



**Telecommunication
Development Bureau (BDT)**

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Geneva, 20 May 2019

National Regulatory Authorities of ITU
Member States

Subject: **Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR-19) Consultation**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am pleased to launch the consultation for the Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR) 2019 Best Practice Guidelines under the theme “Fast forward digital connectivity for all”. Contributions will be coordinated by Mr John Obed Alilee, Regulator, Telecommunications, Radiocommunications and Broadcasting Regulator (TRBR), Vanuatu and GSR-19 Chair. I wish to express my gratitude to Mr Alilee for agreeing to undertake this important task.

The 19th Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR-19) will be organized by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), in collaboration with the Government of Vanuatu. GSR-19 will be held at the Warwick Le Lagon Resort, Port Vila, Vanuatu, from 9-12 July 2019.

The theme for GSR-19 will be: “Inclusive Connectivity: the future of Regulation”. Discussions will focus on digital strategies and policies; infrastructure regulation; innovative investment and financing mechanisms, trust and confidence in a data driven economy; the need for spectrum; preparing for 5G and the changing consumer role.

Recently, we have become used to seeing new technologies and business models challenge existing regulatory patterns. We still face the challenge, however, of connecting the other half of world’s population to ensure that all people everywhere can benefit from the opportunities the digital economy brings. From the imminent entry in markets of 5G and the expansion of the Internet of Things, to the profusion of cloud services and artificial intelligence, gearing up regulatory frameworks to achieve connectivity, foster trust, and pave the path towards digital transformation requires a new perspective and not mere incremental improvement. A new multi-dimensional approach to regulation, greater collaboration and partnerships across the sectors, and a fundamental upheaval of existing frameworks is needed to unleash the positive social and economic capital generated by new technological phenomena. Many core regulatory questions will take on a new meaning and will need to be re-tooled.

Under the overall theme “Fast forward digital connectivity for all”, you are therefore invited, as part of the GSR consultation process, to provide your views and experiences on:

- **What are the core design principles for collaborative regulation?** In the transition from rules-based to principles-based regulation, regulators strive to delineate the key dimensions along which collaborative regulatory policies shape. Design principles help regulators navigate through new technology paradigms, enter new partnerships and collaborative mechanisms, and guide them towards appropriate regulation. Led by these principles, regulators can fine-tune their regulatory

response, ensuring optimal impact on the market. Trust-based, adaptive, socially-sound – those are only some of the principles that form the basis for thriving digital market regulation.

- **What benchmarks for regulatory excellence and market performance can form the basis for digital infrastructure regulation?** The massive digital transformation brings about challenges to regulators and grounding regulatory decisions in robust, multifaceted evidence can prove instrumental in generating positive market dynamics in the short and long term. Evidence matters for creating a sound understanding of the issues at stake and identifying the options going forward, as well as their impact.
- **What new regulatory tools and approaches are at hand for enabling digital experimentation?** From bright-line rules to enhanced competition frameworks and from regulatory sandboxes to temporary spectrum licences and targeted incentives, the renewed regulatory toolbox provides opportunities for hands-on, inclusive and evidence-based regulation and decision-making. A new generation of open, agile regulatory frameworks can provide space for the co-creation of new regulatory rules, capitalizing on the strengths of the actors involved and allowing space for teaming up around a market failure to turn it into a digital market opportunity.

Recalling the series of GSR Best Practice Guidelines since 2003 that capture established regulatory wisdom and tried and tested practices, I encourage you to focus your 2019 contribution exclusively on new and innovative approaches, tools and mechanisms for achieving digital connectivity for all.

As time will be limited for this very important discussion at GSR, I would request that National Regulatory Authorities begin the process of preparing and submitting contributions well in advance of the GSR.

In order to be able to coordinate submissions and make drafts of the consolidated collaborative measures and the best practice guidelines available on the events websites (www.itu.int/gsr19) in advance of the meetings, we would ask you to submit your contribution in electronic format to gsr@itu.int (maximum two pages), no later than 14 June 2019.

Individual contributions will also be posted. The best practice regulatory guidelines are to be presented on the last day of GSR.

I look forward to receiving your comments and I take this opportunity to encourage you to register as participant. May I also remind you to make your hotel reservations and check the visa procedure in advance of GSR. Visa instructions, online registration and further information on accommodation are available on the GSR19 website at: www.itu.int/gsr19.

Yours faithfully,

[Original signed]

Doreen Bogdan-Martin
Director