What is Regulatory Collaboration?

Regulatory collaboration refers to the ICT regulator working closely with peer regulators in other sectors.

It is defined by:

The **breadth** of collaboration

Refers to whether the ICT regulator collaborates with authorities in charge of competition, consumer protection, finance, energy, broadcasting, spectrum, management and Internet issues.
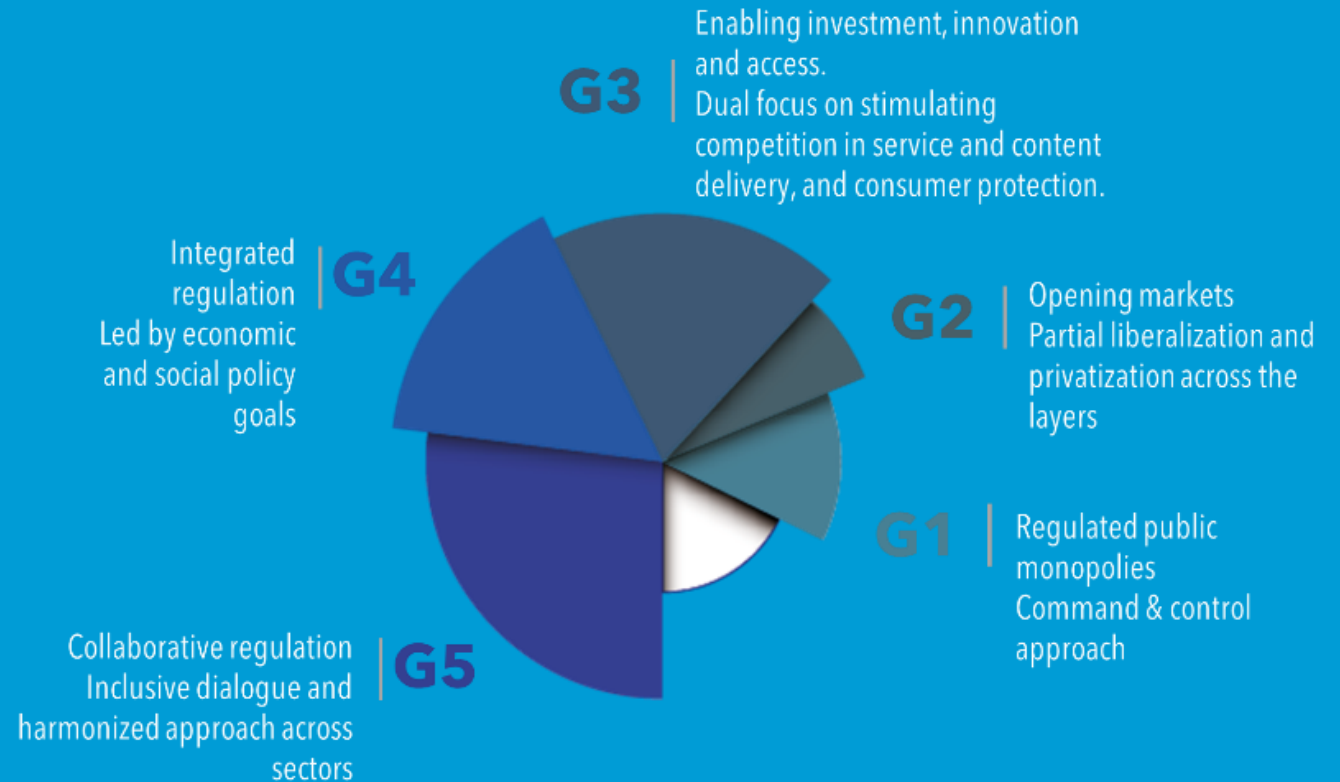
The **depth** of collaboration

Refers to whether regulators have engaged in informal, formal collaboration, or have put in place other hybrid mechanisms

Source: ITU 2018: 129.

How has regulation evolved?

For two decades, ITU has been investing in global tools that chart the development of regulatory regimes, identifying five distinct generations of regulatory regime – G1 to G5, each more sophisticated than the previous – and analysing their interplay with national economies.

As a result of this analysis and the striking insight it has yielded, ITU is unequivocally advocating for a fifth-generation collaborative approach to ICT regulation as the fast-track for developing countries wishing to build vibrant, inclusive digital economies.

G3
Enabling investment, innovation and access.
Dual focus on stimulating competition in service and content delivery, and consumer protection.

G2
Opening markets
Partial liberalization and privatization across the layers

G1
Regulated public monopolies
Command & control approach

G4
Integrated regulation
Led by economic and social policy goals

G5
Collaborative regulation
Inclusive dialogue and harmonized approach across sectors

Why do we need collaborative regulation?

- Digital transformation is a game changer

- The new digital world needs a new take on regulation

- Holistic and harmonized approach can deliver greater impact

- Development and inclusion have become a primary focus of regulation

G5 regulation – key characteristics

- Innovative, open, incentive-based, cross-sector

- Navigates towards broad, inclusive, meaningful connectivity

- Centred on people, sustainability & long-term gains, not on profit-taking

- Fosters vibrant markets & fast-evolving technologies, products & services that bring social & economic value

- Finds market solutions to challenges as new technologies, & business models test existing regulatory paradigms

- Builds consensus that protects consumers while encouraging market growth & innovation

- Features an expanded, leadership role for the ICT regulator in driving cross-sector collaboration

- Lends itself to connecting marginalized individuals, persons with disabilities, those communities of low-income or challenged by educational impoverishment, & remote or isolated populations lacking infrastructure.

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QUESTION 1

What do you think are the fundamental elements of effective and collaborative digital regulation – opening the way to digital transformation and providing adequate response to unexpected challenges (such as the global COVID-19 pandemic)? What does a future-proof regulatory model look like?

- How important is cross-sector collaboration and collaborative governance?

- What is the role of policies?

- What are the most important legal or administrative instruments supporting collaboration?

- What are the [new] working and implementation mechanisms – how does it work in practice?

QUESTION 2

What in your view are the Top Three most important actions national regulatory authorities can undertake to support the move towards more open, collaborative regulation across government agencies and economic sectors?

- Building cross-sector/whole of government policies, strategies and regulatory approaches for digital development

- Regulatory gap analysis

- Regulatory and implementation roadmaps for Digital Transformation

- Figuring out collaboration within and beyond government agencies, in practical terms

- Clarifying and clearly communicating decision-making/consultation procedures

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Thank you!

Contact

Sofie Maddens

Head of the Regulatory and Market

Environment Division ITU

treg@itu.int