

The RIPE NCC Contribution to Consultation on GSR24 Best Practice Guidelines
“Charting the Course of Transformative Technologies for Positive Impact”

On behalf of the Réseaux IP Européens Network Coordination Center (RIPE NCC), the Regional Internet Registry for Europe, the Middle East, and parts of Central Asia, I would like to extend our profound gratitude to the International Telecommunication Union - Development Sector (ITU-D) and the Global Symposium for Regulators' hosting country for providing this opportunity for private sector members to contribute to this pivotal Internet discourse.

This invitation to participate in the GSR-24 Best Practice Guidelines consultation signifies an important commitment to collaboration in harnessing the potential of transformative technologies, including the Internet. We welcome this forward-thinking initiative, which aligns with our mission to support a robust, open, and secure Internet infrastructure. This collaboration signifies a shared vision for a future where technological advancements are leveraged for the greater good of global digital ecosystems.

1. What are the challenges and opportunities faced by policymakers and regulators in embracing transformative technologies for greater impact?

- Challenges: A significant challenge for policymakers and regulators is balancing innovation with consumer protection, especially in a rapidly evolving digital landscape. Ensuring meaningful connectivity, data privacy, and cybersecurity while promoting innovation requires a nuanced approach. The swift pace of technological change also necessitates that regulators continually update their skills and knowledge to oversee these advancements effectively. An adaptive regulatory framework is also essential, as technology evolves at a faster pace than traditional regulatory mechanisms, demanding agility and foresight in a multistakeholder governance environment to keep up with innovation.

- Opportunities: Transformative technologies offer unparalleled opportunities to improve societal well-being, economic development, and operational efficiency. For instance, the widespread adoption of Internet Protocol version 6 (IPv6) and the development of Internet infrastructure can support the growth of these technologies, ensuring they remain robust, accessible, and secure. Moreover, the harmonious relationship between regulators and various stakeholder groups, particularly the technical community, presents a valuable opportunity to unleash the full potential of these transformative technologies, paving the way for a more interconnected and resilient digital future.

2. What are the key regulatory measures and guiding principle to follow to foster positive and inclusive impact of transformative technologies?

Based on the RIPE NCC experience working with policymakers and regulators, we suggest some enhanced regulatory measures and guiding principles to foster the positive and inclusive impact of transformative technologies:

- Agile Regulation: Regulators should move away from a "regulate and forget" mindset to one that is responsive and iterative. They should establish a process for continuously evolving regulations that keep pace with technological advancements. An agile regulatory framework is needed.
- Soft Regulatory Mechanisms: Besides formal regulations, soft regulatory mechanisms such as industry self-regulation, best-practice guidance, and codes of conduct can be used. These are not legally binding but can be rapidly adapted to new circumstances, making them suitable for governing emerging technologies.
- Technology Resilience: Regulatory frameworks should include provisions that ensure the resilience of technologies. This means looking beyond compliance and emphasising the need for robust operational continuity plans to handle threats and system vulnerabilities.
- International Harmonisation: There should be an effort toward greater international harmonisation of regulations. This would allow for a more globally coherent approach to technology oversight, facilitating the worldwide adoption of best practices and standards.
- Digital Literacy and Inclusion: To ensure transformative technologies have the broadest positive impact, policy measures should include initiatives to improve digital literacy and inclusion. This is particularly important in developing regions where a significant portion of the population may lack the skills to fully benefit from new technologies.

3. How to drive positive behaviours of market players? How to minimize risks while maximizing benefits?

To encourage market players to engage in practices that yield widespread benefits, regulatory authorities must establish frameworks that reward the integration of resilient infrastructure, adherence to rigorous security protocols, the ethical development and application of artificial intelligence, and the meticulous management of data with transparency at its core. Such practices should be recognised and incentivised through a system of benefits for compliant players.

Striking a balance between risk and benefits demands a multifaceted strategy. This involves creating incentives for compliance, encouraging a collaborative policy-making process, and investing in the broad dissemination of knowledge and expertise across the industry.

By leveraging collaboration and knowledge sharing via national, regional and international forums, specialised organisations, and industry associations, we can create robust platforms that foster an environment of open dialogue and shared learning.