

Strategic Dialogue on ICTs: Confronting the Crisis 21 April 2009

09:30 – 10:15	Welcoming remarks
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcoming remarks by Portugal• Welcoming remarks by ITU
10:15 – 11:15	Session 1: Is this crisis any different?
	<p>This session examines the global financial and economic crisis, as well as predictions for the future economic outlook. It presents different regional perspectives on the crisis, including from the developing world. It also considers differences and similarities with previous financial downturns, including the 1997 Asian currency crisis and the bursting of the dot.com bubble in 2001/2002. Have we all been here before? And, if past is prelude, are there any lessons from the dot.com crash that can help telecom/ICT companies confront this crisis?</p>
11:15 – 11:30	Coffee break
11:30 – 12:30	Session 2: How can investment and financing in telecommunications/ICTs help to overcome the crisis?
	<p>This session examines the impact of the financial crisis on investment and financing in the telecommunication and ICT industry. Will the financial crisis derail investment in advanced NGN networks, broadband access and other ICTs that have the potential to bridge the digital divide? Are investment plans being postponed and scaled back? Are new sources of finance (including South-South investment) emerging? Should governments become more involved in financing the sector, or start offering incentives to help operators upgrade their networks? And should investment in broadband networks form an integral component of any government economic rescue plan or stimulus package?</p>
	Lunch break

14:30 – 15:45	Session 3: Telco strategies
	Telecommunication operators are already navigating convergence and industry transformation, while regulation, competition, technological change and bundled offers have resulted in sustained double-digit price declines over recent years. This session examines how changing consumer demand is driving new business strategies. How are astute operators responding? Should price regulation be eased, or do cash-strapped consumers require even more protection than ever? Faced with difficulties in obtaining financing and uncertain consumer demand, how can telcos best navigate an uncertain future?
15:45 – 16:15	Coffee break
16:15 – 17:30	Session 4: The experience of industry
	This session considers the impact of the financial crisis on promising wireless technologies and other ICTs with the potential to bridge the digital divide. Does the financial crisis threaten to derail investment in advanced NGN? Will it delay the roll-out of WiMAX and LTE? How can mobile operators adapt their business models? Should incentives be introduced to help operators upgrade their networks? And will high-value satellite projects with complex financing arrangements be affected? This session listens to leading industry players in considering the outlook for different technologies.
(23 March version)	