



Telecommunication
Development Bureau (BDT)

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Subject: **Capacity Building Workshop on Guidelines on Access to Submarine Cables, 7- 8 May 2012
Kigali, Rwanda**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I recently had the pleasure to inform you that, at the kind invitation of the Government of Rwanda, the ITU Annual Regional Development Forum for Africa will be held from 9 to 11 May 2012 in Kigali, Rwanda.

The ITU has decided to capitalize on the event by having a back to back capacity building workshop on “**Guidelines on Access to Submarine Cables**” from 7 to 8 May 2012.

The objective of this workshop is to create awareness among participants of some of the pertinent issues surrounding access to submarine cables in Africa. The content of the workshop is based on Guidelines that have been developed by the ITU for ECOWAS and WATRA under the aegis of the ITU-EC HIPSSA Project¹.

These Guidelines, which have been developed in West Africa, were built on the experiences collected from the rest of Africa as well as from pertinent international best practices. They can be considered as state of the art and this workshop will be a unique opportunity to share these experiences.

The workshop is open to all ITU Member States, ITU Sector Members and Associates, and Regional Organizations on registration only. All discussions will be held in English and French with simultaneous interpretation provided.

¹ The full title of the HIPSSA Project - funded by the European Commission and the ITU, in collaboration with the African Union Commission, the Regional Economic Communities including SADC and regional associations of regulators including CRASA - is “Support to Harmonization of ICT Policies in Sub-Sahara Africa”. HIPSSA is part of a global ITU-EC project encompassing Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific Islands (ACP) (See http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/projects/ITU_EC_ACP/hipssa/index.html).

The ITU, in the framework of the HIPSSA Project co-financed with the European Union, will provide a limited number of fellowships per country. Fellowships will cover travel to and from Kigali and accommodation for the Capacity Building Workshop to be held from 7 to 8 May 2012. The deadline for fellowship applications is **30 April 2012**.

All information on the Capacity Building Workshop such as registration, fellowship forms as well as practical information note with respect to entry visas and hotels are available on the ITU-EC project website:

http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/projects/ITU_EC_ACP/hipssa/events/2012/WA-5.2-en.htm

Please note that the Capacity Building Workshop on Guidelines on Access to Submarine Cables is a paperless event. The working documents are available at:

http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/projects/ITU_EC_ACP/hipssa/Activities/WA/wa-5.2.1.html

For any further information on the ITU Annual Regional Development Forum for Africa please contact the national coordinator of the Forum in Rwanda, Mr. Abraham Makuza at amakuza@presidency.gov.rw +250 78 88 35 152. For any further information regarding the Capacity Building Workshop on Guidelines on Access to Submarine cables, please contact Ms. Ida Jallow, HIPSSA Senior Project Coordinator, +251 11 5514855, ida.jallow@itu.int

I sincerely hope that you will be able to participate in this important event due to its relevance in responding to the challenges and opportunities consequent on the arrival of several submarine cables all along the coast of Africa.

Yours Sincerely,



Andrew Rugege
Regional Director for Africa

Annex: Draft agenda and working programme