

ETC membership is open to all [IASC](#) members and, upon the invitation of the existing membership, to other organizations (i.e. United Nations, NGOs, governmental organizations, corporate social responsibilities organizations, private sector partners) that can make a positive contribution to the functioning of the ETC.

To be an ETC member the organization must have an interest in humanitarian assistance; support the achievement of the mandate of the ETC; and commit to making a positive contribution to the ETC by actively participating in or contributing to ETC activities at the global and local level.

To become a new member an organization will normally submit a request to the ETC Secretariat ([Global.ETC@wfp.org](mailto:Global.ETC@wfp.org)) that outlines the nature of its interest; the role that it wishes to play; and a description of the contribution that it commits to make to the work of the ETC. Due diligence of the organization will be conducted to ensure its membership would not be inconsistent with humanitarian or IASC principles. Such requests will be reviewed by the full ETC membership, and a consensus reached to accept or reject the request.

## About Our Organisation:

On 4 June, 1997, leading members of the satellite communications industry arranged a meeting in London, where they agreed that the industry had been fragmented for too long and that a unified voice - a non-profit, international association - was needed globally to represent the interests of VSAT system and service providers, as well as end users. The promotion of the technology and the services it supports was also seen as an important role for the industry's new organisation.

On 31 March, 1998, the Global VSAT Forum was officially launched during an International VSAT Congress held in Rome, Italy.

Since then, the GVF has become the single and unified voice of the global satellite communications industry. It brings together organisations engaged in the delivery of advanced broadband and narrowband satellite services to consumers, and commercial and government enterprises worldwide.

Headquartered in London, with a regional office in Washington DC and global affiliates, the GVF is an independent, non-partisan and non-profit organisation with 200+ members from every major region of the world. The broad-based membership represents every sector of the satellite industry, including fixed and mobile satellite operators, satellite network operators, teleports, satellite earth station manufacturers, system integrators, value added and enhanced service providers, telecom carriers, consultants, law firms, and users.

The GVF's VSAT installer training & certification program is recognized across the satellite industry, and has been incorporated successfully across the humanitarian response community's training programs worldwide.

In the aftermath of the Haiti earthquake response, the GVF launched a Humanitarian Assistance & Disaster



Response initiative to support information sharing and collaboration across the satellite industry, and to support the coordination of the satellite industry response to disasters and humanitarian crisis. The GVF has actively participated in the WGET community since June, 2010, and as an Observer member of the ETC since 2013. We look forward to continuing to participate in the community as a full member of the ETC.

### **Our Role:**

The GVF's role will remain unchanged going forward as a full member. That is to say, we will continue to support the humanitarian community with information and resource sharing between the GVF members and the ETC community in order to best support responders on the ground. We will support regulatory preparedness measures, and will continue to work with national regulatory agencies to support the implementation of emergency import & licensing procedures when necessary. Our training & certification program will continue to benefit the humanitarian community through training between responses, and access to our cadre of certified installers during a response. The GVF will continue to provide innovative ideas and solutions to the ETC community in an effort to continuously improve the effectiveness of the ICT contribution to response, and will leverage its global membership of more than 230 companies to participate and contribute resources to responses and exercises whenever possible.

### **Our Commitment:**

The GVF commits to continuing to bring new innovations in the satellite industry to the attention of ETC members, to share information with the ETC community regarding GVF member resources and activities during responses, and to work with the GVF's 230-plus worldwide members to find solutions to humanitarian connectivity challenges.

### **Our Representatives:**

Steven Birnbaum  
Chairman, Humanitarian Assistance & Disaster Response Programs

David Hartshorn  
Secretary General

**Signed By:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Hartshorn', written over a horizontal line.

**Date:**

4 March 2015

**Role:**

Secretary General