

## Promoting Innovation Worldwide

## Considerations Around Cybersecurity Certification

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### **ITI Member Companies**























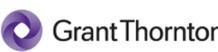














































































































## ITI's Policy Principles for Cybersecurity Certification

- We released a set of policy principles on cybersecurity certification in September 2020.
- These principles are intended to provide guidance to policymakers who are considering implementing certification as a means to improve cybersecurity.
- Offer a foundational understanding of cybersecurity certification, including the limitations of such an approach.



### Cybersecurity certification is not a comprehensive solution

- Certification only reviews information about security at a specific point in time and does not necessarily equate to security or reduced risk.
  - ➤ It *cannot* represent a complete picture of security because of the way in which the threat landscape evolves.

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- Because threats are dynamic and constantly changing, the long period of time that it takes to complete a certification will in many cases mean that the product/service is no longer at the leading-edge of security by the time the certification is complete.
- Cybersecurity is a shared responsibility between vendors, consumers, and government.

# Consider that it may be more appropriate to evaluate an ICT vendor's practices, instead of the end product itself

- How a vendor develops its products and services is often a more appropriate indicator of how secure the end products or services will be than a point-in-time certification.
- Vendor practices to consider range from secure development and testing practices through continual vulnerability assessment, management and mitigation to supply chain risk.



## Take a risk-based approach to cybersecurity certification requirements

- Any certification scheme should be based on a comprehensive risk assessment so that it is appropriately targeting those products, services, or processes that require high security assurance.
- Certification requirements should not be applied across an entire sector (i.e. telecom equipment sector), as this would be anathema to a risk-based approach.
- We encourage regulators to undertake a threat assessment to understand the landscape and further, seek to determine and identify critical components.
  - ➤ i.e.) <u>EU Coordinated Risk Assessment on Cybersecurity of 5G</u>
    <u>Ne</u>tworks



## Reference international standards to avoid erecting technical barriers to trade

- Certification schemes should be grounded in international, industryled consensus standards and best practices.
- These standards should be adopted as written and published
  - Deviations can negatively impact international trade, requiring suppliers to meet different technical specs in different markets.
- Common process-based cybersecurity controls include ISO/IEC 27000 and IEC 62443.
- Certification schemes should be technology-neutral and refrain from mandating specific technical features or controls.



Has the government leveraged the expertise of public and private stakeholders yet? ex: organize public consultation and follow good regulatory practices



Launch a public consultation

#### Yes

Is the scope clearly defined and approach risk-based?

ex: define scope, evaluate risks, and prioritize products/services that require high security assurance



Revisit the consultation feedback to determine scope and risks

#### Yes

Are international standards and best practices referenced to avoid technical barriers to trade (TBT)?



Adopt international standards as they are and discourage country-unique standards

ex: certification schemes should reference international standards as they are

### Yes

Are alternatives to certification, including supplier's declaration of conformity/vendor attestation included?



Place trust in supplier's declaration of conformity/vendor attestation and first-party assessments

### Yes.

Are alternatives to country-specific testing included, leveraging credible private-sector mutual/multilateral recognition schemes?



Accept testing results globally via credible mutual/multilateral recognition schemes

Yes

Adopt fair enforcement



Harmonize regulatory enforcement and issue clear guidance

