Telecommunication
Development Bureau (BDT)

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To:

- ITU-D Sector Members
- Regional and International Organizations
- ITU affiliated academic and research institutes

Subject: 10th Private Sector Chief Regulatory Officers' (CRO) Meeting, Port Vila, Vanuatu, 9 July 2019

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am pleased to invite you to participate in the 10th Private Sector Chief Regulatory Officers' (CRO) meeting that will be organized by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) on July 9, 2019. This meeting will take place in the context of the 19th Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR-19), which will be held at the Warwick Le Lagon Resort, Port Vila, Vanuatu.

The theme for GSR-19 is *"Inclusive Connectivity: The Future of Regulation"*. It is recognized that connecting the other half of the population will not be achieved by 'business as usual' approaches. Instead, it will call for new collaborations, business and investment models through strong partnerships between the public and private sector.

The CRO meeting will be an opportunity for participants to address the critical business, regulatory and technical challenges to create an enabling ecosystem for connectivity as well as propose ways forward from the industry's perspective. More information on the agenda is attached.

Information on registration for GSR-19 and the CRO meeting can be found here:

https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Conferences/GSR/2019/Pages/Participation.aspx

I hope that you will be able to participate and make a valuable contribution to a successful 10th CRO meeting.

Yours faithfully,

[Original signed]

Doreen Bogdan-Martin
Director

Annex

Private Sector Chief Regulatory Officers' (CRO) meeting

Inclusive Connectivity & the Future of Regulation: an industry perspective

Tuesday, **9 July 2019** from **9:30 to 12:00**,

Venue: Warwick Le Lagon Resort, Port Vila, Vanuatu

Meeting Room: **Pacific Ballroom 2**

Background

It is recognized that bringing the other half of the population to the connected world will require different approaches. It is also acknowledged that such approaches will not be 'business as usual' but rather call for collaboration and new business and investment models through strong partnerships where the public and the private sectors must work together to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

As investment, competition, innovation, consumer privacy and data protection remain growing key challenges for regulators, new technologies (such as 5G, IoT, AI, AR, VR, ML, fintech and others) will continue to press regulators and industry for change at a previously undreamed of pace. Regulation can catalyze or hamper technological developments, consumer trust, and investments. Regulation can also favor or delay the promise of bringing the other half of the population online.

While different technologies are available to drive connectivity, pushing connectivity to 100% requires the right support ecosystem for technology deployment and scaling. This, in turn, requires different policy and regulatory choices that strike the right balance between regulation, public sector involvement, and competitive market forces.

Expected Outcome

CRO will address critical questions and propose ways forward, from the industry's perspective, on the main business and regulatory challenges and opportunities towards creating digital strategies and an enabling ecosystem for inclusive connectivity in a digital economy. It is expected that **CRO participants will agree on an outcome statement which will be shared by the CRO Chair at GSR closure ceremony.**

DRAFT AGENDA

9:30 – 9:45   **Opening of the meeting**

Opening remarks by the BDT Director

Opening remarks by the Chairman

Adoption of the agenda

09:45 – 10:30   **Setting the scene**

Business Solutions

- What are the business solutions, best market approaches, concrete experiences and use of innovative connectivity partnerships to connect the remaining 49%?
- What different types of investment and business models can drive meaningful and inclusive connectivity to 100%?
- What partnership solutions can scale across different countries? What are the common elements and enablers?
- What are some of the regulatory and collaborative best practices the industry can share in a converged ecosystem?

10:30-11:15   **Technological Solutions:**

- What are the solutions and concrete projects the industry proposes in working with ITU to drive innovative connectivity solutions and make ubiquitous different technology mix coverage solutions for remote areas or emergency relief situations and countries with special needs a reality in the shorter term?
- What experiences can be shared and learned from and inform solutions going forward?

11:15-11:45   **CRO Outcome statement**

11:45-12:00   **AOB and Closing of the meeting**

Mr. Bocar Ba

Chair