
1. Description

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 **“Innovation for smarter digital development”**, the 2018 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 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:

- Government: enabling smarter digital development (11-Sep, 9:15-10:30);
- Addressing the risks of a smarter world (11-Sep, 11:00-12:15);
- Financing Digital Development (11-Sep, 15:45-17:00).

2. Organization

- *Date and time*: the Ministerial Roundtable will run throughout the second day of the event, Tuesday 11 September 2018. It will consist of three sessions taking place at 9:15-10:30, 11:00-12:15 and 15:45-17:00, and running in parallel with the other Forum sessions happening during the day.
- *Where*: Room 22, ICC, Durban, South Africa
- *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 (the invitation may be extended to Heads of Regulatory Agencies if a Minister is unable to attend), and is not transferrable within the country delegation. 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 at your earliest convenience.

3. Guidelines for preparation / topics and themes

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

- “Government: enabling smarter digital development” (Tuesday 11 September, 9:15 – 10:30)
The first session of the Ministerial Roundtable addresses the instrumental role of government in driving ICT deployment and adoption of networks, services and applications. As the principal digital end-user, procurer, policy-maker and regulator, governments are uniquely responsible for the growth of the digital economy at national, regional and global levels. How can administrations shape policy frameworks and allocate budget to ensure universal connectivity, access and uptake? How can smart innovation transform public services to better meet the needs of citizens? What are the main challenges in creating an enabling environment for digital innovation and smarter societies? What opportunities for collaboration can be explored at regional level, or in the context of international platforms such as ITU?
- “Addressing the risks of a smarter world” (Tuesday 11 September, 11:00 – 12:15)
The second session of the Ministerial Roundtable discusses the main challenges and risks posed by smart digital development, such as creating adequate and enforceable data privacy and security frameworks, ensuring citizen trust in smart government services, preparing for the impact of AI and automatization on the labour market and building digital skills for both industry and society. Does government need to present a better case for the benefits of smart development and balance negative perceptions on misuse of data? How can citizen uptake of new ICT-enabled services and applications be accelerated? What new approaches or policies can empower digital citizens through education, life-long learning and digital literacy?
The session will also provide a platform to launch the Global Cybersecurity Index and the National cybersecurity strategy guide
- “Financing Digital Development” (Tuesday 11 September, 15:45 – 17:00).
The third session of the Ministerial Roundtable explores new financing and business models required to advance digital transformation and move towards smarter societies throughout the world. What can we learn from the initiatives and recommendations presented in other platforms such as the OECD roadmap for digitalization, or the Broadband Commission discussion paper “A New deal: investing in our common future. Policy recommendations to close the broadband gap”? What successful case studies and best practice in public private partnership can we draw on? How can governments provide a healthy investment climate through transparent, fair and stable initiatives in areas such as regulation, licensing, taxation and spectrum?

5. Contacts and references

For any questions please contact: 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/2018-event/programme/>.