



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

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

Monday, 05 June 2023

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Contact: membershipitud@itu.int

Industry and private sector leaders met during the Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR-23) in Sharm-El-Sheik, on 5 June 2023 to share their views on concrete business and regulatory issues and digital strategies that foster digital transformation and an enabling ecosystem for inclusive, relevant, and sustainable connectivity in a digital economy.

Industry leaders and regulators adopted an Outcome Statement during the IAGDI-CRO meeting which was presented in the Closing Ceremony of GSR-23, sharing views on the perspectives on development and regulatory insights.



In his opening remarks, **Dr. Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava, the BDT Director**, emphasized that the private sector is the **driving engine** for everything that we do. Additionally, Dr. Zavazava highlighted that the private sector has an important role in looking at the opportunities for investment to get online the 2.7 billion people who remain unconnected.



Mr. Bocar Ba, CEO of SAMENA Telecommunications Council and Chairman of the meeting, gave an overview of IAGDI-CRO and its importance as a key mechanism for the private sector to ensure that its needs and priorities are being heard by governments and regulators, and that are sufficiently reflected into the ITU-D's agenda.



Industry participants emphasized that the digital revolution has changed the way we communicate, work, and live. Numerous advantages have resulted from technological improvements, including more production, better access to information and services, and more prospects for socioeconomic development. While numerous technologies can increase connectivity and get everyone online, achieving 100% connectivity requires the right incentives, sound investments, regulatory frameworks, and capacity building coordinated with a robust national innovation ecosystem to achieve universal, accessible, reasonably priced, and secure connectivity.



Ms Lele Modise

Group Chief Legal and
Regulatory Affairs
Officer (CLRO)
MTN Group



Ms Isabelle Mauro

Director General
GSOA



Mr Cécil Ameil

Director for Regulatory Affairs,
responsible for market access,
policy and spectrum advocacy
in Europe, Africa and Middle
East
SES



Mr Amir Al-Gibreen

Group Chief
Regulatory and
Compliance Officer
STC

Ms. Lele Modise, **Group Chief Legal and Regulatory Affairs Officer (CLRO), MTN Group**, highlighted the importance of the affordability of devices, as well as the affordability of spectrum needed to ensure total coverage. Along with the importance of tax regulations, she stated that the latter would provide positive investment streamlines.

Ms. Isabelle Mauro, **Director-General of GSOA**, pinpointed the significant role of the rapid growth of the satellite industry and its impacts while emphasizing the importance of regulatory expectations to utilize strategically and efficiently new services through business models that ensure public and private sector cooperation.

Mr. Cécil Ameil, **Director for Regulatory Affairs, responsible for market access, policy, and spectrum advocacy in Europe, Africa, and the Middle East, SES**, shared that connectivity is not an end to itself because we use connectivity for the health of people and for education. He stressed that industries and regulators should collaborate closely to achieve significant policy objectives.

Mr. Amir Al-Gibreen, **Group Chief Regulatory and Compliance Officer, STC**, highlighted the fast growth of Artificial Intelligence, along with the importance of regulations that need further development, and the vital role of ITU in this process, where industry players as developers have a common platform with the regulators to develop proper regulations and the boundaries that should not be crossed.



Ms Rawiya Rahming
General Counsel
Cable Bahamas Limited
Bahamas
(Commonwealth of the)



Mr Kalpak Gude
Head of Domestic
Regulatory Affairs,
Project Kuiper
Amazon



**Ms Caroline Mbugua,
HSC**
Director, Public Policy,
Sub Saharan Africa
GSMA



Mr Tymoteusz Kurpeta
Partner and Managing
Director, EMEA
Welchman Keen

Ms. Rawiya Rahming, **General Counsel, Cable Bahamas Limited Bahamas (Commonwealth of the)**, revisited the effect of pandemics that significantly impacted SIDS and highlighted the overall challenges the region faces. Hence, she emphasized the importance of the digital revolution fostering the importance of legislation and regulation that promote inclusion and connectivity for all.

Mr. Kalpak Gude, **Head of Domestic Regulatory Affairs, Project Kuiper, Amazon**, emphasized that solving the digital divide is not a destination, it's a path that needs to be achieved through innovation and healthy competition that would offer new solutions and open new opportunities for regulations that provide inclusivity for all.

Ms. Caroline Mbugua, **HSC, Director, Public Policy Sub Saharan Africa, GSMA**, talked about the importance of a digital economy driven by resilient ICT infrastructure for the future. She also emphasized that the spectrum roadmaps should be in place to provide regulatory certainties that are required to drive investments, especially in Africa.

Mr. Tymoteusz Kurpeta, **Partner and Managing Director, EMEA Welchman Keen**, wrapped up the speakers' insights by addressing the importance of addressing different questions taken into consideration when discussing spectrum. Once again, he stated the importance of ITU's role as pivotal in bringing private and public sectors together in filling knowledge gaps through discussions and best practices as crucial factors for policy, spectrum, regulatory affairs, and cyber security.



IAGDI-CRO 2023 fostered insightful discussion and participation from all meeting participants, allowing for discussion of participants different concerns and ideas. Mr. Bocar Ba, **CEO of SAMENA Telecommunications Council and Chairman of the meeting**, shared various aspects discussed in the meeting and, together with participants, recognized the need to create an enabling environment to establish fair market access conditions while ensuring equitable spectrum access. Moreover, fostering cross-border collaboration is vital to enhance access for all.

Once again, participants highlighted ITU's vital role in facilitating collaboration, providing guidelines, best practices, capacity building, regulatory support, innovation, sustainable policies to access ICT, bridging the digital divide, and driving meaningful and inclusive transformation.



In his closing remarks, **Dr. Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava, the BDT Director**, shared his vision of creating impact for all through three main views and approaches – **people, planet, and prosperity**. He believes that IAGDI-CRO creates a unique opportunity to express and share ideas from both the public and private sector that makes progress in closing digital gaps and connecting those who are unconnected. Hence, ITU creates a technology-neutral environment allowing for a world without discrimination.

[CLICK HERE FOR THE OUTCOME STATEMENT](#)

IAGDI-CRO Governance



Mr Bocar BA, Chair
CEO, SAMENA
Telecommunications Council,
UAE



Ms Lele Modise, Vice-Chair
Group Chief Legal and Regulatory
Officer (CLRO), MTN Group
South Africa



Ms Amy Alvarez, Vice-Chair
AVP - International External &
Regulatory Affairs, AT&T,
USA