**Telecommunication
Development Bureau (BDT)**

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Subject:	2011 Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR) Consultation

Dear Madam/Sir,

I am pleased to launch a consultation process on incentive regulation to promote the deployment of broadband as announced in my invitation letter to the 11t[h] Annual Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR), 21-23 September 2011 to be held in Armenia City, Colombia.

The theme of the 11th edition of the GSR is Smart Regulation for a Broadband World. To ensure that all citizens can ripe the benefit of living in a broadband world, a world led by innovation, instant access to knowledge, remote data storage, media and user generated content, requires policy makers and regulators to develop appropriate policies and regulations to foster affordable access and spur growth in the sector while addressing the risks inherent to ubiquitous and always-on connectivity. These innovative policies and regulations will not only address the supply side of the broadband ecosystem but also consider the demand side as well.

The deployment of broadband in all parts of the networks whether international, regional and domestic requires support, coordination and commitments at the highest levels. Huge investments are required at the backbone, backhaul and local access levels to ensure full digitization of the ICT networks and transport layers. Defining an appropriate policy, adapted to the national circumstances, will require policy makers and regulators to strike a balance between fostering private investment, through incentive regulation to mitigate the risk, and public funding without distorting competition in the sector. Alternative funding mechanisms such as government funding, public-private partnerships, community financing, use of funds, collected by universal service funds, are some of the tools policy makers and regulators can use to lay the foundation of the broadband economy.

This consultation focuses on identifying innovative regulatory approaches that policy makers and regulators can take to advance the deployment of broadband networks, encourage innovation and extend digital literacy to enable digital inclusion of all in a broadband world. You are, therefore, invited to identify innovative policy and regulatory approaches in the following areas:

- Funding mechanisms to foster public and private investment in broadband, defining the policy and regulatory framework, goals and achievements expected

- Investment incentives, coordination with stakeholders, other national entities involved and collaboration at the regional and international levels

- Stimulating innovation and development of applications and services

- Expanding Digital literacy

Contributions will be coordinated by Mr Cristhian Lizcano Ortíz, Executive Director of the Communications Regulatory Commission of Colombia (CRC). I wish to express my gratitude to Mr Lizcano Ortíz 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 GSR11@itu.int **(maximum two pages), no later than 18 August 2011**.

A draft of consolidated best practice guidelines will be made available in advance of the GSR on the event website (www.itu.int/GSR11). 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 reiterate the invitation for the event and encourage you to register as participant and inform us if you would like to intervene as a panelist. May I also remind you to make your hotel reservations and check the visa procedure in advance of the GSR. Visa instructions, online registration and further information on accommodation are available on the GSR11 website at: www.itu.int/gsr11

Yours sincerely,

[Original signed]

Brahima Sanou
Director