

**INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION**

**5<sup>th</sup> Private Sector Chief Regulatory Officers Meeting  
Budapest, Hungary, 11 October 2015**

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**Original: English**

**Summary Report of the meeting**

**Opening of the meeting**

The 5<sup>th</sup> Private Sector Chief Regulatory Officers (CRO) Meeting was held in Budapest, Hungary, as a pre-event to Telecom 2015. Close to 15 representatives from ITU-D Sector Members participated in the meeting.

The meeting was opened by Ms. Eun-Ju Kim, Chief, Innovation and Partnership Department and Administrator for ICT Development Fund, who introduced the BDT Director, Mr. Brahima Sanou for his opening remarks.

**Opening remarks by the BDT Director:**

The BDT Director, Mr. Brahima Sanou, in his opening remarks highlighted the importance of the CRO meeting for both the private sector and ITU-D and applauded the fact that for the first time since its creation, the CRO meeting is being held twice this year as a follow up to the request of the 4<sup>th</sup> CRO meeting held in June 2015 in Libreville, Gabon, which called for more opportunities for Chief Regulatory Officers among ITU-D Sector Members to meet and engage in potential partnership and strengthening membership of ITU-D.

CRO, he said, is a unique platform which gives Members the opportunity to share experiences and to exchange views on regulatory matters, including topics to be discussed at the next Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR16). He stressed that the CRO meeting also offers an opportunity to hear ideas on how to strengthen private sector's involvement and engagement in global, regional, and national initiatives and projects, in particular regarding the two outputs from the previous CRO:

- Achieving the Optimal Regulatory Environment; and
- Promoting Market Access and Infrastructure.

He welcomed Mr. Bocar Ba, Chief Executive Officer of Samena Telecommunications Council, the Chairman of the CRO meeting, as well as Mr. Dominique Würges, Vice Chair of the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG) in charge of Private Sector and welcomed inputs from the Group for the forthcoming TDAGs and to WTDC-2017 on the outcomes of the CRO meetings.

## Opening remarks by the CRO Chair

Mr. Ba shared Director Sanou's vision to make the CRO a platform for discussion to identify regulatory areas of global industry interest, effectively addressing which issues could foster even greater co-operation between regulators and the private sector, and how cross-sector efforts could impact socio-economic growth in the world to an even greater extent. Mr. Ba highlighted that by working with regulators and policy makers and informing them of private sector considerations, CRO can contribute to fostering the enabling environment and impact the future development of the sector.

Reporting on progress made since the last meeting in Gabon (June 2015), Mr. Ba highlighted three points such as:

1. **CRO as Agenda Driver**, where he noted that during the ITU Telecom 15, the CRO Chairman was leading the First Forum Session on "Opening up new markets in the converged ICT ecosystem: new users, new services or new segments?"<sup>1</sup> Leading the discussions in such a high-level forum, he said, is putting the CRO at the level of an agenda driver and is helping to greater extent into the advocating activities of the main CRO outcomes. CRO also looks forward to providing input to the GSR16 agenda.
2. **CRO Outcomes Advocacy**, where he noted that as per the previous CRO meeting output statement, outcomes have been shared with the industry leaders across different regions that reflect the group objectives, secure confidence of the private sector in the work of ITU, and encourage representation from all segments to ITU and CRO.
3. **CRO Members Communications**, recognizing that for the CRO Meeting to achieve its proposed objectives, detailed follow up on action items is required. In that regard, Mr. Ba announced that a dedicated mailing list was established, introducing new tools for the group to conduct discussions in between meetings. The new dedicated mailing list (i.e., [itudcro@lists.itu.int](mailto:itudcro@lists.itu.int)) can be subscribed to using TIES (subscribe [here](#)).

## Next steps and possible areas of focus for the future

During the discussions in response to the presentation by the Chair and the items in the draft agenda, the following issues were noted by the participants:

- New discussions should be encouraged and promoted to reach policy makers and regulators on topics of importance to CROs. Regulators are both enablers and constrainers, participants noted, and CRO is a vehicle to share best practices and experiences, and impact policy and decision making to achieve an enabling environment and strike the balance between the interests of policy makers and regulators on the one hand, and the private sector on the other.
- Many position papers, studies, and information are available to facilitate discussion, including through the Study Groups and TDAG.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.itu.int/net4/Telecom/webs/TelecomWorld/session/description/C-00000788>

- CRO is an advocacy board for BDT on private sector’s regulatory issues. CRO could also consider contributing to existing mechanisms and fora such as the Study Groups as well as *ITUnews*, including the regulatory newsletter which is expected to be launched in Q1 2016. This can contribute to the CRO objective to better promote lessons learned, share best practices, and foster the development of an enabling environment where innovation and investment can thrive.
- The need to be pragmatic and focus the CRO discussions on what can be delivered and shared. When discussing best practices, there is a need to be clear on what the CRO is trying to achieve, and to agree on appropriate fora in which to meet and present, as well as target audiences and regulators. When discussing common issues, agree on these and come out with strong messages and agree on target audiences. CRO can also identify fora in which to share such experiences, including by holding a workshop on key issues – suggestions of topics included taxation and the impact of ICTs on achieving the SDGs.
- Looking at the linkages between ICT and other sectors, CRO concurred that reaching out to regulators from other sectors could be a positive next step, and supported suggestions to include discussions with financial sector regulators in GSR16.

### **Experimentation Suggestion from the Chair**

The CRO chair suggested to the group that a pilot collaboration project could be undertaken between CRO and governments with regards to implementing the outcome of GSR15 CRO recommendations.

The proposal is to select a few pioneer countries where CRO could exchange knowledge and provide guidelines to governments on the two issues agreed at the 4<sup>th</sup> CRO meeting in Gabon (e.g., Achieving the optimal regulatory environment and Promoting market access and infrastructure) and report the results of this dialogue at the 6<sup>th</sup> CRO which will take place at GSR16. Participants agreed to exchange on the practical implementation of this pilot project through the mailing list and recommend the ways forward during the interim period.

### **GSR16**

In terms of GSR16, CRO proposed the following topics:

- Spectrum Allocations New Frontiers – Post WRC’15 Implications.
- Telecom Investments Sustainability Challenges – Taxation and Royalty Reform.
- Smart Converged Regulatory Framework - Same Services Same Rules.
- Paving the Road towards the adoption of IoT / M2M.
- Privacy and Data Protection Policy Considerations.

CRO and the TDAG Vice-Chair also welcomed suggestions from the ITU BDT Secretariat to include a track for the private sector on the last day of GSR, that would be held in parallel to the regulators track and take place on the morning of 19 May. CRO and other private sector members would also be invited to the final plenary where reports of the various tracks during GSR and its pre-events could be incorporated into the session. CRO welcomed suggestions from participants for agenda items for that track.

### **TDAG Vice-Chair Remarks**

Mr. Dominique Würges, Vice Chair of the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG) in charge of Private Sector highlighted the importance of CRO, a platform for exchange and interaction with private sector Chief Regulatory Officers to provide advice on regulatory issues to the BDT director. He welcomed inputs from the Group for the forthcoming TDAGs and to WTDC-2017 on the outcomes of the CRO meetings, and called upon CRO to consider even more close collaboration with TDAG and ITU-D, as they have the mandates to transform the outcomes of CROs into realizations for the future the proposals /recommendations within the ITU-D Sector.

### **Closing remarks by the BDT Director and the CRO Chair**

In her closing remarks, Ms. Kim, on behalf of Mr. Sanou, noted the two main topics on which CRO will focus their efforts, being: the Optimal Regulatory Environment; and Promoting Market Access and Infrastructure.

Ms. Kim welcomed the suggestion that the Action plan for the implementation of CRO inputs be discussed through the CRO dedicated mailing list and that progress made would be reported at the next CRO meeting to be held back to back with the GSR-16 in Sharm el-Sheikh. She also noted the proposals made for GSR-16 and stated that they would be considered for inclusion in the next GSR Agenda.

The Chair thanked all participants for their productive contributions to the debate and looked forward to follow-up on issues discussed.

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