

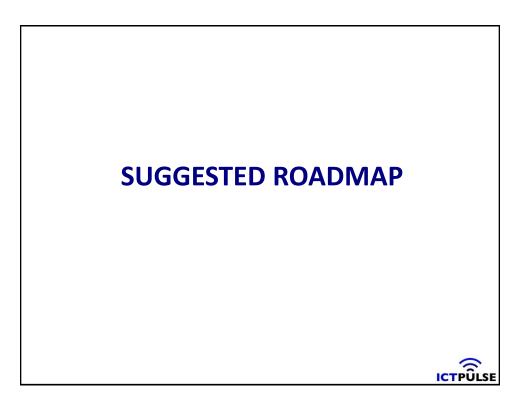
Recommendation 2: Establish a regional test centre

- A best practice internationally
 - E.g. see ITU "Guidelines for developing countries on establishing conformity assessment test labs in different regions"
- Regional centre might be a longer-term consideration
- Benefits
 - Take advantage of economies of scale and scope
 - Donor agencies might be more amenable to support a regional initiative
- Challenges
 - Requires consensus and commitment from participating countries
 - Likely that countries would need to adjust existing frameworks to recognise outputs from test centre
- A critical consideration might be deciding where to locate the test centre
 - demography and market size, plus having requisite technical and financial capacity, might limit country choice

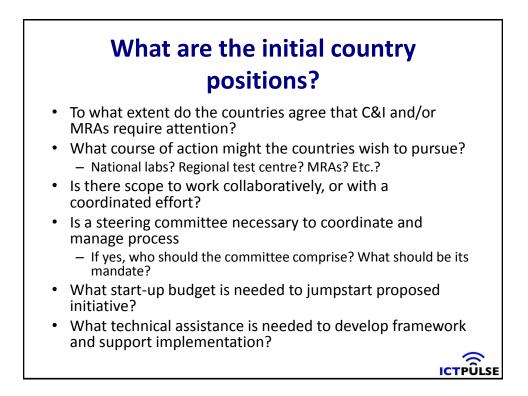
Recommendation 3: Establish MRAs in the region

- A best practice internationally
 - E.g. see ITU "Guidelines for the development, implementation and management of Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs)"
- Benefits
 - Would be a significant development for the countries involved
- Challenges
 - Legal basis to delegate regulatory authority, through MRAs, is fragmented in region
 - Considerable resources may be needed to create the requisite enabling environment
- A more thorough understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks in the countries is needed











Common regime: Alignment of purpose

- To transition to a regional approach, it is critical that the objectives, goals, required commitment, etc., are clearly established from the outset
- A series of consultations across the region may be required
- Countries ought to expressly affirm the importance of the initiative and commit to undertaking the necessary internal restructuring

Common regime: Capacity building

- Open to policymakers, plus legal drafting, regulatory and standards specialists from the participating countries
- Technical assistance from int'l agencies might be necessary to secure requisite expertise
- ITU may offer support in collaboration with training institutions in the region



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