**Telecommunication
Development Bureau**

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                                                          To:

                                                          National Regulatory Authorities of ITU
                                                          Member States

Subject: 2015 Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR) Consultation

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am pleased to launch a consultation process on facilitating the uptake and widespread use of m-applications and services through targeted regulation, as announced in my invitation letter to the 15th Annual Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR), to be held in Libreville, Gabon, from 9 to 11 June 2015.

The overarching theme of the 15th edition of GSR being "Mind the Digital Gap: Regulatory Incentives to Achieve Digital Opportunities", participants will explore ways to ensure that citizens can benefit from the social and economic opportunities brought about by the digital economy. In doing so, participants will, in particular, identify smart regulation needed to enable the use and uptake of m-services and applications for all.

The impressive growth of mobile services coupled with the advent of Internet and the emergence of m-applications and services have revolutionized the way we communicate. Mobile applications, social networking and cloud services are drastically reshaping behavioral, social and economic dynamics.

The growing adoption of broadband-enabled mobile devices has made access to the digital society more ubiquitous and pervasive. Apps and m-services are empowering citizens to engage in all aspects of modern life regardless of time, distance and location. Ensuring digital inclusion and access to the tremendous opportunities offered by apps and m-services, including online financial services (mobile money and payment), m-commerce, m-health, m-education, m-agriculture, and m- governance, for all has become a priority in today's digital economy. Governments and regulators have a key role to play in setting policies and regulatory measures conducive to the deployment and diffusion of such services and applications in a safe, informed and trustworthy manner taking into consideration their cross-sectorial nature.

This consultation therefore focuses on facilitating the uptake and widespread use of mobile applications and services through targeted regulation. You are invited to identify pro-active policy and innovative regulatory measures in the following areas:

- Stimulating demand: raising awareness about the potential of m-services and applications to achieve socio-economic opportunities by empowering citizens;

- Facilitating use, availability and access: Identifying policy, regulatory and industry-led measures to lift regulatory and technical barriers and foster access, development and take-up of apps and m-services;

- Protecting the users and suppliers: Identifying measures to ensure ease of use, trust, privacy and confidence as well as basic security in the use of m-services and applications taking into consideration their transnational nature;

- Roles of ICT stakeholders: identifying the roles and responsibilities of the government, the telecom/ICT regulator, the industry and consumers to facilitate and stimulate uptake and use in a safe and secure manner.

Contributions will be coordinated by President of the Regulatory Council of the Autorité de Régulation des Communications Electroniques et des Postes (ARCEP). I wish to express my gratitude to Mr Lin Mombo for agreeing to undertake this important task.

As time will be limited for this very important discussion, I would request that National Regulatory Authorities begin the process of preparing and submitting contributions well in advance of the GSR.

In order to be able to coordinate submissions and make a draft of consolidated best practices available on the event website (www.itu.int/gsr15) in advance of the meeting, we would ask you to submit your contribution in electronic format **to** gsr@itu.int **(maximum two pages), no later than 1 May 2015**.

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. 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 GSR15 website at: www.itu.int/gsr15.

Yours faithfully,

[Original signed]

Brahima Sanou
Director