



## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

# **Industry Advisory Group on Development Issues and the Private Sector Chief Regulatory Officers' (IAGDI- CRO) Meeting**

Industry and Private Sector: Virtual Spring Consultation  
Meeting

Online, 7 May 2024

**Become an ITU-D Sector Member and be part of IAGDI-CRO!**

**Contact: [membershipitud@itu.int](mailto:membershipitud@itu.int)**

Industry and private sector leaders convened on 7 May 2024 for the Industry Advisory Group on Development Issues and Private Sector Chief Regulatory Officers' meeting (IAGDI-CRO) Virtual Spring Consultation Meeting.

## Meeting Objectives:

- Encouraging **contributions from ITU-D Sector Members** to the **Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR-24) Best Practices Guidelines** consultation process.
- Gathering **insights to define the main themes** for the **IAGDI-CRO** discussions to be held on 2 July 2024 during GSR-24.



The meeting was opened by **Mr. Bocar BA, Chairman of IAGDI-CRO and the CEO of SAMENA Telecommunications Council**. He emphasized the importance of collective participation in achieving the objectives of the Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR-24) and encouraged all participants to contribute actively to the discussions. Finally, he also highlighted that several aspects of IAGDI-CRO outcomes and suggestions had been taken into consideration, in particular within GSR-24 Program.



**Ms. Sofie Maddens, Chief, Digital Knowledge Hub Department, BDT, ITU**, emphasized the importance of industry engagement in shaping effective regulatory approaches for digital transformation. She highlighted the Bureau's commitment to working with the private sector on a variety of ICT-related issues to make a tangible impact through meaningful contributions. She invited participants to attend the GSR-24 and outlined its key themes.

## Scope of IAGDI-CRO

The IAGDI-CRO aims to enhance the engagement and contributions of industry leaders in implementing outcomes of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-22) Resolution 71. It actively works to encourage and bolster participation of ITU-D membership, especially from ITU-D Sector Members, in the Development Sector's initiatives.<sup>1</sup>

## Presentation of GSR-24 Programme and Approaches

**Ms. Maddens** presented an overview of the GSR-24 programme, emphasizing this year's theme "Regulation for Impact." The event will feature a high-level segment involving ministers, policymakers, and private sector representatives, as well as core sessions focusing on universal and meaningful connectivity, the space economy, AI and robotics for positive impact, mastering digital transformation, harnessing digital for climate action, and agile regulation for innovation.

She also briefed on the consultation and drafting process of the GSR 2024 Best Practices Guidelines which, this year, follows the theme "Charting the Course of Transformative Technologies for Positive Impact". Ms. Maddens noted and

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<sup>1</sup> [Resolution 71 \(Rev. Kigali, 2022\)](#), World Telecommunication Development Conference 2022, Kigali, Rwanda.

appreciated the sound contributions which had already been received from the membership, including the insightful contributions from ITU-D sector members to shape these Guidelines which will be presented and adopted at the GSR-24 Heads of Regulators Executive Roundtable on Monday, 1 July 2024.

IAGDI-CRO participants were urged to continue to contribute to the work of ITU-D and share insights to chart the course for transformative technologies and ensure positive regulatory impact through collaboration and shared best practices.

## Open Exchange: Suggested Themes for the IAGDI-CRO 2 July Meeting

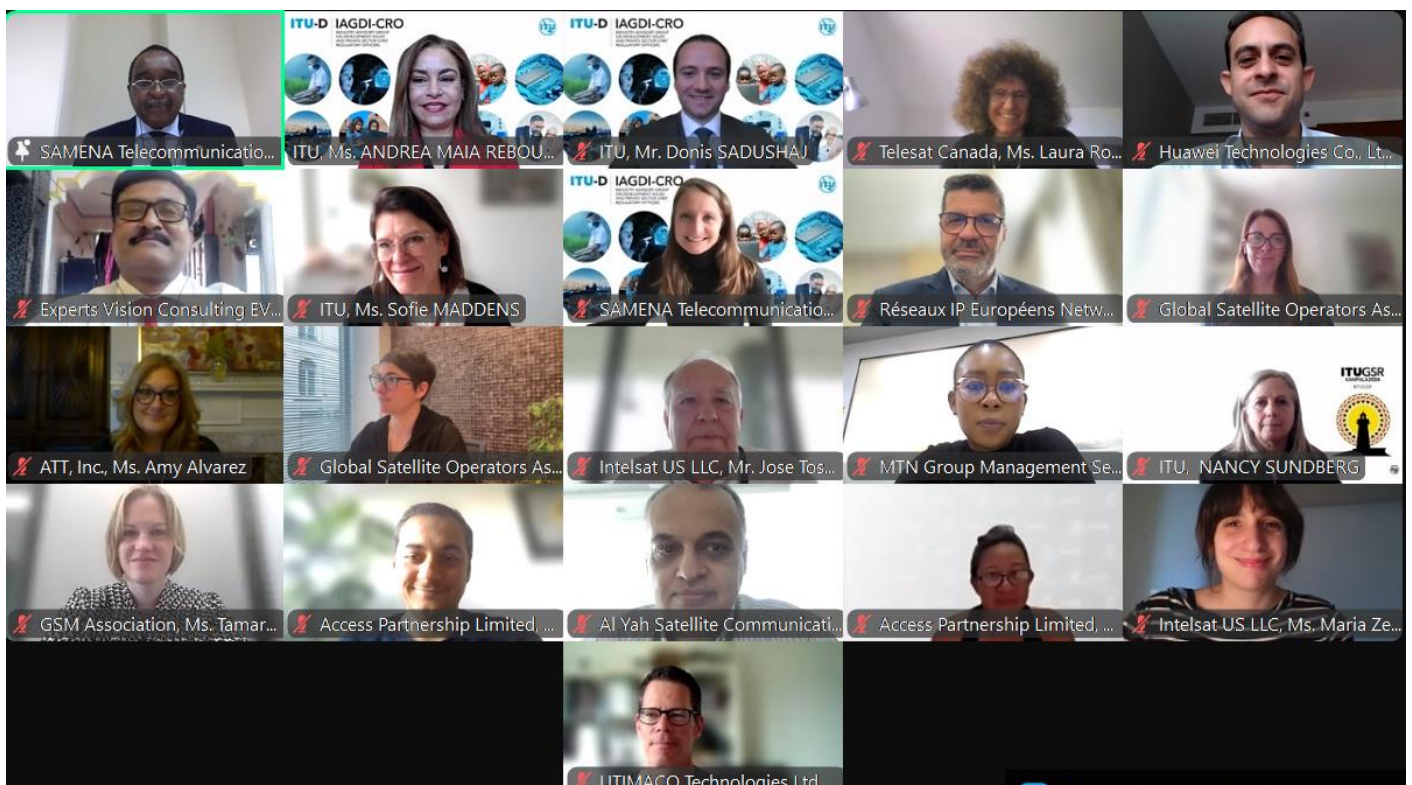


**Ms. Amy Alvarez, Vice-Chair of IAGDI-CRO, AVP – International External and Regulatory Affairs, AT&T,** set the scene for the open exchange. She **emphasized the importance of collecting views and contributions from participants to agree and shape the agenda of the upcoming physical IAGDI-CRO meeting on 2 July** so that the outcomes collect industry recommendations that foster an enabling environment for connectivity.

**Ms. Alvarez** encouraged participants to share concrete and collective recommendations on these themes to help create a robust framework for digital transformation. She highlighted that the ITU membership is comprised of a diverse set of players across the ICT ecosystem and that the IAGDI-CRO meeting should focus on actionable outcomes.

**GSM Association (GSMA)** highlighted the importance of addressing the **usage gap** and overcoming demand-side barriers such as **affordability, digital skills, and relevant local content**. Policymakers should prioritize creating regulatory frameworks that drive network investment and ensure a level playing field across the digital ecosystem. GSMA also stressed the need to promote **cross-border data flows** to drive innovation, competition, and economic development.

**Global Satellite Operators Association (GSOA)** supported GSMA's points, emphasizing that the focus should shift from "Spectrum of the Future" to "Technology for the Future." This broader approach would encompass **terrestrial and non-**



**terrestrial integration**, a crucial area that remains missing from the current agenda. The association also reiterated the importance of **financing, investment, and enabling policy frameworks**.

**Huawei Technologies** emphasized the importance of **rural connectivity** within the digital infrastructure development theme. **Funding models** such as the Universal Service Fund (USF) and open infrastructure could help bridge the digital divide. Huawei supported integrating "Technology of the Future" with "Regulation of the Future" to establish a more comprehensive regulatory framework.

**Intelsat** proposed reviewing the Best Practice Guidelines from 2023 to assess their implementation and practical effectiveness. Simplified and streamlined regulatory frameworks are needed to accommodate satellite technology advancements, including Earth Stations in Motion (ESIMs) and multi-orbit connectivity. Regulatory harmonization at regional and global levels remains crucial.

**Réseaux IP Européens Network Coordination Centre** underscored the importance of collaborative development models to ensure **robust financing for digital infrastructure**. Agile regulations that can adapt to emerging technologies are essential, and **digital literacy and digital inclusion** must be prioritized to fully utilize technological advancements.

**Amazon** highlighted the need for **technology neutrality** and regulatory goals focused on connectivity outcomes. **Rural connectivity and digital literacy** should be top priorities, and **financing models** must be fair and non-discriminatory. Amazon emphasized the importance of finding common ground to drive positive impact.

**Telesat** stressed the critical role of satellite backhaul in reaching underserved and hard-to-reach areas. **Transparent and streamlined regulatory frameworks** should ensure technology neutrality, including blanket authorizations for user terminals and cross-border circulation.

**Viasat** highlighted the paradigm-shifting **convergence of terrestrial and non-terrestrial networks**, requiring focused attention from regulators. **Digital skills and digital literacy** should remain a priority, and streamlined spectrum availability, particularly the adoption of World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC) outcomes, is crucial.

Ms Alvarez took note of all the suggestions of themes and insights provided by IAGDI-CRO participants to be reflected in the Concept Note of the event.

## Conclusion

The meeting concluded with a summary from Mr. Bocar Ba, Chairman of IAGDI-CRO, who acknowledged the valuable insights shared and reiterated the need for impactful collaboration and innovative regulatory frameworks. He emphasized that the contributions would shape the agenda for the upcoming IAGDI-CRO meeting on 2 July 2024 and the IAGDI-CRO Outcome Statement

## Upcoming Events

- **Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR-24):** 1-4 July 2024, Speke Resort and Convention Center, Munyonyo, Kampala, Uganda.
- **IAGDI-CRO Meeting during GSR-24:** 2 July 2024, before the opening ceremony of the Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR-24).



### Social Events at GSR-24

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**Welcome Cocktail**  
1 July 2024, 17:30 - 20:00  
Speke Resort Infinity Pool Area

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**Gala Dinner**  
2 July, 19:00 - 22:00  
Kigo Gardens

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**Final Cocktail**  
3 July, 18:00 - 20:00  
Speke Resort Infinity Pool Area

Find out more at [itu.int/gsr24](https://itu.int/gsr24)

**ITU**GSR  
KAMPALA2024



## IAGDI-CRO Leadership



**Mr. Bocar BA**

Chairman, IAGDI-CRO  
CEO, SAMENA  
Telecommunications Council



**Ms. Lele Modise**

Vice-Chair, IAGDI-CRO  
Group Chief Legal and Regulatory  
Affairs Officer, MTN Group



**Ms. Amy Alvarez**

Vice-Chair, IAGDI-CRO  
AVP – International External and  
Regulatory Affairs, AT&T