

To: Ms Doreen Bogdan-Martin
Director, Telecommunication Development Bureau

From: Ministry of Digital Development, Communications and Mass Media of the
Russian Federation

Dear Ms Bogdan-Martin,

The Administration of the Russian Federation has examined Circular Letter BDT/DKH/RME/DM/190 of 23 March 2021 from the ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau and hereby transmits its contribution on best practice guidelines for the Global Symposium for Regulators 2021.

(signed electronically)

Maria Kazanskaya
Director
Department of International Cooperation

Attachment: two pages

Contribution from the Administration of the Russian Federation on best practice guidelines for the Global Symposium for Regulators

Prototyping regulatory patterns for the digital world in the Russian Federation

The regulatory body for telecommunications/ICTs is the Ministry of Digital Development, Communications and Mass Media of the Russian Federation, which has delegated some of its functions to a subsidiary body (Roskomnadzor).

To remove the barriers to the development of the digital economy and create a favourable legal environment for the implementation of digitalization projects, a federal project was launched in 2019 entitled “Regulatory control of the digital environment” to facilitate regulatory sandboxing. As part of the project, legal relationships in the sphere of contemporary technologies were regulated, work was done to adapt legislation to the digital economy, and so on.

Since 2020 the process of drafting laws and regulations has been moving forward at an accelerated pace in order to expedite decision-making in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. On 24 April 2020, Federal Law No. 123 on the conduct of an artificial intelligence (AI) experiment¹ in the city of Moscow was adopted. On 1 July 2020, a five-year experimental legal regime was set up that gives the government of the city of Moscow the authority to process anonymized personal health data (anonymized data) of citizens for the purpose of improving the effectiveness of the public administration. Also as part of the fight against the pandemic it became possible to process anonymized personal data related to the health of citizens. The AI experiment in question creates the necessary conditions for developing and deploying AI technologies (information and communication infrastructure, software, data processing procedures and services), which will make it possible to prevent the use of personal data from encroaching upon the private lives of citizens. The project participants include some major technology corporations: Kaspersky Lab, Yandex, MTS and Skolkovo participants. Among other things, the project will allow Yandex to develop an autonomous vehicle service that should greatly improve the city’s transportation system. The MTS initiative for providing medical care using telemedicine technologies will make it possible to establish a diagnosis without the need for a face-to-face consultation.

In January 2021, a law on experimental legal regimes for digital innovation (Federal Law No. 258 of 31 July 2020) entered into force on the entire territory of the Russian Federation.² It stipulates that the use of regulatory sandboxing is extended to the following spheres: medicine, transport, agriculture, finance, commerce, and government services and oversight. The new law gives the public administration and the scientific and business communities a time-limited opportunity to benefit from a special regulatory regime (different from the general regime) for testing technologies (AI, blockchain, big data, neurotechnologies, quantum technologies, virtual reality). If the testing is successful, these technologies can subsequently be marketed.

All of the above-mentioned measures will facilitate adaptation to the digital transformation and the new challenges of epidemiological emergencies.

¹ Federal Law No. 123 of 24 April 2020 on the conduct of an experiment involving the establishment of a special regulatory regime for the purpose of creating the necessary conditions for developing and deploying artificial intelligence technologies in an entity of the Russian Federation, the federal city of Moscow, and on the amendment of Articles 6 and 10 of the Federal Personal Data Act.

² Federal Law No. 258 of 31 July 2020 on experimental legal regimes for digital innovation in the Russian Federation.