

Nigerian Communications Commission’s (NCC) Contribution On Ground-Breaking Approaches for Positive Impact of Transformative Technologies for the Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR-24).

1.0 Introduction

As part of the consultation for the GSR-24 Best Practice Guidelines, the NCC has provided its contribution on ground-breaking approaches for positive impact of transformative technologies. The overall theme of the GSR-24 Consultation is *Charting the Course of Transformative Technologies for Positive Impact*.

The NCC provided its contribution on the under listed topical areas:

- What are the challenges and opportunities faced by policy makers and regulators in embracing transformative technologies for greater impact?
- What are the key regulatory measure and guiding principles to follow to foster positive and inclusive impact of transformative technologies?
- How to drive positive behaviors of market players? How to minimize risk while

Q1. The Challenges and Opportunities Faced By Policy Makers and Regulators in Embracing Transformative Technologies for Greater Impact.

Opportunities	Challenges
Transformative and emerging technologies provide avenues for innovations and market development, leading to economic growth.	The unpredictable nature of business models deploying transformative technologies poses a challenge for policymakers and regulators.
These technologies optimize network service and availability, deepening service availability and choices for subscribers and consumers.	The rapid evolution of products and services based on transformative technologies challenges regulatory frameworks.
They strengthen the communications market through downstream market entrances and deepen competition amongst licensees.	Issues such as data security, privacy, and data sovereignty pose significant challenges.
Transformative technologies create opportunities for commerce and economic engagements through ecosystems enabled by such innovations.	Transformative technologies can compromise network security, making startups targets for cybercriminals.
There are opportunities to close access gaps and expand service coverage through these technologies.	Regulatory uncertainties arising from multiple agencies with cross-cutting mandates impact market stability.
	Monitoring and enforcing compliance with national laws for non-physical providers of transformative technologies is challenging.

Q2. The Key Regulatory Measure and Guiding Principles to Follow to Foster Positive and Inclusive Impact of Transformative Technologies are as Follows:

- i. Adapting Regulatory Principles** - Regulatory frameworks should evolve to keep pace with technological advancements, with feedback loops ensuring continuous improvement.
- ii. Regulatory Agility Principles** - Regulations should stay effective for up to five years, with provisions for revision if necessary to accommodate technological changes.
- iii. Regulatory Sandboxes Principles** - Establishing regulatory sandboxes to test innovative services and products, allowing regulators to understand new technologies better and collaborate with industry players to establish rules.
- iv. Outcome – Based Regulatory Principles** - Regulations should focus on measurable, desirable outcomes, providing flexibility for businesses to comply while achieving regulatory goals.
- v. Risk – Based Regulatory Principles** - Advanced analytics should be employed to detect new trends and patterns, enhancing product safety and effectiveness.
- vi. Collaborative Regulatory Principles** - International coordination and collaboration among regulatory agencies foster innovation and protect consumers from potential fraud and safety concerns.

Q3. How to Drive Positive Behaviors of Market Players and Minimizing Risks.

To guide market behavior and minimize risks, the following strategies are recommended:

- Ensuring fair and transparent allocation of resources.
- Promoting open access to infrastructure and willingness to share among players.
- Identifying and mitigating market risks collectively.
- Engaging in participatory rule-making and transparent engagement of all players.
- Implementing effective compliance monitoring and enforcement mechanisms.
- Managing Significant Market Power (SMP) and dominance through buffer measures.
- Implementing efficient sanctioning regimes to deter bad behavior and ensure market balance.

CONCLUSION

By adopting adaptive regulatory approaches, fostering collaboration, and implementing effective compliance mechanisms, regulators can harness the potential of transformative technologies to drive innovation, improve services, and create a positive impact on society while minimizing associated risks.