**Telecommunication
Development Bureau (BDT)**

Ref.:   BDT/DDR/AMS/DM/008

Geneva, 11 July 2023

To :

- Administrations of ITU Member States,
- ITU-D Sector Members,
- Academia,
- Regulators, and
- Regional and International Organizations of the Americas Region.

Subject: ITU Regional Development Forum for Americas (San Salvador, 16-18 August 2023)

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am pleased to invite you to participate in the Regional Development Forum for Americas (RDF-AMS) which was recently announced by ITU Americas Regional Office, to be organized by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and hosted by the Government of El Salvador. The Forum will be held in hybrid mode on **16-18 August 2023 in San Salvador, El Salvador,** back-to-back with the ITU Internet Colloquium and New Technologies ITEC 2023.

RDF-AMS will report on the outcomes, and ongoing implementation of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-22) held in Kigali, Rwanda in June 2022. Emphasis will be given to the four Regional Initiatives for Americas approved at WTDC-22.

The Annual Regional Development Forum for Americas provides an opportunity for the exchange of views between ITU and decision-makers of ITU Member States and Sector Members as well as other stakeholders in the Americas region. It serves as a platform for an exchange of views on how to achieve meaningful connectivity and sustainable digital transformation in the region. This year's Regional Development Forum will focus on matchmaking between Member States needs, and Partner pledges under the **Partner2Connect Digital Coalition** that have so far attracted over 750 pledges valued at 30 billion dollars. The aim will be together with partners, to operationalize these pledges and implement across the Americas region impactful projects. New pledges could also be announced on this occasion.

In this context, the ITU Office for Americas is launching a Regional Consultation that presents an opportunity for ITU Member States, Sector Members, and other stakeholders to contribute to ITU's activities at the regional level taking into account the strategic needs of the region and partner offerings/commitments during the period, 2023 – 2025.

Stakeholders (Member States, and Partners) who will attend this RDF'S Partner2Connect roundtables are invited to submit their written contributions to be used as basis for discussions, by 30 July 2023. These may be submitted to:

AMSDir@itu.int, using the RDF-AMS Contributions Template available at the RDF-AMS website: Regional Development Forum for Americas.

For more details on the agenda, please see the attached draft agenda in **Annex 1**.

Finally, our Regional Development Forums are open to all stakeholders involved in digital development and digital transformation with an interest in forging multistakeholder partnerships. Key participants include telecommunication/ICT policymakers, regulators, industry, academia, United Nations Agencies, regional and international development agencies, and banks.

The Forum will be conducted in English and Spanish. To participate, please register online using the link available at Registration RDF AMS no later than **30 July 2023**.

For any additional enquiry, please contact: Mr Bruno Ramos, ITU Regional Director, Americas (bruno.ramos@itu.int) or Mr Carlos Lugo Silva, Programme Officer (carlos.lugo-silva@itu.int).

I look forward to meeting you at this important event.

Yours faithfully,

Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava
Director

Annex 1

Draft Agenda (as of 4 July 2023)

ITU Regional Development Forum for Americas (RDF-AMS)

Accelerating the digital development in the Americas

Organized by the International Telecommunication Union with the support of the

Government of El Salvador

16-18 August 2023

San Salvador, El Salvador

CST — Central Standard Time (GMT-6)

Remote participation at http://www.itu.int/go/RDF-AMS2023

Wednesday, 16 August 2023

CST — Central Standard Time (GMT-6)

9:00 – 10:00 (16:00 – 17:00 CEST)	**Opening Ceremony** **Dr. Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava**, Director, Telecommunication Development Bureau, ITU **UN Resident** Coordinator **Mr. Manuel Aguilar**, Superintendent of The General Superintendency of Electricity and Telecommunications (SIGET) High-Level Representative Government of El Salvador **(TBC)** Moderator: **Mr. Bruno Ramos**, Regional Director, ITU Regional Office for Americas Master of Ceremony: **Mr. Carlos Lugo Silva**, ITU Central America Area Office Appointment of the Chair of the ITU Regional Development Forum for Americas
10:00 – 10:30 (17:00 – 18:30 CEST)	**Coffee Break**
10:30 – 12:30 (18:30 – 19:30 CEST)	**Opening Panel:** **Digital development in Americas: Trends, opportunities & challenges** This is a multistakeholder panel, with the objective to present the current state of digital development in the Americas, planned projects and actions to achieve Sustainable Development Goals in the Americas. The panel will also report the progress of the Kigali Action Plan and an overview of outcomes of WTDC 2022. Moderator: **ITU** Panelists: **Representative Government of El Salvador** **Representative Government of Panama (TBC)** **Mr. Christian Oflaherty,** Vice President Internet Society **Mr. Lucas Gallitto,** Head Latin America of GSMA **Ms. Maryleana Mendez**, Secretary General of ASIET

	• **Mr. Horacio Romanelli,** Director Regulation of Millicom • **Mr. Allan Ruiz,** Representative of Access Partnership • (Others TBC)
12:30 – 14:00 (20:30– 21:00 CEST)	**Lunch and Group Photo**
14:00 – 15:30 (21:00 – 22:30 CEST)	**Panel One:** **Multistakeholder cooperation and digital development** This panel will present an overview of digital cooperation actions promoted by different international organizations, multilateral banks, and other stakeholders to achieve digital development in the Americas. Likewise, the progress report of some joint initiatives between ITU and other agencies will be presented. Moderator: **ITU** • **UN Resident Coordinator, El Salvador** • **Ms. Miriam Bandes,** UN Women Representative • **Ms. Lema Zekrya,** Coordinator, GIGA for Latin American Countries, UNICEF • **Mr. Mauricio Ramirez,** UN Resident Coordinator, Dominican Republic. **(TBC)** • **Mr. Mauricio Agudelo,** Director of Digital Transformation CAF • **Mr. Antonio Garcia Zaballos,** Telecommunication Specialist IDB. • **Mr. Oscar Leon,** Executive Secretary CITEL. (Remote participation) • **Representative of COMTELCA. (TBC)** • **Ms. Natalia Otamendi,** European Union Delegation
15:30 – 16:00 (22:30 – 23:00 CEST)	**Coffee Break**
16:00 – 17:30 (23:00 – 01:30 CEST)	**Panel Two:** **Innovation and entrepreneurship for digital development** This panel will present Innovation and Digital Entrepreneurship as an enabler for digital development in the Americas. An introduction will be made by the ITU with specific cases of work in LDCS / SIDS / LDCS, the work of the ITU in emergency telecommunications, and the initiatives that aim at the development of innovation and reporting in accordance with the mandates of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC), Plenipotentiary (PP) and their contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Moderator**: ITU** • **Mr Nelson Arroyo,** President of INDOTEL Dominican Republic • **His Excellency Mr. Leon R. William,** The Commonwealth of The Bahamas Ambassador to the ITU • **Representative of Government of Cuba (MINCOM) (TBC)** • **Under Secretary Telecommunications Chile, (TBC)** • **Representative Government of El Salvador (TBC)** • **(Others TBC)**
17:30 – 18:00 (01:30 – 02:00 CEST)	**Summary of the day** ITU Americas

18:30 – 22:00	Social event **(TBC with SIGET)**
(02:30 – 07:00 CEST)	

Thursday, 17 August 2023

REGIONAL INITIATIVES AND PARTNER2CONNECT (P2C) ROUNDTABLES

PARTNER 2 CONNECT (P2C) ROUNDTABLES:

Fostering partnerships and project execution to accelerate digital development in the Americas region

The Partner2Connect regional roundtable is a multistakeholder platform for matchmaking between regional and country needs and pledges that have been announced so far and new pledges. The matchmaking is aligned with the topics of WTDC-22 adopted Regional Initiatives for the Americas region. Through engagement among pledging partners and the Member States, the roundtables will aim to transform pledges into concrete commitments ready for implementation.

9:00 – 10:00	**P2C Roundtable One**:
	Effective mechanisms for transforming commitments into scaled-up impact: Digital for sustainable development in Americas Region through Partner2Connect Coalition.
	Moderator: **ITU**
	• Mr. Antonio Garcia, IDB
	• Mr. Mauricio Agudelo, CAF
	• Microsoft **(TBC)**
	• BBVA Foundation **(TBC)**
	• Dr. Jesús Aguila Hermoso, General Coordinator Information Society, SICT Government of México
	Special presentation: Result of ITU- ANATEL cooperation for 20 years: ANATEL, Brazil

10:00 – 10:30	**Coffee Break**
(17:00 – 17:30 CEST)	

10:30 – 12:15	**P2C Roundtable Two:**
(17:30 – 19:15 CEST)	Deployment of modern, resilient, secure and sustainable information and telecommunication technology infrastructure
	AMS1: Regional Initiative for Americas
	Moderator: **ITU**
	• **Mr. Rafael Muente,** President of OSIPTEL Perú. **(TBC)**
	• **Representative URSEC, Uruguay. (TBC)**
	• **Mr. Armando Fuentes,** Administrator ASEP Panamá. **(TBC)**
	• **Mr. Atilio Rulli,** Vice President Huawei
	• **Ms. Elizabeth Penia Jauregui,** Head Government Ericsson
	• **Mr. Alejandro Albanese,** Director Enterprise, and Government NOKIA
	• **Mr. German Arias,** Manager of Regulation of SBA
	• **Mr. Juan Guatreaux,** Director National Cybersecurity Centre, Dominican Republic **(TBC)**
	• **Ms. Gabriela Lago,** Director Regulation and Government Affairs Hugues Networks. **(TBC)**
	• **Ms. Amy Alvarez,** ATT, United States of America

12:15 – 12:30 (19:15 – 19:30 CEST)	**Special Launch** Two new ITU Academy courses will be launched for ITU members - Good practices in infrastructure deployment developed in partnership with SBA - Digital transformation for micro and small businesses
12:30 – 14:00 (19:30 – 21:00 CEST)	**Lunch**
14:00 – 15:00 (21:00 – 22:00 CEST)	**P2C Roundtable Three:** Improving and promoting digital literacy, digital skills, and digital inclusion programmes, particularly for vulnerable population **AMS2: Regional Initiative for Americas** Moderator: **ITU** • **Ms. Agustina Brizzio,** Undersecretary of ICT, Argentina • **Ms Patricia Carreno,** Vice Minister of Communications, Perú **(TBC)** • **Delegate of Costa Rica (TBC)** • **Delegate of Mincom, Cuba (TBC)** • **Ms. Ledenika Mendez,** Director of Digital Inclusion SCT México • **Mr. Daniel Nunez,** Representative of ATC – INATEL, Brazil **(TBC)** • **Ms. Amparo Arango,** Director International Affairs, Indotel Dominican Republic • **Delegate by Microsoft (TBC)** • **Ms. Fabiola Reyes,** Central Bank Dominican Republic **(TBC)**
15:00 – 16:00 (22:00 – 23:00 CEST)	**P2C Roundtable Four:** Effective support for digital transformation and innovation ecosystems through scalable, funded, and sustainable connectivity projects **AMS3: Regional Initiative for Americas** Moderator: **ITU** • **Special Presentation**: Public Policy National Transformation in Argentina **Ms. Silvana Rica**, Under Secretary Public Innovation, Argentina **(TBC)** • **Executive Secretary** COMTELCA **(TBC)** • **Mr. Layard Terrero,** Director Engineering FORTINET • **Secretary of Innovation** El Salvador **(TBC)** • **Minister,** Ministry of ICT Colombia **(TBC)** • **Representative,** Superintendence of Telecommunications (Guatemala) **(TBC)** • **Ms. Marushka Chocobar**, Secretary of Government and Digital Transformation of Peru **(TBC)** • **Ms. Dasiel Abreu, Central Bank Dominican Republic (TBC)**
16:00 – 16:15 (23:00 – 23:15 CEST)	**COFFEE BREAK**
16:15 – 17:15 (23:00 – 00:00 CEST)	**P2C Roundtable Five:** Developing enabling policies and regulatory frameworks to connect people who are still unconnected through accessible and affordable information and telecommunications technologies. **AMS4: Regional Initiative for Americas** Moderator: **ITU** • **Ms. Paola Bonilla,** Commissioner CRC Colombia

	• **Delegate by Federal Telecommunication Institute México. (TBC)** • **Mr. Armando Fuentes, General Administrator ASEP, Panamá. (TBC)** • **Delegate by SUTEL Costa Rica (Remote)** • **Ms. Celia Reyes Ochoa,** Director Users Protection and Titles TELCOR, Nicaragua • **Ms. Maria Fernanda Bernal,** Regulatory Compliance Director Telefonica Hispan • **Mr. Horacio Romanelli,** Director of Regulation Millicom • **Executive Director ATT (regulator of Bolivia) (TBC)** • **Director ENACOM Argentina (TBC)**
17:15 – 17:25 (00:15 – 00:25 CEST)	**Summary Report & Outcomes: Regional Director, ITU Regional Office for Americas**
17:25 – 17:45 (00:25 – 00:45 CEST)	**Closing ceremony** • **Dr. Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava, Director,** Telecommunication Development Bureau, ITU • **Representative SIGET** • **Other Representative from El Salvador**

ITU New Technologies and Internet Colloquium – Fifth Edition

9:00 – 16:00	**Innovation in Connectivity**
(16:00 – 23:00 CEST)	Within the framework of RDF AMS 2023, the ITEC 2023 focused on innovation in connectivity will be held, with 3 panels focused on innovation in infrastructure deployment, new technological development in connectivity, the future of networks and solutions to connect the unconnected
	Panel 1. Innovating in the deployment process.
	Panel 2. Future of Networks
	Panel 3. Innovation to connect the unconnected
	Panel 4. Accelerating the digital development in the Americas
	EXPO ITEC 2023 (Pop-Up room):
	- Special presentation and exhibitions
	- Workshops on Digital Transformation
	- Special session for Salvadorans