

ITU POLICY AND ECONOMICS COLLOQUIUM FOR AMERICAS / COLOQUIO UIT DE POLÍTICAS Y ECONOMÍA PARA AMÉRICA (IPEC-23)
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The ITU Digital Regulation Network (DRN)

Carmen Prado-Wagner
BDT, Regulatory and Market Environment Division
International Telecommunication Union (ITU)



Digital Regulation Network (DRN)

The Collaborative Network of Networks



Dr Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava
Director, Telecommunication Development Bureau

“Only by accelerating collaboration among stakeholders and taking digital governance to the next level, we can harness the full potential of digital transformation. Let’s join forces with stakeholders across the board and make an impact on the future of all people, everywhere”

Objective

The aim of the Network is to accelerate sustainable digital transformation through common approaches to collaborative digital policy, regulation and governance across economic sectors and across borders. The Network is enabled by Regulatory Associations (RAs) at the regional and global level by leveraging South-South, North-South and triangular cooperation.



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Background

- introduce strategies to stimulate national and regional digital markets and improve their competitive position in the digital transformation.
- ICT and other sector and cross-sector regulators are required to collaborate effectively at national, regional and global level and across economic sectors
- no formal global network of ICT regulatory associations or digital regulators that could provide increased cross regional and sectoral coordination, to pool resources and channel multistakeholder efforts





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Aims

Support regional regulatory associations and their members in building institutional and human capacity

Strengthen cooperation among RAs and their members and with other pivotal Networks in the regional and global digital regulation space, making regulatory collaboration easy and effective

Provide a safe space and tools for co-creating harmonized approaches to digital policies and regulation for digital transformation at the national and regional levels

Share good practices and experiences and advocate for the outcomes of the Network

Vehicles

Convening a platform to facilitate cross-sectoral collaboration, consultation and experimentation among RAs and with other regional, global Networks and individual NRAs

Piloting GSR best practice guidelines and other consultation processes, and outcomes dissemination

Leveraging digital regulation tools and frameworks (ICT Regulation Tracker, G5 benchmark and the Unified framework) to support evidence-based decision-making

Establishing knowledge transfer programmes (technical assistance, twinning between RAs and their members, with Networks of other sectors, mentoring programme, etc.)

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The three main building blocks:



Thought leadership

Platform for discussion, cooperation, collaboration and consultation with RAs and RAs from other sectors as well as with specific NRAs

Strategizing on emerging issues, regulatory needs in the digital transformation and piloting good practices for harmonized approaches



Capacity development

Knowledge transfer programmes/ twinning programme among RAs and their members

Institutional capacity development programme for RAs



Regulatory experimentation & innovation

Co-designing of regulation and policy experimentation for emerging technologies (including AI, digital policies, etc.)

Promoting cross-sectoral regulatory approaches for digital transformation

Evidence-based decision-making tools (sandboxes, RIA, etc.)

Innovative Financing Solutions Discussion Platform (ESG)



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Working Methods

- Physical and online meetings/workshops/training sessions leveraging on planned RAs and ITU activities (back-to-back with regional and global events, GSR, etc.)
- Dedicated space for RAs exchange to work collaboratively
- Visits/twinning/knowledge exchange between RAs and specific NRAs (physical)



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Regional Regulatory Associations present at the Regional Associations (RA) meeting during the GSR-23, highlighted ongoing activities and priorities that could be taken into consideration for DRN activities, including:

- **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 (NonGeostationary Orbit) constellations;
- **Digital literacy.**



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Thank you!

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