



## Industry Advisory Group for Development Issues and Private Sector Chief Regulatory Officers' meeting (IAGDI-CRO)

**AN INDUSTRY PERSPECTIVE ON DEVELOPMENT AND REGULATORY ISSUES**

***GLOBAL SYMPOSIUM FOR REGULATORS 2025 (GSR-25), RIYADH, 1 SEPTEMBER 2025***

### Outcome Statement

The IAGDI-CRO convened alongside GSR-25 to convey the perspectives of the private sector and to present concrete recommendations in three critical areas:

- (i) expanding inclusive connectivity,
- (ii) sustaining investment and innovation, and
- (iii) strengthening agile and trusted governance.

**Universal and meaningful connectivity.** The meeting emphasized practical steps that countries can activate now: combine satellite and terrestrial solutions; plan for geographic as well as population coverage; streamline permits and rights-of-way; and scale infrastructure sharing to reduce costs and speed rollout—especially to connect public institutions. They urged that “universal” also cover land areas and the connected devices that serve agriculture, energy, transport and public safety. Targeted public–private financing and better-focused use of existing funds should prioritise rural and underserved communities.

**Closing the usage gap.** Where networks already exist, progress depends on affordable devices, digital-skills programmes, locally relevant services and content, online safety, and basic enablers such as electricity and identification systems. Delivery should be co-designed with communities to ensure relevance and inclusion.

**Infrastructure, innovation and investment conditions.** To keep capital flowing, speakers asked for clear, multi-year spectrum and regulatory roadmaps; predictable and affordable renewals; supportive tax policy; facilitative sharing rules; and, where appropriate, pro-competitive consolidation. Participants highlighted the need to phase network shutdowns sensibly, to minimize undue consumer impact. Strong public–private and regional cooperation is needed to scale next-generation networks and services.

**Financing and funding.** The meeting encouraged predictable, sustainable financing—PPPs, blended finance, infrastructure funds—and structured commercial arrangements with major beneficiaries of connectivity, governed by clear codes of conduct and fair dispute-resolution.

**Agile and trusted governance.** Participants supported outcome-based, interoperable regulation that preserves incentives to invest and ensures a level playing field across market participants. Priorities include privacy and cybersecurity, coordinated responses to misinformation, disinformation, hate and deepfakes, plus practical enablers such as light-weight “trust” guidance, federated e-ID, capacity-building and public metrics. The regulator’s mediating role for civil protection and internal security was underlined. Speakers also asked to explore independent AI testing and voluntary certification to build trust in higher risk AI.

## **Recommendations**

1. Publish and maintain multi-year spectrum and regulatory roadmaps, developed with industry, to provide clarity for investment and regional alignment.
2. Accelerate deployment by integrating satellite and terrestrial solutions, streamlining permits/rights-of-way, scaling infrastructure sharing, and prioritising connections for public institutions and underserved communities.
3. Close the usage gap through device affordability initiatives, digital-skills programmes, partnerships for relevant local services and content, online safety, and attention to electricity and ID systems.
4. Improve investment conditions—predictable renewals, rationalised sector taxes, facilitative sharing rules and, where appropriate, pro-competitive consolidation—while phasing obligations to avoid undue consumer impact.
5. Mobilise sustainable financing via PPPs, blended capital and infrastructure funds, and structured commercial arrangements with major beneficiaries of connectivity, under clear conduct and dispute-resolution frameworks.
6. Adopt agile, interoperable, outcome-based rules that ensure a level playing field; use sandboxes and time-bound reviews; strengthen privacy and cybersecurity; coordinate on

online harms; and assess independent AI testing and voluntary certification for higher-risk AI.

The private sector reaffirmed its readiness to partner with governments - particularly regulators - to advance these actions and support national and regional digital transformation agendas.

----