

Contribution of the Telecommunications and Post Regulatory Authority to the consultation on GSR-26 best practice guidelines (regulatory governance essentials)

Introduction

The Telecommunications and Post Regulatory Authority (TPRA) welcomes the opportunity to participate in the consultation of the Global Symposium of Regulators 2026 (GSR-26). TPRA affirms that regulatory governance of digital markets is an inherent sovereign function of State and a fundamental pillar in protecting the public interest, safeguarding national security and ensuring the stability of digital markets and users' rights, against the backdrop of accelerated digital transformation and the overlapping of transboundary digital ecosystems.

TPRA considers that any international framework of regulatory best practice must balance support for innovation and openness with the preservation of national regulatory sovereignty and the ability of States to intervene effectively to protect their digital markets and societies.

I. Baseline toolkit for digital governance

TPRA considers that the effective governance of digital markets is no longer limited to the issuing of regulations; rather, it requires a comprehensive system of basic regulatory governance tools.

In this context, TPRA underlines the importance of establishing results-based sovereign regulatory duties which focus on continuity and quality of service, flexibility and reliability, protection of consumer rights and safeguarding of fair competition, rather than just on formal compliance with regulatory texts.

TPRA believes that there is a need to deploy targeted incentive and regulatory mechanisms that serve national priorities, encourage responsible investment in digital infrastructure and support innovation, localization of technologies and national human and institutional capacity building.

TPRA stresses the importance of establishing risk-based control and assurance mechanisms predicated on ex ante analysis, anticipatory compliance and data-driven auditing, designed to facilitate early regulatory intervention before risks can escalate or serious harm occur.

Against a backdrop of rapid technical development, TPRA underscores the need for adaptive and experimental regulatory tools, such as regulatory sandboxes. These tools, implemented through clear, sovereign regulatory decisions, allow for the testing of innovations without compromising core regulatory principles or digital security requirements.

TPRA further affirms that mandatory institutional coordination among relevant government entities is central to effective regulatory governance. Such coordination ensures consistency in regulatory decision-making, prevents conflicts of competence and enhances cross-sector regulatory effectiveness.

II. Measurability and enforceability across sectors

TPRA stresses that measurability and enforceability constitute foundational pillars of an effective and credible regulatory authority, and that regulatory governance essentials must be monitorable and accountable.

Within this framework, TPRA calls for the adoption of binding national regulatory performance indicators aligned with national priorities. These indicators should encompass meaningful

connectivity and quality thereof, affordability, accessibility, network reliability, service continuity, minimization of consumer harm, and enhanced competitiveness in digital markets.

TPRA also emphasizes the need to establish national standards for data and for regulatory disclosure to ensure the accuracy and reliability of information and support evidence-based decision-making, while reducing unchecked reliance on external sources that may not adequately reflect national circumstances.

TPRA recognizes the importance of implementing proportionate, risk-based oversight models that strike a balance between supervisory effectiveness and the avoidance of unjustified regulatory burdens, while fully preserving enforcement and intervention powers where necessary.

TPRA also underscores the importance of strengthening monitoring and early warning capabilities so as to enable preventive intervention at the early signs of market distortions, deterioration in quality of service, or direct threats to users' rights.

III. Graduated supervisory and enforcement pathway

TPRA considers that effective supervision and enforcement require a graduated, predictable and risk-based pathway that balances regulatory stability and flexibility.

The first phase relies on guidance and mandatory alerting, informed by objective risk and impact assessments. The second phase involves implementing mandatory corrective measures that are applied via clear, time-bound regulatory decisions and guided by measurable and trackable performance criteria. The third phase involves direct regulatory intervention upon the emergence of a threat to public interest, market stability or digital security, such as through the imposition of proportionate regulatory restrictions or sanctions.

TPRA emphasizes the need to ensure due process across all phases, with clear criteria for the escalation of regulatory interventions or the de-escalation of measures as soon as indicators show improvement and compliance is restored.

Cross-cutting lens: Regional and international cooperation

Provided that national regulatory sovereignty is respected, TPRA supports regional and international cooperation in regulatory governance for digital markets. This includes harmonization of indicators and standards without imposing coercive uniform models, the promotion of mutual recognition on the basis of equity, and the development of joint supervision and information exchange mechanisms to address cross-border challenges, while preserving the State's right to intervene whenever national interest so requires.

Conclusion

TPRA is committed to playing an effective role in shaping balanced international regulatory frameworks that ensure open, fair and reliable digital markets, while fully protecting national sovereignty, the strategic interests of States and users' rights.