



**Telecommunication  
Development Bureau (BDT)**

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Geneva, 25 April 2013

To:  
National Regulatory Authorities of ITU Member  
States

**Subject: 2013 Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR) Consultation**

Dear Madam/Sir,

I am pleased to launch a consultation process on the evolving roles of both regulation and the regulators in a digital environment, as announced in my invitation letter to the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR), to be held in Warsaw, Poland, from 3 to 5 July 2013.

The overarching theme of the 13<sup>th</sup> edition of GSR is “4<sup>th</sup> Generation Regulation: Driving Digital Communications Ahead”. Over the last decade, the ICT sector has experienced drastic changes at all levels of the value chain, changes that were accelerated with the advent of online applications and services. New players such as over-the-top providers are changing the rules of the game, market dynamics, business practices and usage patterns. This calls for a rethink of ICT regulation and what should be considered as we move towards 4<sup>th</sup> generation regulation.

To meet the expectations of a rapidly evolving digital ecosystem, policy makers and regulators will need to adapt and develop more flexible, innovative and light-handed regulatory frameworks expanding beyond the traditional core telecom sector to take into account the multi-facet and multi-stakeholder dimensions of the digital world. In this environment, the traditional role and mandate of the regulator may be challenged by the ever increasing complexity of the ICT markets driven by convergence and the growing need for consumer protection in a connected world.

This consultation focuses on the need to rethink regulation and the evolving role of the regulator in light of the changes taking place in the sector. You are, therefore, invited to identify innovative and smart regulatory approaches and measures needed in the following areas:

- Regulation 4.0: Innovative and smart regulatory approaches fostering equal treatment of market players, stimulating services uptake and access to online services and applications without putting extra burden on operators and service providers (co-regulation, self-regulation, smart incentives, etc.);
- The evolving role of the regulator: the regulator as a partner for development and social inclusion;
- The need to adapt the structure and institutional design of the regulator to develop future regulation.

Contributions will be coordinated by Ms Magdalena Gaj, President of the Office of Electronic Communications (UKE) of Poland. I wish to express my gratitude to Ms Gaj for agreeing to undertake this important task.

As time is limited for this very important discussion, I suggest that National Regulatory Authorities begin the process of preparing and coordinating contributions well in advance of the GSR. Please submit your contribution in electronic format **to [gsr@itu.int](mailto:gsr@itu.int) (maximum two pages), no later than 16 May 2013.**

A draft of consolidated best practice guidelines will be made available in advance of the GSR on the event website ([www.itu.int/gsr13](http://www.itu.int/gsr13)). Individual contributions will also be posted. The guidelines are to be presented and finalized during the GSR.

I believe that this is a unique opportunity for regulators to come together to further advance the commitments of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) as well as the development goals of the Millennium Declaration, and I look forward to receiving your comments.

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 GSR13 website at: [www.itu.int/gsr13](http://www.itu.int/gsr13).

Yours faithfully

[Original signed]

Brahima Sanou  
Director