



Economic Commission for Africa



UNCTAD



To: National Statistical Offices
ICT Ministries
Regulatory Agencies

Subject: Joint ECA- ITU-UNCTAD Regional Workshop on Information Society Measurements in Africa

02 February 2007

Dear Madam/Sir,

We are pleased to invite your organization to participate in the *Joint UNECA-UNCTAD-ITU- Regional Workshop on Information Society Measurements in Africa*, which will take place from 7 to 9 March 2007 at the United Nations Conference Centre (UNCC) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The meeting is sponsored by ECA, ITU and UNCTAD.

The purpose of the meeting is to address challenges related to Information Society measurements in the African region, present possible solutions and identify technical assistance needs. ICT statistics and indicators are essential for formulating policies and strategies concerning ICT-driven or ICT-enabled growth, for social inclusion and cohesion, and for monitoring and evaluating ICT-related economic and social developments. They also contribute to documenting the impact of different technologies in achieving internationally agreed goals such as the Millennium Development Goals (MDG). The workshop will also review progress made with regard to the implementation of Scan-ICT Phase II and attempt to enlist more National Statistical Offices (NSOs) in the process.

The workshop builds on the work by the *Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development* and the Scan-ICT project, and aims to advance the availability of comparable data on ICT in the region. Along with definitions and methodologies, the meeting will present and discuss the core list of ICT indicators that was agreed upon at the 2005 global meeting organized by the *Partnership* and presented during the WSIS. A preliminary list of core indicators for e-Government will also be discussed. The workshop will also help increase awareness both at the political and at the technical level for the need to measure Information Society developments and for linking national policy agendas and e-measurement agendas, requiring effective cooperation between policy-makers and national statistical systems.

The event will allow NSOs, as well as representatives of ministries and regulatory agencies who are producers and/or users of ICT statistics, and research institutions, to discuss the need for comparable data on Information Society developments, and share best practices in ICT measurement at the regional level.

It is expected that the outcome of the workshop will provide practical suggestions on policies and programmes to develop and apply mechanisms for monitoring and measuring

Information Society developments in African countries, and learn from experiences of countries collecting and processing ICT indicators. This will help countries in the region produce comparable ICT statistics and indicators for effective ICT policy-making, through networks and statistical tools.

The participation of your organization is of high importance and we count on your presence in the event. We are pleased to inform you that ECA, ITU and UNCTAD will cover the cost of the participation of a limited number of representatives according to their respective rules and procedures for the days of travel and stay in Addis Ababa. For further details, please see the attached information note, draft agenda and registration form.

Yours faithfully,



Aida Opoku-Mensah
OIC, ISTD
ECA



Anh-Nga Tran-Nguyen
Director, SITE
UNCTAD



Sami Al Basheer Al Morshid
Director, BDT
ITU