



International Telecommunication Union
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR AFRICA

Ref.: ROA/ADD/AR/ma/L108/19

Addis-Ababa, 28 August 2019

- Administrations of ITU Member states
- Ministries and Regulators
- ITU_D Sector Members
- Academia

Subject: The Multi-Stakeholder Workshop for Africa on Bridging the Digital Innovation Divide: Accelerating Digital Transformation towards 4th Industrial revolution to be held in Kintele Congress Center in Republic of Congo, from 14 to 16 October 2019.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am pleased to inform you that the Workshop on Bridging the Digital Innovation Divide: Fostering Digital revolution will be held at Kintele Congress Center in Republic of Congo, from 14 to 16 October 2019.

This workshop is organized by the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in partnership with the ministry of posts, Telecommunications and Digital Economy of the Republic of Congo within the framework of the World Telecommunication Development Conference 2017 (WTDC-17), Buenos Aires Action Plan. It also contributes to the Digital Integration, and Africa preparation for the 4th Industrial Revolution through ICTs with particular focus on promotion of the uptake of smart technologies and accelerating digital transformation, supporting skills development, access to digital talent and appropriate digital infrastructure.

The objective of this Multi-stakeholder Workshop is to aims at building regional and national capacities and skills in developing digital ecosystems including designing policies, formulating projects to integrate telecommunication/ICTs innovations in national development agenda, implementation of programs and projects. The Program of this workshop builds upon the recently launched toolkit on **Bridging the digital innovation divide: A toolkit for strengthening ICT centric ecosystems**, and will be supported by a series of national and regional best practices and initiatives fostering ICT centric innovation and digital transformation.

The workshop targets all stakeholders involved in nurturing and building digital innovation environment favorable to entrepreneurship and creation of startups, growth and expansion of small firms, public service transformation, and sector specific digital transformation. In particular, its agenda has been customized for the needs of the ICT policy makers, regulators, national innovation agencies, development agencies, entrepreneurs, ecosystem builders, Financial stakeholders, academia as well as institutions willing to undertake a digital transformation journey fostering ICT centric innovation and developing coherent approaches to move countries towards an innovation driven economy.

Expected results range from Identification of stakeholders, champions, and good practice programs in the region interested in training national ICT centric innovation ecosystem reviews, thereby advancing digital transformation and advancing digital integration to empowering participants with methodology, frameworks, tools and context relevant case studies to accelerate digital transformation through promoting innovation and entrepreneurship.

Please note that the event will be paperless. Documents related to the event including draft agenda and practical information of participants will be posted on the ITU website at: <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/Africa/Pages/default.aspx>

Simultaneous Interpretation in English and French will be provided.

Participants are requested to complete the registration form available at the ITU website not later than **5th October 2019**.

While there is no participation fee for this workshop, it is to be noted that all expenses concerning travel and accommodation and insurance of participants should be covered by participants' organizations.

Venue of the workshop: Kintele Congress Center, Republic of Congo.

Mr. Serge Valery ZONGO, Program officer, ITU Regional Office for Africa, phone +237 222 22 92 92, email: serge.zongo@itu.int and Eric N'DOUMBA, Dr Ing., Telecommunications Advisor to the Minister, phone: +242 22 281 0151, email: eric.ndoumba@me.com are at your full disposal for any questions you might have concerning this event

Yours faithfully,

[Original Signed]

Andrew Rugege
Regional Director for Africa
And Liaison to ECA and AU

CC: Doreen Bogdan- Martin
Director BDT