**Telecommunication
Development Bureau (BDT)**

Ref.:   BDT/DKH/RME/DM/050   Geneva, 2 September 2024

To Regional Regulatory Associations (RAs)

Subject: **Call for applications for the selection of members of the Digital Regulation Network Initiative (DRN) Board**

Dear Sir/Madam,

As part of our commitment to continuously improve and foster a dynamic leadership for the Digital Regulation Network Initiative (DRN), we are restructuring the organization of the Board, as was announced at GSR-24 in Kampala, Uganda, on 1st July 2024.

I am pleased to invite all the Regional Regulatory Associations (RAs) Executive Secretaries/Chairs/Vice-Chairs to nominate candidates to be considered for the DRN Initiative Board to be part of the leadership team.

ITU launched the DRN last year at GSR-23 with the aim of accelerating sustainable digital transformation through common approaches to collaborative digital policy, regulation, and governance across economic sectors and borders, working directly with Regional and Linguistic Regulatory Associations (RAs) and their members across the globe. More information is available in the RA-23 Report by the Chair.

The new Board will be composed of eight Members. The Members will serve on a pro bono basis, for a two-year term. Selection will be based on a first-come, first-served approach while considering candidates commitment, gender balance and regional representation. Please see the DRN Board Terms of Reference attached in Annex 1.

To submit nominations, please have the proposed candidates share a short biography and proposed ideas for the Digital Regulation Network Initiative (DRN) moving forward.

Please send your nominations, including the above information, to TREG@itu.int by **30 September 2024**.
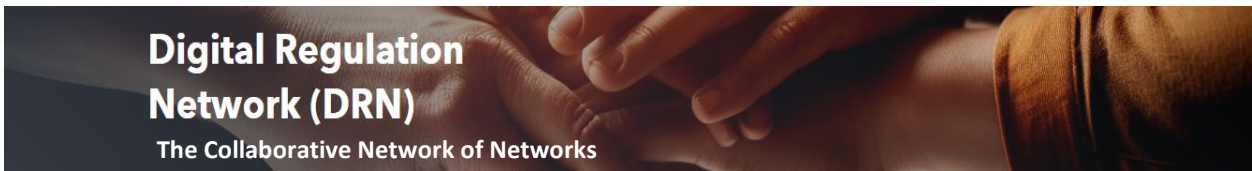
I believe that the inclusion of diverse and passionate members in our leadership team is crucial for the continued success and growth of the Digital Regulation Network Initiative (DRN).

Your participation in this process is highly valued and appreciated.

Yours faithfully,

(signed)

Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava
Director

Digital Regulation Network (DRN) Board Members

Terms of Reference

Background

The [Digital Regulation Network Initiative](#) (referred to as "The DRN Initiative") is a platform that fosters collaboration and knowledge-sharing among regional and linguistic regulatory associations worldwide.

The DRN Initiative aims to accelerate sustainable digital transformation through common approaches to collaborative digital policy, regulation, and governance across economic sectors and borders, working directly with Regional Regulatory Associations (RAs) and their members across the globe.

This initiative was launched during the Regional Regulatory Associations Meeting (RA-23) organized during the [Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR-23)](#) in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, from 5 to 8 June 2023, by the BDT Director, Dr Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava. More information is available in the [RA-23 Report by the Chair](#).

Regional Regulatory Associations (RAs) are playing an important coordination role in their specific regions. In some cases, they are addressing similar issues or thematic without having an inter-regional and international coordination, or knowledge exchange to gain more information, and at the same time, creating harmonization. Considering that information and knowledge exchange is key to creating the necessary enabling environment for digital transformation and building capacity, the aim of the DRN Initiative is to address specific themes, relevant to RAs and their members, taking advantage of ITU resources and tools but also including the experience, knowledge and resources of other RAs. Building on the GSR Regional Regulatory Associations meetings, BDT is ideally placed to be a neutral platform to implement this initiative, bringing together RAs and their members on specific working and exchange conditions to facilitate knowledge exchange and capacity building frameworks.

The DRN Initiative works through three main building blocks:

1. Capacity Development: This involves knowledge transfer and twinning programmes among RAs and their members, as well as institutional capacity development programmes for RAs.

2. Thought Leadership: This block focuses on creating a platform for discussion, cooperation, collaboration, and consultation with RAs and RAs from other sectors, and with specific national regulatory authorities (NRAs). It also involves strategizing on emerging issues and regulatory needs in digital transformation, and piloting good practices for harmonized approaches.

3. Regulatory Experimentation and Innovation: This block includes co-designing regulation and policy experimentation for emerging technologies, promoting cross-sectoral regulatory approaches for digital transformation, using evidence-based decision-making tools, and fostering discussion on innovative solutions.

Mission of the Board:
The mission of the Digital Regulation Network (DRN) Board is to provide expertise, knowledge, and guidance to ensure the effective implementation of the initiative's main building blocks.

Board Member Responsibilities:
Board members are expected to actively engage in the work of the Board throughout the year by carrying out the following responsibilities:

- Attend at least one physical Board meeting per year and participate in inter-sessional work, including online discussions and virtual meetings. If unable to attend physical meetings, Board members should make every effort to participate online.

- Advise the DRN on strategic matters in relation with the defined DRN priority activities and workplan and provide feedback and exchange of views on its overall strategic direction.
- Share expertise, experiences, and ideas on the aim and main building blocks of the DRN Initiative.
- Help coordinate effective programmes and interventions that foster meaningful connectivity and digital transformation globally.
- Approve the composition and the Terms of Reference of expert panels and/or working groups to support the work of the DRN Initiative.
- Engage in advocacy at the regional and international level to disseminate lessons learned and the achievements of the work of the DRN Initiative and its members.
- Amplify the message and the work of the DRN through their respective RA own members and networks, platforms and social media channels.
- Act as goodwill ambassadors promoting programmes and projects designed by the DRN Initiative as well as GSR Best Practice Guidelines.
- Uphold high standards of integrity, ethical behavior, and professional conduct in carrying out their duties related to the work of the Board.

Board Meetings:
The Board meetings are conducted in English and follow pre-approved agendas prepared jointly by the Secretariat and the Board prior to each meeting. Board meetings take place twice a year, with at least one being conducted in person.

Periodic virtual updates will be provided to brief the Board as necessary. The Secretariat will prepare and share regular reports and updates with the Board throughout the year.

Decision-making shall be by consensus, allowing each member an equal voice.

Composition:
The Board shall be composed of the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT), and 8 Board members (ICT Regional Regulatory Association Executive Secretaries/Chairs/Vice-Chairs, select NRA Chairs as proposed by RAs) (the total number of Board members may be subject to change from year to year).

The Board composition will ensure diversity and regional representation in its membership.

The Board may set up Working Groups to prepare reports on specific projects and thematic issues. The BDT will provide a Secretariat to serve the Board.

Eligibility:
The Board is open to the Executive Secretaries/Chairs/Vice-Chairs of Regional Regulatory Associations as well as select NRA chairs proposed by the Regional Regulatory Associations upon receiving an invitation from the BDT Director.

Appointment:
Board members shall be appointed for an initial two-year term, with the possibility of renewal. Board members participate in their individual expert capacity and represent their associations.

Board members may resign at any time by giving written notice addressed to the Board through the DRN Initiative Secretariat or by giving oral notice at any Board meeting.

Board members will serve on a pro bono basis. They shall not receive any honorarium, fee, or other remuneration from ITU or the DRN Initiative.

Periodic Review:
These Terms of Reference are a guiding document subject to periodic review, updates, and amendments by mutual agreement between the Board and the Secretariat when necessary.

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