



## Industry Advisory Group for Development Issues and Private Sector Chief Regulatory Officers' meeting (IAGDI-CRO)

An industry perspective on development and regulatory issues

Monday, 05 June 2023 09:30 – 11:00, CEST

### Outcome Statement

The meeting of the Industry Advisory Group on Development Issues and the Private Sector Chief Regulatory Officers (IAGDI-CRO) was held back-to-back with the Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR-23) on 05 June 2023.

The IAGDI-CRO deliberated on the need to step forward collectively to achieve 100% connectivity and recognized that doing so requires multi-faceted incentives for the Private Sector. Incentives which are important to maintain sustainable flows of investments, foster local engagement, build human and systemic capacity, and develop national as well as regional innovation ecosystems powered by universal, accessible, affordable, and secure connectivity. The exchange of insights by participants also helped refocus on addressing regulatory challenges, seizing opportunities, while reaffirming the industry's preparedness to support regulatory endeavors around the world.

The IAGDI-CRO meeting focused on the urgent need to rapidly expand access to the internet for the remaining 2.7 billion people worldwide who are not yet connected by 2030. The participants also emphasized the significance of various industries and sectors to narrow **the usage gap**. Given that mobile broadband networks already reach 90% of the global population and the well-established **role of satellite industry** in addressing connectivity challenges, including **emergency communications**, especially in least developed countries (LDCs), there is a clear requirement to explore innovative approaches for fostering enduring partnerships.

The diversity of industry participants in the meeting also underpinned the criticality of overcoming regulatory challenges and embracing opportunities of this decade. These are catalyzing new changes in the way the ICT Industry now operates and continues to evolve, in view of iterative changes taking place across other industries and sectors including the Space Sector. Such changes are fundamentally mandating cross-border industry collaboration on regulation, best practices, and new synergies.

All acknowledged that **societal and industry dynamics have changed**, with different technologies now available to drive connectivity. This requires not only intensified collaboration between terrestrial and non-terrestrial service providers, but also collaboration between service providers and regulators with respect to **adaptation of regulatory frameworks that strike a balance for all ICT industry stakeholders**. Such a balance can be achieved by establishing fair market access conditions for all technologies and providers (including equitable spectrum access and technology neutrality), ensuring spectral efficiency and minimal interference, streamlining licensing regimes, reducing administrative fees, and encouraging partnerships with local operators. More local engagement and investment by global digital players was called for alongside **regulatory parity**.

The IAGDI-CRO meeting also highlighted the need for regulators to develop clear guidance and regulations of AI and to increase efforts regarding space sustainability.

Moreover, to move forward and accelerate actionable measures and to put into force earlier recommendations made by the IAGDI-CRO and the ITU, the

meeting re-affirmed the **Private Sector's commitment to supporting governments, particularly the Regulators**, during today's volatile and everchanging environment to achieve common goals both in the near and long term. Participants also agreed to play a more active role in supporting digital development work and to use existing networks to promote the ITU-D Sector for the purposes of recruiting more private sector members and promoting national digital transformation agendas.