



**Telecommunication  
Development Bureau (BDT)**

Ref.: BDT/IEE/RME/DM/212

Geneva, 16 July 2012

Subject: 2012 Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR) Consultation

Dear Madam/Sir,

I am pleased to launch a consultation process on fostering access to digital opportunities through cloud services as announced in my invitation letter to the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR), 2-4 October 2012 to be held in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

The overarching theme of the 12<sup>th</sup> edition of GSR is “Why regulate in a networked society?”. The vision of our present and future networked world builds on the connectivity and functionality made possible by converged broadband networks. Policy makers and regulators are faced with the challenge of implementing ambitious broadband strategies which require them to cooperate with the industry, understand the changes taking place in the market, and adopt innovative regulatory measures and tools taking into consideration the transnational aspects of the digital networked society.

Over the past years, data transmitted over ICT networks have been growing exponentially, with both stored and transmitted data showing strong expansion. The emergence of ‘cloud’ technologies enables the delivery of various on-demand data services to users over all sorts of networks. Cloud services are varied, and becoming increasingly differentiated, so the markets that they supply are diverse, from wholesale to retail, business as well as consumer. Market players as well as governments are increasingly adopting cloud computing to a greater or lesser extent, across all segments and sizes. Therefore, opportunities exist for those who are ready to move quickly to take advantage of cloud computing. But does every cloud have a silver lining? One of the key questions that arise is whether cloud computing can continue its genuine development in a regulation-free environment or is there scope for regulation, and if so, whom and how to regulate? Last but not least, what regulatory provisions can be effectively applied?

This consultation focuses on identifying regulatory approaches that policy makers and regulators can take to foster access to digital opportunities through cloud services. You are, therefore, invited to identify innovative or tried-and-true policy and regulatory approaches in the following areas:

- Translational issues related to breeding efficient, inclusive and future-proof ICT networks, services and applications, notably in the areas of IP interconnection, Voice over IP, net neutrality, and international data roaming;
- Data protection, data sovereignty, privacy issues (including child online protection) and

responsibilities of the various stakeholders;

- Public-Private Partnerships (PPP): strategies for expanding cloud services.

Contributions will be coordinated by Mr Lalith Weeratunga, Chairman of the Telecommunications Regulatory Commission of Sri Lanka (TRCSL). I wish to express my gratitude to Mr Lalith Weeratunga for agreeing to undertake this important task.

As time is limited for this very important discussion, I suggest that National Regulatory Authorities begin the process of preparing and coordinating contributions well in advance of the GSR. Please submit your contribution in electronic format **to [gsr@itu.int](mailto:gsr@itu.int) (maximum two pages), no later than 20 August 2012.**

A draft of consolidated best practice guidelines will be made available in advance of the GSR on the event website ([www.itu.int/GSR12](http://www.itu.int/GSR12)). Individual contributions will also be posted. The guidelines are to be presented and finalized during the GSR.

I believe that this is a unique opportunity for regulators to come together to further advance the commitments of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) as well as the development goals of the Millennium Declaration, and I look forward to receiving your comments.

I take this opportunity to encourage you to register as participant and inform us if you would like to intervene as panelist. May I also remind you to make your hotel reservations and check the visa procedure in advance of GSR. Visa instructions, online registration and further information on accommodation are available on the GSR12 website at: [www.itu.int/gsr12](http://www.itu.int/gsr12)

Yours sincerely,

[Original signed by]

Brahima Sanou  
Director