

# SAMA spotlight | ITGF | IT governance and leadership

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia | 19 February 2023



In November 2021, the Saudi Central Bank (SAMA) issued a circular on IT governance frameworks as part of its cybersecurity rules and instructions - with four intertwined domains: IT governance and leadership; IT risk management; IT operations management; and systems change management.

SAMA's risk-based IT risk management framework prescribes IT principles - a main set of IT controls - and control requirements - mandated IT controls which provide additional direction. Where control requirements cannot be implemented, SAMA licensees are expected to apply compensating controls, formally accept any ensuing risk and request a formal waiver from that control from SAMA. The IT governance and leadership domain includes nine focus areas:

- IT governance
- IT strategy
- Managed enterprise architecture
- IT policies and procedures
- Roles and responsibilities
- Regulatory compliance
- IT internal audits
- Staff competence and training
- Performance management

## Contact us:



**Srikant Ranganathan**  
Senior Director  
srikant.ranganathan@keypoint.com  
+966 50 063 8273



**Tom Gilbert**  
Director  
tom.gilbert@keypoint.com  
+966 53 250 9866



**Darrshan Manukulasooriya**  
Senior Manager | IT Consulting  
darrshan.m@keypoint.com  
+966 55 395 1254



**Muhammad Nauman Chisty**  
Assistant Manager | IT Consulting  
nauman.chisty@keypoint.com  
+966 13 845 9237



**Yusuf Nooruddin**  
Assistant Consultant | IT Consulting  
yusuf.nooruddin@keypoint.com  
+966 13 845 9232

## Principles/expectations

- IT governance structure defined, endorsed and supported with appropriate resources
- IT strategy aligned with strategic objectives and complies with legal and regulatory requirements
- Enterprise architecture outlines business processes, data and supporting technology layers
- IT objectives set and communicated to relevant stakeholders
- IT roles and responsibilities defined and understood
- Relevant regulations identified, communicated and complied with
- IT internal audits verify IT controls implemented and operating as intended
- Staff have required skills and knowledge
- Efficiency and effectiveness of IT processes and services continuously measured through KPIs

## Work products and other outcomes:

ITSC charter	IT budget	RACI matrix
IT strategy	Enterprise architecture	IT risk management framework
IT policies	IT risk management process	Key risk indicators
IT audit plan and report	Log of all relevant legal, regulatory and contractual requirements	IT training plan