



**Telecommunication
Development Bureau (BDT)**

Ref. BDT/PKM/DM/092

Geneva, 30 August 2011

To: Regional Organizations
ICT/Telecommunications Regional
Associations

Subject: **Stakeholder Meeting on Africa Regional Initiatives, 15 September 2011, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am pleased to invite you to the Stakeholder Meeting on Africa Regional Initiatives to be held on 15 September 2011 in Addis-Ababa, Ethiopia at the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) with the participation of other regional and sub-regional institutions in Africa. The objective of the meeting is to bring together stakeholders and provide them with an opportunity to discuss various project proposals that have been prepared with a view to implement the five Regional Initiatives (please see Annex 1 for details) adopted by the World Telecommunication Development Conference that was held in Hyderabad, India in 2010.

Draft project proposals will shortly be sent to you for perusal and review to facilitate your participation at the meeting. Please note that this meeting is planned to take place a day after the ITU HIPSSA Steering Committee which is planned to be held at the same venue on 13 and 14 September 2011.

A Draft Programme of the meeting is herewith attached for your reference.

To register for this meeting, please return your Registration form (herewith attached), dully signed, by **7 September 2011**.


Please note that ITU is also offering fellowships financed by the HIPSSA project for participants to both meetings. Should you wish to benefit from this offer, please complete the attached Fellowship form and submit it to no later than **7 September 2011**.

For further information or clarification, please contact the Meeting Coordinator, Mr. Marcelino Tayob, at tel.: +251 11 5514855 or fax: +251 11 551 72 99, or by e-mail: itu-addis@itu.int.

I look forward to your active participation at this meeting so that together, we can spearhead the development of ICTs in Africa.

Yours sincerely,



 Brahim Sanou
Director

ANNEX 1

AFRICA REGIONAL INITIATIVES

The Africa regional initiatives are intended to address specific telecommunication/information and communication technology (ICT) priority areas, through partnerships and resource mobilization to implement small-, medium- and large-scale projects. Under each regional initiative, projects will be developed and implemented to meet the region's needs.

1 Human and institutional capacity building

Objective: To provide stakeholders in Africa, on a sustainable basis, with human resources and skills needed for harmonious development of the telecommunication/ICT sector.

Expected results

- 1) Enhanced skills and human capacity in the design and development of telecommunication/ICT strategies
- 2) Increased local expertise through cooperation between countries
- 3) Increased access to training resources, including training manuals, for all stakeholders in the African telecommunication/ICT sector
- 4) Promotion of technical cooperation between telecommunication/ICT training institutions in regard to capacity and resources
- 5) Increased availability of public access to knowledge, in particular by raising public and consumer awareness
- 6) Forums for exchanging and sharing information between the various groups having a stake in the telecommunication/ICT sector in Africa, in particular young people, women and persons with disabilities
- 7) Enhanced human capacity building on legal aspects in order to address security and trust in the use of telecommunications/ICTs, particularly where cybercrime is concerned
- 8) Greater availability, development and usage of local content and languages, and corresponding webpage development
- 9) Improved specialized skills development to meet the ICT needs of persons with disabilities in order to promote ICT usage, particularly in regard to Internet applications.

2 Strengthening and harmonizing policy and regulatory frameworks for integration of African telecommunication/ICT markets

Objective: To facilitate and promote the reform of Africa's national telecommunication/ICT sectors and facilitate the implementation of telecommunication/ICT strategies in order to achieve subregional and regional integration of telecommunication/ICT infrastructure, services and markets.

Expected results

- 1) Implementation of the reference framework for harmonization of telecommunication/ICT regulatory policies in Africa
- 2) Development of competitive African telecommunication/ICT markets
- 3) Harmonized technical standards to provide increased connectivity of networks and services
- 4) Establishment of a harmonized policy to reduce the level of intra-continental traffic routed by extra-continental transit centres
- 5) Development of a harmonized strategy for universal access, taking into account the special needs of young people, women, persons with disabilities and indigenous peoples
- 6) Development of a harmonized strategy to strengthen information security and combat spamming and cybercrime
- 7) Increased investment
- 8) Development of high-quality and affordable telecommunication/ICT services.

3 Development of a broadband infrastructure and achievement of regional interconnectivity and universal access

Objective: To assist ITU Member States in the development of backbone broadband infrastructure and access thereto in urban and rural areas, with particular emphasis on subregional and continental interconnection.

Expected results

- 1) National telecommunication/ICT master plans to meet the requirements of developing countries
- 2) Improved broadband backbone infrastructure and access to affordable telecommunication/ICT services in urban and rural areas
- 3) Guidelines on rural connectivity, including policy, appropriate technologies and power-supply issues, and best practices
- 4) Enhanced human capacities in the area of broadband communication networks
- 5) Interconnection of countries by means of high-capacity links, including access to undersea cables by landlocked countries, as part of the follow-up to the Connect Africa summit.

4 Introduction of new digital broadcasting technologies

Objective: To assist ITU Member States in making a smooth transition from analogue to digital broadcasting in order to take advantage of the digital dividend.

Expected results

- 1) Comprehensive guidelines on the transition from analogue to digital broadcasting
- 2) Policy and regulatory frameworks for digital terrestrial broadcasting, including mobile television
- 3) Digital broadcasting master plans for the transition from analogue to digital broadcasting, including mobile TV and IPTV
- 4) Provision of assistance in the field of interactive multimedia services to broadcasters in the Africa region
- 5) Enhanced human resources skills in the area of digital broadcasting technologies
- 6) Appropriate mechanisms for conversion from analogue to digital archives.

5 Implementation of the recommendations of the Connect Africa summit

Objective: To follow up on implementation of the outcomes of the Connect Africa summit through coordination among all of the summit's stakeholders.

Expected results

- 1) Collection and dissemination of information on the regional, subregional and national connectivity projects included in countries' development plans
- 2) Development of a roadmap for implementation of the summit's outcomes, in coordination with subregional organizations
- 3) Coordination of regional and subregional connectivity projects
- 4) Facilitating partnerships in the implementation of African common infrastructure projects
- 5) Establishment of an efficient and flexible system for disseminating information on implementation of the Connect Africa summit outcomes
- 6) Integration of telecommunications/ICTs in all sectors of activity and in national priority programmes
- 7) Availability of African content that is tailored in particular to the rural context and disadvantaged population segments.



Stakeholder Meeting on Africa Regional Initiatives
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 15th September 2011

Draft Programme

08:30 – 09:30	Registration
09:30 – 09:40	Opening
09:40 – 10:00	Introduction to ITU Regional Initiatives for Africa
10:00 – 10:30	R1-1- Human and institutional capacity building
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee Break
11:00 – 11:30	R1-2- Strengthening and harmonizing policy and regulatory frameworks for integration of African telecommunication/ICT markets
11:30 – 12:00	R1-3- Development of a broadband infrastructure and achievement of regional interconnectivity and universal access
12:00 – 12:30	R1-4- Introduction of new digital broadcasting technologies
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 14:30	R1-5- Implementation of the recommendations of the Connect Africa Summit
14:30 – 15:30	Financing Mechanisms and Pledges
15:30 – 16:00	Closing



**Stakeholder Meeting on Africa Regional Initiatives
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 15th September 2011**

REGISTRATION FORM

To be returned to the ITU Regional Office (Fax: +251 11 5517299 or e-mail: maygenet.abebe@itu.int)
before 07th September 2011

<input type="checkbox"/> Mr <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs
Family Name _____
Fist Name _____
Title _____

<input type="checkbox"/> ITU Member Administration
<input type="checkbox"/> ITU Sector Member
<input type="checkbox"/> ITU Associate
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Member

Name and full address of administration or organization:	
_____	Tel.: _____
_____	Fax: _____
_____	E-mail: _____

Date: _____

Signature: _____



**Stakeholder Meeting on Africa Regional Initiatives
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 15th September 2011**

Please return to:

Administration Service (ADM)
ITU/BDT - Geneva Switzerland

E-mail : bdtfellowships@itu.int

Tel: +41 22 730 5487 / 5095

Fax: +41 22 730 5778

Request for a fellowship to be submitted before 07 September 2011

Participation of women is encouraged

Country _____
Name of the Administration or Organization _____
Mr. / Ms. _____ (family name) _____ (given name) _____
Title _____
Address _____ _____
Tel.: _____ Fax _____
e-mail _____
PASSPORT INFORMATION :
Date of birth _____
Nationality _____ Passport number _____
Date of issue _____ In (place) _____ Valid until (date) _____

CONDITIONS

1. One fellowship per eligible country.
2. One return ECO class airticket by the most direct/economical route.
3. A daily allowance to cover accommodation, meals and incidental expense
4. Imperative that fellows be present first day/end of the Conference.

Signature of fellowship candidate _____

Date _____

TO VALIDATE FELLOWSHIP REQUEST, NAME AND SIGNATURE OF CERTIFYING OFFICIAL DESIGNATING PARTICIPANT MUST BE COMPLETED BELOW WITH OFFICIAL STAMP.

Signature: _____

Date: _____