



## **Industry Advisory Group for Development Issues and the Private Sector Chief Regulatory Officers' (IAGDI-CRO) meeting**

### **Regulation for Digital Transformation – Accelerating inclusive connectivity, access and use in the era of Pandemics An industry perspective.**

Tuesday, **22 June 2021** from **14:45 to 16:30 (CEST)**  
Meeting Room: **Virtual Room (ZOOM)**

#### **Background**

The pandemic has showed how important it is for governments to proactively and timely shape the development and deployment of ICT policies and regulatory approaches in times of crisis. COVID-19 has inevitably affected individuals, families, and organizations across industries, geographies, and demographics. Business operations and revenues and future investment plans were also drastically affected. Further, the pandemic has challenged the global community to find and use innovative approaches and partnerships to ensure accessible and affordable connectivity play a central role in everyone's and every segment of society's lives. As we prepare for the post-pandemic era, it will require enormous investments and efforts and a shared vision amongst stakeholders to forge the right kind of partnerships that may lead to resilient sustainable development.

This year, GSR-21 discussions will focus on collaborative leadership and approaches to ensure trust in the digital space; connectivity for digital transformation and putting in place regulatory enablers; financing to achieve affordable connectivity, meaningful access, and use; safe digital inclusion, and partnerships for digital transformation. Within this perspective, the voice of industry and private sector in sharing challenges and lessons learned brings an important perspective to policy and regulatory debate. The upcoming IAGDI-CRO will also benefit from some key ideas arising

from the [Partners2Connect](#) event held on 2 February 2021, which is a part of a Road to Addis WTDC series of events which among others debated on major gaps in connecting the unconnected requiring new partnerships.

On this occasion, and pursuant to RESOLUTION 71 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017), the Industry Advisory Group for Development Issues and the Private Sector Chief Regulatory Officers Meeting ([IAGDI-CRO](#)), a platform composed of ITU-D Sector Members – will meet, debate and share views and lessons learned from the prevailing COVID-19 situation and how this has impacted business. Thought leaders will use this opportunity to propose policy and regulatory adjustments that could help business to recover and thrive under new collaborative and partnership approaches.

### **Objective of the Meeting**

Taking advantage of GSR-2021, the IAGDI-CRO meeting provides a platform for the participants (industry and private sector) to more specifically, exchange ideas on the impact of COVID-19 on society and businesses, innovative policy, and regulatory incentives to foster investment and business opportunities for meaningful connectivity. Further, IAGDI-CRO will discuss the importance of flexible regulation and explore ways of how industry and regulators could work together to build a robust, reliable, and resilient digital eco-system while emphasizing the importance of partnerships that extend to non-traditional stakeholders.

### **Format**

The meeting will hear from a panel of Speakers/Thought Leaders who will share strategic views on the subject. Thereafter, significant time will be dedicated to discussions and contributions from the rest of the participations.

### **Expected Outcome**

It is expected that IAGDI-CRO meeting will adopt a statement which will be presented to GSR-21 by the Chairman.

## AGENDA

<b>14:45 – 15:05</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Opening of the meeting by the IT moderator</li><li>• Opening remarks by Ms. Doreen Bogdan-Martin, BDT Director, ITU</li><li>• Opening remarks by the Mr. Bocar Ba, Chairman of IAGDI-CRO</li><li>• Overview of IAGDI-CRO</li></ul>
<b>15:05 – 16:10</b>	<p><b>The private sector’s insights and perspectives through the eyes of IAGDI-CRO to accelerating inclusive connectivity, access and use in the era of Pandemics.</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. <b>Mr. Gil Santaliz</b>, Founder and CEO, <b>New Jersey Fiber Exchange</b></li><li>2. <b>Mr. David Kirkpatrick</b>, Founder and Editor-in-Chief, <b>Teconomy</b></li><li>3. <b>Mr. John Giusti</b>, Chief Regulatory Officer, <b>GSMA</b></li><li>4. <b>Ms. Kui Kunyanjui</b>, Head of Regulatory and Public Policy, <b>Safaricom</b></li><li>5. <b>Ms. Maria Alexandra Velez</b>, Senior Director of Government and Regulatory Affairs, <b>SBA Communications</b></li><li>6. <b>Ms. Aarti Holla</b>, Secretary-General, <b>ESOA</b></li><li>7. <b>Mr. Maxim Naidoo</b>, Executive Head of Technical Regulation, <b>Vodacom</b></li><li>8. <b>Mr. Rahul Vatts</b>, Chief Regulatory Officer, <b>Bharti Airtel India</b></li><li>9. <b>Mr. Khaled Hegazy</b>, Chief Corporate Affairs Officer, <b>Etisalat</b></li></ol>
<b>16:10 – 16:20</b>	<p><b>Discussion and finalization of the IAGDI-CRO statement on behalf of industry/private sector to the GSR-21</b></p>
<b>16:20 – 16:30</b>	<p><b>AOB and Closure of the meeting</b></p>

**Mr. Bocar Ba**  
Chair