



# नूतन संकल्प फाउन्डेशन

Ref. No. NSP/06/2019

Date:.....

Date: 30/09/2019

Place: New Delhi

To

The Chairman,  
Telecom Regulatory Authority of India, Government of India  
MahanagarDoorsancharBhawan Next To ZakirHussain College,  
Jawaharlal Nehru Marg,  
New Delhi - 110002

**Sub: Suggestions on Review of Interconnection Usage Charge Regime Reg-1119**

Respected Sir,

We would like to bring to your kind notice that recently the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has issued a discussion paper on deferring the implementation of the zero-interconnect usage charges (IUC) regime that was slated to kick in from January 2020 on the ground that consumers are yet to migrate completely to data calls and that the imbalance in voice traffic between operators still exists.

As is learnt, at present, interconnect charge is paid by the call-originating telecom operator to the destination operator. But under the proposed BAK system, which is planned to take effect from January 2020, the call-originating telco, which also bills the user, would keep the money, thus making it a zero-IUC regime.

TRAI had sought stakeholder views on the need to "revise the applicable January 2020 date for implementing the BAK (bill and keep) or zero-termination charge regime.

As we understand the implementation of the Bill & Keep regime by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) will help more in making services more affordable for Indian customers than again going back to Interconnection User Charge regime.

The TRAI earlier had slashed mobile termination charges to 6 paise from 14 paise effective from October 1, 2017. The regulator was supposed to phase out IUC regime from January 1, 2020. The TRAI also assured that further, the cost of termination of calls will drastically come down over a period of two years and very small residual value, if any, can be absorbed by the TSPs in their tariff offerings. As a result, the TRAI prescribed a Bill and Keep regime for the wireless to wireless calls effective from January 1, 2020.

The Bill and Keep Regime should have been implemented in 2014 as envisaged in the 2011 Report submitted by TRAI to the Hon'ble Supreme Court. Any decision to bring a change in the policy will lead to violation of Supreme Court judgment and affect the pockets of the

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