



**Telecommunication
Development Bureau (BDT)**

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Geneva, 7 April 2016

National Regulatory Authorities of ITU
Member States

Subject: **Global Dialogue on Digital Financial Inclusion (GDDFI) and Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR-16) Consultations**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am pleased to launch the Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR) 2016 Best Practice Guidelines consultation.

Contributions will be coordinated by Eng. Mostafa Abd El-Wahed, Acting Chairman of the National Telecommunication Regulatory Authority of Egypt (NTRA). I wish to express my gratitude to Eng. Abd El-Wahed for agreeing to undertake this important task.

The overarching theme of the 16th edition of GSR being “Be Empowered, Be Included: Building Blocks for Smart Societies in a Connected World”, participants will engage in a global constructive dialogue to explore synergies and ways to strengthen collaboration and cooperation between the telecom/ICT and financial sectors. The aim is to identify smart ICT policy and regulatory measures needed to enable collaborative regulation and an inclusive dialogue across sectors, this year focusing in particular on fostering an enabling environment for access to inclusive digital financial services, especially for the underserved and underbanked.

You are therefore invited, as part of the GSR consultation process, to identify pro-active collaborative policy and smart ICT regulatory measures needed to facilitate access to and the development of digital financial services:

- identify topics of relevance to stakeholders of the digital finance ecosystem
- addressing regulatory overlaps between the ICT/Telecommunication and Financial Services sectors
- defining new regulatory approaches to ICT/telecommunication policy and regulation, in particular in an era of collaborative regulation.

Second, as part of the GSR pre-event Global Dialogue on Digital Financial Inclusion (GDDFI), I am pleased to invite you to contribute to a second and separate consultation to identify collaborative guiding measures to foster an enabling environment for inclusive digital financial services through targeted collaborative approaches.

GDDFI will bring together heads of telecom/ICT and financial regulators to discuss and identify options and

ways to strengthen collaboration, build synergies, develop collaborative regulatory approaches and turn today's challenges into tomorrow's digital financial opportunities for all.

Realizing that full digital financial inclusion is of utmost importance in a digital world where more people have a mobile phone than a bank account, reducing not only the digital divide but also the financial/banking divide will certainly contribute to alleviating poverty and empowering people at the base of the pyramid and ultimately foster social and economic growth. Nonetheless, the complexity of different digital and mobile banking models that are broadening the digital financial services value chain creates an increased need for dialogue between the financial sector and telecommunications/ICT sectors.

As part of the GDDFI consultation process, you are kindly invited to identify pro-active collaborative policy, regulatory and business guiding measures in the following areas:

- Fostering access, availability and take-up of responsible, secured and inclusive digital financial services, especially the underserved and underbanked,
- Roles of telecom/ICT and financial stakeholders: defining the roles and responsibilities of the government, the telecom/ICT regulator, the financial regulator, the industry and consumers to facilitate the provision of inclusive digital financial services,
- Building synergies and fostering collaboration among telecom and financial regulators at the national level, regional and international levels.

As time will be limited for these very important discussions at GSR and during the GDDFI, I would request that National Regulatory Authorities begin the process of preparing and submitting contributions well in advance of the GSR.

In order to be able to coordinate submissions and make drafts of the consolidated collaborative measures and the best practice guidelines available on the events websites (www.itu.int/gddfi16 and www.itu.int/gsr16) in advance of the meetings, we would ask you to submit your contribution in electronic format to gsr@itu.int (maximum two pages), no later than 25 April 2016.

Individual contributions will also be posted. The collaborative measures are to be presented during the GDDFI and the best practice regulatory guidelines on the last day of GSR.

I look forward to receiving your comments and I take this opportunity to encourage you to register as participant. May I also remind you to make your hotel reservations and check the visa procedure in advance of GSR. Visa instructions, online registration and further information on accommodation are available on the GSR16 website at: www.itu.int/gsr16.

Yours faithfully,

[Original signed]

Brahima Sanou
Director