

**GLOBAL SYMPOSIUM FOR REGULATORS
BEIRUT (LEBANON) 10-12 NOVEMBER 2009
CONTRIBUTION BY TOGO**

A consultation process on innovative regulatory approaches to foster investment and stimulate growth in the ICT sector has been launched, and ITU Member States were requested to submit their proposals in this regard.

The main objective of the consultation is to identify innovative regulatory approaches to strengthen the foundation of a global information society.

There is no escaping the fact that ICTs are no longer a luxury, but indeed a daily tool for business operations, administration and management, in both the private and public sectors. This is why Togo, like other countries, is seeking to implement a national strategy to stimulate the use of ICTs by everyone.

1 Promoting convergence to develop ICT markets

In order to exploit the benefits of convergence, it is imperative to encourage a licensing approach that enables operators to optimize the potential of installed networks. In the context of a multi-application and multi-service network, one needs to adopt a licensing approach based on:

- technological neutrality
- possibility to operate multi-service networks
- obligation on network operators to open their networks to service operators
- promotion of service and application suppliers.

Furthermore, the ICT market will not be able to develop properly unless demand (consumers) is matched with supply and vice versa. Therefore, the licensing process should take account of the need to make the access network and terminals compatible with the development of services in a converged environment.

2 Building strong synergy between regulatory bodies responsible for telecommunications and audiovisual media

The ideal solution would be to encourage the establishment of a single body responsible for both telecommunications and audiovisual media. Failing that, however, it is important to foster strong collaboration between the regulatory bodies responsible, respectively, for telecommunications and audiovisual media.

3 Using regulatory tools to stimulate investment in a converged world

With a view to boosting investment in an environment of convergence, an important regulatory tool, apart from providing investors with a competitive and stable environment, is to guarantee optimum utilization of their networks' potential by extending the scope of their authorization to all services that can be offered over their networks.

The other, equally important tool is encouraging sharing of converged infrastructures in order to optimize investment costs. To this end, mechanisms such as access network unbundling will be implemented.

4 Stimulating growth in innovative applications and devices towards connecting the unconnected

The applications to be encouraged should be those that match up with consumer needs and are liable to improve consumers' social and economic life so that the ICT market also develops through usage. Extensive use will be made of the research and development fund to support all initiatives

aimed at developing ICT applications and content geared to the whole population, particularly young people and rural and agriculture circles.

The State will itself be a key stakeholder in the process, through the establishment of a government network and the informatization of public administration, thereby creating a major local market for private-sector businesses involved in the ICT, telecommunication, communications and Internet sectors.

In order to improve connectivity, there is already a universal service strategy under way which aims to encourage operators to invest in unprofitable areas with no coverage as their contribution to universal service. This strategy, which is yielding sound results, will be pursued and stepped up. Similarly, public-private partnership (PPP), including with the participation of decentralized communities in investment, is an essential feature for promoting access to ICTs.

Conclusion

In order to give effect to these visions, Togo subscribes to the harmonization of legislation and regulation in the ICT sector, in particular the WAEMU directives and the ECOWAS Additional Acts. This harmonization must also take into account the laws and regulations of countries in other regions of the world in regard to information systematization and the use of telecommunications / ICT and the Internet.