



Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT)

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Geneva, 15 January 2016

To:

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

Subject: 16th Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR), Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, 11-14 May 2016

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am pleased to invite you to participate in the 16th Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR-16) on 11-14 May 2016, with 11 May being reserved for pre-events. GSR-16 will be organized by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), in collaboration with the Government of Egypt. The event will be held at the Maritim Jolie Ville International Congress Center, Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt and chaired by Eng. Mostafa Abd El-Wahed, Acting Chairman of the National Telecommunication Regulatory Authority of Egypt (NTRA).

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 also fosters a dynamic global dialogue among regulators, policy-makers, industry leaders and other key ICT stakeholders, where ITU Sector Members can engage in interactive discussions and identify best practices moving forward, not only in the ICT/telecommunications sector, but also in terms of how ICT/telecommunications interacts with other regulation so that we can leverage our head start on regulation in a collaborative ICT regulatory environment.

Programme

The theme for GSR-16 will be: “Be Empowered, Be Included: Building Blocks for Smart Societies in a Connected World.” As ICTs are recognized as the foundation upon which the pillars of economic and social development can grow, recognition has grown that we need ecosystems that include ICT/telecommunication operators and service providers, but also banks and others as partners to connect the world and create value for business. We need to work together to create an inclusive dialogue to foster an enabling regulatory environment between regulators across the sectors and remove the barriers that hinder progress. The draft Agenda for GSR-16 attached has been built carefully taking into account the input during GRS-15 and inputs that were sent to us later.

A series of GSR pre-events will take place on 11 May, a day prior to GSR-16. We are pleased to inform you that for GSR-16, we will host a Thematic Pre-Conference for a Global Dialogue on Digital Financial Inclusion with the support of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and in collaboration with other partners. More information on these events will be provided in due time. The closed “by invitation only” Regional Regulatory Associations Meeting and Private Sector Chief Regulatory Officers Meeting will also be held on 11 May following the Pre-Conference.

The first two days (12-13 May) of GSR-16 will be dedicated to the Global Regulators-Industry Dialogue (GRID) with regulators, policy-makers and ITU–D Sector Members. On the third day of GSR-16 (14 May), there will be two parallel tracks, a Regulators’ track, open only to regulators and policy makers, and an

Industry track, open to ITU-D sector members.

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. Those 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 20 February 2016, presenting an outline of their potential contribution to the topic. Selected participants will be informed by 17 March 2016.

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-16 website at www.itu.int/gsr16. This platform will provide registered users with the opportunity to set up their appointments using their tablet or smartphone, and they even will be able to book a meeting room. This year, we are also pleased to offer a networking facilitator service, to assist participants in setting up networking 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 the events, and other information, can be downloaded from the GSR-16 website. Interpretation will be provided in the six ITU official working languages.

Registration

Registration will be carried out exclusively online, starting on **1 February 2016** 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 [here](#) can be accessed using TIES login credentials. Designated Focal Points can find the registration form [here](#).

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, is also available on the GSR-16 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-16 website. The Regulatory and Market Environment Division, e-mail: gsr@itu.int or telephone: +41 22 730 6256/5443, is at the disposal of participants who require assistance.

I hope that you will be able to participate and make a valuable contribution to the Global Symposium for Regulators 2016.

Yours faithfully,

[Original signed]

Brahima Sanou
Director

Annex: Provisional Programme



GSR-16

BE EMPOWERED, BE INCLUDED: BUILDING BLOCKS FOR SMART SOCIETIES IN A CONNECTED WORLD

Aim of GSR16 and beyond: Our promise is to recognize and integrate emerging trends in regulation to maintain GSR as the unique, neutral platform for regulators to come so that they can keep a head start on regulation and create a feeding ground for collaborative regulation. We want to give our Members the tools to share their experiences and expertise, and get ahead of the curve in terms of regulation, not only in the ICT/telecommunications sector, but also in terms of how ICT/telecommunications interacts with other regulation so that we can leverage our head start on regulation in a collaborative, 4th, and even 5th generation ICT regulatory environment. That through inclusion enables empowering citizens.

Entering Behaviour: The evolution in the sector has brought about changes – there are new players on the market and discussions as to new and existing business models, new technologies, and new opportunities. Regulators around the world have become more conscious of the changing ecosystem and are aware that they need to adapt to the changing environment. From a time when they mainly focused on their creation as independent entities opening monopolistic markets, to one where they became active in promoting investment in infrastructure and services development and overseeing budding competitive markets, they now have many more issues at stake – they have become 4th Generation Regulators fostering the development of ICTs for economic and social development.

What is the Challenge: Today we are seeing a new opportunity arise because of the changing landscape, where we are dealing with the Internet of Everything and yet see billions still unconnected, which also affects their ability to participate in the digital economy – socially, financially, and economically. As ICTs are recognized as the foundation upon which the pillars of economic and social development can grow, recognition has grown that we need ecosystems that include ICT/telecommunication operators and service providers, but also banks and others as partners to connect the world and create value for business. We need to work together to create an enabling regulatory environment between regulators across the sectors and remove the barriers that hinder progress. We also need greater focus on standardization and interoperability between borders and also between technologies. The ability to offer secure and real time transactions on strong, resilient ICT networks is essential to build consumer trust, and this also requires a focus on protecting privacy.

Description of Sessions: We have designed GSR-16 around the theme: *BE EMPOWERED, BE INCLUDED: BUILDING BLOCKS FOR SMART SOCIETIES IN A CONNECTED WORLD*, and have identified various tracks to allow regulators to exchange on the challenges of collaborative regulation in a digital, connected, smart society. In addition, information sessions will be held during coffee and lunch breaks, including a cyber drill, and information sessions on key BDT projects, programmes and initiatives.



Programme

Wednesday 11 May 2016 PRE-EVENT DAY

- 09h00-12h30 **Global Dialogue on Digital Financial Inclusion**
- 12h30-14h00 **Lunch**
- 14h00-16h00 **Global Dialogue on Digital Financial Inclusion**
- 16h00-16h30 **Coffee**

16h30-18h00	Chief Regulatory Officers Meeting (CRO)	Regulatory Associations Meeting
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Thursday 12 May 2016

- 09h00-10h00 **Opening Ceremony**
- 10h00-10h15 **COFFEE BREAK/ PHOTO OPPORTUNITY**
- 10h15-12h00 **Leadership debate: Beyond 2020 - Challenges, Opportunities, Scenarios**

This high-Level debate will examine

- Artificial Intelligence, smart Sensors, smart networks – where do we go from here?
- How to maintain trust in ICTs in an era of big data, Internet of everything, machine learning and smart digital environments?
- As things get smarter, will smart machines take over?
- How can consumers get smarter?
- What are the kind of policy and regulatory frameworks needed to ensure disruptive technologies bring new opportunities for all in a sustainable manner?
- Will it be business as usual?

12h00-14h00 **LUNCH / PRESS CONFERENCE**

TRACK 1 BE SMART: BUILDING BLOCKS FOR A SMART SOCIETY IN A CONNECTED WORLD

- 14h00-15h30 **Session 1: A changing regulatory landscape: Collaborative regulation – how to pave the road towards adoption of IoT, M2M?**

Presentation of GSR Discussion Paper on Building Blocks for Smart Societies in a Connected World

This session will explore ...

- Setting the context - impact (efficiency, QoS, resilience of infrastructure, and sustainability)
- Redefining collaboration along the value chain from infrastructure to services to institutions: smart infrastructure, smart transport, smart grid, smart delivery of services, smart health, smart financial services, smart education, smart businesses
- How does ICT link with and contribute to other sectors and what is needed in terms of regulation – case study on smart energy/grids
- Challenges – the case of energy efficiency for ICT development

15h30- 15h45 COFFEE BREAK

Information Session on International Mobile Roaming Dialogue

15h45-17h00 **Session 2: Digital Financial Inclusion – how to include the unbanked and unconnected in today's smart society?**

This session will be an interactive panel session on:

- How to include the unbanked and unconnected in today's smart society?
- Collaborative Regulation to foster an enabling environment for digital financial services

Friday 13 May 2016

TRACK TWO: TOWARDS A SMART DIGITAL SOCIETY

9h00-10h30 **Session 3: Future Technology Developments: Opportunities, challenges and business strategies**

Presentation of GSR discussion paper on Future Technology Developments and Regulatory Impacts

This session will examine

- Future Technologies: Drones, nano-satellites, Wifi, M2M/5G (HetNet), Future cables, NFV, WebRTC
- What are the requirements for future technologies? Reliability, latency, integrity and safety, openness, quality?
 - Preparing the regulatory landscape: what kind of regulation is needed and who's in charge?
 - Spectrum as a tool for innovation – where do we stand post WRC 2015? What are the new frontiers?
 - 5G: what to expect? A revolution or evolution?

10h30-10h45 COFFEE BREAK

10h45-12h00 **Session 4: Be empowered! What ICTs can do for you!**

Presentation of GSR discussion paper on Digital Platforms in a Collaborative Economy

This session will examine ...

- What does the Ecosystem Look Like Today
- Do Free Basic Services Empower Communities and Individuals?
- Business and Investment Incentives and Sustainability in a Collaborative Economy – how the

mass adoption of connected digital technologies and applications by consumers, enterprises, and governments is driving strategic and operational decisions and creating opportunities to empower citizens and business

- How extending access must be accompanied by the development of relevant content and new services so that innovation and entrepreneurship can be fostered and local digital platforms and content can help develop local digital economies

12h00-14h00 LUNCH

Information session on Universal Service Reform Programme

14h00-15h30 **Session 5: Be included!**

Presentation of GSR discussion paper on Enablers for Smart Networks, Societies, and Individuals

This panel discussion will examine ...

- Improving digital skills for new business opportunities/SMEs
- Smart policies and regulatory measures: entrepreneurship in a smart, collaborative economy - monetizing apps and smart services, cloud services, networks, crowdsourcing – crowdfunding
- What can regulators do to facilitate entrepreneurship in a digital economy?

15h30-15h45 COFFEE BREAK

Information Session on Let's Roam the World

15h45-17h00 **Session 2: Real Life impact of Smart Societies – How to maintain trust?**

This interactive debate will see panelists share their views on Privacy, Trust and Cybersecurity – the foundation for the development of our smart society (e.g., securing e-commerce/ financial transactions, digital identity)

Demo: Cyberdrill – illustration of what needs to be done when there is a cyberattack

Saturday 14 May 2016

08:00-09:30 Director’s Breakfast (upon invitation only)

09h45-12h15	REGULATOR TRACK	INDUSTRY TRACK
	<p>GSR16 Best Practices Guidelines: Discussion and Adoption</p> <p>This session will address the GSR Best Practice Guidelines with a view to their adoption by regulators.</p> <p>Meet the Regulators – Exchange Platform between regulators – e.g. Content, Telecoms, Financial Services, and Energy?</p> <p>Regulators will share their experiences and expertise, not only in the ICT/telecommunications sector, but also in terms of how ICT/telecommunications interacts with other regulation so that they can define tools and guidelines to leverage their head start on regulation in a collaborative, 4th, and even 5th generation ICT regulatory environment. This session will examine case studies on e-health, electricity, content, and include regulators from financial sector, energy sector, health sector and broadcasting.</p>	<p>Industry Leaders Debate – Impact of open innovation and new business models on Collaborative regulation</p> <p>Open innovation, shared resources, and networked business models are key components of innovations and new developments in most industries, including ICTs. Companies cannot develop and control everything alone, but will use services from other companies and open their own services to third parties. Success may depend more on how companies can be a hub in the ICT ecosystem than just on building and owning infrastructure. This session will allow participants to exchange on business models, partnership models and regulation.</p> <p>Industry Leaders Debate – Regulatory KPIs</p> <p>This session will examine Regulatory KPIs in a 1st to 4th Generation Regulation Context – ICT Regulatory Tracker as Basis for Discussion.</p>

12h15-13h30 **Way forward and closing ceremony:**

- Presentation of GSR16 Best Practices
- Summary of Pre-event Workshops
- Presentation of CRO and RA reports
- Guru impressions

Moderator: **Brahima Sanou, BDT Director**

Panelists: GSR past, present and future chairs

Highlights Video

13h30-14h30 LUNCH