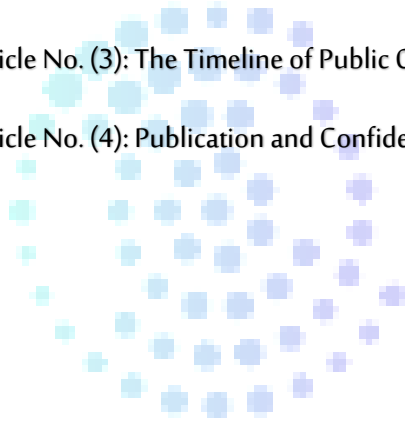


Regulatory Framework
on the Rules and Measures of Public Consultations
Issued by the National Telecom Regulatory Authority of Egypt

June 2021

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Preliminary

The National Telecom Regulatory Authority of Egypt (NTRA), under Law No. 10 of 2003 on Telecommunication Regulations, is the Official Authority entitled to regulate the telecommunication sector through implementing the acknowledged policy to develop and disseminate different types of telecommunication, adapting to the development of telecommunication technology and ensuring that telecommunication requirements of individuals, corporations, companies, and different country productive, economic, administrative and servicing sectors are fully met, while encouraging investment endeavors in the sector on the non-discriminatory basis and in light of free competition measures, to ensure the publicness and transparency of information and safeguard consumer rights,

The NTRA is the official Authority entitled to grant licenses and permits to companies or facilities willing to provide or operate telecom services or to work in, supervise, follow up on the performance, and set the general rules of the legitimate competition in the field of telecommunication,

In witness of which, and under Article No. (2) of Telecommunication Regulation Law No. (10) of 2003, the circulation of information and the protection of free competition alongside the user rights are the pillars of telecommunication services, and under Article No. (5) of Telecommunication Regulation Law, all dispositions and acts necessary; including the set-up of plans, programs, administrative rules and methods in efforts to achieve the planned objectives, shall be undertaken by the NTRA. Concerning NTRA's keenness on upholding the rules of transparency and sharing the inputs of Industry with concerned entities to have their say and to mention their observations on the regulatory lines adopted by NTRA to leverage the decision-making system, prepare a proper environment encouraging investment in Egypt's market, alongside to consider the rights of the user, the aforementioned Regulatory Framework on the Rules of Public Consultations is issued by NTRA.

This Regulatory Framework is deemed and considered obligatory for all Parties of Interest willing to submit any feedback on the Public Consultations issued by NTRA. Any articles, phrases deemed suitable from now on for the Regulatory Framework may by NTRA be modified or added. The preliminary mentioned above is also deemed and considered part of the Regulatory Framework.

Definitions:

1. **NTRA:** The National Telecom Regulatory Authority of Egypt, hereinafter NTRA.
2. **Public Consultation:** A document issued by NTRA when necessary, allowing Parties of Interest to submit feedback on a specific measure, decision, or a specific regulating methodology intended to be issued or modified in Egypt's market.
3. **Parties of Interest:** Parties willing to submit feedback and comments on Public Consultations issued by NTRA, the Parties of Interest may include; licensed telecom operators, companies working in the field of information and telecommunication technology, telecom service-users, civil society organizations, institutes, universities, and relevant international organizations.

Article No. (1)**Scope and Range of this Regulatory Framework**

- 1-1 Items of this Regulatory Framework shall apply to the Public Consultations issued by NTRA. The Regulatory Framework aims to regulate and clarify the measures and procedures taken by NTRA in case Public Consultations are announced as per NTRA's request and when necessary.

Article No. (2)**General Rules**

- 2-1 NTRA is entitled to issue a Public Consultation following the procedures stipulated in this Regulatory Framework when necessary. No Public Consultation shall necessarily be issued for every measure or regulation issued by NTRA.
- 2-2 The website of NTRA, www.tra.gov.eg, is deemed and considered the official channel for publishing Public Consultations in the telecom market. The Said website should be regularly referred to by the Parties of Interest for obtaining such Public Consultations.
- 2-3 NTRA is entitled to publish notifications with the commencement of the Public Consultation period on different media channels or is entitled to send invitations via e-mail or formal letters to some Parties of Interest to participate in Public Consultations. Feedback may be submitted by any Party of Interest, not

- receiving an invitation and wishing to share comments on Public Consultations and within the times pre-determined.
- 2-4 Public Consultations issued by NTRA shall include many items different from one consultation to another; such as the main objective of consultation, NTRA's role in the issue subject to discussion, the regulatory aspects subject to discussion, the legal reference if any, advantages and disadvantages of the issue subject to consultation, technical, regulatory as well as commercial alternatives dealing with the issue, the time frame for consultation process, alongside any questions as well as discussion aspects and the comments or feedbacks thereon
- 2-5 Parties of Interest are entitled to participate and share comments on Public Consultations, being a non-obligatory and a voluntary act, per the timelines determined and in whatever form required by NTRA, with clarifying the primary information to follow on the outset of responses to Public Consultations: Name of entity sharing comments, post address, contact person, e-mail address, phone number, and facsimile, knowing that registration shall on NTRA's website be completed and an account for the Party of Interest shall also be created.
- 2-6 One round solely of comments and feedback for every consultation shall by NTRA be intended. Parties interested in sharing comments and feedback shall ensure the written reports thereof are constructive, accurate, clear, and comprehensive.
- 2-7 NTRA is entitled to reply to either all comments or some thereof on any Party of Interest Consultations.

Article No. (3)

The Timelines of Public Consultations

- 3-1 The time available for receiving comments and feedback on Public Consultations issued by NTRA shall be determined by NTRA, considering reasonable timelines for Parties of Interest. It is stipulated for the timeframe to receive replies, to be 30 days as of the publication date of Public Consultation unless otherwise notified for each consultation. The right to extend and/ or reduce the said period shall by NTRA, if necessary under certain circumstances, be preserved.

- 3-2 Parties of Interest are entitled to request an extension for the period of receiving responses to consultations within 21 days, effective the date of publishing the consultation, through a formal letter clarifying the reasons for requesting an extension and clarifying the additional period required for receiving responses. In case the final timeline for receiving responses to the consultation is approved by NTRA, an extension shall be applied for all Parties of Interest to be applied, and any modifications to the schedule for receiving responses shall on NTRA's website be announced.
- 3-3 Timeline determined on items (3-1) and (3-2) to examine the comments shall be by the Parties of Interest willing to share comments and feedback be respected, NTRA is entitled, in the discretion thereof, to examine late responses in case the submitting Party demonstrates a good reason.

Article No. (4)

Publication and Confidentiality of Information

- 4-1 NTRA is entitled to publish the received responses to Public Consultations or the summaries thereof. NTRA is also entitled to disclose the identity of the Parties of Interest submitting such responses. NTRA may invite interested parties to share, publish comments in full, or a summary thereof, concerning such responses.
- 4-2 Any Party of Interest submitting responses to a Public Consultation is entitled to request NTRA to treat all comments in full or a part thereof, in confidentiality. By the Party of Interest mentioned above, such parts shall be expressly determined with the reason for confidentiality. It is expected that confidentiality requests shall refer to trade-sensitive information only and shall not entail any information that should be made public to the audience or information disclosed by the force of law.
- 4-3 NTRA is entitled to publish any comments on Public Consultations, alongside the identity of the Parties of Interest submitting such comments, unless the owner of comments submitted a justified request for confidentiality. NTRA is also entitled to publish a summary of comments and any responses to them.