



**Telecommunication
Development Bureau (BDT)**

Ref.: Circular BDT/IEE/RME/013

Geneva, 15 February 2019

- Administrations of ITU Member States
- ITU-D Sector Members
- National Regulatory Authorities
- Regional and International Organizations
- ITU affiliated academic and research institutes

Subject: 19th Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR), Port Vila, Vanuatu, 9-12 July 2019

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am pleased to invite you to participate in the 19th Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR-19) that 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, under the theme: Inclusive connectivity: the future of regulation.

The 50/50 milestone for Internet use was reached in 2018, showing the great strides the world is making towards building a more inclusive global digital society. Connecting the first half of the global population was largely about competition. Bringing the remaining half online will be about collaboration among stakeholders, across sectors and across borders, and there is still much to be done to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

GSR-19 provides a unique platform for ICT regulators and stakeholders to share experiences, knowledge, collaborate and identify means to bring affordable, safe, secure and trusted connectivity and online access and use to people everywhere. GSR-19 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.

As part of GSR-19, we will also host thematic events and workshops, including the Heads of Regulators Executive Roundtable, the Regional Regulatory Associations Meeting and the Private Sector Chief Regulatory Officers (CRO) Meeting on 9 July 2019.

I hope that you will be able to participate and make a valuable contribution to a successful Global Symposium for Regulators 2019.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Doreen Bogdan-Martin'.

Doreen Bogdan-Martin
Director

Annex 1: Event participation information

Online networking platform

GSR offers unique networking opportunities in the run up to and during the event through the online interactive networking platform to be made available on the GSR-19 website at <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Conferences/GSR/2019>. This platform will provide registered users with the opportunity to set up their appointments and book meeting rooms using their tablet or smartphone. We are also pleased to offer a networking facilitator service to assist participants in setting up meetings and booking meeting rooms. More details on this service are available at gsr@itu.int or telephone: +41 22 730 6256/5443.

Documentation and interpretation

GSR is a paperless meeting and relies on web transmission of documents. The documents prepared for this event and other information can be downloaded from the GSR-19 website. Interpretation for the main sessions will be provided in the six ITU official working languages.

Panel participation

In line with past procedures, there will be no formal presentations apart from those made by keynote speakers and authors of GSR reports and discussion papers and other ITU documents, as appropriate. Active participation of executive level participants in panels is welcomed and encouraged. Further information on panel participation will be posted on the website shortly. Those wishing to participate as panellists in one of the sessions identified in the provisional programme will be requested to complete the online panellist registration form, presenting an outline of their potential contribution to the topic, and selected participants will be informed.

Registration

Registration for GSR-19 will be carried out exclusively online, starting on 15 February 2019 through Focal Points designated by each Administration/Entity. The role of a Focal Point is to handle registration formalities for his/her respective Administration/Entity. The list of Focal Points available at: <http://www.itu.int/go/regitud> can be accessed using TIES login credentials. Designated Focal Points can find the registration form at: <http://www.itu.int/go/regitud>.

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 fax to: +41 22 730 5484 or by e-mail to BDTMeetingsRegistration@itu.int.

Practical information

Please note that participants shall cover their own travel and accommodation expenses. Practical information on accommodation, including logistical details, will soon be available on the GSR-19 website.

Due to visa requirements, and in order to ensure that your visa is processed in time for the meeting, I encourage you to follow the visa instructions available on the GSR-19 website. The Regulatory and Market Environment Division (e-mail: gsr@itu.int or tel.: +41 22 730 6256/5443) is at the disposal of participants who require assistance.

Inclusive connectivity - The future of regulation

GSR-19 PROGRAMME

Vanuatu

Tuesday 9 July 2019 - Thematic Events

- 09h30-12h00** **Regulatory Associations Meeting** (by invitation)
- 09h30-12h00** **Private Sector Chief Regulatory Officers Meeting** (by invitation)
- 14h00-17h00** **Heads of Regulators Executive Roundtable** (by invitation)

Wednesday 10 July 2019 GSR

- 09h00-10h00** **Opening Ceremony**
- 10h00-10h15** **COFFEE BREAK / PHOTO OPPORTUNITY**
- 10h15-12h00** **Leadership debate: Getting the next 3.7 billion online!**

This Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development/ Leadership debate will set the scene and examine:

- The role of collaboration in getting the offline population online, the need for inclusive people centered approaches, innovative investment models for affordable and secured connectivity, access and use
- Partnerships and public-private cooperation mechanisms to meet the SDG Goals using ICTs

12h00-14h00 **LUNCH / PRESS CONFERENCE**

14h00-15h30 **Session 1: Digital Infrastructure policies and regulation: A Multidimensional Collaborative Approach**

Connecting the remaining half of the population that is still offline will require inclusive digital strategies and policies strengthening collaboration and taking into consideration:

- Innovative regulatory approaches, a review of the legal mandate for collaboration, looking at collaboration across borders and sectors to enhance connectivity, affordability, access and use.
- Leveraging the cross sectoral role of ICTs in the digital economy to foster connectivity and use, competition moving forward and the importance of sharing, open access (wholesale), skills development and global players.
- Building in accessibility enabling digital inclusion for people with disabilities
- out-of-the box policy and regulatory tools drawing from lessons learned and new approaches, such as regulatory sandboxes, pilots, temporary licences, regtech, evidence-based decision making and data driven regulation
- Sharing of experiences on collaborative approaches to regulation – the case of Digital Financial Inclusion

15h30- 15h45 **COFFEE BREAK**

15h45-17h00 **Session 2: Investment, Funding and New Business Models for Connectivity in a Post 50-50 Digital World**

The session will address how to secure investment and funding to bring the remaining 3.7 billion people online, focusing on:

- How to balance incentives to promote investment and innovation while still aiming for affordability and quality?
- How can frontier technologies such as AI, automation, blockchain and data analytics contribute to greater business and ICT infrastructure efficiency and security?

- Innovative commercial partnerships (including investment from non-traditional sources), and intelligent networks to expand connectivity in underserved region
- Moving towards Universal service 2.0 (Innovative business models, PPPs and funding, CSR, holistic approach, digital transformation centers)? How to minimize economic distortions from contributions to and allocation of USFs?
- What are the concrete regulatory measures foreseen?

Thursday 11 July 2019

9h00-10h30 Session 3: Connectivity for all: Do the basics still apply?

The discussion would broadly focus on:

- How to connect the dots: lifting remaining barriers to building and accessing communications infrastructure, security of infrastructure and information components; spectrum and smart deployment for better connectivity and access to the ICT digital ecosystem
- The role of alternative networks (community, municipal and other public utilities), incentive regulatory measures
- Means to foster innovation across layers to ensure inclusive digital transformation (e.g. use of emerging technologies across the layers and across the sectors).
- Incentive-based regulatory approaches across the sectors to achieve connectivity for all.

10h30-10h45 COFFEE BREAK

10h45-12h00 Session 4: How can emerging technologies contribute to inclusive disaster risk reduction in time of emergencies?

The discussion will focus on the role of emerging technologies (e.g. drones, balloons, robots) in contributing to inclusive disaster risk reduction in time of emergencies:

- How can disruptive technologies contribute to inclusive disaster risk reduction? Who are the new market players on the block?
- Is it business as usual or are innovative regulatory measures needed?
- Developing national emergency plans, what regulators need to know: understanding the technologies, spectrum needs, licensing, access and interoperability, data analytics, business models, etc.

12h00-14h00 LUNCH

14h00-15h30 Session 5: Building confidence in a data driven digital economy

ICT infrastructure, digital platforms and data constitutes the bedrock of the digital economy. In this environment:

- Who owns the data and who pays for data collection? How can regulators facilitate cross-border data flows, and what is the cost of preventing them? How can public policy objectives be met in this environment? What is the value of data in digital markets? How to define SMP in the data economy where data is everywhere, how to foster competition?
- How can regulators meet the needs of all stakeholders including citizens, consumers and business agendas - where is the cursor?

15h30-15h45 COFFEE BREAK

15h45-17h00 Session 6: The need for spectrum

Under the umbrella of spectrum for digital transformation and connected societies, the discussion will focus on:

- Spectrum harmonization roadmaps and plans
- Spectrum sharing and licensing
- Investment in spectrum
- Spectrum needs for Small Island Developing States (SIDS)
- Spectrum for sustainable development and preparing for WRC 19

Friday 12 July 2019**REGULATORS TRACK****9h00-9h15 GSR Best Practice Guidelines****9h15 -10h30 *Putting people at the Center: consumer protection and the changing consumer role***

Consumers are instrumental players in the digital ecosystem as they are key data users and producers/prosumers enabling smart societies to thrive. Ensuring consumer protection and user security in the smart data driven economy, and building trust is however the mandate of all.

- What are the tools and data that should be made available to empower consumers? Which skills are needed to fully participate in the digital economy (capacity building and awareness raising)?
- What is the role of regulators in digital skills development and consumer awareness raising on the challenges and opportunities of new technologies?
- A regulatory toolbox for citizens, consumers and business

10h30 - 10h45 Coffee break**10h45 -12h00 Preparing for 5G**

This session will provide regulators with the opportunity to engage into more in-depth discussion on:

- Licensing spectrum: frequency allocation mechanisms and fees
- Investment requirements and what regulators can do to encourage fast deployment track after WRC-19 (5G and others)
- From 3G to 4G and 5G: what are the opportunities for consumers and businesses?
- Securing 5G access and use

12h15-13h00 Way forward and Closing