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## 1. Description

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The Ministerial Roundtable at ITU Telecom World provides Ministers with an opportunity to share developments and challenges within the ICT landscape. Under the overarching Forum theme of **“Innovating together: connectivity that matters”** the 2019 Ministerial Roundtable will consist of three sessions enabling Ministers and executive heads from industry and international/regional organizations to share their ICT policy direction and future vision, highlight investment opportunities, and debate the need for further collaboration between governments and the ICT industry. These roundtable sessions are also an excellent platform for vendors, operators, SMEs and investors attending the sessions to gain direct exposure to the strategies, direction and development of individual countries within the ICT ecosystem.

Interactive discussions at the three roundtable sessions will focus on the following three topics:

- The role of government in 5G and high-capacity network deployment (10-Sep, 11:00-12:15);
- What’s happening with our data? Securing trust in digital public services (10-Sep, 14:00-15:15);
- Stimulating public-private collaboration on connectivity and adoption (10-Sep, 15:45-17:00).

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## 2. Organization

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- *Date and time*: the Ministerial Roundtable will run throughout the second day of the event, Tuesday 10 September 2019. It will consist of three sessions taking place at 11:00-12:15, 14:00-15:15 and 15:45-17:00, and running in parallel with the other Forum sessions happening during the day.
- *Where*: Room 1, Hall A, Hungexpo, Budapest, Hungary
- *Format*: conducted in a semicircle setting, each session will be limited to ten (10) Ministers to enable smooth and equal discussions. Ministers will be invited to give an introductory statement of 3 minutes on the topic of the session, followed by a moderated discussion between the participants. Questions will then be taken from the floor, if time allows.
- *Audience*: the Ministerial Roundtable will be open to ITU Telecom World participants holding Leader, Executive, or Forum access passes.
- *Interpretation*: interpretation services will be available in English and French.
- *Confirmation of a speaking slot*: invitation to the Ministerial Roundtable is addressed to Ministers only\*
  - if the minister is not available the deputy minister or the head of regulatory agency can take their speaking role pending a review from the Forum team. The session allocations will be made on a *“first-come, first-served”* basis. To confirm the Minister’s participation in one of the Ministerial Roundtable sessions, please get in touch with [forum.telecom@itu.int](mailto:forum.telecom@itu.int) at your earliest convenience.

\*Subject to the topic of the roundtables, these sessions may be joined by government officials from other public agencies, private sector executives, as well as other stakeholders at the executive level.

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### 3. Guidelines for preparation / topics and themes

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Ministers are invited to focus their interventions around the following guideline topics/questions:

- “The role of government in 5G and high-capacity network deployment” (Tuesday 10 September, 11:00 – 12:15)

The first session of the Ministerial Roundtable explores the policy and regulatory frameworks required – or desired - to stimulate the deployment of 5G and high-capacity networks. Operators may be discouraged from investing in 5G-capable networks due to the high cost of infrastructure development and the lack of clarity on 5G applications or demand for 5G services. Given the potential socio-economic value of 5G networks, to what extent should policymakers intervene in creating an environment to encourage investment and deployment? What policy or regulatory incentives are likely to prove most effective? How are governments currently working with industry sectors to assess the benefits of “the industrial internet”? Is potential government support for a specific technology effective – or detrimental?

The Ministry of Hungary, host country for ITU Telecom World 2019, proposes to discuss during the ministerial roundtable the following vision statement towards promoting socio-economic development through digital technology: *“As ministers responsible for digital development and ICT, we recognize the utmost importance of global connectivity improved through emerging technologies such as 5G and AI. We should consider the possibility of accelerating innovation and fostering a competitive, sustainable and inclusive economic growth through the responsible utilization of such technologies, and will therefore endeavour to foster an innovation-friendly ecosystem for the purpose of facilitating the further development of such technologies. Taking into consideration the ITU’s role in promoting and addressing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through the use of ICTs, we should recommit ourselves to the exploitation of the unprecedented potential for socio-economic growth presented by digital transformation for the benefit of our citizens; and reaffirm our common vision of providing opportunities for sustainable growth and development with the help of such technologies for all people around the globe.”*

- “What’s happening with our data? Securing trust in digital public services” (Tuesday 10 September, 14:00 – 15:15)

In May 2018, the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) governing data protection and privacy for all individuals within the EU and EEC came into effect. However, issues of data security, consumer trust and responsibility for preserving, exploiting, and eventually erasing data, remain prevalent. How has GDPR changed how data is handled in the public and personal arenas, what lessons have been learnt in the past year, and should similar legislation be introduced worldwide? How has it affected larger and smaller companies, and what benefits has it brought consumers? What is the role of government in creating and maintaining public trust in digital technologies? How are governments currently ensuring the security of sensitive data used to provide innovative, beneficial public services? Is there a risk that citizens may in the future choose to opt out of providing data? How can different branches of government collaborate to preserve trust and security in the digital administration?

- “Stimulating public-private collaboration on connectivity and adoption” (Tuesday 10 September, 15:45 – 17:00).

Around 90% of the world’s population is covered by at least 2G or 3G services, yet internet adoption remains at barely 51%. Accelerating universal connectivity, and the socio-economic development it brings, involves enormous investment in infrastructure – but also affordable, relevant services and applications, meaningful content in local languages, digital skills and awareness. None of this is possible without political will and multi-sector partnerships. How can public and private sectors work together in different markets to drive adoption in underserved, rural and remote areas? What innovative partnerships are possible with stakeholders across the digital ecosystem such as NGOs, international organizations, civic groups, communities and academia? How important is the role of digital public services in stimulating take-up and providing new markets? What makes for a successful cross-sector collaboration, and what are the principle challenges that remain?

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### *5. Contacts and references*

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For any questions please contact: [forum.telecom@itu.int](mailto:forum.telecom@itu.int)

Up-to-date description of the Ministerial Roundtable and confirmed participants will be made available on the ITU Telecom World's website at <https://telecomworld.itu.int/2019-event/2019-programme/>.