



**Telecommunication
Development Bureau (BDT)**

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Geneva, 22 October 2015

To Administration of ITU Member States,
ITU-D Sector Members
National Regulatory Authorities in Africa Region

Subject: **ITU Regional Economic and Financial Forum of Telecommunications/ICTs for Africa, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, 18-19 January 2016**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am pleased to invite your Organisation to participate in the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Regional Economic and Financial Forum of Telecommunications/ICTs for Africa, organized by the ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) in collaboration with the Telecommunication Regulatory Authority of Côte d'Ivoire (ARTCI), at the "Espace Latrille Events" in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, from 18 to 19 (morning) January 2016.

A meeting of the Study Group 3 Regional Group for Africa (SG3RG-AFR) organized by the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau (TSB) will follow the Forum from 19 (afternoon) to 21 (morning) January 2016. The invitation for this meeting has been sent separately.

This year the Forum will focus, among other interesting subjects, on connecting the unconnected in a digital converged world, the economic and financial issues in a converged broadband environment and the new challenges in the digital ecosystem.

Prior to the events, participants are requested to submit the latest information on the telecommunication sector market environment, by updating the ITU Tariff Policy Survey at www.itu.int/ITU-D/icteye/. For login information (password and username), please contact BDT at: tariffs@itu.int.

Information concerning these events is available online at: www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regulatory-Market/Pages/Events2016/Abidjan/home.aspx. Please follow the visa instructions available in the information note to avoid delays. Participants are invited to pre-register online for both events by **18 January 2016** at the event website.

In Abidjan, Mr Guy Michel Kouakou, Economics affairs, Prospective and International Cooperation Director, ARTCI (Tel.: +225 20345880, Mobile: +225 05 97 61 68, E-mail: kouakou.guy-michel@artci.ci) and Ms Régina Fleur Bessou Assoumou, Head of International Cooperation Department, ARTCI (Tel.: +225 20344265 /20345880, Fax: +225 20344375, E-mail: bessou.regina@artci.ci) are at your disposal for any query you may have.

As mentioned in the [TSB invitation letter](#), two partial fellowships per Administration will be awarded by TSB, within the Africa Region only, subject to available funding, to facilitate the participation of Least Developed or Low Income Countries (www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/info/Documents/lcd-lic-201111.pdf). An application for

fellowship must be authorized by the relevant Administration of the ITU Member State. Please download the fellowship application form at www.itu.int/md/T13-SG3RG.AFR-COL-0004/en and return it to ITU no later than **16 November 2015**.

In order to build on work in progress and optimize transfer of knowledge, Organizations are urged to designate, where possible, an official with expertise in and responsibility for matters of costs and tariffs, or register their ITU-T SG3RG-AFR representative to attend this forum. Both meetings will be conducted in English and French and interpretation will be provided.

The provisional agenda is annexed for your information.

We look forward to your participation in this event.

Yours faithfully,

[ORIGINAL SIGNED]

Brahima Sanou
Director

Annex: provisional agenda