

# INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



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**Date:** 19 April 2005      **Time:**      **Page** 1/12      **Ref:** FOP/TND - DM 242

**To:** All Arab Region Telecommunications Administrations, **Fax:**  
Regulators and Sector Members

**For your reply:**

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**Cc:** Mr. Ebrahim Al-Haddad, Regional Representative,  
ITU Regional Office, Cairo, Egypt  
Mr. N. Stankovic, Acting Coordinator, Arab Unit  
ITU, Geneva

**Fax: +20 2 262 2274**  
By internal mail

**Subject:** ***Regional Workshop for Arab Region on Guidelines on the Smooth Transition of Existing Mobile Networks to IMT 2000 for Developing Countries, Damascus, Syria, 13-15 June 2005***

Dear Sir/Madam,

At the kind invitation of Syrian Telecom, a Regional Workshop on "Guidelines on the smooth transition of existing mobile networks to IMT 2000" for the Arab Region will take place in Damascus, Syria, from 13 to 15 June 2005.

Wireless communications and Internet are merging in IMT-2000 to provide advanced mobile multimedia services. In this context, ITU is playing a preeminent role in defining frameworks and system concepts for bridging the digital divide. These Seminars will address the various aspects of the Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) focusing on IMT-2000 as an optimum wireless communication infrastructure for the information society, with particular emphasis on global solutions adequate to the requirements of developing countries. "

There are now more mobile users than fixed users. This increasing "demographic" shift requires an essential re-examination of the relationship between fixed and mobile networks. In order to provide assistance to Members, the ITU-D SG 2, in the framework of Question 18/2, has prepared the Mid Term Guidelines on Smooth Transition from Existing Networks to IMT-2000 for Developing Countries.

The purpose of the Workshop is to present and discuss the Guidelines and to provide information to telecommunication operators, policy makers, regulators and other stakeholders with an understanding of viable transition paths - including economic aspects - to change smoothly their pre-IMT-2000 networks towards IMT-2000. The reflection induced by these Guidelines should help to perceive the pros and cons of the possible solutions towards IMT-2000 and to take adequate decisions.

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The Seminar will be conducted in English with simultaneous interpretation into Arabic. It is therefore preferable if participants would have an appropriate knowledge of English.

Your Administration is invited to participate in this event with one or more **qualified experts**, and to present a paper dealing with mobile network implementation in your country/region and evolution to 3G.

In this respect, should your Administration require a full fellowship (**LDCs**), you are kindly requested to fill in the attached Fellowship Nomination Form and return it to the ITU Fellowships Service by fax (+41 22 730 57 78) **by 16 May 2005 at the latest, together with an abstract of the presentation** your representative(s) intends to make.

For other countries beneficiaries of partial fellowships:

The ITU will offer partial fellowship limited to **one** participant per country covering the cost of accommodation and miscellaneous expenses (**the cost of travel should be covered by your Administration**). Please note that the fellowship will be granted **only** upon receipt of the above-mentioned paper, and on a first come first served basis within the available budget.

In this respect, should your Administration require a partial fellowship, you are kindly, requested to fill in the attached Fellowship Nomination Form and return it to the ITU Fellowships Service by fax (+41 22 730 57 78) **by 16 May 2005 at the latest, together with an abstract of the presentation** your representative(s) intends to make.

You are kindly requested to complete and fax to us on (+41 22 730 5484), with copy to Mr. Ramzi Ramadan, Director of Public Relations, Syrian Telecom (STE) (Fax No. +963 11 612 16 45), and the ITU Regional Office in Cairo on +20 2 262 2274 the attached Registration Form for all your representatives.

Those participants requiring entry visa to Syria are requested to contact their local Consulate of Syria for information well in advance.

We are also attaching the Seminar Draft Agenda, an Information Note and the Hotel Reservation Form. All the related information on the seminar could be found at the following address: <http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/imt-2000/BDTActivities.html> and ITU/ARO website: <http://www.ituarabic.org/>

Should you need any further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully,

*Original letter signed by:*

Hamadoun Touré  
Director

**Annexes:** 6

Call for Papers + Draft Program  
Registration Form  
Information Note  
Hotel Reservation Form  
Partial Fellowship Request Form  
Full Fellowship Request Form