



**Telecommunication
Development Bureau (BDT)**

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Geneva, 7 February 2017

To:

- ITU-D Sector Members
- Administrations of ITU Member States
- National Regulatory Authorities
- Regional and International Organizations
- ITU affiliated academic and research institutes

Subject: **17th Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR), Nassau, Bahamas, 11-14 July 2017**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am pleased to invite you to participate in the 17th Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR-17) from 11-14 July 2017, with 11 July being reserved for pre-events. GSR-17 will be organized by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), in collaboration with the Government of Bahamas. The event will be held at the Atlantis, Paradise Island, Bahamas and chaired by the Chairman of the Utilities Regulation and Competition Authority (URCA) of the Bahamas.

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 so that country experiences can be enlightening and lead towards regulatory excellence. The meeting also fosters a dynamic global dialogue among regulators, policy-makers, industry leaders and other key ICT stakeholders, where ITU Sector Members can engage in interactive discussions and identify best practices moving forward. Discussions will not only focus on the ICT/telecommunications sector, but also in terms of how ICT/telecommunications interacts with other regulation so that common principles and clear and simple rules can be discussed to create opportunities for all – consumers and business - in an increasingly complex and dynamic ICT ecosystem.

Programme

The theme for GSR-17 will be: “Living in a World of Digital Opportunities”. Today, fifth generation of ICT regulation is coming of age, and unleashing the potential of collaboration among stakeholders to create an enabling environment for innovation and investment is essential. The draft Agenda for GSR-17 which will be available shortly on the website has been built carefully taking into account the input during GSR-16 and inputs that were sent to us later.

We are pleased to inform you that for GSR-17, we will host as a Thematic pre-event on 11 July, the Global

Dialogue on Digital Financial Inclusion focusing in particular on cybersecurity for digital financial inclusion in collaboration with partners. More information on this event will be provided in due time. The closed “by invitation only” Regional Regulatory Associations Meeting and Private Sector Chief Regulatory Officers Meeting will be held on 12 July in the morning.

GSR sessions will be open to regulators, policy-makers and ITU–D Sector Members on 12 (afternoon) and 13 July. On 14 July two parallel tracks will be held, a Regulators’ track, open only to regulators and policy makers only, and an Industry track, open to ITU-D sector members. The closing ceremony will join together all participants to report on the different tracks and discussions and present the GSR Best Practice Guidelines adopted by Regulators.

Information Sessions and round table discussions will be held during coffee and lunch breaks to give detailed information on ITU-D products and services as well as to provide participants with the opportunity to hold detailed discussions on topical policy and regulatory issues.

Panel participation

In line with 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 executive level participants in panels is welcomed and encouraged. Those wishing to participate as panellists in one of the sessions identified in the provisional programme are kindly requested to complete the online panellist registration form by 20 February 2017, presenting an outline of their potential contribution to the topic. Selected participants will be informed by 17 March 2017.

Online networking platform

GSR offers unique networking opportunities in the run up to, and during the event through the online interactive networking platform to be made available on the GSR-17 website at www.itu.int/gsr17. This platform will provide registered users with the opportunity to set up their appointments using their tablet or smartphone, and they even will be able to book a meeting room. This year, we are also pleased to offer a networking facilitator service, to assist participants in setting up networking meetings and booking meeting rooms. More details on this service are available at gsr@itu.int or telephone: +41 22 730 6256/5443.

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 GSR-17 website. Interpretation will be provided in the six ITU official working languages.

Registration

Registration will be carried out exclusively online, starting on **10 February 2017** 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 available <http://www.itu.int/net4/ITU-D/CDS/meetings/registration/index.asp> can be accessed using TIES login credentials. Designated Focal Points can find the registration form <http://www.itu.int/net4/ITU-D/CDS/meetings/registration/index.asp>.

If your 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 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 GSR-17 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 GSR-17 website The Regulatory and Market Environment Division (e-mail: gsr@itu.int or tel. : +41 22 730 6256/5443), is at the disposal of participants who require assistance.

I hope that you will be able to participate and make a valuable contribution to the Global Symposium for Regulators 2017.

Yours faithfully,

[Original signed]

Brahima Sanou
Director