**Telecommunication
Development Bureau (BDT)**

Ref.:   BDT/IEE/RME/DM/006   Geneva, 22 December 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: 18th Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR), Geneva, Switzerland, 9-12 July 2018

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am pleased to invite you to participate in the 18th Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR-18) that will be organized by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). GSR-18 will be held at the Geneva International Conference Centre (CICG), Geneva, Switzerland from 9-12 July 2018.

I am pleased to inform you that, as part of GSR, we will host thematic events including the "Global Dialogue on Artificial Intelligence (AI), Internet of Things (IoT) and Cybersecurity – Policy and regulatory challenges and opportunities" on 9 July and 10 July in the morning. The Regional Regulatory Associations Meeting and the Chief Regulatory Officials (CRO) Meeting will be held on 10 July in the morning. More information on these events will be provided online shortly.

The theme for GSR-18 is: "New Regulatory Frontiers", with discussions focusing on how the digital transformation that is sweeping across sectors is impacting all aspects of our daily lives as consumers, businesses and citizens and extending regulatory frontiers beyond traditional telecommunications/ICT regulation.

I hope that you will be able to participate and make a valuable contribution to a successful Global Symposium for Regulators 2018.

Yours faithfully,

[Original signed]

Brahima Sanou
Director

Annex 1: Practical information for the 18th Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR-18)

Panel participation

In line with past procedures, there will be no formal presentations apart from those made by keynote speakers and authors of GSR series reports and other ITU documents, as appropriate. 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 15 February 2018, presenting an outline of their potential contribution to the topic. Selected participants will be informed by 10 March 2018**.**

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-18 website at www.itu.int/gsr18**.** This platform will provide registered users with the opportunity to set up their appointments using their tablet or smartphone, and book meeting rooms. 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 this event, and other information can be downloaded from the GSR-18 website. Interpretation will be provided in the six ITU official working languages.

Registration

Registration for GSR-18 will be carried out exclusively online, starting on **4 January 2018** 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 at: 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 at: 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.

Sponsorship opportunities

Please be informed that sponsorship opportunities are proposed for activities taking place around the GSR-18 (e.g. exhibition, coffee/tea breaks, lunch, receptions, etc.). This is a great opportunity for your entity to enhance visibility and promote your brand.

Details on these opportunities and related benefits can be found online at: http://www.itu.int/go/itudsponsorships. If you have any questions, BDT remains at your disposal and can be contacted by e-mail: bdtpartners@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-18 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-18 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.

Annex 2: Draft GSR-18 Programme

Thematic Events

CICG, Geneva, Switzerland, 9-10 July 2018

Provisional Agenda

9 July 2018

9h30-17h30

GSR event

Global Dialogue on AI, IoT and Cybersecurity – Policy and regulatory challenges and opportunities

- Keynote presentations
- Interactive panel discussions

10 July 2018 *(Morning)*

9h30 – 11h00		9h30 – 12h30
Regulatory Associations' (RA) Meeting	**Chief Regulatory Officers (CRO)/ Industry Advisory Group for Development (IAGD) Meeting**	**Global Dialogue on AI, IoT and Cybersecurity – Policy and regulatory challenges and opportunities**

GSR-18
New Regulatory Frontiers
CICG, Geneva, Switzerland, 10-12 July 2018

Provisional Agenda

10 July 2018 (Afternoon)

14h30-17h30

- **Opening ceremony**
- **AI for Development/AI for Society:**
  This high level Panel will see keynote presentations and high level Experts discussion on the transforming power of AI and emerging technologies expanding regulatory frontiers to new horizons.

11 July 2018

9h30-10h45

- **Session 1: Regulation as usual for IoT, AI and 5G?**
  This session will discuss connectivity, spectrum and infrastructure requirements for secure infrastructure needed in smart societies.

Coffee break

11h00-12h30

- **Session 2: Digital transformation: mastering the new regulatory frontiers**
  This session will examine the need for algorithms regulation, the importance of strengthening transparency and accountability, the role of regulators as facilitators, and a move to monitoring rather than enforcing.

Lunch

14h30-15h45

- **Session 3: Digital Identity across different platforms – can this help achieve the SDGs and foster inclusion for all?**
  This session will address the following questions: As different platforms are created for e-governance, e-payments, e-health, etc, how can this benefit good governance? How can the security of such data be guaranteed? What about Block chain and Bitcoin? Policy makers and regulators address the challenges and share experiences.

Coffee break

16h00-17h30

- **Session 4: The Human in the middle: How to protect personal data in a smart data driven economy?**
  This session will discuss measures to enhance consumer trust including secured and trusted data flows, data ownership and control, the role of social media, data security and privacy, and how horizontal regulation can empower consumers.

GSR-18
New Regulatory Frontiers

Provisional Agenda

12 July 2018

9h30-12h30 **Parallel Tracks**

Regulators' track	Industry Leaders' Track
Innovative regulatory tools as drivers of cross sectoral collaboration • This session will start with a Regulator's talk followed by topical Regulatory Sandboxes on defining regulation 5.0 and G5 regulators, case studies of collaboration: ICT for energy, ICT for trade and e-commerce, AI, IoT and security • Adoption of GSR-18 Best practice guidelines	**Industry leaders as drivers of leading emerging technologies** • This session will examine barriers and solutions from industry leaders for development issues in ICT ecosystem, which promotes sustainable investment and infrastructure development, especially on such issues on AI, IoT and industry 4.0.

Lunch

14h30 – 16h30

- **Multi-stakeholder Roundtable: Achieving new sustainable investment models: how to work together?**
  - This Interactive discussion will review collaboration mechanisms for sustainable investment in infrastructure (addressing 5G, mobile broadband, fixed broadband, satellite broadband)
    - o How to identify gaps (mapping tools, etc.)?
    - o Who can contribute?
    - o What types of collaboration (collaboration frameworks, funding, financing mechanisms)?
    - o What does success look like?

Coffee

16h45-17h30   **Closing**