Department for Science, Innovation & Technology

Chris Bryant MP
Minister of State
Department for Science, Innovation & Technology
100 Parliament Street
London SW1A 2BQ

www.gov.uk/dsit

Chi Onwurah MP
Chair of House of Commons' Science, Innovation and Technology Committee
commonssitc@parliament.uk

15 January 2025

Dear Chi,

Publication of two products developed by the Global Coalition on Telecommunications (GCOT)

I am writing to inform you about the publication today of two products developed by the Global Coalition on Telecommunications (GCOT).

As you know, digital infrastructure is foundational to the modern economy. In addition to our domestic efforts to connect UK citizens, it is vital that the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT) works with likeminded international partners to ensure that telecommunications networks are secure, resilient, and innovative. The UK government, led by DSIT, is the chair and one of the five founding members of GCOT, alongside the governments of Australia, Canada, Japan, and the United States of America. This coalition holds shared commitments to ensuring the security, resilience, and innovation of telecommunications networks, and the coordination of multilateral initiatives to help achieve these goals.

Today, I am pleased to share with you GCOT's Principles on Artificial Intelligence Adoption in the Telecommunications Industry and Open RAN Certification Principles. Both documents are voluntary and non-regulatory initiatives that aim to act as good faith guidance for the telecoms industry to ensure global telecoms networks are designed and deployed in line with GCOT partners' values and objectives for security, resilience, and innovation.

The **Principles on Artificial Intelligence Adoption in the Telecommunications Industry** outline that GCOT partners view AI in telecoms as a significant innovation with numerous potential benefits, including improved network performance, enhanced security, and better customer experiences. It also emphasises that AI should be used safely, reliably, and in a manner that protects individual rights. The statement outlines principles for using AI responsibly, ensuring it is ethical, transparent, and beneficial to society. These principles are intended to guide industry leaders, researchers, and AI developers as they work on AI for telecoms. We encourage further efforts from industry and academia to advance AI in telecoms according to these principles.

T

he **Open RAN Certification Principles** are voluntary guidelines aimed at helping create an industry-led certification program for Open RAN products. Open RAN aims to increase the number of market entrants in telecoms supply chains, but there are currently barriers preventing widespread deployment. A robust certification program would help to reassure mobile and private network operators that their purchases meet standards and help SMEs avoid costly multiple tests. While GCOT members will not develop the certification program

themselves, these principles set a framework for how the industry could create it. We expect some industry stakeholders to take on this testing role.

Copies of the Principles on Artificial Intelligence Adoption in the Telecommunications Industry and Open RAN Certification Principles will be placed, alongside this letter, in the libraries of both houses and published on gov.uk.

Yours Sincerely,

Chris Bryant MP
Minister of State