



**Telecommunication
Development Bureau (BDT)**

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Geneva, 26 March 2012

Member States and ITU-D Sector Members
Regional and subregional regulators'
associations
Telecommunication/ICT operators
Financial and development institutions
Regional and subregional organizations

Subject: 13th Forum on Telecommunication/ICT Regulation and Partnership in Africa
(FTRA 2012), Libreville (Gabon), 18 to 20 June 2012

Dear Sir/Madam,

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the African Telecommunication Union (ATU) and the Government of the Republic of Gabon are pleased to invite you to the 13th Forum on Telecommunication/ICT Regulation and Partnership in Africa (FTRA 2012), to be held at the Convention Centre of the City of Democracy in Libreville (Gabonese Republic) from 18 to 20 June 2012, under the theme: ***"Analogue to digital television migration: sharing experiences, migration strategies and digital dividend"***.

The forum is being organized by the ITU in collaboration with the *Agence de Régulation des Communications Electroniques et de la Poste (ARCEP)* of the Gabonese Republic and in partnership with the African Telecommunications Regulators' Network and African Regional Working Party on private sector issues.

Participation in FTRA 2012 is open to Member States and ITU-D Sector Members, regional and subregional regulators' associations, telecommunication/ICT operators, financial and development institutions and regional and subregional organizations.

The theme for this year's forum was selected on the basis of proposals made by participants in the 12th FTRA, held in Kigali (Rwanda) in June 2011.

For several years now, the changeover from analogue to digital television and resulting digital dividend have represented a major challenge for the digital economy in Africa. The digital dividend holds out significant opportunities for the deployment of innovative digital television and broadband mobile communication services, and is attracting considerable attention from all players in the ICT sector. However, if the cultural, social and economic benefits of the digital dividend are to be fully reaped, the challenges involved must be properly addressed and an effective transition schedule adopted. Coherent regional harmonization is also essential.

The main objective of the forum is to identify best practices to grant a good transition from analogue to digital television and optimize the use of the digital dividend at the economic, technical and regulatory levels.

The forum will be held in English and French with simultaneous interpretation.

Documents relating to the event, and regular updates thereto, (information note, provisional programme, registration and hotel reservation forms) will be available on the ITU website at: www.itu.int/ITU-D/afr/events/FTRA/2012.

The meeting will be paperless. Participants are therefore invited to download and print the needed documents before and during the event.

A practical information note concerning the venue can also be found at the above web address. Please pay particular attention to the section on entry visa requirements for Gabon.

In order to benefit from the preferential hotel rates negotiated by the national coordinator for this forum, participants are requested to complete the form and return it directly to the selected hotel. The host country will provide transportation between the airport and hotels, and between the hotels and forum venue, and vice versa, for all delegates. To facilitate the planning and coordination of airport transfers, delegates are requested to fax or e-mail the same form, indicating their flight numbers, dates and times (both arrival and departure) to Mr Thierry MADOUNGOU (ARCEP), email: ce_madougou@hotmail.com; Tél: +241 44 68 19, with a copy to Ms Brigitte Kaptue, email: brigitte.kaptue@itu.int, Tel: +237 22 22 92 92, Fax: +237 22 22 92 97.

I should be grateful if you would return a duly completed copy of the registration form in Annex 2 (one form per participant), not later than 22 April 2012, by e-mail to fra2012@itu.int or by fax to +237 22 22 9297.

For any further information or clarification, please contact the following persons:

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I look forward to seeing you at the forum.

Yours faithfully,

[original signed]



Brahima Sanou
Director

Annex 1

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|  | <p>13th Forum on Telecommunications/ICT Regulation and Partnership in Africa (FTRA 2012)</p> <p><i>“Analogue to digital television migration: sharing experiences, migration strategies and digital dividend”.</i></p> <p>Libreville (Gabon), 18 to 20 June 2012</p> |  |
| DRAFT AGENDA FTRA 2012 | | |
| 17 June 2012 | | |
| 1600 – 1800 | DELEGATE REGISTRATION | |
| Day 1 – 18 June 2012 | | |
| 0800 – 0900 | DELEGATE REGISTRATION | |
| 0900 – 0930 | OPENING CEREMONY <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Mr Lin Mombo, President of the Regulatory Council, Agence de Régulation des Communications Electroniques et de la Poste (ARCEP)– Dr Jones Killimbe, DG-CEO, RASCOM, Chairman of the African Regional Working Party on Private Sector Issues– Representative of the Director-General, RURA, Rwanda– Representative of the Secretary-General, African Telecommunications Union (ATU)– Mr Brahima Sanou, Director, ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau (ITU/BDT)– H.E. Mr Blaise Louembe, Minister for Communication, Posts and the Digital Economy | |
| 0930 – 0945 | Coffee / tea break | |
| 0945 – 1000 | Appointment of the Bureau and adoption of the agenda | |
| 1000 – 1100 | SESSION 1 Situation of migration in Africa (technical and political aspects, regulatory impact assessment) (country experiences) General discussion | |
| 1100 – 1200 | SESSION 2 ITU activities in the domain / timetable for the transition (country experiences) General discussion | |
| 1200 – 1400 | LUNCH BREAK | |
| 1400 – 1515 | SESSION 3 The digital divide: definition / challenges / costs / benefits General discussion | |
| 1515 – 1530 | Coffee / tea break | |
| 1600 – 1700 | SESSION 4 National plans for reuse of digital dividend frequencies (case studies) | |

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| | General discussion |
| Day 2 – 19 June 2012 | |
| 0900 – 1030 | SESSION 5 Harmonization frameworks and levels in Africa General discussion |
| 1030 – 1100 | Coffee / tea break |
| 1100 – 1200 | SESSION 6 Assignment of the dividend / assignment criteria / stakeholders' requirements General discussion |
| 1200 – 1400 | LUNCH BREAK |
| 1400 – 1500 | SESSION 7 Inventory of telecommunication and audiovisual services General discussion |
| 1500 – 1515 | Coffee / tea break |
| 1515 – 1615 | SESSION 8 New audiovisual and telecommunication services / consumer requirements General discussion |
| 1615 – 1700 | SESSION 9 Presentation of study on cloud computing in Africa (recommendation of FTRA 11) General discussion |
| Day 3– 20 June 2012 | |
| 0900 – 1000 | SESSION 10 Information on the African Telecommunications and ICT Regulators Assembly (closed session for regulators and regulators' associations) Presentation: Report by the Chairman of the Coordination Committee (RURA, Rwanda) General discussion |
| 1015 – 1030 | Coffee / tea break |
| 1030 – 1130 | SESSION 11 Conclusions and ways forward: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adoption of forum recommendations • Proposal of themes for FTRA 2013 • Dates and venue for FTRA 2013 • Other business |
| 1130 – 1200 | CLOSING CEREMONY |

Annex 2

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|  | 13th Forum on Telecommunication/ICT Regulation and Partnership in Africa (FTRA 2012) Libreville (Gabon), 18 to 20 June 2012 |  |
| REGISTRATION FORM | | |
| To be returned to ITU's Yaoundé Office (Fax: +237 22 22 92 97, or e-mail: ftra2012@itu.int <u>by 22 April 2012</u> | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mr <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs <input type="checkbox"/> Ms | <input type="checkbox"/> Administration of ITU Member State <input type="checkbox"/> ITU Sector Member <input type="checkbox"/> ITU Associate <input type="checkbox"/> Non-member | |
| _____ Family name | | |
| _____ First name | | |

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| Name of administration or organization _____ |
| Full address _____ |
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| Tel.: _____ |
| Fax: _____ |
| E-mail: _____ |
| Date: _____ |
| Signature: _____ |
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