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| **The Meeting of the SATRC Working Group on**  **Policy, Regulation and Services** | **SAPVIII-PRS1/ OUT-05** |
| 25 – 26 May 2022, Dhaka, Bangladesh | 26 May 2022 |

Chair, SATRC Working Group on Policy, Regulation and Services

**summary of the FIRST meeting of SATRC Working group on policy, regulation and services**

1. **Introduction**

The 1st Meeting of the SATRC Working Group on Policy Regulation and Services for Action Plan Phase VIII was held from 25 to 26 May 2022 in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The meeting was hosted by the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC).

The Meeting was attended by participants representing 9 SATRC countries and 5 Affiliate Members of APT.

1. **OPENING:** *(10:00 – 10:30 hrs., 25 May 2022)*

Mr. Tawhid Hussain, Project Coordinator, Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT) delivered remarks on behalf of APT. Mr. Mudassar Naveed, Chair of SATRC Working Group of Policy, Regulation and Services delivered remarks on behalf of the Working Group. Mr. Shyam Sunder Sikder, Chairman, Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission delivered the inaugural address.

Opening ceremony was concluded followed by the group photograph.

1. **SESSION 1:** *(10:45 – 11:15 hrs., 25 May 2022)*

**SATRC Action Plan Phase VIII**

The session started with adoption of the Agenda and Programme of the meeting. Mr. Tawhid Hussain, Project Coordinator, APT, delivered a presentation about overview of the Strategic Plan of APT for 2021-2023, outcomes of the 22nd meeting of SATRC (SATRC-22) and Overview of the SATRC Action Plan Phase VIII (SAP-VIII).

The Chair briefed about the details of two (2) e-Meetings and progress made so far. He discussed in detail about the background, purpose and scope of each of the three (3) Work Items. Specific expert nominations were solicited for the role of supporting rapporteurs against these work items. It was re-emphasized that by end of the meeting, the work plan and questionnaires for each work item need to be finalized.

It was suggested that scope of each work item must be strictly adhered to. The outcome document should be comprehensive. It may include current practices, best practices and suggestions for concrete steps to be taken as way forward so that member countries may benefit from it.

**4. SESSION 2:** *(11:15 – 12:30 hrs., 25 May 2022)*

**Discussion on Work Item *(Development of enabling policy and regulatory environments, in the context of SATRC, to embrace the new ecosystem brought by 5G)***

The delegates from following Administrations/Organization presented on Work Item 1:

Mr. Devendra Dwivedi, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) delivered presentation on Development of enabling policy and regulatory environments, in the context of SATRC, to embrace the new ecosystem brought by 5G. They emphasized on the following:

* Challenges of spectrum roadmap, allocation, sharing and harmonization
* Fiber backhauls, infrastructure, access to site locations
* 5G testbeds, identification of 5G use cases, enabling adoption of use cases
* Data privacy, information and device security, addressing the digital divide, experimentations and R&D
* Cross sector collaboration

Mr. Abdulla Shiham Adam, Communication Authority of Maldives (CAM) delivered presentation on Development of enabling policy and regulatory environments, in the context of SATRC, to embrace the new ecosystem brought by 5G. They emphasized on the following:

* Interference to extended C- band
* Mobile coverage solutions
* Radiation issues

Mr. Binod Chanda Shrestha, Nepal Telecommunications Authority (NTA) presented a paper on ‘5G and Nepal’s Preparation’. They emphasized on the following:

* Feasibility study of 5G in Nepal
* Allocation of Spectrum for 5G in 2600 MHz band
* Conducted research on interference due to frequency allocation for new technologies such as 5G and Short-Range Device (SRD)

Master Action Plan for implementation and promotion of 5G in vertical sectors

Ms. Tharalika Livera, Telecommunications Regulatory Commission of Sri Lanka (TRCSL) shared insights and experiences where she emphasized on the following:

* Policies and standards for spectrum allocation, harmonizing, pricing and sharing
* Fragmentation during allocation
* Knowledge sharing platform

Mr. Firdaus Fadzil, Axiata Group Berhad delivered presentation on ‘Neutral host InfraCo and its expanding roles in 5G ecosystem’. They emphasized on the following:

* 5G unfolds new opportunities for neutral host InfraCos to offer new suites of services by aggregating hardware and enabling data-driven solutions
* Multiple technologies and infra innovation are being seamlessly integrated to enable 5G (standalone) to power up various industrial use cases
* Most South-Asia economies have lower TowerCo penetration, but market structure is changing given the needs to satisfy various sectoral and digital policy objectives
* Neutral host TowerCo business model is going beyond profit and could make significant impact under conducive policy setting
* Four areas (densification, permitting fees, licensing and efficient site approval process) of policy and regulatory reform will ensure deployment of a more pervasive and resilient network infrastructure.

**5. SESSION 3:** *(14:00 – 15:30 hrs., 25 May 2022)*

**Discussion on Work Item *(Development of enabling policy and regulatory environments, in the context of SATRC, to embrace the new ecosystem brought by 5G)***

**Appointment of the Lead Expert for Work Item-1**

The Chair proposed the name of Ms. Vibha Tomar, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) as the Lead Expert Work Item-1. There was no comment from the meeting. Hence, Ms. Vibha Tomar, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) was appointed as the Lead Expert of Work Item 1.

**Discussion on the Work Plan of Work Item-1**

Mr. Devendra Dwivedi, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) presented the draft Work Plan of the Work Item-1. After detailed discussion, the Work Plan of the Work Item-1 was finalized.

**Discussion on the Questionnaire of Work Item 1**

Mr. Devendra Dwivedi, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) presented the proposed Questionnaires of the Work Item-1. After detailed discussion, fifteen (15) questions were included in the questionnaire on Work Item-1.

**6. SESSION 4:** *(15:45 – 17:00 hrs., 25 May 2022)*

**Discussion on Work Item *(Telecom active infrastructure sharing)***

The delegates from following Administrations/Organization presented on Work Item 2:

Mr. Khalid Wazir, Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) delivered presentation on ‘Telecom active infrastructure sharing’. They emphasized on the following:

* Dimensions of infrastructure sharing
* Infrastructure sharing models
* Different kinds of active infrastructure sharing
* Necessity to share network
* Regulatory measures to encourage sharing

Mr. Binod Chandra Shrestha, Nepal Telecommunications Authority (NTA) presented a paper on ‘Status of Telecommunication Infrastructure Sharing in Nepal’. They emphasized on the following:

* Current status of telecom services in Nepal
* Regulatory provisions for telecom infrastructure sharing in Nepal

Mr. Taimur Rahman, Banglalink Digital Communications Limited delivered presentation on ‘Active sharing : Bangladesh scenario’. They emphasized on the following:

* The traditional model of single ownership of all the physical network elements is not an efficient solution anymore
* Cellular infrastructure sharing – Active and passive
* Globally many of the countries are opting in active sharing for network efficiency
* Currently status of infrastructure sharing in Bangladesh
* Bangladesh being densely populated, requires sharing of IBS for adequate indoor coverage
* Sharing of active network elements could bring substantial benefits in all layers of telecom landscape
* Immediate measures will help the industry to grow

After this session, the meeting was adjourned for the day. Welcome Dinner was hosted by the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission.

**7. SESSION 5:** *(9:30 – 11:00 hrs., 26 May 2022)*

**Discussion on Work Item *(Telecom Active infrastructure sharing)***

**Appointment of the Lead Expert for Work Item-2**

The Chair proposed the name of Ms. Huma Abid, Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) as the Lead Expert Work Item-2. There was no comment from the meeting. Hence, Ms. Huma Abid, Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) was appointed as the Lead Expert of Work Item 2.

**Discussion on the Work Plan of Work Item-2**

Mr. Khalid Wazir, Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) presented the draft Work Plan of the Work Item-2. After detailed discussion, the Work Plan of the Work Item-2 was finalized.

**Discussion on the Questionnaire of Work Item 2**

Mr. Khalid Wazir, Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) and Mr. Binod Chandra Shrestha, Nepal Telecommunications Authority (NTA) presented the proposed Questionnaires of the Work Item-2 prepared by them. After detailed discussion, nine (9) questions were included in the questionnaire on Work Item-2.

**8. SESSION 6:** *(11:15 – 12:30 hrs., 26 May 2022)*

**Discussion on Work Item *(Regulatory issues related to OTT services and applications)***

The delegates from following Administrations presented on Work Item 3:

Dr. Shamsuzzoha, Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) delivered presentation on ‘Regulatory Issues related to OTT Services and Applications’. They emphasized on the following:

* Definition of OTT
* Creation of OTT services
* Impact of OTT Services
* Relationship between OTTs and MNOs
* Socio-economic impact of OTT
* Regulatory issues of OTT
* ITU Recommendation on collaborative framework for OTTs
* Considerations and measures to be taken into account by the Regulators/Policymakers

Mr. Tashi Tenzin, Bhutan InfoComm and Media Authority (BICMA) delivered presentation on ‘OTT regulation in Bhutan’. They emphasized on the following:

* Licensed OTT platforms in Bhutan
* OTT messaging app in Bhutan
* Areas regulated by BICMA
* Issues with OTT platforms
* Way forward for OTT in Bhutan

Mr. Farzaneh Shahjooei, Communication Regulatory Authority (CRA) of Islamic Republic of Iran delivered presentation on ‘OTT regulatory approaches’. They emphasized on the following:

* Regulations for different types of OTTs
* Business model of OTTs
* Business model of MNOs
* Partnership between MNOs and OTTs
* Regulatory imbalances
* Examples of national and international OTTs
* Imaginary approaches towards OTT services

Mr. Rewoti Ram Pantha, Nepal Telecommunications Authority (NTA) presented a paper on ‘Regulatory Issues related to OTT Services and Applications’. They emphasized on the following:

* OTT services and applications
* Advantages and disadvantages of OTT services
* Current regulatory imbalance
* Impacts of OTT services and applications
* OTT management implications

Ms. Tharalika Livera, Telecommunications Regulatory Commission of Sri Lanka (TRCSL) shared insights and experiences where she emphasized on the following:

* Customer perspective of OTT Services
* Interoperability issues
* Social impacts of OTT services
* Security and privacy aspects
* Local content and network regulation

**9. SESSION 7:** *(14:00 – 15:30 hrs., 26 May 2022)*

**Discussion on Work Item *(Regulatory issues related to OTT services and applications)***

**Appointment of the Lead Expert for Work Item-3**

The Chair proposed the name of Dr. Shamsuzzoha, Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) as the Lead Expert Work Item-3. There was no comment from the meeting. Hence, Dr. Shamsuzzoha, Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) was appointed as the Lead Expert of Work Item 3.

**Discussion on the Work Plan of Work Item-3**

Dr. Shamsuzzoha, Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) presented the draft Work Plan of the Work Item-3. After detailed discussion, the Work Plan of the Work Item-3 was finalized.

**Discussion on the Questionnaire of Work Item 3**

Dr. Shamsuzzoha, Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) presented the proposed Questionnaires of the Work Item-3. After detailed discussion, seven (7) questions were included in the questionnaire on Work Item-3.

**10. SESSION 8:** *(15:45 – 16:30 hrs., 26 May 2022)*

**Finalization of outcome and conclusions**

In the final session, the timelines for the submission of responses to questionnaire and completion of reports were discussed. Following timelines were agreed:

* 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)

After reviewing the Work Plans and Questionnaires of the Work Items, the following output documents were finalized by the meeting:

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| [SAPVIII-WGPRS1/OUT-01](https://www.apt.int/sites/default/files/2022/06/SAPVIII-WGPRS1-OUT-01_Work_Plan_of_SATRC_WG_PRS_for_SAP-VIII.docx) | Work Plan of the SATRC WG Policy, Regulation and Services |
| [SAPVIII-WGPRS1/OUT-02](https://www.apt.int/sites/default/files/2022/06/SAPVIII-WGPRS1-OUT-02_Questionnaire_on_Development_of_Enabling_Policy_and_Regulatory_Environments_to_Embrace_the_Ecosystem.docx) | Questionnaire on Development of Enabling Policy and Regulatory Environments, in the Contexts of SATRC, to Embrace the New Ecosystem Brought by 5G |
| [SAPVIII-WGPRS1/OUT-03](https://www.apt.int/sites/default/files/2022/06/SAPVIII-WGPRS1-OUT-03_Questionnaire_on_Telecom_Active_Infrastructure_Sharing.docx) | Questionnaire on Telecom Active Infrastructure Sharing |
| [SAPVIII-WGPRS1/OUT-04](https://www.apt.int/sites/default/files/2022/06/SAPVIII-WGPRS1-OUT-04_Questionnaire_on_Regulatory_Issues_related_to_OTT_Services_and_Applications.docx) | Questionnaire on Regulatory issues related to OTT Services and Applications |

**11. CLOSING** *(16:30 – 16:45 hrs., 26 May 2022)*

Since there was not any other proposal by the experts, the meeting concluded with the closing remarks by Mr. Tawhid Hussain, Project Coordinator of APT, Mr. Subrata Roy Maitra, Vice-Chairman of BTRC and Mr. Mudassar Naveed, Chair of SATRC WG PRS.

The Chair requested all the participants to share their individual experiences. Everyone seemed to have enjoyed their stay in Dhaka and the hospitality extended by the efficient team from BTRC.

The Chair thanked all the Working Group experts and other participants for their active participation and declared the meeting closed.

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