



Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT)

Ref.: BDT/IEE/RME/DM/179

Geneva, 19 April 2012

To ITU-D Sector members

Subject: 12th Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR)
Colombo, Sri Lanka, 2-4 October 2012

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am pleased to invite you to participate in the 12th Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR), 2-4 October 2012, organized by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), in collaboration with the Telecommunications Regulatory Commission of Sri Lanka (TRCSL). GSR, that now incorporates the Global Open Industry-Regulators Dialogue (former GILF), will be held at the Hilton Colombo Hotel, Colombo, Sri Lanka. The event will be chaired by TRCSL.

GSR brings together heads of national telecom/ICT regulatory authorities from around the world and has earned a reputation as the global annual venue for regulators to share their views and experiences. The meeting fosters as well a dynamic Global Dialogue among regulators, policy makers, industry leaders and other key ICT stakeholders where ITU sector members can share their view on major issues facing the ICT sector.

The first two days of GSR, the Global Dialogue (2-3 October 2012) will be open to regulators, policy makers, ITU–D Sector Members. The third day (4 October 2012) will remain closed for regulators and policy makers.

Programme

The theme of this year's GSR is: "Why regulate in a global networked society?"

To fully participate in today's networked society and be part of tomorrow's hyper-connected digital world, policy makers and regulators are faced with the challenge of meeting their national broadband goals and adopt appropriate means to further safe digital opportunities and inclusion of all. Implementing their broadband strategies requires 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. Participants will further share their views on net neutrality, spectrum policies, roaming, cloud computing, online safety with a focus on data protection and privacy, international and regional IP interconnection, public-private-partnerships to foster investment and deployment of broadband NGN networks and more. GSR will open with a high level interactive segment, focusing on transnational regulatory issues in a converged digital era, understanding the changing business dynamics and the role of regulation.

Panel Participation

In line with our past procedures, there will be no formal presentations apart from those made by authors of GSR discussion papers and other ITU documents to open each session. Active participation of all participants in panels is welcome and encouraged. Participants wishing to participate as panelists in one of the sessions identified in the provisional programme are kindly requested to complete the online panelist

registration form by **20 July 2012**. Selected participants will be informed by **6 August 2012**.

Online Networking platform

GSR offers unique networking opportunities in the lead up to, and during the event through the online interactive networking platform to be made available on the GSR12 website at www.itu.int/GSR12. This platform provides registered users with the opportunity to set up their appointments using their PC or smartphone, and even book a meeting room.

Documentation and Interpretation

GSR is a paperless meeting and relies on Web transmission of documents. The documents prepared for the events, and other information, can be downloaded from the GSR12 website.

Interpretation will be provided based on the requests of participants. You are therefore invited to indicate on the registration form whether you require languages other than English by **15 August 2012**. Based on the requests made by this deadline and provided there are at least five requests for a given language, interpretation will be provided in the requested languages.

Registration

Registration will be carried out exclusively online, starting on **21 May 2012** through Focal Points designated by each Administration/Entity. The role of a Focal Point is to handle registration formalities for his/her respective Administration/Entity. The list of Focal Points can be accessed using a TIES log-in at this [address](#).

Designated Focal Points can find the registration form [here](#).

If your Administration/Entity does not have a focal point, or wishes to modify the contact details and/or change a focal point, you are kindly requested to provide details of his/her last name, first name and e-mail address and submit this information on letterhead by fax to: +41 22 730 5545/+41 22 730 5484 or by e-mail to bdtmeetingsregistration@itu.int.

Practical Information

Please note that participants shall cover their own travel and accommodation expenses. Practical information on accommodation including logistical details is also available on the GSR12 website.

Due to visa requirements, and in order to ensure that your visa is processed in time for the meeting, I encourage you to follow the visa instructions available on the GSR12 website.

Should you require any information, please contact Mr Makhtar Fall, Head, Regulatory and Market Environment Division, by e-mail: gsm@itu.int or phone: +41 22 730 6256/730 5709.

I hope that you will be able to participate and make a valuable contribution to this year's Global Symposium for Regulators.

Yours faithfully,

[Original signed]

Brahima Sanou
Director

Annex 1: Provisional Programme

Global Symposium for Regulators 2012

Provisional Programme

Why regulate in a Networked Society?

Registration:

Sunday 30 September 2012	from 09:00 to 22:00 hours
Monday 1 October 2012	from 09:00 to 18:30 hours
Tuesday 2 October 2012	from 07:30 to 18:00 hours
Wednesday 3 October 2012	from 08:00 to 18:00 hours
Thursday 4 October 2012	from 08:00 to 16:00 hours

Venue:

Colombo, Sri Lanka

Tuesday 2 October 2012

Global Dialogue

07:30 – 09:00 REGISTRATION

09:00 – 10:30 OPENING – HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT

MAKE THE WORLD ONE: REGULATION IN THE GLOBAL VILLAGE

Opening statements

High Level panel discussion

10:15 – 10:30 COFFEE BREAK

10:30 – 12:00 SESSION 1. NET NEUTRALITY: TO REGULATE OR NOT TO REGULATE?

- Should traffic management be regulated or left to commercial negotiations? Understanding the issues at stake and the need for transparency. Ensuring quality of service (QoS), preventing degradation, hindering or slowing down of traffic over networks.
- How is the use of new services and applications, in particular cloud computing services, affecting networks? How are these new services and applications putting additional strains on existing bandwidth?
- How to strike a balance between consumer protection and the need to foster investment? How is net neutrality affecting the equation?

Presentation of the GSR discussion paper

Interactive panel discussion

12:30 – 14:15 LUNCH

14:15 – 15:45 SESSION 2. SETTING SPECTRUM POLICIES IN A DIGITAL MOBILE WORLD

- Understanding the necessity to revise and/or develop spectrum policies to cope with the explosive mobile data growth and how to effectively address the need for more spectrum.
- How to deal with the rapid take-up of new broadband mobile applications, machine-to-machine communications in a hyperconnected world, while sustaining mobile NGN deployment? What measures are needed? What should be in a spectrum policy for a digital mobile world?
- Results of the World Radiocommunication Conference 2012 (WRC12) on broadband issues

Presentation of the GSR discussion paper

Interactive panel discussion

15:45 – 16:00 COFFEE BREAK

16.00 – 17:15 SESSION 3. INTERNATIONAL ROAMING IN A BROADBAND ECONOMY

- How to handle termination of voice and mobile data communications in an always-on borderless society? Understanding the business models for roaming and the need for cross-border delivery in a broadband economy. What is the impact on consumers?
- What is the role for regulators? What regulatory approaches to adopt? How to balance regulation with commercial solutions?
- Regional approaches and experiences

Presentation of the GSR discussion paper

Interactive panel discussion

Wednesday 3 October 2012

09:00 – 10:30 SESSION 4. BLURRING BOUNDARIES: GLOBAL AND REGIONAL IP INTERCONNECTION

- Addressing the remaining bottlenecks: should IP interconnection be regulated?
- What kind of dispute resolution mechanisms to adopt at regional and international levels? What enforcement measures work in competitive environment?
- Should regulators be involved in wholesale charging agreements? How is international IP interconnection affected by net neutrality and international internet connectivity?
- Lessons learned and regional experiences.

Presentation of the GSR discussion paper

Interactive panel discussion

10:30 – 10:45 COFFEE BREAK

10:45 – 12:15 SESSION 5. DEMYSTIFYING REGULATION IN THE CLOUD: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR CLOUD COMPUTING

- Understanding the concept and the social and economic benefits and impact on SMEs, public entities and end users
- How are new players such as social media, over-the-top content and application providers changing market dynamics through cloud services?
- Whose responsibility is it? If the ICT regulator is not in charge of IT, what is the role for the ICT Regulator? How to balance the need for regulation without stifling innovation?
- What is the role for governments: users and facilitators?
- Lessons learned from VOIP services

Presentation of the GSR discussion paper

Interactive panel discussion

12:15 – 14:15 LUNCH

14:15 – 15:45 SESSION 6. DARK CLOUDS: SAFETY AND SECURITY ON THE NET

- Overview of online threats from a user's perspective: data protection and privacy issues. Are these rights different in the cloud? How to ensure any-time reliable access to cloud services?
- From a commercial point of view: importance of data security and reliability, defining applicable jurisdictions, managing risks, etc.
- Child online protection
- Balancing free flow of information/communications with security concerns
- What role for regulators?

Presentation of the GSR discussion paper

Interactive panel discussion

15:45 – 16:00 COFFEE BREAK

16:00 – 17:15 SESSION 7. PUBLIC-PRIVATE-PARTNERSHIPS (PPP): INNOVATION STRATEGIES FOR BRINGING BROADBAND CLOSER

- Developing successful public-private-partnerships to foster investment in broadband NGN networks
- What works? Bottom up or top down approaches? Where to invest?
- What role for the regulator? Should the regulator monitor investment? What regulatory incentives to provide?
- Best practices and lessons learned

Presentation of the GSR discussion paper

Interactive panel discussion

Thursday 4 October 2012

(Regulators' Day)

09:00 – 10:30 SESSION 8. DEFINING MARKETS: A REGULATORY LADDER OF INTERVENTION IN A CONVERGED DIGITAL ENVIRONMENT

- Defining significant market power (SMP) in a converged technology and service neutral environment : a move from regulation to deregulation
- Balancing ex-ante and ex-post regulation, should SMP operators who invested heavily in network deployment or who innovate fast be treated differently?
- The role of competition authorities vs ICT regulators: avoiding overlap and fostering cooperation
- Views from converged regulators and others.

Presentation of the GSR discussion paper

Interactive panel discussion

10:30 – 10:45 COFFEE BREAK

10:45 – 12:15 SESSION 9. BROADBAND IMPLEMENTATION: COUNTRY CASE STUDIES

Country case studies reporting on success stories, forward-looking approaches and lessons learned presented by regulators

Interactive panel discussion

12:15 – 14:15 LUNCH

14:15 – 15:45 SESSION 10. THE REGULATORY CONSULTING ROOM: BRINGING IT ALL TOGETHER, FOSTERING INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

Regulators' interactive Exchange on most pressing regulatory issues

15:45 – 16:00 COFFEE BREAK

16:00 – 17:00 WAY FORWARD AND CLOSING