



International Advisory Body on Submarine Cable Resilience

Working Group 1 Recommendations Timely Deployment & Repair

	Streamline Permitting, Approval and Regulation
1	Encourage governments¹ to streamline permitting and regulatory processes to reduce cable deployment and repair timelines, including: (a) establishing transparent and predictable permitting frameworks (e.g., by publishing i. clear guidelines on permitting requirements and permitting timelines, and ii. Information on the regulatory bodies and application/permitting documents necessary for installation and repair); (b) reducing regulatory barriers (e.g., by, where permitted by national laws, facilitating customs clearance and cabotage procedures, removing or exempting customs duties, allowing pre-clearance of ship and crew, ensuring emergency repairs can proceed expeditiously, etc.); and (c) designating a government body to be the Single Point of Contact (“SPOC”), where permitted by national laws, to facilitate coordination across government agencies.
2	A voluntary database or directory indicating countries’ SPOCs to provide the industry with a centralized and definitive point of reference who can communicate permitting requirements and timelines.
3	Encourage the utilization of existing regional forums or, where permissible, intergovernmental cooperation frameworks, and foster new ones if none already exist (e.g., an industry regional cable protection committee or CPC in Asia), to discuss submarine cable resilience to support local cooperation and promote regulatory alignment. This would help mitigate against operators having to navigate differing regulatory requirements across the region. As part of this, encourage government engagement with regional submarine cable associations and ICPC best practices.
	Strengthen Global Repair Architecture
4	Encourage the creation or expansion of incentives to expand repair assets from a diversity of companies and countries (that consider vessels and spare parts) which may also help address needs in high-risk or remote areas and to reduce mobilization time for emergency repairs. This could include removal of regulatory barriers as referenced in recommendation 1.
5	Consider establishing plans for shallow-water rapid-response units: To have plans in hand for using small modular teams with lightweight gear and shallow-water remotely operated vehicles (ROVs) for near-shore incidents.

¹ Any reference to “national” or “government” is understood to extend to Regional Economic Integration Organisations (REIOs) within their respective area of competence.

6	Promote mutual assistance and shared infrastructure models: Continue to strengthen maintenance-zone and private-agreement cooperation for shared vessels and spare pooling where feasible under the commercial arrangement. Encourage jointly funded/multi-contracted vessels based at critical hubs which may also help address needs in regions with insufficient repair resources.
7	Global Repair Asset Optimization Framework (GRAOF): Encourage industry associations to map global coverage gaps to help clarify where repair resource shortfalls exist and to support investment decisions. Encourage cable owners and cable repair & maintenance companies to promote long-term maintenance contracts, joint vessel funding, and encourage public–private partnerships (PPPs) maintenance hubs in underserved regions.
8	Encourage maintenance agreements to collaborate on industry best practices (e.g., through ICPC Recommendations for repair best practices on topics such as safety, proximity, coordination, etc.), to support an effective approach to cable repair/maintenance.
9	Encourage training & knowledge platforms: Encourage the development of training opportunities (for jointing, deep-sea operations, ROV, HSE or (Health, Safety and Environment) and cable engineering) and contribute to existing digital repositories for best practices.
	Strengthen Public-Private Partnership and Regional Cooperation
10	Encourage voluntary data sharing: Encourage governments, industry and regional organizations to share best practices. This should leverage existing mechanisms where possible, e.g. existing ICPC efforts for data sharing between industry and governments.
11	Encourage national public–private cooperation mechanisms (e.g., fora/platforms/committees) between competent authorities and cable owners/operators to support predictable coordination for deployment, protection and repair, including to: (a) maintain a designated “single front door” interface for operational coordination (aligned with national arrangements e.g. the designated SPOC as per recommendation 1); (b) maintain validated 24/7 contact lists and escalation paths; (c) support periodic multi-stakeholder exercises and post-incident learning; and (d) maintain a light set of practical artefacts (notification templates, decision pathways, agreed evidence packs)