

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION

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Subject: **ITU Central African Sub-Regional Workshop on the Role of Telecommunications/
ICT in Disaster Management: Yaoundé, Cameroon (30 May to 1st June 2007)**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am pleased to invite your Administration/Organization to the above captioned event on Emergency Telecommunications organized by the Telecommunication Development Bureau of the International Telecommunication Union, and hosted by the Government of Cameroon.

At its World Telecommunications Development Conference held in Doha, Qatar from 7 to 15 March 2006, the Development Sector (ITU-D) of the International Telecommunication Union adopted resolution 34 entitled: *The role of telecommunications/information and communication technology in early warning and mitigation of disasters and humanitarian assistance*, that emphasized the need for ITU-D to help and support administrations in their work towards the implementation of this resolution and of the Tampere Convention. Further, resolution 36 entitled: *Telecommunications/information and communication technologies in the service of humanitarian assistance* was adopted by ITU's 2006 Plenipotentiary Convention that was held in Antalya, Turkey from 6 to 24 November 2006, calling of ITU to help its Member States with the development of practical arrangements from the implementation of the Tampere Convention.

The purpose of this event is to bring together stakeholders from each of the countries in the Central African region involved in disaster mitigation. The delegation from each of the countries should ideally include officials from the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications, officials from other government agencies such as Immigration, Customs, Civil Defense, Foreign Affairs, and Regulatory Agencies. The composition of your Administration's delegation is however left to be coordinated by your Ministry.

During this event the participants will debate the role of telecommunications/ICT in disaster mitigation, the role of the Tampere Convention in facilitating disaster relief and response, the requirements for the ratification of this treaty and its implementation. The event will provide participants with a forum where they can map up concrete strategies and adopt practical measures that could save lives when disasters strike through easy cross-border movement of telecommunications equipment.

This workshop is being held against the backdrop of a number of recent deadly disasters experienced in different regions before, during and after 2004. Increasingly, natural disasters are causing considerable loss of life and disrupting national economies, severely weakening the affected countries. Although both natural and man-made hazards cannot be completely prevented, ICTs can help reduce their impact and avoid them turning into disasters and acting as impediments to sustainable development.

The ITU has a limited number of fellowships available for this workshop. Priority will be given to participants from Least Developed Countries and to participants making presentations.


Enclosed are the Provisional Programme, Registration Form and Fellowship Form. We request you to return both the **registration and fellowship forms** as indicated therein.

Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in English and French.

Additional information regarding the meeting will be posted on the ITU/BDT Emergency Telecommunications site: <http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/emergencytelecoms/events>. Your representative(s) will have an opportunity to speak during the session designated for country reports, and to intervene during the rest of the sessions.

We look forward to your presence and count on your contribution to the success of this important event.

Yours sincerely,



Sami Al Basheer Al Morshid
Director

Annexes: Draft Agenda
 Registration Form
 Fellowship Form
 Information Note