REGIONAL REGULATORY ROUNDTABLE
REGIONAL ECONOMIC DIALOGUE
FOR **ARAB STATES**

Federal Government of Somalia

Policies, regulations, and economic approaches for Digital Transformation in the Arab States

National Communications Authority of Somalia

ITUGSR
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I would like to share with you how policies, regulations and economic approaches can help in the digital transformation of Arab States

Let me give a quick overview to understand how far we have come in just four years:

- Somalia Established the first telecom law in 2017
- We started working on several ICT policies and regulations from 2018
- If the right policies and regulations are coupled with the private sector investment, digital transformation will be possible

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION DRIVERS

In order to achieve digital transformation and develop a true digital economy, NCA is working on three strategies:

- Promote Connectivity
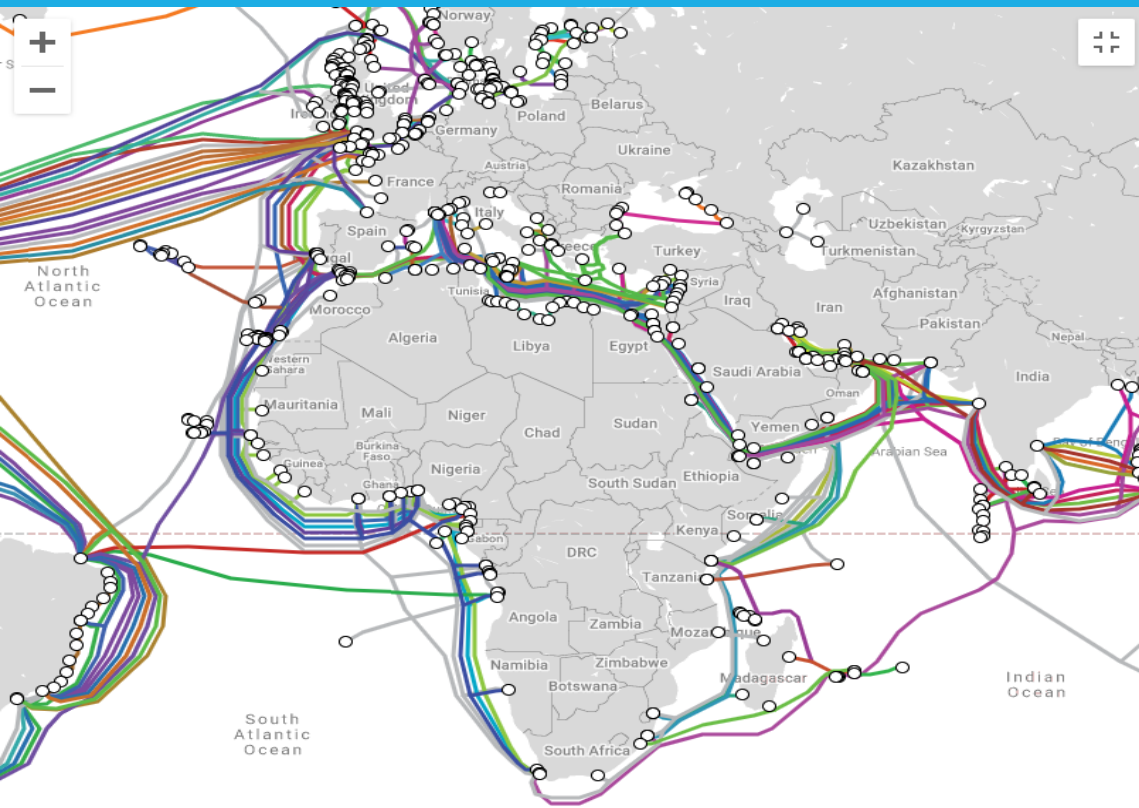- Improve Access
- Improve Services

CONNECTIVITY

As connectivity is the first and foremost step towards digital transformation, we need to consider:

Infrastructure

Here the role of the regulator is to provide a license framework that is flexible and encourages innovation as well competition and eliminates uncertainty in the investment. In the last three years, we developed:

1. Licensing framework
2. Spectrum regulation,
3. Competition regulation and
4. Universal access

These all promote connectivity

ACCESS

From 2014 to 2017, we had only one submarine cable. Today we have three cables and few more are expected to land.

Lower cost of prices. Somalia was ranked 1st in African in 2020 and now ranks as 3rd cheapest in terms of internet rates.

Low prices of telecom services in Somalia are the result of the competition in the market and growing telecom infrasturure in place.

SERVICES

In order to accelerate Digital transformation, services must be promoted to draw users.

In Somalia one of the success stories in the telecom sector is the fact that it provides services which are necessary such as Mobile Money.

As the banking sector is very limited in Somalia, Mobile Money serves as an alternative form of formal banking and electronic payment services. This provided much needed financial inclusion.

We are also promoting local content through localization of the country-code top-level domain.

Each one of the these 3 compliments the other.
If we establish a comprehensive infrastructure we can provide greater access with cheaper prices.

So we are working on all these areas, which compliment each other.

Thank you