



**Telecommunication Development  
Bureau (BDT)**

Ref.: BDT/IEE/RME/DM/245

Geneva, 12 May 2017

To:

- Administrations of ITU Member States from CIS
- Regulators, ITU Sector Members, Associates, and Academia from CIS
- Regional telecommunication organizations from CIS
- Specialized agencies of the United Nations

**Subject: ITU Regional Forum on *Digital Financial Services Development*, Astana, Republic of Kazakhstan, 4-5 July 2017**

Dear Sir/Madam,

On behalf of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), I am pleased to invite you to the Regional Forum on Digital Financial Services, which is jointly organized by the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) of the ITU and the National Bank of the Republic of Kazakhstan. The Forum will be held in Astana, Republic of Kazakhstan, from 4 to 5 July 2017, following the International Conference on Payment Systems and Payment Services Market under Current Conditions, organized by the National Bank of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

The Forum will be attended by representatives of ministries and agencies, regulators, telecommunication operators and equipment manufacturers, Central Banks, financial institutions, Academia, software developers, and other interested stakeholders from CIS, including development and funding agencies.

The Forum will provide a platform for information sharing on the development of digital financial services, as well as for promoting constructive dialogue between regional, international, and national organizations, governments, banks, industry, consumers, and academia.

In particular, the Forum will cover the following topics:

- Impact of information technologies on the financial sector
- Digital economy and financial inclusion
- Success in diversity: incumbents and new market entrants
- Regional coordination and development of unified information space on the Eurasian Economic Union-based platform
- Priorities and prospects of regulatory practice
- Implementation of digital financial services and enhancement of regulatory body's activities
- Role of telecommunications regulators.

The draft agenda of the Forum is available in Annex 1 (attached hereto).

The Forum will be conducted in Russian and English with simultaneous interpretation.

The Forum will be paperless. All materials of the Forum, including presentations, will be available on the ITU website: [https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/CIS/Pages/EVENTS/2017/07\\_Astana/Astana.aspx](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/CIS/Pages/EVENTS/2017/07_Astana/Astana.aspx)

There is no participation fee for this event. However, all expenses related to the travel, accommodation and insurance of participants should be covered by your Administration/Organization.

Participants are kindly requested to fill out the Registration Form (Annex 2) and send it as indicated in the form **by 13 June 2017**.

To encourage the participation of low-income countries and subject to the availability of funds, the ITU will grant one full or two partial fellowships per eligible country of the CIS Region. An application for a fellowship must be authorized by the relevant Administration. Those intending to apply for a fellowship are required to complete the Fellowship Form (Annex 4) and send it to the ITU Fellowships Service by email: [fellowships@itu.int](mailto:fellowships@itu.int) or by fax: +41 22 730 57 78 no later than **6 June 2017**.

Mr Farid Nakhli, Programme Officer, ITU Area Office for CIS (tel.: +7-495-926-60-70, email: [farid.nakhli@itu.int](mailto:farid.nakhli@itu.int)) and Mr. Serzhan Balykbayev, Head, Protocol Division, International Cooperation Department, National Bank of Kazakh Republic, (tel.:+7 727 330 24 55; mob.: +7 701 362 47 35; email: [serzhan@nationalbank.kz](mailto:serzhan@nationalbank.kz) ), are at your disposal, should you require any further information.

I look forward to active participation from your Administration/Organization.

Yours sincerely,

[Original signed]

Brahima Sanou  
Director

**Annexes:**

1. Draft Agenda
2. Registration Form
3. Practical Information
4. Fellowship Form