

**INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION**

***Telecommunication Development Bureau***



**SPEECH**

BY

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Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Distinguished delegates,

It is a great pleasure to welcome you to the 3rd Global Industry Leaders' Forum.

Let me first give my warmest thanks to our hosts and in particular express my gratitude to His Excellency Mr. Wade, the President of Senegal, for placing both the Global Industry Leaders' Forum and the GSR under his high patronage and for honouring us with his presence at the opening ceremony of the GSR tomorrow. We offer our thanks also to the Director General of the ARTP and his team for their dedicated efforts in the preparation for this event and for welcoming us here to Dakar.

The Global Industry Leaders' Forum was established as a platform to bring together ITU-D Sector Members to exchange ideas with policy makers and regulators. We intended this to be an exclusive opportunity for ITU-D Sector Members and the success of the event has indeed proved it to be a key benefit of membership. I hope that it will continue to be useful to your our members and that with your feedback we can build on the success of the previous meetings in enhancing its relevance to the challenges you are facing daily.

As you will notice in the room, there is a great deal of interest among policy makers and regulators to hear what industry has to say. Equally, tomorrow many industry representatives will participate in the opening day of the GSR.

Industry, governments and regulators have some major interests in common. We are all striving towards the same goal: a growing and vibrant ICT Sector. If by working together we manage to extend the benefits of ICT to as many people as possible across the world, we will stand to win.

We have seen that the fastest growing ICT markets are the emerging markets, in particular in mobile. We now need to work together to extend this progress to broadband network expansion, to create a platform for innovative new services such as m-banking, m-government, m-health and other services.

Given the tremendous interest in issues related to wireless network development during the last Global Industry Leaders' Forum, we have dedicated our first session to this topic. Here, participants will consider what needs to be done to ensure that the so-called "mobile miracle" continues well into the future.

There was also much interest expressed during last year's event in the notion of "light touch regulation" so we are addressing this today as well. Everyone agrees that we need some game rules to ensure a healthy, fair market, but which rules? How much is enough? And how much is too much?

The last session of today will be an opportunity to consider in more detail recommendations for regulators and policy makers on these topics. The Chairman will present your recommendations to the opening session of the GSR tomorrow. Industry recommendations are then taken into consideration by GSR participants as they develop their 2010 Best Practice Guidelines. We will also be sharing these recommendations with all regulators and policy makers, globally, including those could not join us this week.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The issues you are discussing here today are at the core of all our efforts towards ICT development. I was not surprised to see at the ITU's World Telecommunication Development Conference, held in India earlier this year, that all regions recognized how essential it is to create an enabling environment for ICT development and emphasized regulatory issues as a priority for our future work. This recognition was further confirmed by our Member States through the Resolutions of the Plenipotentiary Conference in Mexico a few weeks ago.

The need for an ongoing exchange between industry and regulators is equally important and is clearly demonstrated by the level of interest this event. Let us work together to share experiences and find the best way forward towards tomorrow's digital world.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Chairman of this year's Global Industry Leaders Forum, Mr Mahfoudh Ould Brahim of Expresso. Your leadership and experience will of great benefit to our meeting today.

