

Managing relationships with Ministries & President; contributing to policy development

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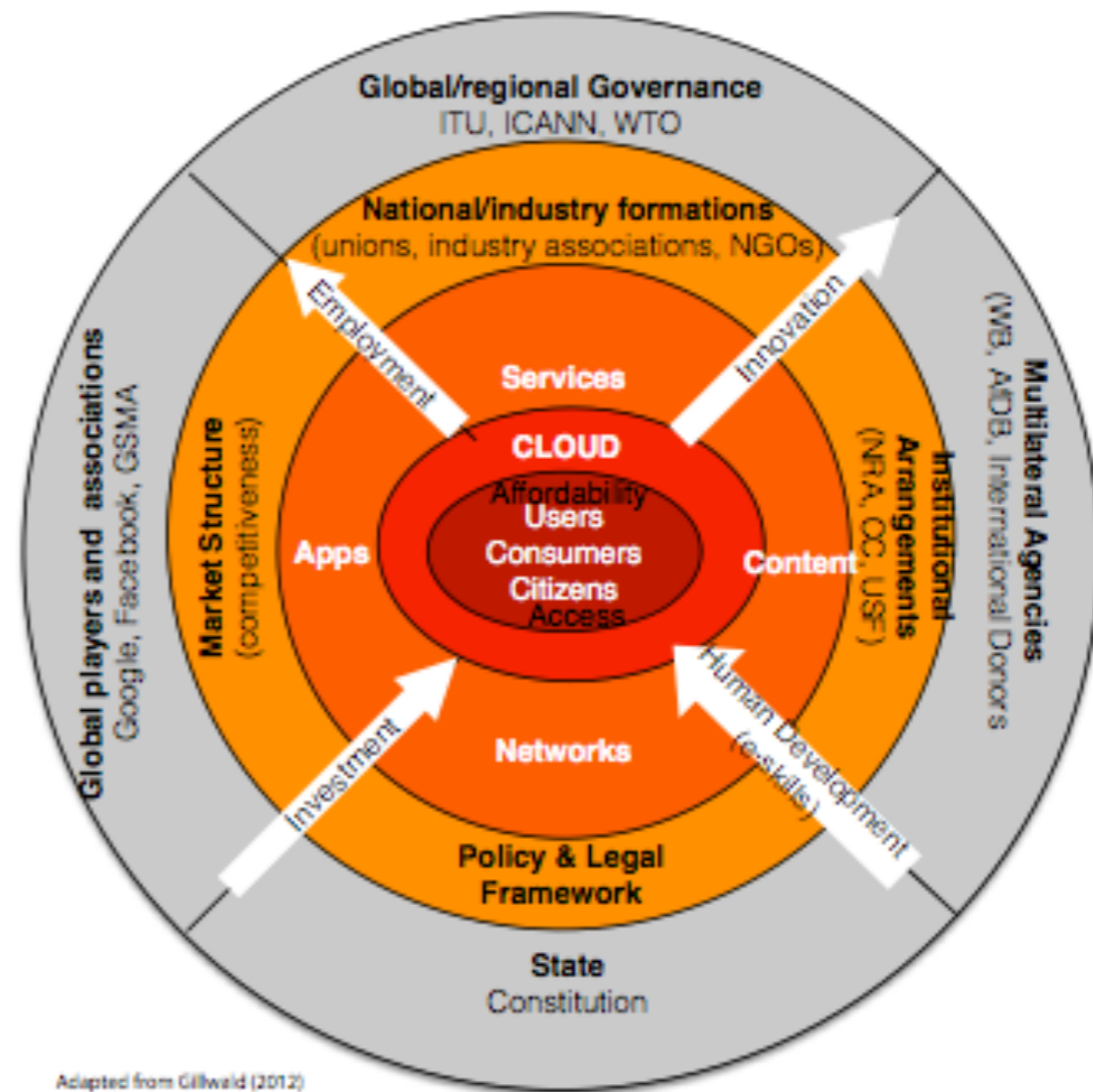


Content

- ICT ecosystem - challenges of national public policy and regulation in competitive global markets
- Linkages between regulatory environment and investment
- Institutional arrangements between levels of government and departments /ministries
- Linkages between institutional capacity, effective sector regulation and economic efficiency and growth
- Credibility building evidence base for policy formulation
- Cross-cutting nature of ICT: co-ordination and leadership
- Strong technocratic/ input to Presidency, Ministry, Cabinet/Ministerial Committees

ICT ecosystem: national regulation in global economy

Internet as a global distribution network, stimulated by convergence between media, telecommunications and IT, facilitated the provision of content (audio-visual) over converged IP networks, across multiple devices, with layers of governance at the international, regional and national levels.



Backbone of modern economy

- Telecom sector growth exceeds weak and stagnant national growth
- direct opportunities for manufacturing, service provision and job creation
- important input in into other sectors e.g. financial sector
- enhanced communication and information flows improve productivity and efficiency
- efficiencies created by improved information flows - requires critical mass – network effects
- key economic infrastructure in national development planning

Telecom reform

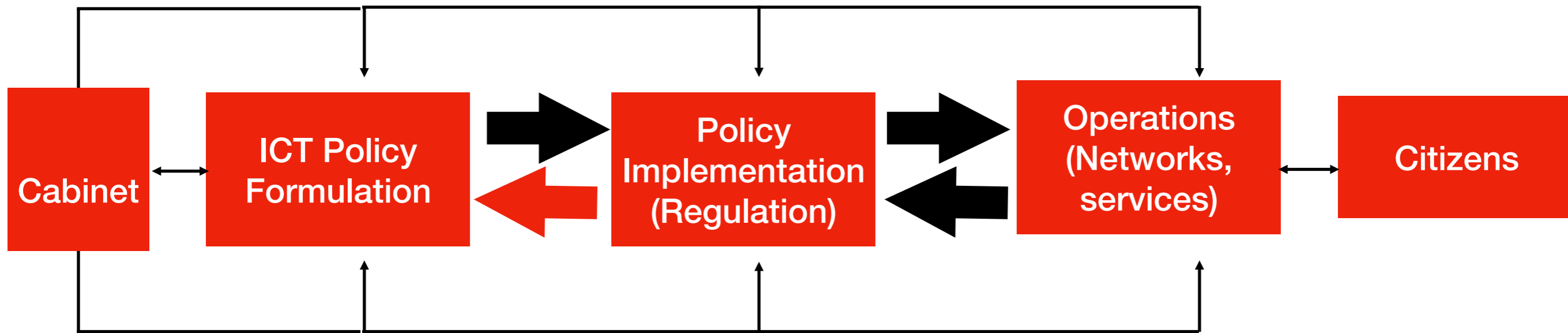
- Government responsible for policy formulation
- provide the regulator with a delegated statutory authority for implementation
- transparent and accountable public process - consultation
- institutional capacity built on individual competencies
- defined professional criteria for appointments
- provide reliable and adequate source of funding
- sector financed to insulate regulator from political interference through the budget process
- prohibitions on the executive from overturning the agency's decisions

Regulatory environment

- political stability, policy certainty, regulatory flexibility
- successful market that attracts investors requires predictable regulatory process
- regulators do not reverse policy decisions unless there is evidence that those decisions have led to significant problems or that new circumstances warrant a change in the rules.
- enhances confidence in credibility of the regulator and reduces regulatory risk
- tensions and linkages between credibility of regulator in industry and political legitimacy

Policy influence: Working between the lines

Government capture



Industry capture

Building credibility - creating legitimacy

- Need to build credibility - technocratic capacity
- Provide evidence base for policy formulation
- Knowledge from the coal face
- Continuity through electoral cycles
- Provide gravitas
- Leadership/champions/institutionalisation

State co-ordination

- cross cutting nature of ICT requires co-ordination – public service, health, education
 - ministerial clusters (economic) – economics, trade, energy
 - multi-utility regulators, which include telecommunications, although the number of “converged” regulators has grown over recent years
 - location of regulator – Presidency, Finance, Communications (overcome conflict of interests)

Cases

- **Broadband Plan: SA Connect**

- Government Gazette available at:

- https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=4&ved=0ahUKEwjVrqfFpYnWAhUIrY8KHTYrDM0QFgg4MAM&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.dtps.gov.za%2Findex.php%3Foption%3Dcom_phocadownload%26view%3Dcategory%26download%3D90%3Abroadband-policy-gg37119%26id%3D21%3Abroadband%26Itemid%3D333&usg=AFQjCNETdA3eebVitgt_htvLh6fwCB8vLw

- **Wireless Open access network**

- Research ICT Africa Policy Brief available at

- http://researchictafrica.net/polbrf/Research_ICT_Africa_Policy_Briefs/2016_Policy_Brief_5_Open_Access_wireless_networks_in_South_Africa.pdf