

20TH GLOBAL SYMPOSIUM
FOR REGULATORS



E D I T I O N

ITUGSR
ONLINE 2020

GSR-20 Celebration

GSR-20 Events - Register [here](#)

To kick off our celebrations of the 20th edition of GSR, we held a first session **on 30 June 2020** with the Opening Ceremony and Leadership Debate on: "Resilient and secure digital connectivity for all - COVID-19 Recovery and lessons learned for better preparedness and response".

From **5 July to 20 August 2020**, a series of Special Regulatory Roundtable discussions have been held online, working with our regional colleagues, regional regulatory associations, and partners, and addressing:

- On **7 July 2020**: GSR 2020 Regional Regulatory Roundtable Discussion for Europe and CIS: The Regulatory Wheel of Change: Regulation for Digital Transformation
- On **30 July 2020**: Digital Transformation for Digital Economies @COVID-19 South-Asia
- On **20 August 2020**: ITU Inter-regional Webinar on Competition Policy and Analysis in Digital Apps Environment for Arab and Africa Regions

On **27 and 28 August**, we will hold 2 special behind the scenes information sessions in collaboration with USTTI on Spectrum Planning for Emerging Technologies and on Technological Underpinnings of Emerging Technologies.

On **31 August 2020**, we will hold the Regional Regulatory Associations meeting and the Industry Advisory Group for Development Issues and Private Sector Chief Regulatory Officer's meeting (IAGDI-CRO) meeting at the same time in different virtual rooms.

On **1 September 2020**, we will hold the Heads of Regulators Executive Roundtable (upon invitation only), just before the main sessions of GSR.

The core sessions of GSR will be held from **1 to 3 September 2020** in short sessions over 3 hours each day.

GSR-20 Best Practice Guidelines Consultation

“The gold standard for digital regulation”

- Coordinated by **Mr Dan Sjöblom**, **Director-General**, Swedish Post and Telecom Authority (PTS), Sweden and **GSR-20 Chair**
- Adoption of the *Guidelines* by regulators on **1 September 2020** during the Heads of Regulators Executive Roundtable
- First draft now available itu.int/gsr20
- Since **2003**, the *Guidelines* have featured established regulatory mechanisms as well as tried and tested practices
- This year’s consultation **focuses exclusively on novel, bold, innovative and ground-breaking approaches and tools for digital regulation**, especially now while we are thinking of building back better in the aftermath of the global COVID-19 crisis

Send your comments to the First draft by 25 August at: gsr@itu.int

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This year’s Guidelines are articulated around ideas, views and experiences on:

- Demonstrating **regulatory thought leadership** for digital transformation
- **Vectors of regulatory action**: Inclusiveness, agility, and resilience
- **Collaboration across sectors**, cooperation across borders, and engagement across the boards

24 contributions received to date from stakeholders from across the board :

- ICT regulators
- Policy makers
- Regulatory Associations
- Regional organization
- Civil society
- Industry players
- Industry Association

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Demonstrating regulatory thought leadership for digital transformation

While recognizing that digital regulation will be led by the core policy design principles outlined in the [GSR-19 Best Practice Guidelines to fast forward digital connectivity for all](#), we identified the following fundamentals for sound, future-proof regulatory frameworks to respond to the challenges of digital transformation in the aftermath of global crises and beyond:

- Regulatory strategies for digital
- Integrating sustainability into regulatory frameworks
- Maximizing benefits while minimizing harms of digital technologies
- Open, inclusive and transparent regulatory process
- Multiple formats and modes of regulation
- Good governance and effective institutions with appropriate mechanisms in place for collaborative regulatory approaches
- Evidence-based approach
- No rule is set in stone

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Vectors of regulatory action: Inclusiveness, agility, and resilience

The increasing reliance on digital infrastructure by national economies and citizens combined with the probability of new global emergencies means regulators will need to switch focus beyond regulating within traditional sectoral frameworks to regulatory frameworks which are adaptive, collaborative, outcomes-based and technology neutral. We recommend that digital regulation be rooted in the following vectors so the digital transformation can unfold its full potential.

- Consumers are citizens, patients, students and our families
- Focus on business
- Regulation is only needed where there is a public policy justification for regulating a service.
- Data shielding go a long way towards enhancing trust in the digital ecosystem
- Resetting market definitions, and due attention should be given to only use regulation where and when needed, and prefer preventive measures, to the extent possible
- Meaningful connectivity for all
- Mechanisms for making markets easier to navigate and the simplification of regulatory rules and standards increase the trust in regulatory governance and facilitate the entry of fresh investment flows and new players across industries and borders and the buildout of sufficient, resilient and open infrastructure

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Vectors of regulatory action: Inclusiveness, agility, and resilience

In the aftermath of the COVID-19 global crisis, policy realignment and regulatory repatterning may need to take place.

We believe that digital regulation can boost the readiness of digital markets to face unexpected events and emergencies and deliver up to the expectations despite the odds, notably through the following targeted reforms:

- Agile framework for competition in digital markets
- Voluntary and enforceable codes of conduct
- Upgrading national emergency plans
- Spectrum reform: spectrum managers need to be able to respond timely, making spectrum available for wireless applications when and where it is needed as easily as possible, giving spectrum users and innovators flexibility to provide services that will deliver the greatest benefits.

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Collaboration across sectors, cooperation across borders, and engagement across the board

Increasing globalization of markets and blurring of traditional sectoral boundaries will mean that international and inter-governmental cooperation and collaboration are integral in ensuring our regulatory frameworks can adapt and respond to new and emerging regulatory challenges. We therefore consider the following areas essential to the success of regulatory collaboration and response.

- Legal capacity for joint action
- Uniting fragmented efforts around a common cause, aligning actions and multiplying consumer and business outcomes
- Incorporating modern methods for diagnosing the regulatory and institutional capacities of agencies will enable them to refine their objectives in a flexible and agile manner to respond both to predictable instances of technological change and new services as well as to extraordinary emergency situations such as a pandemic
- Creating platforms for dialogue on key topics
- The new roles of regulatory associations (RAs) should leverage their capacity to boost the development of digital markets at the national and regional level while building scenarios for future emergency response of all kinds.
- International cooperation: Effective international dialogue is essential to enable cross-country learning as well as to explore common policy solutions at both regional and global levels.



Global Symposium for Regulators since 2000

Thank you!

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