

RECOMMENDATION ITU-D 2

Impact of the introduction and utilization of new technologies on the commercial and regulatory environment of telecommunications**Question 3/1: *Impact of the introduction and utilization of new services on the commercial and regulatory environment of telecommunications***

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Valletta, 1998),

recognizing

- a) the sovereign right of each Member State to regulate its telecommunications sector and the need to implement the instruments of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU);
- b) the importance of maintaining a fair and competitive telecommunication market and guaranteeing fair network access to all players on an equitable basis;
- c) the need for regulation in developing countries so as to ensure that new monopolies are not created,

noting

the report by the ITU-D Study Group 1 on Question 3/1 “Impact of the introduction and utilization of new technologies on the commercial and regulatory environment of telecommunications”,

noting also

- a) that the more important common features and characteristics of new telecommunication technologies and applications are portability, globality, and the ability to support the convergence of different media (multimedia);
- b) that some measures to regulate integration between operators and/or “content providers” may be required so as to ensure that old monopolies are not simply replaced by new ones,

considering

- a) that interactivity, intelligence in systems and global mobility (e.g., Global Mobile Personal Communications by Satellite – GMPCS) are features inherent in new technologies and applications that provide additional and enhanced capabilities for improved communication;
- b) that new technologies increase accessibility of communication;
- c) that certain systems are essential for services such as home-banking, home-shopping, telemedicine, etc., and that other services facilitate access to remote areas not currently served by existing terrestrial networks,

recommends that governments/regulators

- 1 ensure a fair and competitive telecommunication environment and prevent anti-competitive practices;
- 2 continue to study the regulatory implications of new technologies in order to maximize the benefits that these technologies can provide for the expansion and improvement of telecommunication services;
- 3 guarantee access to networks;
- 4 ensure that access costs are fair, non-discriminatory and cost-based.
