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Administrations of ITU Member States. ITU Sector Members. ITU-affiliated Academic entities. United Nations and specialized Agencies. Regional and other international organizations.

Accessible Americas 2021: Information and Communication Technologies for ALL

Subject: Varadero, Cuba, from 29 November to 1st December 2021

Dear Sir/Madam,

It is our great pleasure to invite your organization to participate in the eight edition of the regional event "Accessible Americas: ICTs for ALL" which will take place virtually and physically in Varadero, Cuba, from 29th November to 1st December 2021. The event is organized by the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in partnership with the Ministry of Communications (MINCOM) of the Republic of Cuba.

Accessible Americas is the flagship ITU regional activity focused on ICT Accessibility to ensure digital inclusion and empowerment through ICTs for ALL people, irrespective of age, gender, ability, or location in the region. The initiative is aimed at bridging the digital divide and equipping all groups of society, including persons with disabilities, indigenous, elderly, youth, gender, and other groups of people to take advantage of ICTs, by enabling capacity building and sharing experience on how to design, develop and use accessible ICTs.

The COVID 19 pandemic continues to demonstrate the crucial role of ICTs and this event aims to reinforce accessibility policies to make the Americas region more inclusive. Accessible Americas represents the regional knowledge development platform in ICT accessibility. Its objective is to support ITU members and regional stakeholders in their implementation efforts by sharing good practices, lending support with challenges, leveraging their capacity in ICT accessibility, and offering networking and partnership opportunities to facilitate the development of digitally inclusive societies.

Accessible Americas will be conducted in English and Spanish and will include sign language interpretation. The event will also provide a certified training opportunity. Further information on the event including agenda, logistics and registration, will be posted soon at the <u>event website</u>.

We count on your participation to jointly contribute to the development in the Americas region with more accessible, inclusive, and sustainable societies for ALL.

Yours faithfully,

(Original signed) Bruno Ramos Regional Director