



REMINDER

Information Session of the ITU's Arab Regional Initiative on Use of telecommunications/ICTs for Smart and Sustainable Development and Protection of the Environment, Manama-Bahrain, 6 May 2015

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) have the pleasure to invite you to an information session on the ITU's Arab Regional Initiative (RI) on "Use of telecommunications/ICTs for smart and sustainable development and protection of the environment". This initiative was adopted as part of the League of Arab States members' contribution to the World Telecommunications Development Conference held in Dubai in 2014. The session will take place in Manama, Bahrain, **6th May, 2015 at (4:00-5:30 pm) at the Ritz Carlton Hotel** during the Arab Forum for Sustainable Development Forum (AFSD), which is organized by UN-ESCWA, UNEP, League Arab of States and Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

The overall objective of the session is to provide information on this Initiative, namely:

- The process of regional Initiative implementation and this includes sharing the players experiences and practices,
- The 3-years budget of the regional Initiative (the kind and in-kind contribution expected from stakeholders);
- Challenges to be addressed, concerns and issues around the RI (the lessons learnt from stakeholders);
- Inputs from stakeholders to the baseline/operational plans of 2015-2017 (the work to be delivered to meet the expected results of the regional initiative).

Participation in the event will mainly be from stakeholders in the Sustainable Development community in addition to stakeholders from the telecom/ICT sector in Arab region, specifically the ITU member states (Ministry representatives, Telecoms Operators, ISPs), potential investors, United Nations Agencies and International and Regional organizations working in related matters of Sustainable Development. **Please find enclosed a detailed concept note with an agenda.**

We look forward to hearing from you about your interest in participating in the event. **To register for the event, please contact:**

Zahr Bou-Ghanem, ESCWA (bou-ghanem@un.org).