Session Outcome Document

Summary of Session: Interactive Session: Action Line C6 – Enabling Environment on Next generation regulation for sustainable digital transformation

organized by ITU

Thursday 16 March 14:00–15:00 CET

https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/224

Key Issues discussed

- The session focused on the application of right digital policies, the regulatory and economic incentives to ensure deployment of sustainable digital infrastructure in rural and isolated areas, and at the same time to promote use and adoption.

- Change is needed in the ICT policy and regulation frameworks to create an inclusive and conducive enabling environment, therefore there is a need for strategies and regulation that bridge silos and break through insularity. We need to develop a common language, based on consultation and evidence; we need to reframe and operationalize policy agendas, and we need to skill up, and up again.

- To enhance ICT sustainable infrastructure deployment, especially in rural and remote areas, close collaboration with network operators is very important. In Mexico, the Federal telecommunication Institute (IFT) has developed regulatory guidelines for infrastructure sharing together with a national geo referenced database on active and passive infrastructure, in order to promote competition among operators and better use and share of available infrastructure.

- There is a need to align policies and regulations for infrastructure rollouts, in order to facilitate doing business and promote investment in the ICT sector. In Nigeria, the National Communication Commission (NCC) is offering pioneering incentives which include fiscal relieves, facilitation of authorizations procedures to enable infrastructure deployment for emerging technologies, including rural and isolated areas.

- ICT National regulatory authorities (NRAs) have to accommodate to the ever-changing digital environment. In this context in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Space and Technology Commission (CST) has developed a state-of-the art set of regulations for Non-Terrestrial Networks (NTN). The NTN regulations aim to provide communication

services using cutting edge wireless technologies and enable the wide spread of NTN technologies.

- To encourage deployment of ICT infrastructure in rural and remote areas, ITU developed the ITU Business Planning for Infrastructure Development Toolkit and training, to put in place the right technical and financial arrangements using sustainable business planning tools to attract investment. This toolkit addresses established networks, 5G and fibre.

Towards WSIS+20 and WSIS beyond 2025, please share your views on the emerging trends, challenges, achievements, and opportunities in the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines to date

- In the framework of the work done in the Telecommunication Development Sector, ITU has been the lead facilitator of WSIS Action Line C6 on Enabling Environment since the beginning of the WSIS implementation and follow-up process, in particular in relation to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Goal 9 on Industry, innovation and infrastructure and Goal 11 on Sustainable cities and communities.

- Over the years, ITU has been providing a platform to discuss measures and solutions such as fostering open access to international fiber, affordable access for sustainable development, connectivity during and in the post COVID digital world, and more.

- The work done by ITU on collaborative regulation focuses on the interplay between ICT markets and regulation and the innovative regulatory tools and processes at hand to support Membership and stakeholders to further enable digital transformation.

- In terms of key opportunities, challenges and emerging trends, based on the outputs from the Action Line C6 facilitation meetings, one of the main challenges of collaborative regulation at national and regional level is to break across silos, to bring together the expertise and the enforcement needed to level the playing field across sectors and borders.

Tangible outcomes (such as key achievements, announcements, launches, agreements, and commitments

- It was the occasion to launch the fourth edition of the ITU Global Digital Regulatory Outlook 2023 which examines the latest trends, tensions, and possible solutions and strategies leveraging from the country reviews, that regulators and policy-makers have today at hand.

- The Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR-23) to be held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, from 5 to 8 June 2023 under the theme, *Regulation for a sustainable digital future* was announced. Participants were also informed about the GSR-23 *Consultation on regulatory*

and economic incentives for an inclusive sustainable digital future to stimulate the deployment of sustainable digital infrastructure, especially in rural and underserved.

Actionable plan

- In the framework of ITU activities, the application of the unified framework for assessing the state of readiness of national ICT policy, legal and governance frameworks for digital transformation based on the tried-and-tested G5 Benchmark and the ICT Regulatory Tracker is being implemented.