



TCL/RA/TCL/TRAI CP-TMPs/2020/2

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Sub: TCL Response to TRAI Consultation Paper on “Traffic Management Practices (TMPs) and Multi-Stakeholder Body for Net Neutrality”

Dear Sir,

Kindly find attached herewith Tata Communications Ltd. response on the TRAI Consultation Paper dated 02.01.2020 on “Traffic Management Practices (TMPs) and Multi-Stakeholder Body for Net Neutrality”.

It is requested that the same may kindly be taken on record.

With kind regards,

For Tata Communications Ltd.

(Praveen Sharma)  
Authorized Signatory

Encl: a/a.

**TATA COMMUNICATIONS**

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## **Tata Communications Ltd Response to TRAI Consultation Paper on Traffic Management Practices (TMPs) and Multi-Stakeholder Body for Net Neutrality**

**Q1. What are the broad types of practices currently deployed by the Access Providers (APs) to manage traffic? Out of these practices, which ones can be considered as reasonable from perspective of Net Neutrality? Whether list of Traffic Management Practises (TMPs) can be prepared in advance or it would be required to update it from time to time? If later is yes, then what framework would be required to be established by Multi-Stakeholder Body to keep it up to date? Please suggest with justification.**

### **TCL Response:**

The following traffic management principles are reasonable from the perspective of Net Neutrality:

- TMPs principles broadly developed by respective OEM's. This is also briefly discussed in RFC3272 (Internet traffic engineering).
- Managing B2B / Enterprise Services based on specific SLAs and contracts.
- Capping bandwidth for customers based on service contract or agreement.
- Managing situations such as DDOS attacks on TSP network or for traffic destined for end customer network via TSP network.
- Managed Services offerings such as DDOS Detection and Mitigation to protect from malicious and volumetric attacks.
- Managing the traffic congestion on network due to network and infrastructure failure, Force Majeure and/or network planned maintenance.
- Blocking of URLs (Domain, Sub-Domain), Services, Applications, Ports (TCP/UDP) as instructed by Law, DoT, LEA, Court Order etc.
- Blocking the Sites, URL, Services related to CSAM included Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) list.
- For IoT/M2M services and applications, any traffic management practices that may get formulated at a future point in time should be excluded from restrictions pertaining to net neutrality

TMP's can be prepared in advance and certainly updated time-to-time based on the development. TMPs for TSPs and ISPs would be different as also for those ISPs who are providing only Enterprise services . However, TSPs and ISPs should be exempt from maintaining and/or periodical submission of any **Record of Application** as this is impractical and will un-necessarily create further operational overheads / cost for TSPs/ISPs. Any matter of issue / concern may be directly discussed by DoT with the relevant TSP/ISP.

**Q2. Whether impact of TMPs on consumer's experience can be interpreted from its name and short description about it or detailed technical description would be required to interpret it in objective and unambiguous manner? In case of detail technical description, what framework need to be adopted by Multi-Stakeholder Body to document it. Please suggest with justification.**

**TCL Response:**

It can be both but most often name/short description alone may mislead (or) may be difficult to interpret and hence detailing is required to understand the impact better without any ambiguity. The potential issues can be de-briefed with right description by MSB in consultation with the TSPs/ISPs while building the framework. The MSB can additionally identify the most common TMPs used in TSP, MNO, ISP (all categories), Content Providers (Large and Small) and provide detailed description on each one.

**Q3. What set up need to be established to detect violations of Net Neutrality, whether it should be crowd source based, sample field measurements, probe based, audit of processes carried out by access providers or combination of above? How to avoid false positives and false negative while collecting samples and interpreting Net Neutrality violations? Please suggest with justification.**

**TCL Response:**

It is preferred that Access Providers resort to self-governance and self-audit however, it can also be a combination of all as one such model may not provide right visibility/clarity of information. Based on the data that is gathered further navigation, pruning to be done to identify violations if any. However, the Authority is requested to ensure that no new processes are created that further increase the operational / capital expenses of the TSPs/ISPs for adhering to such setups as it will further increase the financial burden on the already stressed telecom sector and as such may hamper the capability of the TSPs/ISPs) to expand / penetrate further and b) provide quality service.

**Q4. What should be the composition, functions, roles and responsibilities of Multi-stakeholder Body considering the decision of DoT that Multi-stakeholder body shall have an advisory role and formulation of TMPs and Monitoring & Enforcement (M&E) rest with DoT? Please suggest with justification.**

**TCL Response:**

The MSB should strictly have an advisory role only and the DoT should handle the formulation of TMPs and Monitoring & Enforcement (M&E). A two level structure is preferred for the MSB. There should be an Advisory Council whose composition should be of sufficient members from each core group - TSP, MNO, ISP (All Categories) and Content Providers (Large and Small). There should additionally be a larger committee that includes two or more members from all groups including Consumer Forums, Network OEM, Research, Academic and Technical Community to represent the overall MSB. The larger committee may formulate its recommendations to the Advisory Council which may then share its final advice (based on the committee's inputs) to the DoT. MSB would need to advise DoT so that DoT can ensure that TMPs follow the principles of transparency, non-discrimination, proportionality, reasonableness and transiency in the manner in which these are designed and implement by access providers

**Q5. Whether entry fee, recurring fee etc for membership need to be uniform for all members or these may be on the basis of different type or category of membership? What may be these categories? What policy may be adopted for initial set up of Multi-stakeholder Body. Please suggest with justification.**

**TCL Response:**

Entry fee, recurring fee etc for membership needs to be uniform for all members and should be reasonable. Sponsorship and voluntary donations should be strictly not allowed to ensure that there is no conflict of interest.

**Q6. What mechanism may be prescribed to determine fee and other contributions from its members towards expenditure in a fair and non-discriminatory manner? Please suggest with justification.**

**TCL Response:**

A reasonable and uniform fee for all members regardless of size / position in the industry is strongly recommended. Voluntary donations and/or sponsorships should be strictly not allowed to ensure that there is no conflict of interest.

**Q7. What should be the guiding principles and structure of governance of Multi-stakeholder Body? What may be the roles and responsibilities of persons at different positions such as chairing the organisation or working groups, governing the functioning, steering the work etc. Please suggest with justification.**

**TCL Response:**

Please refer to the answers provided for Q4, Q5 and Q6.

**Q8. Any other issues which is relevant to this subject?**

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