

## **RIPE NCC Contribution to the GSR-25 Best Practice Guidelines Consultation**

On behalf of the Réseaux IP Européens Network Coordination Centre (RIPE NCC), we are pleased to contribute to the Global Symposium for Regulators 2025 (GSR-25) consultation on best practice guidelines under the theme: *“What does it take for regulators to become digital ecosystem builders?”*

As a Regional Internet Registry (RIR) serving over 20,000 members across Europe, the Middle East, and parts of Central Asia, RIPE NCC plays a key role in coordinating the allocation of Internet number resources, supporting IPv6 deployment, and promoting routing security and network resiliency. We appreciate this opportunity to share our views and recommendations on how regulatory approaches can adapt and thrive in the evolving digital ecosystem.

The RIPE NCC’s contribution to the GSR-25 Best Practice Guidelines calls for regulatory clarity grounded in the layered nature of the Internet ecosystem. As digital policy domains become increasingly interconnected, it is vital that regulators adopt a nuanced framework that distinguishes between three interrelated but fundamentally distinct areas: technical coordination, Internet governance, and digital governance.

### Fostering Innovation in Regulatory Approaches:

To foster a regulatory culture oriented towards innovation, the RIPE NCC advocates for embracing a layer-aware policy perspective.

#### *Technical Coordination*

This layer underpins the Internet's functionality. It involves globally coordinated, community-driven processes such as IP address allocation, DNS root zone management, and routing protocols. Regional Internet Registries (RIRs), ICANN, IETF/ISOC, and other neutral technical bodies operate it. These functions must remain open, apolitical, and globally interoperable to ensure the Internet operates reliably and securely.

#### *Internet Governance*

This layer addresses how people and institutions access, use, and influence the Internet. It includes policies such as cross-border data flows, cybersecurity frameworks, and online freedoms. It requires multistakeholder engagement that upholds trust and accountability.

#### *Digital Governance*

At the highest layer sits the broader governance of digital technologies and platforms such as artificial intelligence, e-commerce and fintech. This domain involves national and regional approaches shaped by economic, social, and cultural priorities.

Regulators with a clear understanding of applications versus infrastructure are better equipped to:

- Avoid overregulation at the technical layer, which could stifle innovation
- Foster permissionless innovation by ensuring that core Internet functions remain open, neutral, and globally coordinated
- Support agile regulatory experimentation without compromising technical stability.

Clarity in defining roles and responsibilities across layers enables policy agility and supports rapid technological evolution. Regulators are encouraged to promote internal cultures that value bottom-up collaboration and openness to technical input.

#### Adapting and Enhancing Regulatory Capacity:

Adapting and enhancing regulatory capacity requires a strong foundation in technical understanding. The RIPE NCC's collaboration with governments and regulators across our service region has shown that building technical capacity is essential for developing inclusive, forward-looking, and agile regulatory frameworks. Promoting IPv6 adoption strengthens long-term Internet scalability and digital inclusion, while deploying infrastructure-level safeguards like Resource Public Key Infrastructure (RPKI) helps mitigate routing threats like BGP hijacks. By engaging with the technical community and leveraging real-time data tools such as RIPE Atlas and RIPEstat, regulators can base decisions on evidence, improve oversight, and respond more effectively to evolving digital challenges.

#### Harnessing Transformative Technologies for Regulatory Excellence:

Emerging technologies like AI, IoT, and cloud computing depend on a stable, interoperable Internet. The RIPE NCC encourages regulators to invest in real-time measurement tools and regulatory sandboxes that integrate technical expertise early in design processes.

#### Cross-border Cooperation for Building National, Regional and Digital Ecosystems:

Global Internet infrastructure is inherently cross-border and technically coordinated. Effective cooperation should therefore prioritise harmonised principles that preserve technical neutrality, rather than impose nationally inconsistent rules on global infrastructure. Support peer learning and regional dialogues focused on best practices in infrastructure resilience and data-driven regulation, and acknowledge the role of multistakeholder governance models in preventing fragmentation and enabling regional digital integration.

The RIPE NCC encourages including these perspectives in the GSR-25 Outcome Documents and the Best Practice Guidelines, and welcomes further opportunities to continue this successful dialogue through the GSR and other ITU platforms.