



**Telecommunication
Development Bureau (BDT)**

Ref.: BDT/IEE/RME/DM/318

Geneva, 21 June 2013

To

- Administrations
- National Regulatory Authorities of ITU Member States
- ITU Sector Members

**Subject: ITU High Level Workshop on Regulatory and Economic Aspects of Roaming,
Geneva, Switzerland, 23 – 24 September 2013**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am pleased to invite your organization to participate in the ITU High Level Workshop on Regulatory and Economic Aspects of Roaming, which will take place in Geneva (Switzerland) from 23 to 24 September 2013.

This Workshop is organized in coordination with the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau (TSB). It is addressed to senior representatives of Telecommunication/ICT Ministries, Regulatory Bodies and Operators.

The objective of this High Level Workshop is to review developments in international mobile roaming services (IMRs), by examining in particular the economic and regulatory steps which have been taken to reduce prices and improve competition in this market. It is expected to discuss the best practices and recommendations based on the initiatives which have had positive effects in the IMRs market by lowering prices, facilitating more competition and protecting users, and to exchange views on how further improvements could be attained. The results of the ITU Report on “International mobile roaming services: regulatory and economic aspects” will be presented during the Workshop.

Please find attached the Workshop provisional programme. Active participation by delegates in panels is welcome and encouraged. Delegates wishing to participate as panelists in one of the sessions identified in the provisional programme are kindly requested to get in touch with the contact persons mentioned below **by 26 August 2013**. Selected panelists will be informed by 6 September 2013. All the information concerning this High Level Workshop is available online at the website: www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regulatory-Market/Pages/

Moreover, I can inform you that one partial fellowship per country will be awarded, subject to available funding, to facilitate participation from Least Developed or Low Income Developing Countries (www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/info/Pages/resources.aspx). The fellowship form is available on the event website. An application for a fellowship must be authorized by the competent Administration of the requesting ITU Member State. The fellowship request must be returned to ITU not later than **19 August 2013**.

Registration will be carried out online on the event website. You are invited to confirm your participation by registering before **13 September 2013**. Interpretation will be provided based on the requests of participants. You are therefore invited to indicate on the registration form **whether you require languages other than English by 10th July 2013**. Based on the requests made by this deadline, and provided there are at least five requests for a given language, interpretation will be provided in the requested language.

Should you require any information in relation to this Workshop, please contact Mr Makhtar Fall, Head, Regulatory and Market Environment Division, by e-mail: makhtar.fall@itu.nt or phone: +41 22 730 6256/730 5709 or Mrs Carmen Prado-Wagner: carmen.prado@itu.int.

I look forward to your active participation in this High Level Workshop.

Yours faithfully,

[Original signed]

Brahima Sanou
Director

Annex: Provisional Programme



ITU High Level Workshop on Regulatory and Economic Aspects of International Mobile Roaming (IMR)

Geneva, Switzerland, 23-24 September 2013

Draft Agenda

The objective of this High Level Workshop is to review developments in international mobile roaming services (IMRs), by examining in particular the economic and regulatory steps which have been taken to reduce prices and improve competition in this market. It is expected to discuss the best practices and recommendations based on the initiatives which have had positive effects in the IMRs market by lowering prices, facilitating more competition and protecting users as well as exchange views on how further improvements could be attained.

Monday

08.30 – 09.30 ***Delegates registration***

09.30– 09.45 ***Opening Ceremony***

- ▶ Mr Brahim Sanou, BDT Director
- ▶ Mr Malcolm Johnson, TSB Director

09.45 – 11.00 **Overview of the growth of mobile services and their increased importance for economies**

Presentation of the first part of the ITU Roaming Report by Mr Dimitri YPSILANTI, ITU Expert

- Mobile devices, their growth and use as the main tool for communications
- Growth in international travel and international communications
- The challenge of high prices in voice and data roaming
- Why roaming is expensive?
- Cross border roaming or inadvertent roaming

Panelists to be determined.

Coffee break

11.15 – 12.30 **ITU activities related to roaming – results and expected impact**

Presentation by Mr Makhtar Fall, ITU/BDT

- World Conference on International Telecommunication (WCIT-2013) results
- International Telecommunication Regulations (ITRs)
- The new provisions on International Mobile Roaming
- ITU-T Study Group 3 activities on International mobile roaming and Recommendation D-98

Panelists to be determined.

Lunch

14.00 – 15.30

Responding to high IMRS prices

Presentation of the Second part of the ITU Roaming Report by Mr Dimitri YPSILANTI, ITU Expert

- Roaming cost structure (cost elements that operators are calculating and that make roaming expensive)
- Business initiatives (economic models applied, is there a tariff methodology? best practices) and technological developments
- Availability of substitutes to roaming - alternative roaming procedures
- National, regional and international initiatives

Panelists to be determined.

Coffee break

15.45 – 17.00

Private Sector Initiatives on IMR

- GSMA initiatives on International Mobile Roaming
- Transparency of IMR retail prices
- Country cases

Panelists to be determined.

Tuesday

09.30 – 12.15

Policy and regulatory actions - Best practices and Recommendations which have been put forward at the national, regional and international levels

Presentation of the Third part of the ITU Roaming Report by Mr Dimitri YPSILANTI, ITU Expert

- Protecting and empowering consumers - consumer awareness of roaming costs
- Market-based solutions which facilitate the use of substitutes by users
- Regulatory Initiatives:
 - Wholesale price regulation: possibilities and cost determination?
 - Retail price regulation: possibilities and impact?
- Taxation issues
- Structural regulatory determinations to develop IMR competition

Panelists to be determined.

12.15 – 12.30

Final conclusions and closing of the High Level Workshop