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Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR-25)

Riyadh Outcome Statement



Dr Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava, ITU BDT Director

'As digital new and emerging technologies transform economies and redraw the boundaries of markets, sectors and societies, regulators are stepping into a new role: not just managing change in telecom/ICT and digital markets but helping to shape it. This year's GSR Best Practice Guidelines provide timely and practical direction for regulators ready to lead in building inclusive, resilient and innovation-driven digital ecosystems. Grounded in real-world experience and developed through a global consultation with the regulatory community, the Guidelines continue to be an indispensable tool for future-facing regulatory leadership.'



H.E. Eng. Haytham ALOhali, Governor, Communications, Space & Technology Commission (CST), Saudi Arabia and GSR-25 Chair

For more than two decades, the GSR Best Practice Guidelines have served as a compass for regulators navigating complex digital transformations. This year, they offer a clear call to action: regulators must evolve into ecosystem builders, capable of anchoring innovation in their work while upholding the public good amid accelerating technological and market shifts. I invite my fellow regulators to take these Guidelines forward to reinforce agile and anticipatory governance, deepen collaboration and ensure that digital regulation delivers for all.

The 2025 Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR-25) was held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia from 31 August to 3 September 2025 under the theme “Regulation for sustainable digital development”. The event attracted about 1200 participants including Government Ministers and Deputy Ministers, Heads of Regulatory Authorities and C-level industry executives across the world.

GSR-25 was organized by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in collaboration with the Government of Saudi Arabia. The Symposium was chaired by H.E. Eng. Haytham AIOhali, Governor, Communications, Space & Technology Commission (CST), Saudi Arabia.

Throughout the GSR programme, discussions focused on collaborate, connect, trust, protect, include, empower, sustain, and innovate.

Regulators from around the world identified and endorsed the GSR-25 Best Practice Guidelines on "what does it take for regulators to become digital ecosystem builders?". The Guidelines can help ICT regulators assume the role of digital ecosystem builders and deliver practical, forward-looking regulatory leadership for a digital future that leaves no one behind. Key takeaways of GSR25 are;

- **Make Innovation a Core Regulatory Practice:** institutionalize experimentation by actively using **regulatory sandboxes**, adopting agile frameworks.
- **Adapt Our Institutional Capacity:** champion a "whole-of-government" approach to institutionalize collaboration, ensuring policy coherence.
- **Leverage Technology for Regulatory Excellence:** strategically integrate RegTech and SupTech tools, using AI and big data as embedded capabilities to enhance data-driven oversight.
- **Strengthen Cross-Border Cooperation:** make international cooperation a core function by engaging in results-driven partnerships, building shared learning infrastructures, and coordinating on data and standards to assert a stronger regional voice in shaping global norms.
- **Champion Collaborative Governance:** pledge to actively pursue G5, cross-sectoral **regulation**, by building structured partnerships with our counterparts in finance, health, energy, and beyond to address complex challenges like digital trust and consumer protection holistically.
- **Prioritize a Human-Centric Digital Future:** commit to ensuring that digital transformation delivers tangible public value. This includes protecting all consumers, especially children; building trust through secure and resilient infrastructure; and designing digital services that are inclusive and accessible by default.