



**Telecommunication
Development Bureau (BDT)**

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Geneva, 28 November 2023

To:

National Regulatory Authorities
Regional Regulatory Associations
Regional and Economic Associations

Subject: Digital Regulation Network (DRN) Initiative – Priorities and Workplan

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am pleased to inform you that the first Digital Regulation Network Initiative Board Meeting took place virtually on 31 October 2023.

The objective of this meeting was to exchange views and finalize the DRN priorities and work plan for the coming year based on the discussions held during the Regional Regulatory Associations Meeting (RA-23) held at the Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR-23) in Sharm el-Sheikh in June ([RA Chairman's Report](#)) as well as various consultations organized with Regulatory Associations during at the recent ITU events. The DRN priorities and work plan are attached as Annex 1 and are available on the Digital Regulation Network [website](#).

I am confident that this DRN initiative will contribute to the acceleration of sustainable digital transformation and promote meaningful and inclusive connectivity for all.

I look forward to continuing our partnership with Regional Regulatory Associations and their members.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava', is positioned above the printed name.

Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava
Director

Annex 1

Digital Regulation Network (DRN) List of Priorities

expressed by Regional Regulatory Associations (RAs) during the GSR-23 RA-23 meeting and during recent ITU events

GSR-23 RA Meeting Egypt, 1 June 2023	DRN session IPEC-23 Americas Costa Rica, 26 September 2023	ITU-EMERG-EaPeReg Joint Workshops 28 September 2023 – Montenegro 8 November 2023 - Virtual	DRN Session ITU-D Study Group 1 Plenary Meeting Geneva, 23 October 2023	First Board Meeting of the Digital Regulation Network (DRN) – 31 Oct. 2023 (virtual)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Innovative regulatory approaches Regulatory issues including infrastructure sharing, quality of service, consumer protection, OTT services and applications, digital platforms Emergency preparedness and responses and protection of critical infrastructure (e.g.: submarine cables) Development of policies to support the 5G ecosystem and rollout of 5G infrastructure Spectrum-related issues including, for example, spectrum buy-ins for 5G, spectrum sharing, trading, harmonization and governance, affordable access to spectrum, cross-border coordination issues; and satellite requirements and challenges related to NGSO (Non-Geostationary Orbit) constellations Digital literacy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Affordability Consumer empowerment and fair competition, consumer's information transparency Quality of Service Spectrum allocation policies and valuation Building resilience in emergencies – National emergency plans Sustainability of ICT networks – using common approaches Devices theft Digital literacy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaboration in the field of mapping of broadband infrastructure and services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gender issues Affordability Governance models of the digital infrastructure maps Broadband infrastructure development and sharing Universal access for Digital Financial inclusion – coordination with central banks and security issues Consumer protection – equipment stolen mobile devices theft Counterfeit E-waste Emergency telecommunication 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity building on digital regulation activities and policy making Experimentation and Innovation Digital sandboxes guidelines, best practices tools and training Gender balance from a regulatory perspective Linking environmental sustainability to digital regulation Collaborative regulation with other sectors NRAs – specifically on personal data protection & cybersecurity Sharing experiences to learn from other RAs Mapping of broadband infrastructure and services

Digital Regulation Network (DRN) – Workplan (1/2)

Building blocks	Objective	Activities	Priority Mapping	Outputs and Outcomes
Capacity Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Definition of priorities for the coming year based on priorities expressed during the GSR-23 RA-23 meeting and during consultations held with RAs during recent ITU events Strengthening collaboration in the fields of mapping of broadband infrastructure and services collaborative regulation Identification and sharing of good practices and transfer of know-how Increasing participation of RAs in relevant ITU events and activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Definition of priorities and mechanisms to implement the DRN Initiative at the First virtual DRN Board meeting (31-Oct-2023) ITU-EMERG-EaPeReg Joint Workshops on Strengthening Broadband Infrastructure and Services including mapping Collaborative regulation interactive workshop including Regulatory Associations at WSIS-24 Information Session on DRN at ITU-D Study Group Meetings so as to encourage RAs contribution and participation to ITU-D Study Group meetings Piloting GSR-24 best practice guidelines dissemination for collection of contributions among RAs members Build Capacity of RAs on digital regulation through ITU Academy and by sharing Digital Regulation Handbook and Platform articles and materials Collaboration with ITU Digital Innovation Alliance - joint activities with RAs Digital Skills Needs Assessments Tools shared with RAs Dialogue between RAs and ITU Academy Training Centers (ATCs) Dialogue initiated with EQUALS to define gender activities focusing on gender equality in ICT access and use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthening Broadband Infrastructure and services Fostering innovative regulatory approaches (regulatory sandboxes, regulatory impact analysis (RIA)) Strengthen capacity of RAs through ITU Academy on regulatory innovation (regulatory sandboxes) and regulatory issues including affordability, consumer protection, infrastructure sharing, quality of service, consumer and data protection, universal service financing, e-waste, OTT services and applications, digital platforms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workplan developed RA knowledge exchange activities increased (WSIS, GSR) Foster collaboration with other sector regulators (e.g. data protection agencies) RA participation in workshops and reports and outcomes of workshops shared with RAs RAs participate in digital regulation training, emergency preparedness, environmental sustainability and spectrum issues trainings on ITU Academy RAs capacity built on digital skills assessment ITU Digital Regulation Platform article on Non-Geostationary Orbit (NGSO) shared with RAs New areas for training identified and dialogue with ATCs initiated RAs participate in and contribute to ITU-D Study Groups work actively

Digital Regulation Network (DRN) – Workplan (2/2)

Building blocks	Objective	Activities	Priority Mapping	Outputs and Outcomes
Thought leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To exchange on the provision of a safe space and tools for co-creating harmonized approaches to policies and regulation for digital transformation at the national and regional levels To share good practices and experiences and advocate for the outcomes of the DRN Leveraging digital regulation tools and frameworks (ICT Regulation Tracker, GS benchmark and the unified framework) to support evidence-based decision-making 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organization of the Second DRN (Board) meeting March 2024 (TBC) Piloting GSR-24 best practice guidelines (BPG) consultation process for collection of contributions from RAs and their members Preparation of interactive RA session at GSR-24 Preparation of interactive RA session at WSIS C6 Action Line Facilitators meeting Supporting the work of the Broadband mapping building block 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaboration in the field of mapping of broadband infrastructure and services Collaborative regulation with other sectors NRAs – specifically on personal data protection & cybersecurity Sharing experiences to learn from other RAs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress report reflecting the tools and mechanisms to implement the identified priorities, and definition of the GSR-24 BPG Digital Regulation Tools and Frameworks shared with RAs and integrated into interactive sessions
Regulatory experimentation and innovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To share good practices and experiences and advocate for the outcomes of the DRN Identification and sharing of good practices and transfer of know-how, and increasing participation of RAs in relevant ITU events and activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organization of the DRN meeting at GSR-24 RA Meeting (July 2024) RAs take lead on GSR-24 best practice guidelines (BPG) outcomes dissemination Meeting to discuss RA-RA and RA-NRA to strengthen capacity of RAs on innovative regulatory approaches (twinning projects) Dialogue with industry on the provision of a safe space and tools for co-creating harmonized approaches to policies and regulation for digital transformation at the national and regional levels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fostering innovative regulatory approaches Sharing experiences to learn from other RAs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Successful contribution of RAs to GSR best practice guideline definition and actions agreed for dissemination in their respective regions Concrete actions on twinning discussed and follow-up agreed Concrete tools for co-creating harmonized approaches to policies and regulation for digital transformation at the national and regional levels discussed and follow-up agreed