have demonstrated to be more appropriate/successful on implementing ICT accessibility in your institution or country?
4. According to your experience, which of these actions should be prioritized to accomplish the objective of building a more inclusive society in the region of America?
5. Which actions your institution has initiated and/or implemented, to increase the quality and offer of accessible ICT products and services to persons with disabilities?
6. Which actions your institution has initiated and/or implemented, to strengthen awareness among key national stakeholders on the importance to develop and provide ICT accessibility policies and programs?
7. In addition to the previously identified actions, does the agenda of your institution includes any action plan or goals to contribute to accessible ICTs in the Americas region?
8. In your view and according to your experience, what else could your institution do to contribute to the inclusion of persons with disabilities through the access and use of new technologies?
9. In your view and according to your experience, what more could or should other stakeholders, such as public sector, private sector, industry, civil society (including organizations and NGOs that work with persons with disabilities), international organizations, and the academy, do to promote ICT accessibility to persons with disabilities in your country and, furthermore, in the Americas region?
10. What is the current situation of the Universal Services Fund in your country and is it envisaged the possibility they being used to accelerate ICT accessibility to persons with disabilities? What is your view about the use of resources of Telecommunications Service Funds to implement social/digital inclusion projects?
11. Please indicate if there is any specific issue related to ICT accessibility (e.g. cellphones, web, TV and video, access to public spaces, emergency services, public procurement etc.) that you would like to know better or that you would like to bring to the attention of the participants to Accessible Americas V.

Please note that the information resulting from this Consultation will be considered confidential by the ITU. It will allow us to carry out national and regional analysis without indicating the sources, and will serve to identify key issues to be discussed at this new regional event.

Please identify yourself:

(Your organization's, institution's, or company's name)

(country)

(Name)

(job title /position)

(Phone number)

(e-mail)

Please send this questionnaire to the following e-mails:

To: americas.accesible@itu.int

C/C ana.veneroso@itu.int

Preferably before July 30th, 2018

Thank you!