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| **The Meeting of the SATRC Working Group on**  **Policy, Regulation and Services** | **SAPVIII-PRS1/ OUT-01** |
| 25 – 26 May 2022, Dhaka, Bangladesh | 26 May 2022 |

Working Group on Policy, Regulation and Services

**WORK PLAN OF THE SATRC WORKING GROUP ON POLICY, REGULATION AND SERVICES FOR SATRC ACATION PLAN PHASE VIII**

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| **Work Item** | **Development of enabling Policy and Regulatory Environments, in the context of SATRC, to embrace the new Ecosystem brought by 5G** |
| **Lead Expert** | TRAI (Ms. Vibha Tomar) |
| **Proposed by** | APT Secretariat |
| **Responsible Working Group** | Working Group on Policy, Regulation and Services |
| **Output** | Report |
| **Background and Purpose** | The overall objective of the Strategic Plan of the APT for 2021-2023 is to accelerate the digital transformation of the economy and society in the Asia-Pacific region. Enabling conducive environments and harnessing the benefits of telecommunication/ICT is necessary to achieve the objective of digital transformation.  According to studies, 5G is expected to enable significant economic and social value by improving economic growth, enhancing citizen’s life experiences and creating new business opportunities for many industries embarking on their digital transformations. 5G provides several potential use cases across industry verticals and will cater to diverse service requirements. It is also suggested that 5G deployment may help the countries to meet sustainable development goals in areas of high societal impact like manufacturing, agriculture, energy, education, healthcare, transport, public security and banking.  Adoption of anticipated use cases and management of 5G ecosystem would require coordinated efforts with cross-sectoral involvement. Development in enabling policy and regulatory environments is the key to foster an open and competitive economy in this new ecosystem brought by 5G. The main purpose of this work item is to identify such enabling policy and regulatory approaches in the context of SATRC. |
| **Scope** | Regulators need to support and facilitate the proliferation of new services and new use cases. There is a need to remove regulatory barriers and align on various aspects such as standards, technology, spectrum, security and RoW for timely roll out of the services and further growth.  The scope of this report is to explore the possible policy and regulatory framework in areas such as:   * **Spectrum** * Roadmap * Allocation * Sharing * Harmonization * **Rollout Readiness** * Fiber Backhaul/ Microwave Backhaul * Infrastructure readiness * Cross-sector infrastructure sharing * Access to site locations * **Pro-active tasks** * 5G testbeds * Identification of 5G use cases and developing roadmaps for their phased launch (current, short term and long term) * Enabling adoption of the use cases in vertical industries (Institutional mechanism) * **Other regulatory aspects** * Engagement with international standardization process * Privacy and security of data and device * Addressing Digital divide * Formulating measures to increase 5G coverage * Experimentations and investment in R&D * Cross sector collaboration   To harness full benefits of 5G innovation, regulation must be aligned with value creation and security. |
| **How the output will be beneficial for SATRC Members** | The outcome of this work item will act as a good reference for SATRC Member countries to take necessary policy and regulatory approach to embrace the new ecosystem brought by 5G. |
| **Time Frame** | * Drafting the questionnaire by lead experts (May 2022) * Circulation of the questionnaire to WG experts (June 2022) * Response to the questionnaires (August 2022) * Development of the interim Report (November 2022) * Discussion on the interim report and comments by experts (February 2023) * Update of the interim report and development of the first draft of the final Report (March / April 2023) * Consideration of the first draft of the final Report at the 2nd Meeting of the WG (July 2023) * Consideration of the second draft of the final Report (August 2023) * Draft final report (August 2023) |
| **Utilization of Output** | Regulators, Governments, Industry Stakeholders. |

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| **Work Item** | **Telecom Active Infrastructure Sharing** |
| **Lead Expert** | PTA (Ms. Huma Abid) |
| **Proposed by** | Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) |
| **Responsible Working Group** | Working Group on Policy, Regulation and Services |
| **Output** | Report |
| **Background and Purpose** | The objective of this work item is to produce an analytical report for the regulators and telecom industry as a whole within the SATRC countries to adopt effective strategies and policies for Telecom Active Infrastructure Sharing including the achievement of the following goals:   * Optimize the operational expense (OPEX) and improve capital cost (CAPEX) efficiencies of Telecom Operators, * To help achieve higher economies of scale, * To avoid duplication of active infrastructure including telecom equipment and effort * To increase the speed of telecom network deployment and services coverage area, which would facilitate the network coverage obligations. * It shall result into environmental benefits, especially in case of upcoming 5G networks. |
| **Scope** | The scope of this work item is to provide an analysis and regulatory mechanism for the Telecom Infrastructure contained in the Active layer of network, including but not limited to the following:   * MORAN Sharing * MOCN Sharing * Radio Spectrum Backhaul Sharing * Dispute Resolution Mechanism * Price Benchmarking * Regulatory Tools to Address and Facilitate Commercial Partnerships * Incentives to Encourage Sharing * Benefits of Sharing * Risks, Challenges and Limitations of Sharing * Infrastructure Database/ Atlas sharing among Operators and Regulators. * Regulatory Intervention Scenarios Depending Upon Governance/ Operation models   The report may include the initial study on international best practices, regulatory trends and may cover all the elements being touched by different countries to enable the active infrastructure sharing. |
| **How the output will be beneficial for SATRC Members** | The output will provide policy and regulatory recommendations to stakeholders in SATRC countries enabling a model to deal with regulatory and compliance aspects involved in active infrastructure sharing. |
| **Time Frame** | * Drafting the questionnaire by lead experts (May 2022) * Circulation of the questionnaire to WG experts (June 2022) * Response to the questionnaires (August 2022) * Development of the interim Report (November 2022) * Discussion on the interim report and comments by experts (February 2023) * Update of the interim report and development of the first draft of the final Report (March / April 2023) * Consideration of the first draft of the final Report at the 2nd Meeting of the WG (July 2023) * Consideration of the second draft of the final Report (August 2023) * Draft final report (August 2023) |
| **Utilization of Output** | Regulators, Governments, Industry Stakeholders. |

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| **Work Item** | Regulatory Issues related to OTT Services and Applications |
| **Lead Expert** | BTRC (Dr. Shamsuzzoha) |
| **Proposed by** | Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)  Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) |
| **Responsible Working Group** | Working Group on Policy, Regulation and Services |
| **Output** | Report |
| **Background and Purpose** | The innovation and technological advancements have brought in many new services in the ICT sector. Over the Top (OTT) services are such services aided by the advancement in IP networks. However, there are some regulatory concerns across countries regarding regulatory compliance and impact of the OTT services. The licensed Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) have raised some objections as they feel and experience the adverse impact of OTT services on their network due to increased data traffic and possibility of revenue loss. Also, a new regulatory framework is required to be developed for addressing the compliance of these OTT with national laws and regulation, including competition and investment issues. Different regulatory approaches are being adopted by various regulators with respect to OTT services.  Under these circumstances, the purpose of this work item is to-  - Analyze and identify the regulatory issues related to OTT service and applications  - Identify the impact of these OTT services, specially the revenue impact, on incumbent telecom network and services  - Study current status of OTT services and their regulatory framework in SATRC countries  - Analyze the regulatory trend around the world to address the impact of OTT services.  - Suggest way forward for SATRC countries to better accommodate OTT service. |
| **Scope** | This work item may assess the followings including but not limited to-   1. Usage and status of OTT service in SATRC countries. 2. Analyzing the impact of OTT services on incumbent network and services. 3. Regulatory measures, plans and strategy regarding OTT applications in SATRC and other regions. 4. Modus operandi of international OTTs in local markets in SATRC. 5. Revenue, tax and investment contribution of the OTTs. 6. Existing and future collaborative mechanism between OTTs and MNOs. 7. Current and future OTT regulatory trends, including regional case studies in SATRC countries.   Based on the analysis of established literatures and expert contributions from SATRC members, a high-level recommendation would be prepared as a way forward for SATRC countries. |
| **How the output will be beneficial for SATRC Members** | These issues will help SATRC members to take a view on the regulatory framework required for emerging OTT applications. It will provide recommendations to stakeholders in OTT value chain including telecom service providers and will provide insight into regulatory aspects including as consumer related issues (data protection, security, compliance etc.). |
| **Time Frame** | * Drafting the questionnaire by lead experts (May 2022) * Circulation of the questionnaire to WG experts (June 2022) * Response to the questionnaires (August 2022) * Development of the interim Report (November 2022) * Discussion on the interim report and comments by experts (February 2023) * Update of the interim report and development of the first draft of the final Report (March / April 2023) * Consideration of the first draft of the final Report at the 2nd Meeting of the WG (July 2023) * Consideration of the second draft of the final Report (August 2023) * Draft final report (August 2023) |
| **Utilization of Output** | Regulators, Industry Stakeholders. |