



**THE SUBREGIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION MINISTERIAL
FORUM
For Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and VietNam**

COMMUNIQUE on

“Towards an ICT-strengthened and connected CLMV Sub-region”

The Subregional Telecommunication Ministerial Forum for Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and VietNam: *“Towards an ICT- strengthened and connected CLMV Sub-region* organized by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and kindly hosted by the Ministry of Information and Communications of the Socialist Republic of VietNam took place on 11-12 December 2009 in Nha Trang, VietNam. The Forum included representation from the government and business sector from the CLMV countries and subregional and global development partners.

Ministers noted the objective of the Forum was to establish an enabling environment that would facilitate the achievement of an ICT-strengthened and connected CLMV subregion. Ministers also noted the Forum provided CLMV countries, stakeholders and partners with a platform to stimulate ICT investments through partnership projects, initiatives and commitments.

Ministers thanked the Ministry of Information and Communications of the Socialist Republic of VietNam for kindly hosting the event, the

International Telecommunication Union for organizing the event as well as other development partners¹ for their support.

Ministers confirmed that the past Subregional Telecommunication Meetings organized by the ITU for more than a decade had brought benefits to CLMV countries and had found this particular Subregional Telecommunication Ministerial Forum most relevant .

Ministerial Communiqué

We, the representatives of the Countries of Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and VietNam:

Recalling 2015 Millennium Development Goal 8f of making available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communication technologies to all in cooperation with the private sector;

Acknowledging the need for a strategic approach to the development and use of these technologies that recognises the important role of the private sector and the value of continued cooperation at the subregional level;

Reflecting on the challenges faced by CLMV as a sub-region and as individual countries and their reconfirmation of continued efforts to translate these challenges into opportunities to further ICT development in a way that will benefit all;

The Forum considered four broad themes:

ICT, ONLINE SECURITY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

We:

Are aware that the use of ICT globally has become more widespread and that the risks and dangers associated with its use have also

¹ Government of Australia, IMPACT, Nokia Siemens Networks, The World Bank, Viettel Corporation and the VietNam Posts and Telecommunications Group

similarly increased, thus requiring the enhancement of the national cybersecurity readiness;

Recognise that there are a number of cybersecurity-related initiatives at the regional and international levels that may offer opportunities for CLMV countries in related awareness-raising and capacity building, the elaboration of national cybersecurity frameworks, and facilitating cooperation and coordination to address the trans-national nature of cybercrime;

Encourage CLMV countries to actively participate in regional and global cybersecurity initiatives.

Recognize the critical role ICTs can play in preventing and averting climate change notably through monitoring, mitigation, adaptation and early warning systems;

Call on CLMV countries to introduce initiatives that demonstrate that ICTs part of the solution to adapt and mitigate climate change and that governments can lead the way;

ENABLING ENVIRONMENT: POLICY, REGULATORY AND FINANCIAL FRAMEWORKS

We:

Recognize the importance of an enabling environment in the form of effective policy, legal and regulatory frameworks as the foundation of a successful national ICT development effort;

Acknowledge the benefits that competition in the telecommunication market has brought to the sub-region;

Are aware that such enabling frameworks will provide clear, predicable and stable directions not only to investors but also to government agencies, ICT service providers and consumers;

Encourage CLMV countries to continue introducing and implementing enabling reforms on existing policy, legislative and regulatory

frameworks to promote intra-subregional interconnection, embrace convergence, promote innovation and attract investment;

INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING AND HUMAN CAPACITY BUILDING

We:

Reiterate that the establishment of an effective institutional framework with clear lines of responsibility and reporting is an essential prerequisite for any government led national effort to ensure ICT development and that a sound legal basis for the establishment of the institution and a clear mandate, in terms of powers, functions and duties, for each institution is required when making institutional changes in order to ensure legitimacy and to minimize overlaps and/or gaps in jurisdiction;

Recognize that skilled staff are key to the well-functioning of the telecommunication policy and regulatory bodies and that building of human capacity is a high priority;

Welcome the increasing number of human capacity building initiatives available to the sub-region, and calls on CLMV countries to follow-on and practice knowledge and skills transferred, as appropriate;

Call on the ITU, in collaboration with its development partners, to develop programmes for the CLMV subregion that would focus on capacity building on ICT, particularly on Public ICT Management.

PROMOTING PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

We:

Appreciate the efforts of the ITU in implementing focused actions that address the needs of the sub-region and individual CLMV countries;

Welcome the announcement of development partners of their intention to launch CLMV-specific initiatives;

Call for continued, if not increased, cooperation amongst all stakeholders in CLMV at the subregional and national levels for concerted efforts in achieving an ICT-strengthened and connected CLMV subregion;

Call on parties involved to initiate detailed discussions to plan and implement initiatives announced at this Ministerial Forum.

Finally, we:

Call on the ITU to organize Subregional Telecommunication Ministerial Forum for CLMV in the future with a focus on capacity building, public private partnership (PPP), and enabling policy and regulatory frameworks;

Further call on the ITU to lead in coordinating and implementing follow-on actions on the resolves and calls of this Communiqué.
