



Telecommunication
Development Bureau (BDT)



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Geneva, 23 March 2021

To:

- Administrations of ITU Member States
- ITU-D Sector Members
- National Regulatory Authorities
- Regulatory Associations
- Regional and International Organizations
- ITU affiliated academia and research institutes
- United Nations Funds and Programs,
Specialized Agencies, and IAEA

Subject: 21st Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR-21): Regional Regulatory Roundtable for Europe and Africa, 14 April 2021, Online

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am pleased to invite you to participate in the [ITU GSR-21 Regional Regulatory Roundtable for Europe and Africa](#), that will take place virtually on **14 April 2021, 10:00 - 16:00 GMT+2 (CEST)**.

The Regional Regulatory Roundtable is held in the lead-up to the [21st Global Symposium for Regulators](#) (BDT/DKH/RME/079) which will be held virtually from **21 to 25 June 2021** under the theme "*Regulation4digitaltransformation: Accelerating inclusive connectivity, access and use*".

The objective of the Europe-Africa Roundtable is to identify the key regulatory priorities at the regional level that would contribute to the elaboration of the GSR Best Practice Guidelines 2021. It will also provide a platform to foster regulatory dialogue across the two regions. The Regional Regulatory Roundtable is held within the framework of the ITU Regional Initiative for Europe 1 on "Broadband Infrastructure, Broadcasting and Spectrum Management", that aims at facilitating high-speed connectivity with resilient and synergistic infrastructure development, deployment and sharing, and the ITU Regional Initiative for Africa 1 on "Building digital economies and fostering innovation in Africa" focused on supporting the transformation required to create and leverage opportunities in the digital economy and build digital innovation ecosystems, both adopted by the World Telecommunication Development Conference in 2017 (WTDC-17).

Built around interactive high-level panels on topical and cutting-edge policy and regulatory issues, the Europe-Africa Roundtable provides regulators and policy makers with a unique platform for discussions among peers and other digital stakeholders.

The Roundtable will primarily focus on:

- Exploring regional perspectives on Regulation4digitaltransformation: Accelerating inclusive connectivity, access and use;
- Understanding collaborative regulation for inclusive connectivity with the presentation of case studies;
- Unlocking investment in connectivity through infrastructure sharing, co-deployment and universal service regulation;

- Fostering interregional collaboration between Europe and Africa in the field of regulation.

All information, including the agenda, link for registration and other relevant reference documents will be made available on the event website: <http://www.itu.int/GSR21-EUR-AFR>.

Mr Andrew Rugege, Regional Director for Africa (tel.: +251 11 551 4977/4855, email: itu-ro-africa@itu.int) and Mr. Jaroslaw Ponder, Head of the ITU Office for Europe (tel.: +41 22 730 6065, e-mail: eurregion@itu.int) are at your disposal for any questions you might have concerning the event.

I hope that you will be able to participate and ensure a wide regional engagement to make this ITU GSR-21 Regional Regulatory Roundtable for Europe and Africa a success.

Yours faithfully,

[Original signed]

Doreen Bogdan-Martin
Director

Registration

Registration to participate in this Regional Regulatory Roundtable is available [here](#). Participants can register using their ITU user account credentials (username and password). Participants who do not hold an ITU user account can create their own user account [here](#). For participants who have already created a user account when they registered for a recent ITU meeting, their user account is still valid.

For assistance, please contact: BDTMeetingsRegistration@itu.int.

Interpretation

English and French interpretation will be provided for this Regional Regulatory Roundtable. At the time of registration, participants who require a language other than English must select their choice from the list within the form (French).

Captioning

The meeting will benefit from live captioning service in English.

Access to virtual meeting rooms

Instructions on how to connect to the platform for these virtual meetings will be sent to duly registered participants in a confirmation of registration e-mail. Only participants who are duly registered for the meeting will be able to access the virtual meeting rooms. Registered participants will be informed of the date and time for the session to test the platform in due course.

Livestream

The meeting will also be livestreamed on ITU Twitter and YouTube channels.

Annex 1

International Telecommunication Union



International Telecommunication Union

ITU Global Symposium for Regulators 2021 (GSR-21)

Regional Regulatory Roundtable for Europe and Africa

This Regional Regulatory Roundtable for Europe and Africa is held within the framework of the ITU Regional Initiative for Europe on “Broadband infrastructure, broadcasting, and spectrum management” and the ITU Regional Initiative for Africa on “Building digital economies and fostering innovation in Africa”. It is organised with the support of the Regulatory and Market Environment (RME) Division of the Telecommunication Development Bureau within the context of the Global Symposium for Regulators 2021 on “*Regulation4digitaltransformation: Accelerating inclusive connectivity, access and use*”

<http://www.itu.int/GSR21-EUR-AFR>

14 April 2021 | Virtual



Draft AGENDA

Wednesday | 14 April 2021

*All times are GMT+2 (CEST)

[9:45 – 10:00]*	Virtual Networking
[10:00 – 10:15]	Opening Ceremony
[10:15 – 11:30]	Exploring regional perspectives on Regulation4digitaltransformation: Accelerating inclusive connectivity, access and use Focus: Strategic messages of the high-level representatives of the regional regulatory platforms
[11:30 – 11:45]	Coffee break
[11:45 – 13:00]	Roundtable Discussion 1: Understanding collaborative regulation for inclusive connectivity Focus: Presentation of collaborative regulation case studies and discussion on national approaches leading towards fifth-generation (G5) regulation

[13:00 – 13:30]	Lunch break
[13:30 – 14:45]	Roundtable Discussion 2: Unlocking investment in connectivity Focus: How infrastructure sharing, co-deployment, and universal service financing mechanisms as well as data driven decision making can unlock investment in connectivity
[14:45 – 16.00]	Roundtable Discussion 3: Fostering interregional collaboration between Europe and Africa in the field of regulation Focus: Strategies, policies and experiences as well as challenges in sharing regulatory best practices between Europe and Africa
[16:00 – 16:15]	GSR-21 Best Practice Guidelines Consultation
	Conclusions and Way Forward
