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Chairman's Report

8th Private Sector Chief Regulatory Officers' Meeting

1. Opening of the Meeting

The [8th Private Sector Chief Regulatory Officers \(CRO\) Meeting](#) was held in Nassau, Bahamas on Wednesday, 12 July 2017 as a pre-event to the Global Symposium for Regulators ([GSR-17](#)). The meeting was attended by over twenty high-level industry executives from 16 ITU-D Sector Members.

The opening of the meeting was moderated by Dr. Kemal Huseinovic, Chief, Department of Infrastructure, Enabling Environment and E-Applications, ITU/BDT. While welcoming the participants, he emphasized on the importance of private sector in the activities of ITU and called for enhanced collaboration.

2. Opening remarks by the BDT Director

The BDT Director, Mr. Brahima Sanou, in his address, emphasized that there is no development without business and no business without development. Consequently, he highlighted the need for ITU-D Sector Members, and the private-sector members in particular, to contribute to the Private Sector CRO meeting's effectiveness as a platform for the industry's engagement on regulatory, policy and market issues. He emphasized that ICT players now have a major role in society to have a dialogue and work with other sectors' players to leverage the potential of ICTs. The BDT Director reassured his support to the platform and commended the group for its work, while also highlighting the importance of private sector in action.

3. Opening remarks by the Chairman

Mr. Bocar Ba, Chairman, Private Sector CRO Meeting, gave an overview of the Private Sector CRO mission, objectives and working mechanisms as well as its priorities in a converged ICT ecosystem.

He reminded participants that the Private Sector CRO is a platform created to discuss common issues, share best practices and identify industry's perspectives regarding: ways to attract investment to deploy, extend and upgrade networks; spectrum management; public-private partnerships; and regulatory processes. He further highlighted that it is a platform that should be used as a forum for meaningful dialogue with government and regulators, but also with a view to improving conditions within which businesses operate. The Chairman further emphasized on the importance of aligning and reflect the Private Sector CRO Agenda within the Agenda of the GSR and called for increased participation by members in GSR and CRO.

He added that Private Sector CRO is fulfilling its mission by making proposals on projects and initiatives that can engage regulatory bodies and can also help fulfill Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

He also reminded participants that the Private Sector CRO platform needs to serve the industry in highlighting its role in sharing regulatory case studies, best practices and proposals, which can assist BDT in building collaborative regulatory frameworks and in identifying the needs of private sector in the activities of ITU-D. The Chairman added that a list of initiatives for collaboration has been initiated, but requires more proactive involvement.

4. Progress update and discussions on ways forward

Since a call for specific proposals and action plans was launched within the Private Sector CRO in May 2016, a detailed proposal was received on Universal Financial Access and Digital Financial Inclusion. BDT is leading efforts for the implementation of this initiative in line with CRO platform after it was agreed by consensus, as indicated in Section 5 below.

Two additional suggestions (for which detailed proposals have yet to be officially submitted) include Introducing Mobile Network Operator (MNO) Cards to connect mobile customers with banking cards; and a Digital Postal Solution that integrates the cooperation of mobile operator with postal services.

Out of the 10 proposals initially requested, Private Sector CRO participants have so far put forward 4 proposal ideas. Only 1 is currently under implementation.

The CRO Chairman has been advocating the suggestions of the Private Sector CRO platform to regulators and relevant stakeholders in the Middle-East Asia (MEA) region. Cybersecurity and digital identity are among the topics of most interest to regulators, and were identified as possible areas of interest for future projects where CRO platform can identify initiatives or projects to be implemented by BDT in collaboration with Membership. In this context, data protection authorities together with telecommunication operators could be approached with regards to possible initiatives or projects on Data Regulation. Generally, the digital communication industry and adjacent industries (e.g., financial services) are more informed about the CRO platform, which is in support of the overall mission of ITU.

To further the work of the Private Sector CRO, the Chairman shared potential areas of discussion that build on past progress made by the Private Sector CRO and consensus reached among the participants on key issues, while also addressing emerging advancements, which may include 5G networks, Artificial Intelligence, Augmented Reality, Virtual Reality, Immersive Live Experience, robotics, smart materials and systems, autonomous vehicles, Internet of Things, Industrial Internet of Things, Industry 4.0, 3D printing, cognitive radio, millimeter wave and others.

These discussion points are available on the ITU's CRO website <http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Conferences/CRO/Pages/CRO8.default.aspx>.

5. Private Sector CRO Working Group on Digital Financial Inclusion

The 7th Private Sector CRO meeting was held in Bangkok, Thailand, on 13 November 2016, as part of the pre-event of ITU Telecom World. In particular, a Universal Financial Access 2020 (UFA) proposal presented by MasterCard under the CRO platform was supported by CRO meeting participants who agreed to create a CRO Working Group on Digital Financial Inclusion (CRO WG on DFI). The first CRO WG on DFI was open to all CRO members to serve the goal of connecting the unconnected and financial excluded through Digital Financial Services (DFS); designing and sharing legal and regulatory frameworks at regional and national levels; developing frameworks for expanding public-private partnerships; and implementing pilot projects at national levels with partners to contribute to achieving SDGs, Goals 8, 9, 10, 11 and 17 in particular.

The 2nd CRO WG on DFI was chaired by Ms Sue Kelsey, Senior Vice-President, MasterCard, who gave a brief overview on the objectives of the WG and the progress already made in assessing financial and ICT/Telecoms regulatory frameworks and challenges in Sudan and Mongolia. An additional initiative was presented on a new 'e-Card' solution, creating an interoperable solution allowing people to use airtime minutes to fund a general purpose payment facility via the phone. The group generally supported to further explore this potential initiative and ways forward starting by holding conference calls with any participants interested in joining.

6. Next Private Sector CRO meeting as pre-event to WTDC-17

The Chairman informed about the next opportunity for the Private Sector CRO meeting during the Private Sector Roundtable on 8 October 2017 in Buenos Aires, Argentina, before WTDC-17.

7. Closing remarks by the Chairman

The Private Sector CRO meeting concluded that, recognizing the importance of multi-stakeholders' partnership to implement the SDGs, the Private Sector CRO meeting is a platform, which ITU BDT uses to inform its members of industry's needs, challenges and solutions to contributing to the development of telecommunications/ICTs, SDGs in particular.

The Private Sector CRO is working on:

- the identification of barriers and the proposition of solutions, which will enable the availability of connectivity to everyone in a sustainable way;
- the identification of barriers and the proposition of solutions to the provision of digital services, which the CRO members put forward to the Private Sector Roundtable for further investigation.

The Private Sector CRO also agreed on a set of principles for adopting:

- *Contributing to Optimal Enabling Environment;*
- *Promoting Market Access and Infrastructure; and*
- *Supporting the creation of added value of ICT applications: e.g. IoT or IoE.*

The Chairman thanked all participants for their contributions to the discussion, and looked forward to follow-up on issues discussed.

The Chairman closed the meeting.
