Ref.:   75-08/19   Moscow, 26 August 2019

- Administrations of ITU Member States
- Regulators, ITU Sector Members and Academia
- Regional and International Organizations

Subject: **Workshop on *Regional Cooperation of Startup Ecosystems as a Key Factor of Digital Economy Growth*, 15-16 October 2019, Tashkent, Republic of Uzbekistan**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am pleased to invite you to participate in the **workshop on *Regional Cooperation of Startup Ecosystems as a Key Factor of Digital Economy Growth,*** which is organized by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and will be held **from 15 to 16 October 2019** in **Tashkent, Republic of Uzbekistan,** at the kind invitation of the Ministry for Development of Information Technologies and Communications of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

The workshop is organized for CIS and neighboring countries and aimed at sharing experiences and expert knowledge in the field of startup development. Also, this event will give startups an opportunity to find partners for regional expansion and fundraising in neighboring countries.

The workshop is targeted to senior executives and experts responsible for coordination and development of startup ecosystems from high tech parks, innovation agencies, ministries, regulators, academia, as well as to operators and hardware and software developers interested to expand to CIS and neighboring markets and potential investors for regional startups.

The workshop will discuss the following issues:

- Best practices of startup ecosystem development
- Startup trends and main points of growth in mid-term perspective (finance, education, healthcare, agriculture etc.)
- Infrastructure, funding and education for startups (accelerators, incubators, techno parks, educational programs etc.)
- Role of regulator in creating enabling environment for startup growth at national level and regional expansion
- Successful startups interested in expansion to CIS and neighboring markets
- Search of partners to enable regional expansion
- Creation of a permanent platform for cooperation between startup ecosystems.

The draft programme of the workshop is attached as Annex 1.

The workshop will be conducted in Russian and English with simultaneous interpretation.

The event will be paperless. All materials of the workshop will be available at the ITU website: https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/CIS/Pages/EVENTS/2019/10_Tashkent/10_Tashkent.aspx

There is no participation fee for this event. However, all expenses related to the travel and accommodation of participants should be covered by your Administration/Organization.

Participants are requested to send completed registration form to the workshop organizers by **8 October 2019**.

In accordance with Resolutions 25 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) and 213 (Dubai, 2018) of the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference, and in order to promote the participation of developing countries in ITU activities, ITU will grant one full or two partial fellowships per eligible country of the CIS region, subject to the availability of funds. An application for a fellowship must be authorized by the relevant Administration. Those intending to apply for a fellowship are required to complete the Fellowship Form and send it to the ITU Fellowships Service by e-mail: fellowships@itu.int or by fax: +4122 730 57 78 **not later than 16 September 2019.**

Should you have any questions or need clarifications concerning the venue, accommodation, visa etc., please do not hesitate to contact Ms Umida Musayeva, Senior Specialist of the International Department, Ministry for Development of Information Technologies and Communications of the Republic of Uzbekistan (email: u.musaeva@mitc.uz, tel.: +998 90 371 83 88). For any other questions concerning this workshop please contact Mr Farid Nakhli, Programme Officer, ITU Regional Office for CIS Region (e-mail: farid.nakhli@itu.int ; phone: +7 495 926 60 70).

I look forward to active participation from your Administration/Organization/Company.

Yours faithfully,

Kirill Oparin
Head
Regional Office for CIS Region

Annexes:
1. Draft agenda