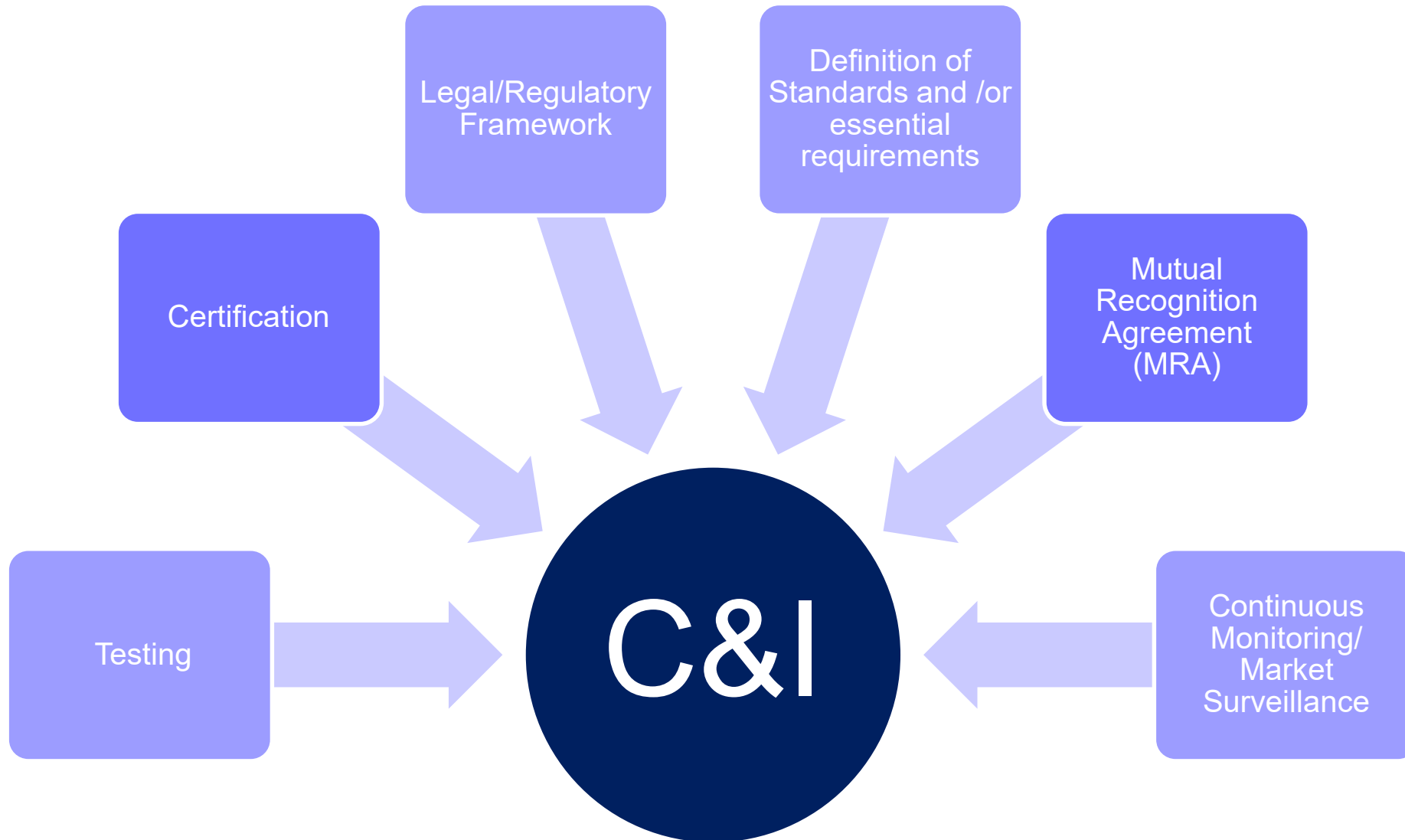# ICT Conformance and Interoperability
Challenges for Developing Countries

BY: Roland Yaw Kudozia

NATIONAL
COMMUNICATIONS
AUTHORITY

Introduction

NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY
Division

Regional Survey on C & I

The ITU through ITU-T SG11 undertook a study in African region to gather information on challenges, use cases and efforts in place to address the problem of counterfeit ICT in Africa during the study cycle 2012-2016

Focus areas of the study

- Common perceptions of counterfeit ICT devices.
- Available Laws, Regulations and Enforcement.
- Impact Assessment on counterfeit ICT devices.
- Existing measures and techniques to combat counterfeit ICT devices.
- ITU involvement and possible Creation of a Regional Group of ITU-T SG11.

Findings

- There are existing laws, regulations and national anticounterfeiting forums in place to combat counterfeit ICT devices in the Africa markets
- 28% respondents were ***not convinced on the level effectiveness of their national laws to combat ICT counterfeit***
- Majority of Member States in the region have no "Basic Testing laboratory" in place to aid C & I activities (11 out of 14 respondents).
- Though Member States responded positively to existence of public awareness and sensitization programs on counterfeit ICT devices, it was interesting to know that all of the Member States ***also recommended for a highly intensive public education programme to be in place***.
- Member States have *Laws and Regulatory Frameworks that establish the requirements for ICT devices to be legally imported and supplied in the market place*.

https://www.itu.int/dms_pub/itu-t/opb/tut/T-TUT-CCICT-2017-PDF-E.pdf

Essence of C & I

- Ensure quality ICT devices on the market

- Support delivery if quality of service

- Security of networks

- Safety of the user and the environment

Requirements for Enforcing C & I

Legislative Mandate

Regulatory Framework

Type Approval Process

Evolution of C & I Regime in Ghana

Pre-Dec 2008
- No Existing Type Approval Regime
- No Regulatory Framework
- Legislative Mandate (Act 524 1996 , 2(f) & 3(h))

2009-2012
- Loose Unstructured Type Approval Regime
- No Regulatory Framework
- Legislative Mandates (Acts 769 & 775 of 2008, LI 1991 of 2011)
- TC24 – Committee for ICT Standards Established in 2011

2013-2015
- Well Structured Type Approval Regime
- New Regulatory Framework
- Existing Laws Provided enough Mandate
- Stakeholder Engagements / Public Education
- Revised Guidelines

2016-2019
- Established of three key labs
- Drafted Electronic Communication Equipment Regulations
- Continued Stakeholder Engagement

Enforcing Quality C & I Regime

Type Approval Process

Pre-Market Assessment

Market Surveillance Activities

Post Market Surveillance Activities

Basic Infrastructure for Testing

Stakeholder Engagement

Challenges

- Legislative Challenges
- Regulatory Challenges
- Operational/ Enforcement

Legislative Challenges

- Scope

- Multiple Agency Mandate

- Emerging Problems

Regulatory Challenges

- Standards Development
- Guidelines
- Register and Equipment Marking
- Dealership Licensing
- Market Surveillance
- Type Approval Regulations

Operational/ Enforcement Challenges

- Ports of Entry
- Market surveillance
- Verification of Test Reports
- Inter-agency collaboration
- Device Identification (labeling)
- Consumer Complaints
  - ☐ Fake phones (mostly fault/Value for money/ not functioning as advertised)
  - ☐ Unmarked Devices
  - ☐ Data hungry phones (bundles easily get exhausted as a result of preinstalled programme that send device and personal data for target advertisement)

Conclusions

- To Achieve Quality C & I Regime
  - ☐ Well defined legal mandate
  - ☐ Well structured Regulatory Framework
  - ☐ Type approval process
  - ☐ Interagency collaboration
  - ☐ Public / Consumer Sensitization
  - ☐ Market Surveillance
  - ☐ Basic Infrastructure for testing (aiding market surveillance)