



**Telecommunication
Development Bureau (BDT)**

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- Administrations of ITU Member States
- Palestine (Resolution 99 (Rev. Dubai, 2018))
- ITU-D Sector Members
- National Regulatory Authorities
- Regulatory Associations
- Regional and International Organizations
- ITU affiliated academic and research institutes
- United Nations Funds and Programs,
Specialized Agencies, and IAEA

Subject: Consultation for the Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR-26) Best Practice Guidelines on “Regulatory Governance Essentials”

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am pleased to launch the consultation for the 2026 Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR-26) Best Practice Guidelines. The consultation process will be coordinated by the GSR-26 Chair, Mr. Ömer Abdullah Karagözoğlu, President of the Information and Communication Technologies Authority (BTK) of Türkiye.

The overall theme of the GSR-26 Consultation is ‘**Regulatory Governance Essentials: What’s the new core kit regulators need to make digital markets deliver?**’ Concretely, you are invited, as part of the GSR-26 consultation process, to provide your ideas, views and experiences on the following questions:

Question 1: What is the baseline toolkit for digital governance – beyond rules? *What core set of instruments should regulators have in place as ‘governance essentials’: core duties and outcome-based obligations, incentive levers, oversight and assurance mechanisms; adaptive and experimentation tools; and engagement and coordination practices?*

Question 2: How can governance essentials be made measurable and enforceable across sectors? *What outcome metrics and evidence standards should anchor these essentials (e.g., meaningful connectivity, affordability, accessibility, reliability, consumer harm reduction, market contestability), and how can reporting and observability models provide effective oversight proportionately and without excessive burden, across sectors?*

Question 3: What should a predictable, graduated supervisory and enforcement pathway look like when risks rise or harms occur? *How should regulators move from guidance and targeted remedies to more directive interventions, and how should the pathway be designed to ensure due process, cross-agency consistency, and clear criteria for scaling back measures when conditions improve?*

Cross-cutting lens: *Across all three questions, how can regional, subregional and international cooperation (shared metrics, mutual recognition, joint supervision, aligned remedies) reduce fragmentation and strengthen regulatory effectiveness in cross-border digital ecosystems?*

Please submit your contribution (maximum two pages) to gsr@itu.int no later than **27 March 2026**. Recalling the series of GSR Best Practice Guidelines since 2003 that capture established regulatory mechanisms and tried and tested practices, I encourage you to focus your 2026 contribution on new approaches, tools and perspectives to set out the essentials that regulators need to keep digital markets open, fair and trustworthy.

The final GSR-26 Best Practice Guidelines will be presented and adopted at the GSR-26 Heads of Regulators Executive Roundtable on Wednesday 13 May 2026. Drafts as well as individual contributions will be posted on the GSR-26 website.

I look forward to receiving your contributions and I take this opportunity to encourage you to register for GSR-26 as a participant, panellist or moderator. You will find the detailed GSR-26 agenda and further information available at: www.itu.int/gsr26.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed)

Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava
Director