

ICT Regulation Toolkit

Module 1
Regulating the Telecommunications Sector

Module 2
Competition and Price Regulations

Module 3
Authorization of Telecommunications
Services

Module 4
Universal Access

Module 5
Radio Spectrum Management

Module 6
Legal and Institutional Framework

Module 7
New Technologies and Impact on
Regulation

**To learn more about this Toolkit
or to access these Modules, please
visit us at:**

www.ictregulationtoolkit.org



EXTENDING ICT BENEFITS TO ALL

Access to ICTs is optimized in countries with effective, competition-centered, market-friendly regulatory frameworks that support and sustain both ICT investment and diffusion, and thereby benefit consumers. But implementing such a framework has become more challenging than ever in recent years as the ICT sector continues to undergo major structural changes. Regulators need to manage the transition from old to new ICT environments, which raises a wide range of questions involving the scope of authority of ICT regulatory institutions, approaches to licensing, competition policy and level playing field in the new environment, what to do about legacy subsidy arrangements, approaches to universal access, and the need to introduce an increased role for market forces in radio spectrum allocation.

THE ICT REGULATION TOOLKIT

In order to respond to the need for practical, relevant guidance and assistance in an ever-changing environment, in late 2004, *infoDev*, in cooperation with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), began the development of an ICT Regulation Toolkit, a hands-on, web-based update and expansion of *infoDev's* successful *Telecommunications Regulation Handbook* of 2000. The Toolkit is intended to assist regulators with the design of effective and enabling regulatory frameworks to harness the latest technological and market advances. Its most prevalent themes are the impact of changing technology, the role of competition, and the regulatory implications of the transition from traditional telephony to next generation networks (NGNs).

Seven modules in all will be available when the Toolkit is fully completed, by March 2008. Each module offers both a summary and a more detailed overview of its respective topic with links to hundreds of practice notes and reference documents (over 850 in the entire Toolkit) drawn from global experience.

Publication of Executive Summaries of the Toolkit in English and subsequently other languages is currently being planned, starting with French and Spanish over the next year.

A PRACTICAL TOOL

The Toolkit serves as a practical aid to regulators in addressing the real-world challenges they face. Modules were launched at a number of international and regional ITU fora and at joint *infoDev*/ITU sponsored training events. Regulators praised the convenience and versatility of the modules and were impressed with their wealth of information. Several regulators have continued consultations in their home countries on frontier topics introduced at these events, such as international roaming and radio spectrum trading.

These events also serve to provide new inputs and materials for the modules, ensuring that these are continuously kept relevant and up to date.

infoDev – ITU GLOBAL CAPACITY BUILDING INITIATIVE

Based on the success of these events, *infoDev* and ITU will launch in 2008 a Global Capacity Building Initiative for regulators, centered on the Toolkit. Over the medium term, this Initiative will use the Toolkit as a key resource for a series of major capacity-building events targeted to help different groups of developing world regulators in all regions to address major issues. Over the next year or so, it is planned to hold training events in East and West Africa, and to initiate planning for a sustainable African-based ICT regulation training program, possibly in collaboration with an African university.

OTHER *infoDev* STUDIES ON EXTENDING ICT ACCESS

Recently published: **Open Access Models**, which outlines the options for increased ICT access in developing countries resulting from the transition to IP-networks.

You can download this report at www.infodev.org/en/Publication.10.html.

"This is the single most helpful regulator tool that I have seen. It has such a tremendous potential to assist all the staff at the INCM, as well as to help me, too. I am very happy to have been here today to see how easy it is to use this legal module and how much information is so easily accessible."

Dr. Salamão Manhiça,
Chairman, Instituto Nacional de Telecomunicações de Moçambique (INCM),
Mozambique at the launch of the Toolkit at WSIS, Tunisia, November 2005

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