



**Telecommunication  
Development Bureau (BDT)**

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Geneva, 25 May 2020

- Administrations of ITU Member States
- Resolution 99 (Rev. Dubai, 2018)
- ITU-D Sector Members
- National Regulatory Authorities
- Regional and International Organizations
- ITU affiliated academia and research institutes
- United Nations, specialized agencies, and IAEA

**Subject: 20<sup>th</sup> Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR) Goes Digital in 2020**

Dear Sir/Madam,

Some months ago, you may have received an invitation letter to participate in the 20<sup>th</sup> Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR-20). We were preparing everything to receive you in person and share with you here in Geneva the trends and the subjects that are important in today's world of regulation. Because of the challenges we are all facing with COVID-19, and after careful consideration, we have decided that GSR-20 will go digital, **with all meetings and sessions held online**, and including new options and features to celebrate 20 editions of GSR. I am excited to share with you the details of these celebrations in the paragraphs below, and attach the revised provisional agenda in annex.

**Revised Online Programme**

To kick off our celebrations of the 20<sup>th</sup> edition of GSR, we will hold the Leadership Debate on *“Resilient and secure digital connectivity for all – COVID-19 Recovery and lessons learned for better preparedness and response”* and the launch of *Digital Regulation Handbook and Platform* on **30 June 2020**.

From **5 July to 15 August 2020 (exact dates to be confirmed)**, a series of Special Regulatory Roundtable discussions will be held online, working with our regional colleagues, regional regulatory associations, and partners, and addressing the following themes:

- Institutional governance and regulatory independence in a digital world
- Spectrum allocation, valuation and temporary measures
- Build back better: post-COVID-19 preparedness and Digital Development Joint Action Plan.

On **31 August**, we will hold the Regional Regulatory Associations meeting and the Private Sector Chief Regulatory Officers' (CRO) meeting at the same time in different virtual rooms. The Heads of Regulators Executive Roundtable (upon invitation only) is scheduled for **1 September**, just before the main sessions of GSR.

The core sessions of GSR will be held from **1 to 3 September 2020 in short sessions over 3 hours each day**, focusing on:

- Fit-for-Purpose institutional frameworks for digital transformation: Demystifying the collaborative regulator in a post-COVID-19 digital ecosystem
- Competition in the digital era: a collaborative and cooperative approach
- Insights from the Last Mile Connectivity Lab
- Spectrum valuation and allocation mechanisms (for new services e.g.5G): post-WRC19 and post-COVID-19
- Digital safety and security: What next in a COVID-19 recovery world?
- Sustainable and inclusive societies: Accessible ICTs to leave no one behind.

### Registration

Registration to participate in this virtual GSR is mandatory, and will open on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020 via the following link: <https://www.itu.int/net4/ITU-D/CDS/meetings/registration/index.asp>. Participants with TIES access can register using their TIES login credentials (username and password). Participants who do not have TIES access can create their user account at the following link: <https://www.itu.int/en/ties-services/Pages/login.aspx>. For participants who already created a user account when they registered for a recent ITU meeting, their user account is still valid.

All registration requests for participation in these meetings must be **validated by the Designated Focal Points (DFPs)** of administrations and entities entitled to participate. The list of Designated Focal Points is available at the following link: <https://www.itu.int/net4/ITU-D/CDS/meetings/registration/index.asp>.

For assistance, please contact: [BDTMeetingsRegistration@itu.int](mailto:BDTMeetingsRegistration@itu.int).

### Interpretation

Interpretation will be provided based on the requests from participants. At the time of registration, participants who require a language other than English must select their choice from the list on the form (Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian or Spanish). The deadlines for requests for interpretation through the registration system are as follows:

- For the Leadership Debate on 30 June 2020: the deadline is **10 June 2020 (23:59 hours Geneva time)**.
- For the Regional Regulatory Associations meeting (31 August 2020) and the core sessions of GSR on 1-3 September 2020: the deadline is **17 July 2020 (23:59 hours Geneva time)**.

### Access to virtual meeting rooms

Instructions on how to connect to the platform for these virtual meetings will be sent to duly registered participants in a confirmation of registration letter via e-mail. Only participants who are duly registered for the meeting(s) will be able to access the virtual meeting rooms.

I hope that you will be able to connect, participate and make a valuable contribution to a successful Global Symposium for Regulators 2020.

Yours faithfully,



Doreen Bogdan-Martin  
Director

Annex :

## GSR-20 Goes Digital!



### Provisional Agenda

#### Launch of GSR-20 Celebration 30 June 2020

**13h00-13h30**

**Launch of the 20<sup>th</sup> Edition of GSR celebration** including launch of Digital Regulation Handbook and Platform

**13h30-16h00**

**Leadership Debate: Resilient and secure digital connectivity for all – COVID-19 Recovery and lessons learned for better preparedness and response**

- Where to from now? How do we address the gaps to strengthen the foundations for digital transformation and better build back?
  - Addressing the financing gaps:
    - Balancing innovative financing mechanisms and funding models: sustainable policy measures, business and partnership models, and policy – regulatory and fiscal incentives
    - Affordability of access: Community driven approaches to extend digital infrastructure
  - Addressing the infrastructure and technology gaps:
    - Mapping connectivity requirements and technologies for greater efficiency, preparedness and universal connectivity
    - Emerging technologies for sustainable and environmental-friendly smart world: how can regulation foster innovation and adoption of emerging technologies?
- Addressing the policy and regulatory gaps:
  - What strategic framework is needed for digital transformation addressing the new realities?

- Experimentation for innovation and investment: new deal, special authorizations, regulatory sandboxes, lessons learned from COVID-19 and new practices for adopting to new normal

**5 July 2020 – 15 August 2020**  
*Special Regulatory Roundtable Discussions*

***Thematic regulatory roundtable on measures for faster and better recovery***

*1h30 sessions organized with partners (Regulatory associations, training institutions, etc.) dates and regions to be confirmed.*

Focusing on the following potential themes:

- Institutional governance and regulatory independence in a digital world
- Spectrum allocation, valuation and temporary measures
- Build back better: post COVID preparedness and Digital Development Joint Action Plan

**31 August 2020 Special sessions**

**13h00-16h00**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Virtual room A (Interpretation required)</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Regulatory Associations' (RA) Meeting</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Virtual Room B</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Private Sector Chief Regulatory Officers' (CRO) meeting</b></p>
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**1 September 2020 - GSR online sessions**

**13h00-14h15**

**Heads of Regulators Executive Roundtable (upon invitation only)**

**Setting the regulatory agenda for a decade of action**

- GSR Best Practice Guidelines
- REG4COVID – lessons learned and planning for the future
- Country Case studies and initiatives

**14h15-14h30**

**GSR sessions opening**

**14h30-16h00**

**Session 1: Fit-for-Purpose institutional frameworks for digital transformation:**

**Demystifying the collaborative regulator in a post-COVID Digital ecosystem**

- Mandate and Role of ICT/telecommunications regulators in a post COVID digital ecosystem
- The digital evolution and changing regulatory functions, capacity, skills, and tool: are regulators sufficiently equipped to face the new realities and digital transformation?

- What does collaboration look like: with policy makers, with other regulators, across the sectors, with a wide range of stakeholders
- Autonomy and independence: rule-making in a collaborative world
- 20 years of sector transformation and competition: moving towards evidence-based decision making
- Collaborative regulators in action: the case of digital financial services

## 2 September 2020 - GSR online sessions

12h00 -13h00 Fireside chat (virtual chat)- Last Mile Connectivity Lab

13h00-14h20

### Session 2: Competition in the digital era: a collaborative and cooperative approach

- From ex-ante to ex-post regulation: are we there yet?
- Transparent, competitive, and non-discriminatory markets and access to facilities and services: Is a level playing field among all digital players still possible? Are co-creation of regulation and partnerships the answer?
- Integrating the verticals and emerging technologies: a changing competitive landscape
- Interconnection, interoperability, and open access
- Competing for data, a need for data-based regulation and co-regulation
- Incentives for sustainable competitive frameworks fostering inclusion, innovation, and investment, lessons learned from COVID-19

14h30-16h00

### Session 3: Spectrum valuation and allocation mechanisms (for new services e.g.5G) post WRC-19 and post-COVID

- Spectrum use for temporary emergency situations: lessons learned from COVID-19
- The role of spectrum in the digital transformation process
- Spectrum valuation as an economic and social tool: Up-front public revenues or broader network deployment for greater access?
- Are fees and taxes for spectrum an impediment to new deployment?
- Spectrum licensing principles for new services (e.g. 5G) and non-traditional networks

## 3 September 2020 – GSR online sessions

13h00-14h15

### Session 4: Digital safety and security: What next in a post-COVID world?

- Keeping infrastructure, networks, people and things safe and secured at all times: preparedness measures for policy consideration and risk mitigation taking into consideration lessons learned from the pandemic
- Building a secure and trusted digital ecosystem: understanding cyber threats, collaborative security
- Safety online and cyber resilience: Who is in charge?
- Trusted digital identity for safe online use: the role of the regulator
- Regulatory initiatives for protecting children online post covid-19
- Consumer engagement in digital societies: expanding trusted e-services and use (data privacy, data ownership, security risks and intellectual property rights)
- The need for multistakeholder (public-private) global and regional collaboration

14h20-15h40

### Session 5: Sustainable and inclusive societies: Accessible ICTs to leave no one behind

- Policy measures and regulatory tools to support inclusion of impaired and disabled population, skills development, etc.
- Innovative approaches to facilitate digital transformation process for persons with special needs at all times
- Ensuring access to basic and specialized ICT education and training programs for all (including e-learning tools) to leave no one behind.

**15h40-16h00**

**Way forward and closing**