

less, despite the global turn down markets for ICTs in developing countries have remained attractive.

Summary of debate

In the beginning, a number of important key points were noted. Investors and independent analysts warned against regulatory arbitrage in which government policy helps pick winners and losers. The importance of regulatory continuity and clarity was stressed as well. Regulation or even the threat of regulation causes uncertainty in the capital markets inhibits investment. Regulators need to be very cautious and circumspect before moving forward with any new regulation that might be ambiguous.

Discussion is needed over the role of the state in the next generation of electronic communications. Today, with data enhanced and new technologies emerging, the question is if the old approach of the role of the state is working for the future. Market structures will likely mean a consolidation into a very small number of network providers. Fewer networks mean less competition and therefore require more supervision and regulation. Regulations depend on equilibrium of force that exists in each country. E.g. in Morocco, Internet was first introduced as a part of the universal service, and was financed through universal service access – now they are thinking of financing broadcast this way as well, and public authorities are looking for ways to mutualize costs.

In Tanzania, regulators want to accommodate more technologies and more services to serve their people. The four different licenses they offer (network facility license, network application services, application services and content services) give every investor, large or small, an opportunity to pursue business, within a technology and service neutral way.

Regulators have a very difficult job in this fast moving industry with technology and applications, business models and market landscapes moving rapidly. The market must provide an environment for innovation, experimentation and learning as suppliers and users are induced to take risks and respond to one another's innovation – the question is how to promote access and investment