



**Telecommunication
Development Bureau (BDT)**

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Geneva, 4 March 2020

- Administrations of ITU Member States
- Resolution 99 (Rev. Dubai, 2018)
- ITU-D Sector Members
- National Regulatory Authorities
- Regional and International Organizations
- ITU affiliated academia and research institutes
- United Nations, Specialized agencies, and IAEA

Subject: 20th Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR), Geneva, Switzerland, 1-3 September 2020

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am pleased to invite you to participate in the 20th Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR-20), to be held at the Centre International de Conférences (CICG), Geneva, Switzerland, 1-3 September 2020, under the theme: ***The Regulatory Wheel of Change: Regulation for Digital Transformation.***

As GSR celebrates its 20th edition, we will be celebrating 20 years of changing regulatory frameworks. We are excited to share that we will be presenting an updated 20th anniversary edition of the ICT Regulation Handbook (to be named Digital Regulation Handbook) at GSR-20 as well as concrete guidance on steps that regulators can take to achieve meaningful connectivity for digital transformation.

GSR-20 will provide you with the opportunity to share experiences and knowledge, collaborate and identify evolving regulatory tools and approaches to bring affordable, safe, secure and trusted connectivity and online access and use to people everywhere. GSR-20 discussions will focus on:

- collaborative policies and regulatory approaches to foster digital connectivity for all;
- strengthening institutional frameworks: Demystifying the collaborative regulator; competition in the digital era;
- spectrum valuation and allocation mechanisms for new services post WRC-19;
- insights from the Last Mile Connectivity Lab;
- digital safety and security: are we there yet?, and;
- sustainable and inclusive societies: Accessible ICT's leaving no one behind.

In addition to the high level panels on topical and cutting edge policy and regulatory issues, this year's GSR will bring you more interactive sessions and trainings, bringing together regulators and policy makers from around the world and providing a platform for discussions. As part of GSR-20, we will hold the Heads of Regulators Executive Roundtable, the Regional Regulatory Associations Meeting (RA) and the Industry Advisory Group on Development Issues (IAGDI)-Private Sector Chief Regulatory Officers' (CRO) meeting on 1 September 2020.

I hope that you will be able to participate and make a valuable contribution to a successful Global Symposium for Regulators 2020.

Yours faithfully,



Doreen Bogdan-Martin
Director

Annex 1: Event participation information

Online networking platform

GSR offers unique networking opportunities in the run up to and during the event through the online interactive networking platform to be made available on the GSR-20 website at www.itu.int/gsr20. This platform will provide registered users with the opportunity to set up their appointments and book meeting rooms using their tablet or smartphone. We are also pleased to offer a networking facilitator service to assist participants in setting up meetings and booking meeting rooms. More details on this service are available at gsr@itu.int or telephone: +41 22 730 6256/5443.

Documentation and interpretation

GSR is a paperless meeting and relies on web transmission of documents. The documents prepared for this event and other information can be downloaded from the GSR-20 website.

Panel participation

In line with past procedures, there will be no formal presentations apart from those made by keynote speakers and authors of GSR reports and discussion papers and other ITU documents, as appropriate. Active participation of executive level participants in panels is welcomed and encouraged. Further information on panel participation will be posted on the website shortly. Those wishing to participate as panellists in one of the sessions identified in the provisional programme will be requested to complete the online panellist registration form, presenting an outline of their potential contribution to the topic, and selected participants will be informed.

Registration

Registration for GSR-20 will be carried out exclusively online, starting on 24 February 2020 through Focal Points designated by each Administration/Entity. The role of a Focal Point is to handle registration formalities for his/her respective Administration/Entity. The list of Focal Points available at: <http://www.itu.int/go/regitud> can be accessed using TIES login credentials. Designated Focal Points can find the registration form at: <http://www.itu.int/go/regitud>.

If your Entity does not have a Focal Point, or wishes to modify the contact details and/or change a focal point, you are kindly requested to provide details of his/her last name, first name and e-mail address and submit this information on letterhead by fax to: +41 22 730 5484 or by e-mail to BDTMeetingsRegistration@itu.int.

Practical information

Please note that participants shall cover their own travel and accommodation expenses. Practical information on accommodation, including logistical details, will soon be available on the GSR-20 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 GSR-20 website. The Regulatory and Market Environment Division (e-mail: gsr@itu.int or tel.: +41 22 730 6256/5443) is at the disposal of participants who require assistance.

GSR-20**The Regulatory Wheel of Change:
Regulation for Digital Transformation**

CICG, Geneva, Switzerland, 1-3 September 2020

Provisional Agenda**1 September 2020 (Morning) Special sessions**

9h30-11h00		11h15-12h30
Regulatory Associations' (RA) Meeting	Industry Advisory Group on Development Issues (IAGDI)-Private Sector Chief Regulatory Officers' (CRO) meeting	Training
11h15-14h00 (including lunch)		
Heads of Regulators Executive Roundtable (upon invitation only)		

1 September 2020 (Afternoon)

14h30-17h30

- **GSR Opening ceremony**
- **Celebration of 20th Edition of GSR**
- **Leadership Debate: Collaborative policies and Regulatory approaches to foster Digital connectivity for all - the missing link**

This session will discuss:

- Emerging technologies for a smart world: how can regulation foster innovation and adoption of emerging technologies?
- Addressing the funding gap: balancing innovative financing mechanisms and funding models: sustainable policy measures, business and partnership models, and fiscal incentives
- Affordability of access: Community approaches to extend digital infrastructure,
- Experimentation for innovation and investment: new deal (France), special authorizations, regulatory sandboxes

2 September 2020

9h30-10h45

- **Session 2: Strengthening institutional frameworks: Demystifying the collaborative regulator**

This session will discuss

- Mandate and Role of ICT/telecommunications regulators in a digital ecosystem
- What does collaboration look like: with policy makers, with other regulators, across the sectors, with a wide range of stakeholders
- Changing functions, skills, and tools
- Autonomy and independence
- Capacity and skills

Coffee break

11h00-12h30

- **Session 3: Competition in the digital era**

This session will address

- From ex-ante to ex-post regulation: are we there yet?
- Competitive and non-discriminatory markets: Is a level playing field among all digital players still possible? Are partnerships the answer?
- Integrating the verticals and emerging technologies: a changing competitive landscape
- Interconnection, interoperability, and open access

Lunch

14h30-15h45

- **Session 4: Spectrum valuation and allocation mechanisms (for new services e.g.5G) post WRC-19**

This session will examine

- Spectrum valuation as an economic and social tool: Up-front public revenues or broader network deployment for greater access?
- Are fees and taxes for spectrum an impediment to new deployment?

Coffee break

16h00-17h30

- **Fireside Chat : Last Mile Connectivity Lab**

3 September 2020

9h15-9h30

- **Best Practice Guidelines**

9h30-10h45

- **Session 5: Digital safety and security: are we there yet?**

This session will discuss

- Keeping infrastructure, networks and things secured: the dilemma of the digital era
- Building a secure and trusted digital ecosystem: understanding cyber threats, preparedness measures for policy consideration and risk mitigation
- Safety online and cyber resilience: Who's in charge?
- Consumer engagement in digital societies: expanding trusted e-services and use

Coffee break

11h00-12h30

- **Session 6: Sustainable and inclusive societies: Accessible ICTs leaving no one behind**

This session will discuss

- Policy measures and regulatory tools to support inclusion of impaired and disabled population, skills development, etc.

Lunch

14h30-16h00

- **Way forward and closing**