



Telecommunication
Development Bureau (BDT)

Ref.: BDT/DIR

Geneva, 9 July 2012

To ITU-D Sector members

Subject: **1st Chief Regulatory Officers Meeting, 1st October, 2012**
(as part of the 12th Global Symposium for Regulators, Colombo, Sri Lanka, 2-4 October 2012)

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am pleased to refer to my recent invitation to participate in the 12th Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR) that will take place from 2 to 4 October 2012 in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The GSR is the premier gathering of telecommunications regulatory officials from around the world. Since its inception in 2000 by the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT), this meeting has had a singular impact on the global telecommunications landscape by providing regulators with best practices, guidance, and a forum to share experiences and solutions to regulatory questions. The GSR has been a major contributor to the dramatic expansion of telecommunications and adoption of telecommunications services through the introduction of privatization, liberalization and competition, supported by transparent regulation by independent telecommunications regulatory authorities across the globe.

I am delighted to inform you that the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is further enriching its portfolio of activities for private sector entities who are Members of the ITU. **On the 1st October 2012, the eve of the GSR, we will launch ITU's 1st Chief Regulatory Officers Meeting, open to all private sector executives, who are members of ITU, in charge of public policies and regulatory issues, including institutional, government and/or public affairs.**

Now that the vast majority of the world's telecommunications is provided by private companies and regulated by independent national telecommunications regulatory authorities, the role and importance of private sector companies and private investment in telecommunications infrastructure and services is increasing.

It is therefore topical for these entities to share their experiences and identify challenges to their business, especially those related to regulation or other government policies that facilitate or inhibit investment, innovation, deployment and adoption of network infrastructure and services.

BDT is precisely initiating this new forum for private sector Chief Regulatory Officers in order to facilitate discussion and information sharing among telecommunications service and technology companies.

The CRO meeting will bring together **senior industry executives** to discuss common issues, share best practices and identify for regulators and other government officials industry's perspectives on lessons learned from different countries regarding attracting investment; deploying, extending and upgrading networks, especially to underserved communities; spectrum management; public-private partnerships; and regulatory processes.

This meeting of CROs will be a unique opportunity for industry experts from across the world to meet and share experiences. **As we build the specific agenda for the meeting, we invite your suggestions for topics and issues.**

I am pleased to invite you to participate in this new initiative and to nominate a representative to participate in the CRO Meeting. I am also delighted to inform you that Dr Robert Pepper, Vice President, Global Technology Policy, CISCO, has accepted my invitation and the challenge of chairing the meeting this year.

I would like to remind you that the first two days of GSR, the GRID (2-3 October 2012), is open to regulators, policy makers, and ITU-D Sector Members. The third day (4 October 2012) is reserved for regulators and policy makers, while the CRO Meeting on 1st October is for private sector entities only.

Registration

To register for the CRO Meeting, please send an e-mail to Fernando Lagraña, Head, Partnership Building Division, at the following address: CROMeeting@itu.int. Please note that once registered for the CRO Meeting, the Secretariat will take care of your registration for the GRID as well.

Practical Information

Please note that participants will cover their own travel and accommodation expenses. Practical information on accommodation including logistical details is also available on the GSR12 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 GSR12 website.

Should you require any additional information, please contact Fernando Lagraña, Head, Partnership Building Division by e-mail: CROMeeting@itu.int or phone: +41 22 730 5094.

I look forward to your participation in this new initiative and I welcome your company in the 1st Chief Regulatory Officers Meeting.

Yours faithfully,



Brahima Sanou
Director