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| **Source:** | | BDT Focal Point in ICT Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities | | | |
| **Title:** | | BDT Report in implementation of ICT Accessibility activities, events and resources | | | |
| **Purpose:** | | Information | | | |
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1. **BDT Activities in ICT Accessibility from July to December 2017**
   * Development of a National Training Program in web accessibility “Internet for ALL”, which includes a political buy-in and trainings in digital content as well as in the development of accessible websites. These training courses are currently available in Arabic, English, French, and Spanish. ITU is ready to implement this Program in interested countries.
   * The Telecommunication Development Bureau held a pre-event to WTDC-17 ***“together for an #accessible world”*** on 8 October 2017. The aim of this pre-event was to bring together ITU Members and related stakeholders from all regions to share their views, challenges and success stories to jointly pave the way forward towards a global implementation process for an inclusive society. As a result, the Members agreed on the importance of this topic globally and approved the continuation of the work of SG Q7/1 to support countries in their process of implementing ICT Accessibility.
   * The regional event, **“*Accessible Americas IV: Information and Communication Technologies for ALL”****,* took place in Costa Rica**, from 21 to 23 November 2017** and was attended **by 235 participants**. This event provided a platform to all reginal stakeholders to share their experience and good practices but also the solutions they identified to overcome ICT accessibility challenges. In addition, BDT took the opportunity to also build capacity to the 235 participants to enable them become advocates knowledgeable to promote this topic in their respective countries. Since ICT Accessibility is a recognized enabler for achieving inclusive societies, the annual series of Accessible Americas events also incorporated other groups with specific needs such as women and girls, youth, the elderly and Indigenous People.
   * BDT also gives a particular attention to implementation ICT Accessibility in Africa Region. Therefore Forums to advice countries in the development of relevant policies and strategies in ICT accessibility were held in both West and East Africa as follows:
     + West Africa: An ***“ICT-Accessibility Forum”*** for the development of a draft policy for West Africa, was held from **27 to 29 November in Burkina Faso for French speaking** ECOWAS countries;
     + East Africa: An “***ICT- Accessibility Forum”*** for West Africa was held from **4 to 5 December in Gambia, for English speaking** ECOWAS countries.
   * During the celebrations for the ***International Day for Persons with Disabilities*** in Geneva held **on 4 December 2017**, BDT raised awareness on the role that ICTs can play in implementing ICT accessibility globally, positioning ITU as a key player in this area. We also presented the outcomes of our regional events (Americas and Africa) as well as available resources developed to help countries in implementing ICT Accessibility.
   * **An “Executive Training**: “***Role of ICTs in the Development of Inclusive Society for Persons with Disabilities”*** was organized by ITU and hosted by RAK, UN Bosnia and Herzegovina and UNDP, was held in Sarajevo on **5 December 2017** at the UN House.
2. **BDT Activities in ICT Accessibility from January 2018 to date:**
   * **BDT works on the development of video tutorials on “Accessible digital content and remediation”** (word, pdf, PP etc.) foreseen to be available in Q1 in Spanish, Q2 in English and Q3 in French;
   * **BDT also works on the development of a set of three (3) self-paced e-learning training courses on ICT Accessibility and Public procurement of accessible ICT products and services**, which will be made available on ITU Academy.
   * BDT participated to the lunchtime seminar “***BASICS ON AGEISM”*** that International Longevity Centre Global Alliance (ILC GA) representative to the UN, WHO and the ILO organized on Tuesday **30 January 2018.** The objectives of the seminar were to gain common terminology and clarity on the phenomenon of ageism and to explore ways to combat it. The role that ICTs plays in ensuring full participation of elderly in the active life as well as in ensuring their social inclusion were strongly highlighted by the participants. BDT took note about the request for ITU involvement in related activities (e.g. capacity building in ICT for elderly).
   * **On 14 February**, BDT Focal Point for ICT Accessibility was invited by the Committee of UN-CRPD to make a presentation at their 19th Session on the key activities, events, resources and achievements. This BDT presentation will also aim to position ITU at UN level as a key player in helping PwD (though the accessibility of ICTs) to achieve economic development and social inclusion.
   * **BDT will organize a Forum “*ICT Accessibility- a pre-requisite toward an inclusive society”* during the Zero Project Conference on 23 February 2018** that will focus on the presentation of concrete resources available to support the countries in their implementation process of ICT Accessibility policies, products and services. Considering the partnership with EU envisaged for the development of the forthcoming regional event in ICT Accessibility “***Accessible Europe***” foreseen in December 2018, the Forum will also include an interactive session moderated by both BDT and EU. This session will target to jointly identify the topics to be considered in this regional event, as key to facilitate EU countries implementation in this area.
   * **Invitation to the BDT Study Group on Q7/1’ work - (SG 1 from 30 April to 4 May 2018);**
   * **The V- Accessible Americas – ICT for ALL will be held in November 2018 in Jamaica;**

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