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|  | **Document** **TDAG17-22/****23-E** |
| **16 March 2017**  |
| **Original:** **English** |
| Director, Telecommunication Development Bureau |
| ITU GLOBAL SYMPOSIUM FOR REGULATORS (GSR) |
| **Summary:**GSR-16, held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, from 11 to 14 May 2016 attracted more than 540 participants including government ministers, heads of regulatory agencies and C-level industry executives from 64 countries. GSR-16 was organized in collaboration with the Government of Egypt under the auspices of H.E. Abdel Fatah El Sisi, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt. The theme of GSR-16 was: “Be Empowered, Be Included! Building Blocks for Smart Societies in a Connected World”.GSR-17 will be held from 11 to 14 July, 2017 at Paradise Island, Bahamas, and chaired by the Chairman of the Utilities Regulation and Competition Authority (URCA). The theme of GSR-17, “Living in a World of Digital Opportunities”, will include various tracks to allow regulators to exchange on ways to create an enabling regulatory environment through collaborative regulation to enhance opportunities and foster trust in the digital world of tomorrow. In addition, information sessions will be held on key BDT projects, programmes and initiatives. A Thematic pre-event will be held on 11 July 2017, as part of the Global Dialogue on Digital Financial Inclusion focusing this year on the security of digital financial services. The closed “by invitation only” Regional Regulatory Associations Meeting and Private Sector Chief Regulatory Officers Meeting will be held on 12 July 2017 in the morning.**Action Required:**TDAG is invited to note this document and to provide guidance as deemed appropriate.**References:**WTDC14 Resolution 48 (Rev. Hyderabad, 2010) |

**Background**

The Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR) is a four-day event, with one day being earmarked for pre-events, which brings together heads of national telecom/ICT regulatory authorities from around the world and has earned a reputation as the global annual venue for regulators to share their views and experiences on the most pressing issues they face. Although the focus of this event is regulators, it also fosters interactions and discussions on many other levels, providing regulators with opportunities to interact with policy makers, industry leaders and other key ICT stakeholders. GSR concludes with the adoption by regulators of a set of regulatory best practice guidelines.

GSR provides a neutral platform for ITU-D Sector Members to share their views on major issues facing the ICT sector, and is open to regulators, policy makers and ITU–D Sector members, and offers participants various options to attend and contribute. A series of pre-events also allow for exhibitions, exchanges and participation by administrations, regulators, industry, chief regulatory officers, and regional regulatory associations.

**GSR-16 and its pre-events**

The 16th edition of the Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR-16), held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, from 11 to 14 May 2016 attracted more than 540 participants including government ministers, heads of regulatory agencies and C-level industry executives from 64 countries. GSR-16 was organized by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in collaboration with the Government of Egypt under the auspices of H.E. Abdel Fatah El Sisi, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt. Chaired by H. E. Yasser ElKady, Minister of Communications and Information Technology and Chairman of the Board of Directors, National Telecommunication Regulatory Authority (NTRA), Egypt, the theme of GSR-16 was: “Be Empowered, Be Included! Building Blocks for Smart Societies in a Connected World”.

A series of pre-events took place on 11 May 2016 including the first GSR thematic pre-conference, the [Global Dialogue on Digital Financial Inclusion](http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Conferences/GSR/Pages/GSR2016/GDDFI.aspx), organized with the support of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Alliance for Financial Inclusion (AFI), the Government of Egypt and other partners. The pre-event day also included the [Regional Regulatory Associations Meeting](http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Conferences/GSR/Pages/GSR2016/RA-Meeting.aspx) (RA) and the 6th [Private Sector Chief Regulatory Officers Meeting](http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Conferences/CRO/Pages/CRO6/default.aspx) (CRO).

**GSR-17 and its pre-events**

GSR-17 will be held from 11 to 14 July, 2017 at Paradise Island, Bahamas, and chaired by the Chairman of the Utilities Regulation and Competition Authority (URCA). The theme of GSR-17, “Living in a World of Digital Opportunities”, will include various tracks to allow regulators to exchange on ways to create an enabling regulatory environment through collaborative regulation to enhance opportunities and foster trust in the digital world of tomorrow. In addition, information sessions will be held on key BDT projects, programmes and initiatives.

A Thematic pre-event will be held on **11 July 2017**, as part of the ***Global Dialogue on Digital Financial Inclusion*** focusing this year on the security of digital financial services. The closed “by invitation only” Regional Regulatory Associations Meeting and Private Sector Chief Regulatory Officers Meeting will be held on **12 July 2017** in the morning.

The provisional programme and all information on the GSR-17 and GSR-Pre-events are available at: [Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR)](http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Conferences/GSR/Pages/GSR.aspx). Online networking will be provided prior and during the event through the “ITU-D Events” mobile application.

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