

TANZANIA CONTRIBUTION TO GSR-24 BEST PRACTICE GUIDELINES

Background

In recent years, the world has witnessed high growth and use of transformative technologies in all social and economic sectors. The United Republic of Tanzania (URT) understands the role of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in the development, deployment, and utilization of transformative technologies. The Tanzania's Development Vision 2025, the 3rd National Five Year Development Plan 2021/22- 2025/26 and the Tanzania Digital Economy Strategic Framework acknowledge that ICT is central to a competitive social and economic transformation. Transformative technologies, such as artificial intelligence (AI) can bring both positive and negative impact to a country's economy and social ecosystem and therefore appropriate measures need to be considered for greater outcomes.

1. Challenges and opportunities faced by policy makers and regulators in embracing transformative technologies for greater impact

(i) Challenges :

- a) **Coordinating frameworks from multiple sectors:** transformative technologies cut across multiple sectors, each with its own unique regulatory frameworks, standards, and stakeholders. Coordinating efforts and aligning interests across sectors such as healthcare, finance, transportation, energy, and agriculture can be complex.
- b) **The dynamics of the transformative technologies:** the rapid changes in these technologies outpace the existing legal and regulatory frameworks and therefore present gaps and challenges which if not addressed timely could potentially lead to negative implications to the society.
- c) **Striking a balance between promoting innovation and regulation:** Tanzania understands that research and innovation plays an important role in development and use of these transformative technologies and therefore as policy makers and regulators we are presented with a need to create a conducive environment for researchers and innovators to prosper but at the same time to ensure careful consideration is taken to protect consumers and public safety.
- d) **Complexity and skill gap:** transformative technologies are complex in nature which require special expertise and skills to understand and be able to regulate the technologies. There is a challenge of skill gap for the policy maker and regulator.

(ii) Opportunities:

- a) **Accelerate innovation and economic growth:** through creating a conducive environment that can spur innovation, investments in these technologies and adoption and use hence improve people's lives through job creations, improve public service delivery and other opportunities.

- b) **Increase sectorial collaborations:** collaborating between sectors within the country and break the silos to develop common goals that harness full potential of transformative technologies.
- c) **Adaptable and flexible legal and regulatory framework:** that embrace the transformative technologies. This include developing regulatory methods such as sandboxes for the further development of the legal framework in order to strengthen innovation capacity.
- d) **Increase regional and international collaborations:** towards adapting best practices that can help shape the legal and regulatory frameworks for transformative technologies.

2. Key Regulatory measures and guiding principles

- a) **The revision of the National ICT Policy of 2016 and its Implementation Strategy:** now revised to the National ICT Policy of 2024 to accommodate the fast-changing transformative technologies and services to facilitate access and inclusivity of all citizens. Digital Infrastructure development as one of the policy issue is critical in supporting the development and use of the transformative technologies.
- b) **Building security and trust through enactment of instrumental regulatory and legal frameworks:** enacted laws include the Personal Data Protection Act of 2022. Developing robust data governance frameworks is also crucial for managing and protecting the vast amounts of data used in transformative technologies such as AI applications.
- c) **Capacity Building:** The country is engaging in capacity building programs to increase experts in the area of transformative technologies who can help in accelerating innovation, adoption and use of the technologies.
- d) **Increase regional and international collaborations:** towards adapting best practices that can help shape the legal and regulatory frameworks for transformative technologies.

3. How to drive positive behaviors of market players and minimize risks while maximizing benefits

Tanzania has adopted collaborative approach with all stakeholders and market players: This include involving the market players which include government agencies, industry associations, academia, civil society organizations, and the public in policy making as well as in formulating strategies to address the challenges and shape the legal and regulatory frameworks.

Our converged licensing framework streamlines regulatory processes and promotes fair competition by creating a level playing field for all operators. It fosters innovation, investment, and consumer choice, ultimately leading to improved services and infrastructure development.