
Chairman's Report

Global Industry Leaders Forum

10 November 2010

Dakar, Senegal

“Enabling Tomorrow's Digital World”

Examined two major themes which emerged from last year:

- Securing a Wireless Future
- Light Touch Regulation

Securing a Wireless Future

Questions:

- Actions needed today to prepare for tomorrow?
- Flexible, successful approaches that have supported innovation?
- How to balance public and private needs?

Securing Wireless Future

- Broadband has major impact on economic development
- Huge challenge to meet spectrum needs for mobile broadband
- Boost spectrum available:
 - Reallocate “digital dividend” for mobile broadband and re-farm within bands
- Technology neutral allocation

Securing Wireless Future (2)

- Harmonization: policies/regulations, equipment, approaches
 - Leads to lower prices, wider access
- ITU can play bigger role in helping countries harmonize
- Set licence fees/levies to cover costs, not generate major revenues
- No mobile specific taxes
- Offer incentives for rural bb connectivity

Light Touch Regulation

Questions:

- What is a “light touch” policy/reg environment? Which basic rules needed?
- When does regulation stimulate/hurt competition and investment?
- Can taxation stimulate positive behaviours? Or, always negative?
- Role of gov’t and regulators to foster new ICT applications?

Light Touch Regulation (1)

Recommendations:

- Establish clear set of targets and rules for a stable/predictable environment - including, plan for broadband
- In early market development, focus on liberalization, monitor and intervene only where necessary
- Promote fair competition, even at the risk of some failures
- Ensure technological neutrality – let industry/investors determine technology solutions



Light Touch Regulation (2)

Recommendations:

- Oversee licence compliance and competition
- Ensure Quality of Service, without prescribing technical remedy
- Work with other ministries, health, education, finance etc to put in place attractive environment for ICT application development

Light Touch Regulation (3)

Recommendations:

- Put in place incentives for infrastructure sharing
- Universal Service Funds - need transparent reporting and allocation to connect rural/remote communities
- Cost based termination charges needed to make tariffs affordable
- Multi-stakeholder dialogue to balance public and private interests, determine respective roles, avoid surprises (i.e. new taxes) for industry, which could undermine investment

Conclusions

- Industry ready and willing to work with regulators and ministries
- Seeking collaborative engagement
- Industry asks that regulation focus on establishing a fair playing field
- Rely on market forces to stimulate innovation
- Step in only where necessary, i.e. when competition undermined, lack of QoS