

# Contribution of the Administration of the Russian Federation to the Best Practice Guidelines of the Global Symposium for Regulators 2020

## Demonstrating regulatory thought leadership for digital transformation

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

In Russia, the national development goals include the digital transformation of key economic sectors and the social sphere (Decree of the President of the Russian Federation No. 474 of 21 July 2020 “On the national development goals of the Russian Federation for the period until 2030”).

The accelerated incorporation of digital technologies in the economic and social sphere can only be realized if key conditions are met. First, business and the social sphere must be primed for digital transformation, with mature development strategies in place for a paradigm shift in the way they organize and conduct their activities by making plans for the intensive integration of digital technologies, which are in demand among organizations and promise to deliver profits on the capital investments of many stakeholders. Second, the country should have a relatively mature technological supply sector capable, as a minimum, of the rapid transfer and adaptation of foreign technological solutions and of the quick scaling up of its own activities. Third, the population’s demand for digital technologies should be on a constant upward trajectory, as it is ultimately the needs and capabilities of consumers that determine demand for digital technologies among organizations, particularly in the B2C sector.

2 *What have we learned from the COVID-19 crisis?*

The spread of COVID-19 occurred as digitalization was entering the active phase in many countries, and it led to the accelerated realization of the latent potential in the use of ICTs in many economic sectors. Since the advent of the pandemic, ICTs have come to be used much more intensively in health care, education, governance, finance, commerce, etc. Plans for the development of telecommunication infrastructure, protection of personal data and associated issues are being actively reviewed. The pandemic has provided the best illustration yet of the urgent need to bridge the digital divide, as those without access to ICTs have found themselves isolated from socio-economic processes, which have shifted online during the pandemic. It has also made clear the vital importance of accessible, sustainable and comprehensive ICT services to ensure the operation of various parts of the digital economy.

3 *What should we focus on regulation to prepare for the next 20 years?*

- Building an inclusive society to ensure equal opportunities for all citizens.
- Stimulating the creation and development of business geared toward the digital economy.
- Providing additional support to small and medium-sized businesses in the creation of digital technologies and platforms and the provision of digital services.
- Establishing and scaling up digital platforms for the main economic sectors.
- Increasing the volume of IT expert training.
- Establishing sector, regional and nationwide cybersecurity systems.

4 *What leadership skills are required for ICT regulators and policymakers?*

The Russian Federation's national digital economy programme includes a segment dedicated to the digital economy workforce. The aims are to improve the education system's ability to furnish qualified specialists for the digital economy, to transform the labour market based on the demands of a digital economy, and to create a system of incentives for members of the workforce to acquire the necessary competencies and participate in the development of the digital economy in Russia.

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

5 *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?*

The global approach should be to adapt the national regulatory framework and public policies so as to incentivize innovation, investment and increased access to digital services among all players in the digital transformation.

6 *How to boost the readiness of the digital sector to face unexpected events and emergencies and deliver up to the expectations despite the odds?*

Increased demand for the use of digital solutions has demonstrated the need to focus digital transformation efforts on technological developments in economic sectors that have a particularly profound effect on the essential services sector, such as online communications, digital health care and education, e-government, data sharing, broadband, e-commerce, digital technology in finance, protection of personal data, etc.

7 *What are the short, medium and long-term strategies for economic recovery and sustainable social development?*

The keys to economic recovery and sustainable social development are: an analysis of past experience; forecasting and planning based on the outcome of the analysis; a goal-setting exercise that emphasizes quality and objectivity; and close collaboration at different levels. The post-coronavirus recovery of national economies should be based on the same approach. Russia has already prepared a national plan to stimulate the recovery of the economy, employment and people's income after the COVID-19 pandemic. The plan comprises nine sections and almost 500 measures along many different lines. It is anticipated that they will be implemented by the end of 2021. Delivering on the plan will serve not only to overcome the situation brought about by the spread of the novel coronavirus infection, but also to launch long-term structural changes to the economy and strengthen it further.

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

8 *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? Is there a seat for everyone at the consultation table and who is in the driving seat? How do we ensure productivity and efficiency in the application of rules and regulations?*

The technological development and digital transformation agenda should bring together all stakeholders and not divide them. To that end, cooperation should be driven by principles of fairness in all key sectors, such as high-tech services, education, technology transfer, the digital economy and

the global information space. Building such a harmonious system will not be easy, but it is the best way of establishing mutual trust and effective cooperation. What is required is to work together, recognizing the magnitude of the challenges facing the world in the new era and acknowledging responsibility in building the future. To that end, it will also be necessary to tap into the potential of the United Nations – a uniquely representative organization – by strengthening its institutions, and to leverage more effectively the format of new associations, such as the Group of 20.

---