



Telecommunication
Development Bureau (BDT)



Ref.: Circular BDT/DKH/RME/079

Geneva, 10 March 2021

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

Subject: 21st Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR-21), virtual event, 21 to-25 June 2021

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am pleased to invite you to participate in the 21st edition of the Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR- 21). Going virtual again this year, the core sessions of GSR-21 will be held from **21 to 25 June 2021** under the theme: ***Regulation4digitaltransformation: Accelerating inclusive connectivity, access and use.***

Built around interactive high-level panels on topical and cutting edge policy and regulatory issues, GSR-21 provides regulators and policy makers from around the world with a unique platform for discussions among peers and other digital stakeholders. As part of GSR-21, we will hold the Heads of Regulators Executive Roundtable (upon invitation only), training sessions, the Regional Regulatory Associations Meeting (RA) and the Industry Advisory Group on Development Issues and Private Sector Chief Regulatory Officers' (IAGDI-CRO) meeting on 21 and 22 June 2021 just before the main sessions of GSR.

As we prepare for the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-21), GSR-21's Leadership Debate will be held this year as part of the Road to Addis series of virtual events, on 22 June 2021, under the theme: *Connect2Lead. Redefining Leadership and its role in connecting the unconnected.*

GSR-21 discussions will focus on collaborative leadership and approaches to ensure trust in a digital space; connectivity for digital transformation and regulatory enablers; financing to achieve affordable connectivity, meaningful access, and use; safe digital inclusion and partnerships for digital transformation.

A series of virtual regional regulatory roundtable discussions will be held in the lead up to the GSR core sessions working with our regional colleagues, regional regulatory associations, and partners. More information of these regional events can be found on the GSR-21 website.

I hope that you will be able to participate and make a valuable contribution to a successful Global Symposium for Regulators 2021.

Yours faithfully,

[Original signed]

Doreen Bogdan-Martin
Director

Registration

Registration to participate in this virtual GSR is mandatory, will open on 8 March and is accessible [here](#). Participants can register using their ITU user account credentials (username and password). Participants who do not hold an ITU user account can create their one user account [here](#). 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 [here](#).

If your Entity does not have a Focal Point, or wishes to modify the contact details and/or change a focal point, you are kindly requested to provide details of his/her last name, first name and e-mail address and submit this information on letterhead by e-mail to BDTMeetingsRegistration@itu.int.

For assistance, please contact: BDTMeetingsRegistration@itu.int.

Interpretation

Interpretation for the GSR core sessions from 21 to 25 June 2021 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 deadline to request interpretation through the registration system is **7 May 2021**.

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 e-mail. Only participants who are duly registered for the meeting(s) will be able to access the virtual meeting rooms.

Duly registered participants will be informed of the date and time for the session to test the platform in due course.

GSR-21**Provisional Agenda****14 April 2021 – 9 June 2021***Regional and Interregional Regulatory Events (GSR+)*

*Thematic regional and interregional virtual regulatory events (GSR+) focusing on:
Regulation4digitaltransformation: Accelerating inclusive connectivity, access and use*

GSR+ Europe and Africa: 14 April**GSR + CIS: To be confirmed****GSR + AMS: 10-11 May****GSR + ARB: 2-3 June****GSR + ASP: 8-9 June****21-June 2021** *Special sessions***13h00-14h30****Heads of Regulators Executive Roundtable (upon invitation only)****14h30-16h00****Training session on emerging technologies accelerating the digital transformation process****22 June 2021****13h00-14h30****GSR Leadership Debate: Connect2Lead. Redefining Leadership and its role in connecting the unconnected**

- A whole of governance approach - the voice and role of sectoral regulators (energy, competition, broadcasting, digital content, data protection, financing)
- Empowering stakeholders - from consultation to co-regulation – every voice counts!
- The continuing and yet changing role of regulators in the digital ecosystem
- Moving the regulatory cursor to adapt to a changing ecosystem
- Impact of regulatory tools - evidence based regulation

14h45-16h15

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Virtual room A (interpretation required) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Virtual Room B
Regulatory Associations' (RA) Meeting	Industry Advisory Group on Development Issues and Private Sector Chief Regulatory Officers' (IAGDI-CRO) meeting

23 June 2021 - GSR online core sessions

14h15-14h30

GSR sessions opening

14h30-16h00

Session 1: Connectivity4digital transformation: regulatory enablers

- The importance of sharing: spectrum, networks, infrastructure co-deployment, etc
- How to balance affordability, RoI and technologies innovation? Why regulation matters
- Fair competition in a globalized digital world: a dream? lifting the remaining regulatory, commercial and business anticompetitive practices
- Building digital resilience: Lessons learned from the pandemic and addressing urgent challenges (climate change, emergency, etc)

24 June 2021 - GSR online core sessions

13h00-14h20

Session 2: Financing to achieve affordable connectivity, and meaningful access and use

- Reviewing the USO concept to address the digital ecosystem
- Innovative funding approaches and financial solutions, lessons from the other sectors
- Do traditional financing models still apply? Reforming approaches to USF
- Regulation as an enabler

14h30-16h00

Session 3: Regulation4Innovation

- Driving digital deepening across infrastructure and the platform value chain (from satellite to terrestrial, wireless services, cloud services and digital platforms)
- Fostering emerging technologies uptakes: a case for regulatory sandboxes, co-regulation, self-regulation to enhance digital for economic and social development
- Regulatory innovation driving local development and entrepreneurship
- Cross sectoral regulatory incentives to foster local and young entrepreneurs to contribute and benefit from smart digital transformation

25 June 2021 - GSR online core sessions

13h00-14h20

Session 4: Safe digital inclusion - transforming lives

- Achieving the digital gender gap – a coordinated policy response
- Digital skills for all: leveraging USO for inclusion
- Fostering Youth and women online safety (COP)
- How to keep everyone safe during times of crisis

14h30-15h50

Session 5: Partnerships4digital transformation

- Extending partnerships to non-traditional stakeholders: the regulator as a partner
- Driving digital investment for sustainable development (linked to SDGs)

15h50-16h00

Way forward and closing