International Conference of Telecom Regulators
EMERGING TRENDS IN REGULATION
16.10.2024

<u>Concept Note</u>

An International Telecom Regulators Conference will be organized in New Delhi on the 16th October, 2024 on the sidelines of ITU WTSA 2024 and India Mobile Congress (IMC-24). This International conference will have participation from Regulatory bodies from across the world who will deliberate and share best practices on the following topics :

i)   REGULATORY PERSPECTIVE IN STANDARDIZATION

International ICT standards-based products offer economies of scale and can reduce costs for all stakeholders, i.e., manufacturers, service providers, and consumers. Global Standard Development Organizations (SDOs) like ITU-T, 3GPP, IEEE, etc. play an important role in aligning, bridging, and balancing the stakeholders' interests. The standardization activities in SDOs are primarily driven by the contributions from the stakeholders. The representation of regulators during the standardization lifecycle may provide an effective approach for meeting regulatory challenges while protecting consumer interests. From a regulatory perspective, standardization of minimum performance requirements against identified parameters in each network segment may provide an objective view to ensure end-to-end Quality of Service (QoS). Following are the tentative sub themes to be deliberated in this session:

- Regulator's role in standard development- present and future
- Standards as a tool for Regulators- challenges and opportunities
- QoS by Design- Standardization perspective
- Consumer centric approach in standardization
- Any other relevant aspect suggested by the experts.

ii)   REGULATORY ASPECTS OF NON-TERRESTRIAL NETWORKS (NTN)

Non-terrestrial networks (NTN) are networks or segments of networks that use either satellites in different constellations or aerial platforms. WRC-23 has identified 2 GHz for NTN operations. WRC also recognized that this technology offers a new platform to provide mobile broadband with minimal infrastructure using the same frequencies and devices as IMT mobile networks and can contribute to bridging the digital divide in remote and rural areas and maintain connectivity during disasters. Regulators around the world are in the process of formulating regulatory frameworks for NTN. In the regulators' conference, we intend to deliberate on the pertinent aspects of NTNs. The conference will deliberate on aspects of NTNs with an objective to gather insight on the following elements:

- Emerging technological developments for terrestrial IMT-NTN integration.
- Deployment models, use-cases and applications
- Standardization initiatives and associated challenges
- Spectrum related issues
- Security, including cross-border, and privacy concerns in NTN environment
- Regulatory Framework initiatives and regulatory challenges
- Economic and Social impact through NTN
- Possibilities and benefits of cross-sectoral collaborations.

- Experience sharing by different regulators and other stakeholders.

iii)   THE REGULATORY OUTLOOK OF OTT COMMUNICATION SERVICES

Globally, regulators face a tightrope walk for regulating OTT communication services. Providers of OTT communication services often operate under different rules compared to the traditional telecom operators, raising concerns about fair competition. Often, the regulators are faced with the issues related to consumer protection, law enforcement and national security in case of OTT communication services in their respective countries. Sooner or later, regulators will have to develop frameworks that effectively address these concerns. Fostering innovation in the OTT communication space while ensuring proper regulations to prevent misuse is crucial. Overly stringent regulations could stifle innovation, while lax regulations could lead to consumer harm and pose a threat to the law and order, and national security. The regulators' conference presents an opportunity for brainstorming onto the issues such as the need for regulating OTT communication services (and the manner of regulation), and find solutions which encourage innovations in OTT communication space and protect the reasonable interests of consumers, businesses and nations.

The sessions at this conference will be addressed by eminent international speakers and technical experts from international multilateral bodies such as ITU, GSMA and regulators of telecom sector.

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