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**Global Initiative for Inclusive Information and  
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*An Advocacy Initiative of the United Nations  
Global Alliance for ICT and Development*

In conjunction with

**INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION**

## INVITATION

**Joint ITU and G3ict Forum 2008**  
**“The Convention on the Rights of Persons  
with Disabilities:  
Challenges and Opportunities for ICT Standards”**

**Monday, April 21, 2008**  
**ITU Headquarters, Geneva**

Please find a detailed agenda for the Forum  
on the subsequent pages of this invitation.

**For further information, please contact:**  
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*Advanced registration kindly requested*

G3ict is a Flagship Advocacy Initiative of the  
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## Introduction

The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is one of the fastest human rights treaties ever adopted. It was developed with the active participation of country delegations and NGOs representing persons with disabilities, and includes a number of detailed mandates related to accessible and assistive Information and Communication and Information Technologies (ICTs).

Today, ICT devices such as personal computers, fixed and mobile telephones and television are widespread, with over one billion people, globally, having access to the Internet. An increasing number of applications and services for e-commerce, e-government, transportation, public services, health services, cultural life and leisure are delivered electronically. However many of these services are developed without consideration of the needs of the 10 per cent of the world population with disabilities. This directly impacts the rights of these persons. The Forum will explore the likely impact of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on the evolution of ICT standards with the active participation of industry, Standards Development Organizations (SDOs), NGOs, and other interested parties. It is addressed to leaders overseeing accessibility standards issues, representatives from the industry, SDOs, NGOs representing persons with disabilities, research institutions, assistive technology developers, governments and academia.

## Objectives

- Review existing and in-progress technology standards and standardization of product development methodologies.
- Discuss the role of public policy and procurement in support of standardization and the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- Identify follow-up actions to facilitate the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

## Expected Outcome of Meeting

Review and document the areas of standardization which match the mandates of the Convention and explore critical gaps. Receive feedback and suggestions from industry, policymakers and NGOs to explore how they can best support the work of SDOs in fostering greater accessibility of ICTs.

## Information and Documentation

Registration for this event will be carried out exclusively **online** at the following URL:  
<http://itu.int/ITU-T/worksem/accessibility/200804/registration.html>

Deadline for registration is **7 April 2008**.

ITU-T Web site for the event: <http://itu.int/ITU-T/worksem/accessibility/200804>

G3ict Web site: [www.g3ict.com](http://www.g3ict.com)

## AGENDA

8:30 – 9:00	Registration
9:00 – 10:00	<p><b>Opening Session</b></p> <p><b>Session Chair:</b> Pierre-André Probst, Chairman ITU-T Study Group 16</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <b>Welcome address</b>, Malcolm Johnson, Director, ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector</li> <li>– <b>Importance of accessible ICTs to developing countries</b>, ITU Standardization Development Sector (TBC)</li> <li>– <b>Greetings from G3ict supporting organizations</b></li> <li>– <b>The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the context of global market demographics</b>, Axel Leblois, Executive Director, G3ict</li> <li>– <b>Latest developments in harmonization and standardization of accessible and assistive ICTs and the SWG-A standards inventory</b>, Josée Auber and Alex Li, ISO/IEC SWG-A</li> </ul>
10:00 – 11:00	<p><b>Session 1 - Human interfaces: design for accessible ICTs.</b></p> <p><i>Recent evolution of accessibility features and standards, standards supporting assistive technologies, gaps, and opportunities.</i></p> <p><b>Session Chair:</b> Whitney Quesenbery, President, Usability Professionals' Association</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <b>ISO work on Ergonomics for accessible ICTs</b>, Tom Stewart, Chairman, TC 159/ SC 4, "Ergonomics of human-system interaction"</li> <li>– <b>Pluggable user interfaces and virtual AT and RTF initiative: a new approach to user interface</b>, Gregg Vanderheiden, Ph.D., Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Chair, INCITS/V2 and Vice-chair, ISO/IEC, JTC 1/SC35</li> <li>– <b>ETSI Human Factor activities in the European context</b>, Stephen Furner, Chairman, ETSI Technical Committee Human Factors</li> <li>– <b>Designing for universal accessibility</b>, Bill Curtis-Davidson, Business Development and Solutions Leader, IBM Worldwide Human Ability and Accessibility Center</li> </ul>
11:00 – 11:15	<b>Coffee break</b>
11:15 – 12:30	<p><b>Session 2 - Accessible contents and services: addressing information deprivation.</b></p> <p><i>W3C initiatives, globalization of web standardization efforts, issues in ensuring compliance with accessibility standards (lack of awareness, speed of technology development, lack of training of web developers etc.); digital television and digital radio opportunities.</i></p> <p><b>Session Chair:</b> Eric Velleman, Director, Bartiméus Accessibility Foundation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <b>An analysis of the effects of content deprivation</b>, Martin Gould, Director of Research and Technology, National Council on Disability</li> <li>– <b>DAISY Consortium</b>, Hiroshi Kawamura, President, DAISY Consortium</li> <li>– <b>Web Accessibility Initiative, WAI/W3C</b>, Judy Brewer, Director, Web Accessibility Initiative, World Wide Web Consortium (WAI/W3C) (via Web</li> </ul>

	<p>cast from Beijing, P.R. China)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <b>IPTV standardization, features and gaps</b>, Clive Miller, Technical Broadcasting and Engineering Consultant, RNIB</li> </ul>
<b>12:30 – 14:00</b>	<b>Lunch break and knowledge fair</b>
14:00 – 15:00	<p><b>Session 3 - Mobility: Wireless Devices and Phones, accessibility and assistive functionalities.</b></p> <p><b>Session Chair:</b> Jim Tobias, President, Inclusive Technologies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <b>A mobile operator's perspective in Japan</b>, NTT DoCoMo (t.b.a.)</li> <li>– <b>Windows Mobile</b>, Sean Hayes, Incubation Lab Accessibility Business Unit, Microsoft</li> <li>– <b>Open source opportunities for accessibility and assistive functionalities - Android</b>, T.V. Raman, Research Scientist, Google (TBC)</li> <li>– <b>Perspectives from hand-sets manufacturer</b>, David Dzumba, Senior Manager, Accessibility, Nokia (TBC)</li> <li>– <b>Java platform</b>, Sun Microsystems (TBC)</li> </ul>
15:00 – 16:00	<p><b>Session 4 - Product development methodologies.</b></p> <p><i>Ensuring that products are designed with accessibility features at an early stage, use of universal design methodologies.</i></p> <p><b>Session Chair:</b> Chiara Giovannini, Program Manager, European Association Representing Consumers in Standardization (ANEC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <b>ITU-T SG 16 work on accessibility guidelines in standards</b>, Gunnar Hellström, ITU</li> <li>– <b>Good practices perspective: development methodologies can take into account accessibility</b>, Roman Longoria, Vice President, Computer Associates</li> <li>– <b>Extension of ISO 9000 product quality standards for accessibility in products</b>, Sean McCurtain, Head, Conformity Assessment, ISO</li> </ul>
<b>16:00 – 16:15</b>	<b>Coffee break</b>
16:15 – 17:15	<p><b>Session 5 - The role of government in supporting accessibility standards.</b></p> <p><i>Public procurement, regulations, and incentives in support of accessibility standards for ICTs.</i></p> <p><b>Session Chair:</b> Jesús Ruiz, Ministry of Communication, Colombia (TBC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <b>Survey of government actions in supporting accessibility</b>, Cynthia D. Waddell, Executive Director, International Center for Disability Resources on the Internet (ICDRI)</li> <li>– <b>U.S. Telecommunications and Electronic and Information Technology Advisory Committee (TEITAC) work on accessibility standards</b>, Jim Tobias, Co-chair, TEITAC and President, Inclusive Technologies</li> <li>– <b>EU work on accessibility standards</b>, Inmaculada Placencia Porrero and Martina Sindelar, European Commission Directorate General Employment, Social Affairs, and Equal Opportunities</li> </ul>

	– <b>Work on accessibility standards in China</b> (t.b.a.)
17:15 – 18:00	<p><b>Conclusions, recommendations and suggested follow-up</b></p> <p><b>Session Chair:</b> His Excellency Luis Gallegos, Ambassador of Ecuador to the United States; Past Chair of the UN General Assembly Ad-hoc Preparatory Committee for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and Chair, G3ict</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Conclusions by session chairs</li> <li>2) Feedback from Industry, NGOs, Standards Development Organizations and Government leaders on follow-up steps</li> </ol> <p><b>Summary of conclusions and recommendations,</b> His Excellency Luis Gallegos, Ambassador of Ecuador to the United States and Chair, G3ict</p>