



**Telecommunication
Development Bureau (BDT)**

Ref.: BDT/PKM/DM/283

Geneva, 19 March 2013

Ministers,
Senior government officials and
Regional organizations

Subject: **High Level Meeting on Leveraging ICT for Development in Africa, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group of States (6-7 May 2013, Brussels, Belgium)**

Dear Sir/Madam,

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in collaboration with the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP) Secretariat is pleased to invite you to participate in a High Level Meeting on Leveraging ICT for Development in Africa, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP) to be held from 6 to 7 May 2013 in Brussels, Belgium at the ACP Secretariat. The event is co-organized by the ITU and the ACP Secretariat, with the support of the European Commission (EC). This stakeholder meeting is targetted at Ministers responsible for telecommunications/ICT, senior Government officials, and regional organizations.

The meeting will examine the state of information and communication technologies (ICTs) in ACP countries and exchange views on current opportunities and challenges. Against that backdrop, the event will review the progress made in implementing the ITU-EC project on the **“Support for the establishment of Harmonized Policies for the ICT Market in the ACP”**. Drawing lessons from the implementation of this project, the meeting will then map strategies for the establishment of a new project potentially, to be jointly funded under the European Commission’s Development Fund for 2014- 2020, and ITU’s next Action Plan to be adopted by the World Telecommunication Development Conference in March 2014.

I am pleased to note that limited full fellowships will be available to support prospective participants for their travel and stay in Brussels. Detailed information on fellowship application, as well as practical information on entry visas and hotels are available on the link below:

http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/projects/ITU_EC_ACP/itu-ec/events/2013/ministerial-meeting.html

The deadline for fellowship application is **12 April 2013**. Please note that hotel accommodation should be made directly with the hotels.

The draft agenda is enclosed to this invitation. Participants are requested to register online for the meeting. I would be grateful if this could be done by **12 April 2013** at the following link:

http://www.itu.int/online/regsys/ITU-D/workshop/edrs.registration.form?_eventid=4000155

Mr. Sandro Bazzanella, ITU-EC Project Manager, is at your full disposal should you require any further information (E-mail: sandro.bazzanella@itu.int, Tel.: +41 22 730 6765). I look forward to meeting with you at this important event.

Yours faithfully

[Original signed]

Brahima Sanou
Director, BDT

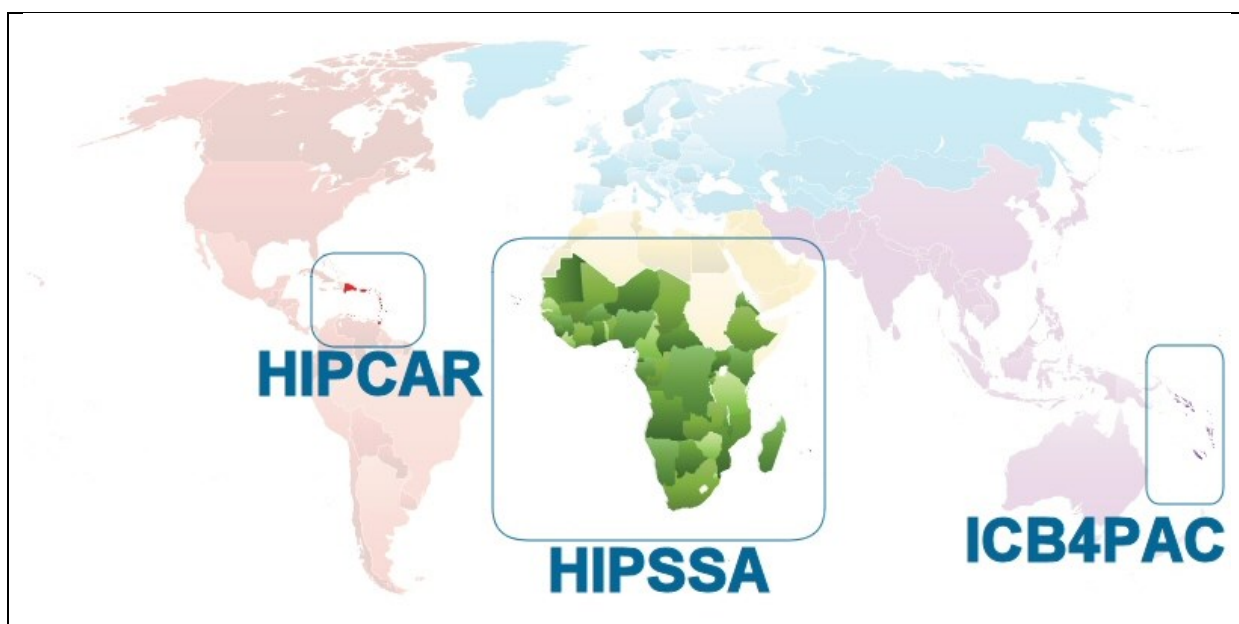
C.c.: Mr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas, Secretary-General, ACP Secretariat
Mr. Andris Piebalgs, Member of the European Commission

Annex: Draft Agenda

HIGH LEVEL MEETING ON LEVERAGING ICT FOR DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA, CARIBBEAN AND PACIFIC GROUP OF STATES (ACP)

6-7 MAY 2013

BRUSSELS, BELGIUM



DRAFT AGENDA



HIGH LEVEL MEETING ON LEVERAGING ICT FOR DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA, CARIBBEAN AND PACIFIC GROUP OF STATES

Objectives:

To consider the report and exchange views on progress made in the implementation of the ACP Project “Support for the establishment of Harmonized Policies for the ICT Market in the ACP” funded by the European Union (EU) and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) (2008-2013);

To engage ICT stakeholders in shaping the follow-up to this project for the period 2014-2020;

To solicit inputs from ICT stakeholders regarding the new priorities for a potential new project (2014-2020) building on the current project methodology.

DAY 1: 6 MAY 2013 09:00 – 10:30 OPENING CEREMONY

OPENING STATEMENTS

Welcome remarks

Mr. Brahima SANOU, Director, Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT),
International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

Opening Address

Mr. Andris PIEBALGS, Member of the European Commission (EC), (TBC)

Keynote Address

Dr. Mohamed Ibn CHAMBAS, Secretary-General, African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of
States (ACP), (TBC)

10:30 – 10:45 COFFEE BREAK

Session I

10:45 – 13:00 STATE OF PLAY IN THE ICT SECTOR IN ACP COUNTRIES

This session aims at reviewing the most important evolution in the ICT sector and identifying the current challenges in the respective African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP) and the role of policies and legislations.

Moderator

- Mr. F. FOTIADIS, Director General, Directorate General for Development and Cooperation - EuropeAid, European Commission (EC), (TBC)

Panelists:

- S.E. M. Blaise LOUEMBE, Ministre, Ministère de la Communication, de la Poste et de l'Economie Numérique, Gabon, (TBC),
- H.E. Mr. XX (Minister from the Caribbean, (TBA),
- H.E. Mr. XX (Minister or PM, Vanuatu), (TBA),
- Mr. Brahima SANOU, Director, Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT), International Telecommunication Union (ITU),
- H.E. Dr. Elham Mahmoud AHMED IBRAHIM, Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy, African Union Commission (AUC), (TBC),
- H.E. Irwin LAROCQUE, Secretary-General, Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM), (TBC),
- Mr. Tuiloma Neroni SLADE, Secretary-General, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), (TBC),
- Mr. Andris PIEBALGS, Member of the European Commission (EC), (TBC).

Session II

14:30 – 16:00 POLICIES AND LEGISLATIONS - REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACP PROJECT

This session presents the role of harmonization in shaping the policy and legislative frameworks and provides an overview of the ACP Project methodology and objectives. The interactive panel will:

- report on providing an overview of the project implementation to date;
- review the role of HIPSSA in supporting the Cairo agenda of the African Union;
- discuss the modernization of the telecom framework model legislation on cybersecurity in Southern Africa;
- review the modern universal service in Southern Africa and open access to submarine cables in West Africa: The basis for Pan African guidelines;
- review the model legislations in the Caribbean;
- share regional experiences in developing a framework addressing challenges of small island developing countries in a globalized world.

Moderator:

- Mr. Cosmas ZAVAZAVA, Chief, Project Support and Knowledge Management (PKM) Department, International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

ITU Presentation: Overview and Status of the ACP Project

- Mr. Sandro BAZZANELLA, ITU-EC Project Manager, International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

Panelists:

- Mr. Moctar YEDALY, Head of Information Society Division, Department of Infrastructure and Energy, African Union Commission (AUC), (TBC),
- Ms. Bernadette LEWIS, Secretary-General, Caribbean Telecommunication Union (CTU), (TBC),
- Mr. Koffi RAPHAËL, Principal Programme Officer, Head of Telecommunication/ICT Division, Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), (TBC),
- Mr. Tuiloma Neroni SLADE, Secretary-General, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), (TBC),
- Ms. Cecilia MAMELODY-ONYADILE, Senior Programme Manager ICT & Telecommunications, Infrastructure Department, Southern African Development Community (SADC), (TBC).

16:00 – 16:30 COFFEE BREAK

Session III

16:30 – 17:30 FEEDBACK FROM REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

In this session the participants will exchange views on challenges encountered in implementing the project (2008-2013) and draw lessons from progress made during the implementation process.

Moderator:

- Mrs. Michèle Dominique RAYMOND, Assistant Secretary-General, African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP), (TBC).

Panelists:

- H.E. Dr. Elham Mahmoud AHMED IBRAHIM, Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy, African Union Commission (AUC), (TBC),
- H.E. Irwin LAROQUE, Secretary-General, Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM), (TBC),
- Mrs. Bernadette LEWIS, Secretary-General Caribbean Telecommunication Union (CTU), (TBC),
- Mr. (TBA), Communauté Economique et Monétaire de l'Afrique Centrale (CEMAC),
- H.E. Mr. Sindiso NGWENYA, Secretary-General, Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), (TBC),
- Mr. XX (TBA), Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS),
- H.E. Mr. Kadré Désiré OUEDRAOGO, President, Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), (TBC),
- Mr. Tuiloma Neroni SLADE, Secretary-General, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), (TBC),
- Dr. Tomaz Augusto SALOMAO, Executive Secretary, Southern African Development Community (SADC), (TBC).

DAY 2: 7 MAY 2013

Session IV

09:00 – 09:30 CHARTING THE WAY FORWARD FOR ACP COUNTRIES

Keynote address on the continued role of ICT in driving sustainable development beyond the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Presenter:

- H.E. Mr. Joel KAAPANDA, Minister, Ministry of Information Communication & Technology, Namibia, (TBC).

Session V

09:30 – 10:00 THE NEXT EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT FUND PROGRAMME (EDF 2014-2020)

During the session the European Commission will present the nature and scope of the next European Development Fund (EDF 2014-2020), the procedure to submit proposals and timelines.

Presenter:

- Mr. Denis SALORD, Head of Unit, EuropeAid, Opérations centralisées pour les pays ACP, European Commission (EC), (TBC).

10:00 – 10:30 COFFEE BREAK

Session VI

10:30 – 11:30 DEBATE: IDENTIFICATION OF PRIORITIES FOR A POTENTIAL NEW PROJECT

This session provides a platform for an exchange of views on priorities for ACP countries for the period 2014-2020.

Moderator:

- Mrs. Bernadette LEWIS, Secretary-General, Caribbean Telecommunication Union (CTU), (TBC).

Panelists:

- H.E. Dr. Elham Mahmoud AHMED IBRAHIM, Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy, African Union Commission (AUC), (TBC),
- H.E. Irwin LAROCQUE, Secretary-General, Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM), (TBC),
- Mr. (TBA) Communauté Economique et Monétaire de l'Afrique Centrale (CEMAC),
- H.E. Mr. Sindiso NGWENYA, Secretary-General, Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), (TBC),
- Mr. XX (TBA), Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS),
- H.E. Mr. Kadré Désiré OUEDRAOGO, President, Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), (TBC),
- Mr. Tuiloma Neroni SLADE, Secretary-General, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), (TBC),
- Dr. Tomaz Augusto SALOMAO, Executive Secretary, Southern African Development Community (SADC), (TBC).

Session VII

11:30 – 12:00 ADOPTION OF FINAL REPORT AND ACTION PLAN

12:00 – 12:30 CLOSING CEREMONY
