

AREGNET Talking Points for the Regulatory Associations Meeting Prior
to the Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR)
1st of October 2012
Sri Lanka

1. Brief about Establishment and Objectives of AREGNET:

- Egypt is this year's AREGNET Chair, while Lebanon and Morocco are the Vice-Chair.
- AREGNET was established in mid 2003 in Algeria.
- Algeria is the Permanent Secretariat for the AREGNET.
- All Arab countries' telecom regulators are members of AREGNET, and membership is open for telecom ministries when the regulatory body does not exist.
- The main objectives of AREGNET are to share expertise, know-how, and success stories between Arab countries, discuss possible regulatory challenges, and finally attempt to approximate Arab telecom regulatory frameworks whenever possible.

2. Current Status and Future Prospects of AREGNET:

- AREGNET is working on many topics and projects:
 - AREGNET strategic plan:
 - The draft of the strategic plan was written by the Lebanese regulator in 2011 and revised by AREGNET members. The final strategic plan should be approved in the next annual meeting in Morocco in 2013.
 - Telecom law:
 - AREGNET requested the ITU Arab Regional Office to prepare a draft for a regional telecom law. The draft law includes best practices of telecom laws and some outlines of telecom regulations. The draft law was circulated among all AREGNET members for study and to give their feedback to be approved in the next annual meeting.
 - Cloud computing:
 - This topic was suggested by the Lebanese regulator to be studied by the AREGNET in 2011. AREGNET created a working group to study the best practices to draft a regulation framework. AREGNET aims to build a pilot Arab cloud to work on in order to test and study the privacy, security and other regulation areas.

- The role of telecom in emergency situations:
 - UAE has a national telecom plan to be implemented in emergency situations. Some Arab countries have national plans and others don't. The objective of this project is to encourage national regulators to have a national plan and to make integration between those regulators.
- AREGNET website improvement : WWW.AREGNET.NET
- Customer protection across borders:
 - In many cases the customer faces problems and inconvenient calls, SMS or Emails across borders. When the customer calls their home company, they are unable to help them because the problem does not lie within their domain. This project was suggested by the Egyptian regulator, NTRA, to facilitate some procedures between Arab regulators to be able to solve such problems.
- National Broadband plans:
 - This project was proposed by the Egyptian regulator, NTRA, to encourage Arab countries to draft their national plans on Broadband. At the same time this project will give an opportunity to countries which already have a national plan to share their experience and knowledge.
- CERT Working Group:
 - The Egyptian regulator suggested to establish a working group to share experience between Arab Computer Emergency Respond Teams and maybe after awhile can be formulating to have an Arab-CERT.
- Cross-border type approval certificates:
 - Some Arab countries have labs and equipments to test telecom equipments before approving them to enter the market. In this project Egypt submitted a proposal to study the current situation in Arab countries, including the different rules in each country. It will then study the possibility of having cross-border approval certificates, which would enhance the trade and transfer of telecom equipments within the region.
- Detailed reports are published on the AREGNET website.

For any further information about any of AREGNET documents or activities, please visit AREGNET website at www.AREGNET.net, or contact our AREGNET focal point Eng. Ahmed Ahmed Sharafeldin on: aasharaf@tra.gov.eg, and/or AREGNET Permanent Secretariat Dr. Miloud Ameziane on: miloud.ameziane@gmail.com