

WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION  
DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE



# IPEC-25

## Regional Economic Dialogue (RED)

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# The Digital Regulation Network (DRN)

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# The Digital Regulation Network DRN

## 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.

# DRN 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)

# Recent and future activities for RAs in the framework of the DRN

- Support dissemination and implementation of GSR-25 best practice guidelines (BPG) - Empowering Regulators as Digital Ecosystem Builders
- Interactive C6 Facilitation workshop with the active participation of Regulatory Associations at WSIS-25
- Contribute to build the capacity of RAs through ITU Academy training programmes and by sharing Digital Regulation Platform articles and resources
- Active participation of RAs in global and regional fora and ITU-D Study Groups

# Recent and future activities for RAs in the framework of the DRN

- Regional Regulatory Associations will actively contribute to the consultation process for ITU future studies and resources – upcoming Global Economic Model Study (GEMS) and the Connectivity Planning Platform (CPP)
- Twinning activities among RAs will be considered at inter-regional level to share expertise and knowledge among RAs and their members (e.g.: BPG)

# **The GSR-25 Best Practice Guidelines: Empowering Regulators as Digital Ecosystem Builders**

# The Evolving Role of the Regulator

## The Digital Transformation Challenge

Digital technologies are fundamentally reshaping how we connect, trade, and govern. Traditional regulatory approaches designed for analog markets are struggling to keep pace with the speed and complexity of digital innovation.

## The Ecosystem Builder Opportunity

Regulators must evolve from passive **rule-setters** to active **digital ecosystem builders** who convene partners, align incentives, and foster innovation while protecting public interests.





# Pillar I: Foster Innovation in Regulatory Approaches

01

## Make Innovation a Core Practice

Move beyond pilot projects. Institutionalize regulatory sandboxes and "light-touch" frameworks to enable continuous experimentation with emerging technologies.

02

## Develop Future-Ready Skills

Build organizational capacity in policy prototyping, behavioral insights, and strategic foresight to anticipate and respond to technological disruption.

03

## Regulate with Agility

Implement outcome-based and principle-based regulatory frameworks that adapt to new technologies while maintaining core consumer protections.

04

## Collaborate to Innovate

Shift from one-off consultations to continuous, problem-solving partnerships with industry, civil society, and international peers.





# Pillar II: Adapt and Enhance Regulatory Capacity



## Empower for Digital Realities

Update regulatory mandates to address infrastructure-content-services convergence, AI governance, and data protection in integrated digital ecosystems.



## Invest in Strategic Capacity

Build multidisciplinary teams combining legal, technical, and economic expertise. Secure sustained funding for digital-first regulatory approaches.



## Make Decisions Inclusive

Strengthen capacity for data-driven, risk-informed decision-making that incorporates diverse stakeholder perspectives and evidence-based analysis.



## Institutionalize Collaboration

Adopt whole-of-government approaches through joint task forces, shared regulatory labs, and coordinated policy development across agencies.

# Pillar III: Leverage Emerging Technologies

## RegTech Integration

Deploy AI, big data, and IoT for real-time spectrum monitoring, automated compliance checking, and smart licensing across the regulatory cycle.

## Trust by Design

Lead by example with privacy-preserving technologies and clear accountability frameworks for automated regulatory decision-making systems.



## Data-Driven Oversight

Build integrated data systems to detect service gaps, identify emerging risks, and guide targeted regulatory interventions in real-time.

## Digital Engagement

Launch transparent digital portals and open data platforms that make regulatory decisions accessible and enable meaningful public participation.

# Pillar IV: Strengthen Cross-Border Cooperation

## Results-Driven Collaboration

Prioritize joint regulatory sandboxes and shared enforcement actions that deliver tangible impact over formal agreements alone.

## Shared Learning Infrastructure

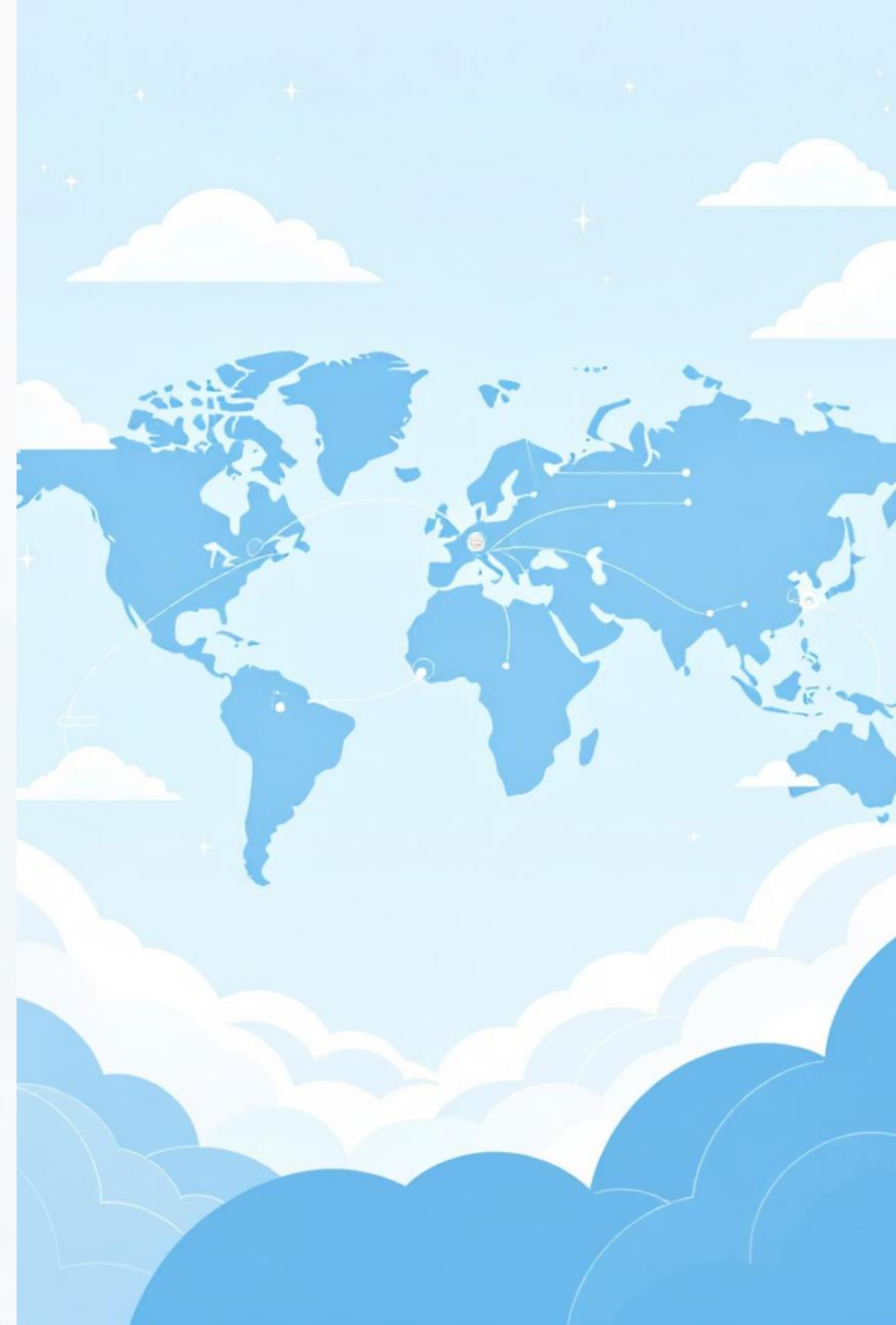
Establish communities of practice, joint training platforms, and peer mentoring to accelerate knowledge transfer and capacity building.

## Regulatory Interoperability

Align on digital trade standards, AI ethics frameworks, and cross-border data governance through mutual recognition agreements.

## Coordinated Global Voice

Work together in multilateral forums to shape international digital governance norms that reflect regional needs and priorities.



# Building Trust Through Digital Leadership

## Strengthen Public Trust

Demonstrate regulatory competence and transparency in managing digital transformation risks while enabling innovation opportunities.

## Protect Public Interests

Safeguard consumer rights, data privacy, and market competition in an increasingly complex and interconnected digital economy.

## Foster Inclusive Digital Development

Ensure regulatory frameworks actively promote digital equity, accessibility, and participation across all communities and demographics.



# Transforming Regulators for the Digital Age



## Traditional Regulation

Reactive, siloed,  
limited digital skills

## Foster Innovation

Embrace  
experimentation,  
develop future skills

## Adapt Capacity

Update mandates,  
invest strategically

## Leverage Tech

Integrate digital  
tools, harness data

## Strengthen Cooperation

Cross-border  
collaboration,  
harmonize  
standards

## Digital Ecosystem Builder

Proactive,  
collaborative,  
digitally skilled



Thank you