
Technology, Media & Telecommunications (TMT)

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Introduction

The first half of 2025 has been a dynamic period for Nigeria's Technology, Media, and Telecommunications (TMT) sector. Regulatory reforms and judicial decisions during this period have continued to reshape the industry, further clarifying key legal principles and strengthening the governance framework. As a key driver of economic growth and digital innovation, the TMT sector is experiencing rapid evolution in areas such as digital asset regulation, data protection, broadband expansion, and advertising oversight.

These developments present both opportunities and challenges for stakeholders across the ecosystem. Staying informed on these changes is essential for businesses, investors, and consumers to effectively navigate the regulatory environment and leverage emerging trends. This newsletter presents an overview of the key regulatory and legal developments from the first half of 2025, providing insight into their implications and the sector's strategic outlook moving forward.



Regulatory & News Update

Nigeria:

2025 TMT Regulatory & News Highlights

Nigeria's Technology, Media, and Telecommunications (TMT) sector, a cornerstone of economic growth, has undergone several regulatory developments and innovations in 2025, which could have a potentially transformative effect on the sector in particular and the national economy as a whole. Below, we outline some of the events and developments currently shaping the landscape:



Tariff Hike and Airtime Deductions: In January 2025, the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) approved a 50% tariff increase for telecom operators, the first since 2013, to address inflation and operational costs (e.g., naira devaluation)¹. Also, in an announcement on June 3, 2025, the NCC directed banks to commence deducting USSD charges from the customer's mobile airtime effective from June 3, 2025. Previously, the charges were deducted from the customer's bank accounts.



Digital Assets Regulation: In the amended Investments and Securities Act (ISA) 2025, passed in March 2025, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) classified digital assets as securities, bringing them under its regulatory oversight.² This framework establishes compliance requirements for crypto exchanges and token issuers, enhancing regulatory clarity and strengthening investor and fintech confidence.

1 Olumuyiwa Olowogboyega, "NCC approves 50% tariff increase for Nigerian telcos" (*Techcabal*, January 20, 2025) NCC approves 50% tariff increase for Nigerian telcos accessed on June 30, 2025

2 Section 357 of the Investment and Securities Act, 2025 expands the definition of "Securities" to include "virtual and digital assets".



Broadband Push: The National Broadband Plan (2020–2025) aims to achieve 70% broadband penetration by the end of 2025. In support of this goal, the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) launched the National Broadband Alliance for Nigeria (NBAN) on February 4, 2025, a strategic policy initiative designed to expand internet access across the country.³ The initiative focuses on key sectors such as schools, healthcare facilities, religious centres, and markets, with the objective of establishing a sustainable model for widespread broadband adoption.



Regulation of Online Advertisement by ARCON: In a landmark ruling delivered on April 30, 2025, the Federal High Court upheld ARCON's authority to regulate advertising across all media, including social media.⁴ The court affirmed that ARCON's mandate applies to all advertisers, individuals, and organisations alike, and that all adverts must be pre-approved. This decision provides regulatory clarity and strengthens ARCON's regulatory position in Nigeria's advertising landscape.

3 Frank Eleanya, "Nigeria targets 70% internet penetration in 2025 with National Broadband Alliance" (*Techcabal*, February 4, 2025) [NCC launches National Broadband Alliance, targets 70% internet penetration](#) accessed on June 29, 2025

4 Suit No: FHC/L/CS/1262/2024, between Digi Bay Limited (Trading under the name and style of Betway Nigeria) & Ors v Attorney General of the Federation & ARCON

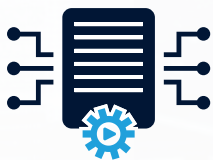
International:

2025 TMT Regulatory & News Highlights



Ofcom Updated Child Protection Codes Under Online Safety Act:

On April 24, 2025, the United Kingdom's (UK) Ofcom (Office of Communications) published its updated **Protection of Children Codes of Practice** under the **Online Safety Act 2023 (OSA)**, a significant milestone in the UK's efforts to enhance online child safety. The new Codes, supported by detailed risk assessment guidance and additional resources, set clear and comprehensive standards for user-to-user and search service providers. They outline specific responsibilities aimed at protecting children from a wide range of online harms and reinforcing safer digital environments.



European Union's Artificial Intelligence Act, 2024:

The EU AI Act 2024 (Regulation (EU) 2024/1689) marks the world's first comprehensive framework for regulating artificial intelligence, including generative AI. Enacted on August 1, 2024, the Act introduces phased implementation in 2025, including a ban on certain high-risk AI uses by February 2, 2025, and specific rules for general-purpose AI (GPAI) models, such as ChatGPT, MidJourney, and Suno, by August 2025. Designed to ensure trustworthy and ethical AI, the Act imposes strict compliance obligations, potential fines of up to €35 million or 7% of global turnover, and creates opportunities via regulatory sandboxes. It significantly impacts creators, startups, and businesses leveraging AI in content creation, marketing, and innovation.



Publications

An Overview of the Nigeria Communications Commission's Consumer Code of Practice Regulations 2024.

by *Okechukwu Ekweanya and Amarachukwu Ajagu* [KENNA](#)

On July 30, 2024, the Nigerian Communications Commission, in line with the provisions of Section 106 of the Nigerian Communications Act 2003, introduced the NCC Consumer Code of Practice Regulations. The Consumer Code of Practice Regulations is a comprehensive framework designed to protect telecommunications consumers, promote fair business practices, and enhance service delivery in Nigeria's telecommunications industry. The NCC Consumer Code of Practice Regulations, 2024, is divided into two parts – the Regulations and the General Code. While the Regulations outline the procedures to be followed by a licensee/ telecommunications company in preparing an approved consumer code of practice, the General Code establishes the minimum standard to be followed by a licensee for the provision of services and consumer practices. This paper, therefore, discusses the objectives of the Consumer Code of Practice Regulations and highlights the relevant sections of the General Code that protect the rights of consumers in the telecommunications sector.

A Review of the Salient Provisions of the National Digital Economy and E-Governance Bill, 2024.

by *MaryClare Obiamiwe* [KENNA](#)

The National Assembly is set to pass the National Digital Economy and E-Governance Bill by the second quarter of 2025, reinforcing the Federal Government's commitment to advancing the nation's digital infrastructure and stimulating economic growth. This article analyzes the Bill's intention to establish a comprehensive legal

framework for Nigeria's digital economy, focusing on critical areas such as technological innovation, e-governance, and digital services. Its primary goal is to cultivate a thriving digital economy by creating a conducive environment for digital businesses to promote innovation and attract investment in the sector. The Bill applies to all public service institutions, private establishments, individuals, and organisations conducting digital activities in Nigeria, either wholly or in part.

An Overview of Nigeria's National Artificial Intelligence Strategy (Draft), 2024 [KENNA](#)

There has been a significant shift in the acceptance of Artificial Intelligence (AI), from early smart assistants like Alexa and Siri to advanced systems like ChatGPT, which enable dynamic, context-aware conversations. Recently, Nigeria has invested heavily in Artificial Intelligence (AI), focusing on research and development to foster innovation, job creation, and productivity across sectors. This growing interest stems from the recognition that ethical AI can drive economic growth, improve public services, and address societal challenges. This article, therefore, analyzes the draft of the National Artificial Intelligence Strategy, formulated in August 2024 by the National Centre for Artificial Intelligence and Robotics and the National Information Technology Development Agency.



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