



**Telecommunication
Development Bureau (BDT)**

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Geneva, 13 February 2013

To

- Administrations
- National Regulatory Authorities of ITU Member States
- Regional and International Organizations

**Subject: 13th Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR)
Warsaw, Poland, 3-5 July 2013**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am pleased to invite you to participate in the 13th Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR), 3-5 July 2013, organized by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), in collaboration with the Ministry of Administration and Digitalization and the Office of Electronic Communications (UKE) of Poland. GSR, that now incorporates the Global Regulators-Industry Dialogue (GRID), will be held at the Hilton Hotel, Warsaw, Poland. The event will be chaired by Ms Magdalena Gaj, President, UKE.

GSR brings together heads of national telecom/ICT regulatory authorities from around the world and has earned a reputation as the global annual venue for regulators to share their views and experiences. The meeting fosters as well a dynamic global dialogue among regulators, policy makers, industry leaders and other key ICT stakeholders where ITU sector members can share their view on major issues facing the ICT sector.

The first two days of GSR, the Global Regulators-Industry Dialogue (3-4 July 2013) will be open to regulators, policy makers and ITU-D Sector Members. The third day (5 July 2013) will remain closed for regulators and policy makers.

As part of the GSR series of pre-events, two thematic industry-led workshops will take place in the morning of 2 July 2013.

Programme

The theme of this year's GSR is: "4th Generation regulation: driving digital communications ahead".

Participants will examine the transformational nature of communications and the evolution to 4th generation ICT regulation in a connected society led by the changing nature of the communication ecosystem, changing market dynamics and traffic patterns, and changing regulatory practices and roles.

Participants will further share their views on spectrum needs looking at white spaces and the digital dividend, standards and their role on ICT business, maximizing the potential of the Universal Service Funds (USFs), digital transaction in today's smart society, the need for more IP addresses in a world of data, new applications and new delivery platforms understanding new revenue schemes, 4th generation regulation and the evolving role of the regulator, national broadband interconnection charging and the need for regulation or not and more. GSR will also include a financial debate focusing on the impact of regulation in attracting investments and securing funds. GSR will open with a high level opening debate on building the future digital society. The detailed provisional programme is attached.

GSR Best Practice Guidelines Consultation

I will soon be consulting you prior to the meeting in order to identify best practice guidelines on the evolving role of regulation and the regulators in a digital environment.

Panel Participation

In line with our past procedures, there will be no formal presentations apart from those made by authors of GSR discussion papers and other ITU documents to open each session. Active participation of all executive level participants in panels is welcome and encouraged. Participants wishing to participate as panellists in one of the sessions identified in the provisional programme are kindly requested to complete the online panellist registration form by 3 May 2013. Selected participants will be informed by 17 May 2013.

Online Networking platform

GSR offers unique networking opportunities in the lead up to, and during the event through the online interactive networking platform to be made available on the GSR13 website at www.itu.int/gsr13. This platform provides registered users with the opportunity to set up their appointments using their PC or smartphone, and even book a meeting room.

Documentation and Interpretation

GSR is a paperless meeting and relies on Web transmission of documents. The documents prepared for the events, and other information, can be downloaded from the GSR13 website. Interpretation will be provided in the six ITU official working languages.

Registration

Registration will be carried out exclusively online, starting on **18 March 2013** 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 can be accessed using a TIES log-in at this [address](#).

Designated Focal Points can find the registration form [here](#).

If your Administration/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 5545/+41 22 730 5484 or by e-mail to bdt_registration@itu.int.

Practical Information

Please note that participants shall cover their own travel and accommodation expenses. Practical information on accommodation including logistical details is also available on the GSR13 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 GSR13 website.

UKE, Poland will organize an excursion to Krakow for all participants on Saturday 6 July 2013. Further information will follow in due course.

Should you require any information, please contact Mr Makhtar Fall, Head, Regulatory and Market Environment Division, by e-mail: gsl@itu.int or phone: +41 22 730 6256/730 5709.

I hope that you will be able to participate and make a valuable contribution to this year's Global Symposium for Regulators.

Yours faithfully,

[Original signed]

Brahima Sanou
Director

Annex : Provisional Programme

Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR13)

Warsaw, Poland, 3-5 July 2013

“4th Generation regulation: driving digital communications ahead”

Wednesday 3 July 2013

Global Regulators-Industry Dialogue

07h30- 09h00 REGISTRATION

09h00 – 10h00 OPENING CEREMONY

10h00- 10h15 COFFEE BREAK

10h15-12h00 OPENING DEBATE: BUILDING THE FUTURE DIGITAL SOCIETY

High level panel discussion

- Youth and employment: How to foster social and economic opportunities for next generations?
- Digital Policies 4.0: Adopting human centric policies in a digital era
- What role for regulators? Partners in innovation and education fostering digital inclusion of all for a smart information society (Digital School and Digital Inclusion of 50+, SME, Low Income Families)?

12h00-14h00 LUNCH

14h00-15h30 LOOKING FOR SPECTRUM?

- White spaces: hunting for new spectrum opportunities, are white spaces the answer? Is there a need for regulation? Who should regulate?
- Digital dividend 1 and 2: what impact on digital broadcasting?
- How to improve economies of scale (reduce costs of terminal equipment, for example)?
Presentation of the GSR discussion paper
Interactive panel discussion

15h30- 15h45 COFFEE BREAK

15h45-17h00 ARE STANDARDS THE CRUX OF ICT BUSINESSES IN TODAY’S DIGITAL WORLD?

- Patents and standards : understanding the RAND-based patent policy, the current hold up debate
- The impact of patents and standards on the industry and the economy as a whole
- Why are standards important for economic and social growth?

Presentation of the GSR background paper

Interactive panel discussion

Thursday 4 July 2013

Global Regulators-Industry Dialogue

9h00-10h15 FINANCIAL DEBATE: INFRASTRUCTURE 4.0 AND BEYOND: HOW TO ATTRACT INVESTMENTS AND SECURE FUNDS?

- A perspective from the financial and capital markets on the impact of regulation
- What are the risks assessed by investors and lending institutions in the current economic environment? Which regulatory measures are encouraged to foster investment in ICT deployment and help overcome digital exclusion? Is network sharing a solution?
- How to secure loans to finance ICT infrastructure and service deployment?
Panel discussion with investors, Rating Agencies and Banks

10h15- 10h30 COFFEE BREAK

10h30 – 12h00 MAXIMIZING THE POTENTIAL OF UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUNDS THROUGH SUCCESSFUL ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT - ADDRESSING THE MISSING LINK

- Overview of measures needed to ensure efficient use of USF funds
- Recipes for successes: What worked and what didn't? Is there a need to rethink the scope and regulation of USF in the digital era? Is "political will" key?
- Expanding USF to cover new services and applications and encourage innovation
Presentation of the ITU study
Interactive panel discussion

12h00-14h00 LUNCH

14h00-15h30 DIGITAL TRANSACTIONS IN TODAY'S SMART SOCIETY

- Mobile money, e-payments, e-wallet and NFC, for whom and for what?
- What kind of regulation is needed to foster security and confidence in their use? Who's in charge? Is there a role for the ICT regulator? A call for global cooperation to reduce cybersecurity risks associated with global digital transaction
- Industry, regulatory and consumers' perspectives
Presentation of the GSR discussion paper
Interactive panel discussion

15h30- 15h45 COFFEE BREAK

15h45- 17h00 A WORLD OF DATA: THE NEED FOR MORE IP ADDRESSES

- How to ensure smooth development of data- intensive services, applications and the Internet of things?
- Addressing the shortage of IP addresses by moving from IPv4 to IPv6 and removing the remaining related roadblocks, the role of policy makers and regulators
Presentation of the GSR discussion paper
Interactive panel discussion

Friday 5 July 2013

Regulators' Day

9h00-10h30 MOVING TO THE NEXT LEVEL: NEW APPS AND NEW DELIVERY PLATFORMS

- Broadcasting (audiovisual and online): understanding the changing nature of these services led by convergence and the implications for national ICT regulators
- New revenue schemes:
 - Connected TV (including OTT Internet TV services), Smart TV, premium content: Whose responsibility, broadcasting authority or ICT regulator?
 - Online advertising, what kind of regulation is needed? Balancing consumer protection with business imperatives

Presentation of the GSR discussion paper

Interactive panel discussion

10h30- 10h45 COFFEE BREAK

10h45- 12h00 4TH GENERATION REGULATION

- Regulating individuals, businesses and things, moving to regulation 4.0, a new model of regulation based on consultation and partnership
- Balancing efficiency, fairness and cost-saving to prepare for the digital cloud ecosystem
- The Regulator as a partner (4th generation of regulators): which regulatory incentives to adopt? Fostering co-regulation? Promoting regulatory incentives in addition to competitive measures (such as smart allocation of spectrum for IMT (3G, LTE),etc.)
- What cooperation among regulators? Is it time for supranational regulatory bodies?

Presentation of the GSR discussion paper

Interactive panel discussion: Feedback from regulators

12h00-14h00 LUNCH

14h00-15h30 NATIONAL BROADBAND INTERCONNECTION CHARGING

- Changing business practices, changing models, is there a need for regulatory intervention?
- An update of charging methods applied by regulators and best practices

Presentation of the GSR discussion paper

Interactive panel discussion

15h30- 15h45 COFFEE BREAK

15h45- 17h00 WAY FORWARD AND CLOSING