



African Telecommunications Union (ATU)
Union Africaine des Télécommunications (UAT)

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Subject: ATU Contribution for GSR-2020 Consultation

Please accept the compliments of the ATU General Secretariat.

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 12th June, 2020 Ref BDT/DKH/RME/DM/150, inviting ATU to be a part of the GSR consultative process and seeking our contribution on the Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR-20) Best Practice Guidelines.

I am pleased to submit the attached ATU contribution to the GSR-20.

Please accept Madam, the assurance of my highest consideration.

John OMO
Secretary General



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ATU CONTRIBUTION TO GSR 2020 CONSULTATION

Under the overall theme of “The gold standard for digital regulation”, you are therefore invited, as part of the GSR consultation process, to provide your ideas, views and experiences on:

- **Demonstrating regulatory thought leadership for digital transformation**

- What is the best policy approach in enabling and repairing the digital economy to grow sustainably and meet social goals?

Digital technologies have in recent years demonstrated their ability to create high added value and stimulate economies, but this requires a continuous digital transformation process because ICTs have rapid development cycles and affect all sectors, which constitutes a real challenge. especially for developing countries. The best policy approaches will be those that succeed in:

- o Adapt quickly to changes thanks to flexible regulatory mechanisms;
 - o Integrate digital technology at the center of the national or even regional development strategy to stimulate the economy, doing business and create value in high-potential sectors and foster inter-sectoral relationships;
 - o Promote innovation and research for the emergence of local digital industries and create jobs for young people;
 - o Protect user data, secure critical infrastructures and economic enterprises;
 - o Promote secure inter and intra-regional exchanges.
- What have we learned from the COVID-19 crisis?
 - o The key role of ICT and digital tools in mitigating the impact of the crisis, including enabling business activities through tele-work, online commerce and digital payments, but also education, social activities.
 - o The role of regulator in facilitating access to resources (frequency spectrum, bandwidth, equipment, ..) for emergency cases but also information and coordination with other sectors such as health, government, education and finance to take in charge of the needs of citizens.
 - o The importance of a resilient and secure infrastructure.
 - o An affordable Internet access and connectivity should be a universal right for all.
 - What should we focus on in regulation to prepare for the next 20 years?
 - o Data protection and Privacy
 - o Cyber-security
 - o Collaborative regulation with the other sectors

- What are the key ingredients for effective, future proof policy leadership? What leadership skills are required for ICT regulators and policymakers?
 - to be visionary
 - open mind with the ability to anticipate
 - have a good knowledge of the ICT sector including, policy, market and technology trends
 - spirit of collaboration / negotiation

• **Vectors of regulatory action: Inclusiveness, agility, and resilience**

- What transformative regulatory approaches are at hand to enhance the inclusiveness, agility and resilience of digital networks, traditional and digital players' business models and access to digital services?
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- How to boost the readiness of the digital sector to face unexpected events and emergencies and deliver up to the expectations despite the odds?
 - Anticipating on the unexpected catastrophe and their impacts and to develop emergency plans as appropriate using predicative technologies such AI
 - Make a periodic Simulation and exercises to improve the emergency plans
 - Learn from other countries experiences
 - Develop regional and international assistance chart to facilitate mutual assistance.
- What are the short, medium and long-term strategies for economic recovery and sustainable social development?
 - Establish national/ regional/ international funds to assist countries;
 - Relax taxes and financial charges
 - Promote job creation
 - Provide food and housing support to the poorest population.

• **Collaboration across sectors, cooperation across borders, and engagement across the boards**

- What are the channels and models of collaboration that can deliver positive market and consumer outcomes – broad and constant collaboration, structured and unstructured, across sectors and national borders?
 - Multilateral and bilateral trade conventions / treaties;
 - Regional single market (digital, ...)
 - free trade areas.
- Is there a seat for everyone at the consultation table and who's in the driving seat?
 - The consultation should be open to all using existing channels to avoid any missing aspect or negative implication when policy is applied and driven by respective governments;
- How do we ensure productivity and efficiency in the application of rules and regulations?
 - Rules and regulations must be developed in synergy with the national and regional development strategy in order to achieve the goals and objectives of sustainable development by using tangible indicators to measure the impact of their applications as well as periodic evaluation and an examination for adjustment when necessary.