REGULATORY ASSOCIATIONS MEETING

11 May 2016, Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt

Chairman's Report

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The meeting was chaired by Dr. Hichem Besbes, EMERG chair and Chairman of INTT, Tunisia, in the presence of Mr. Brahima Sanou, Director, BDT, and Mr. Ebrahim El Haddad, Head of the ITU Regional Offices for Arab States, who thanked the Regulatory Associations (RA) for their active participation in this year's annual Regulatory Association Meeting organized during the Global Symposium of Regulators GSR-16.

BDT Director Mr. Sanou recognized the importance of such associations, reminding the associations of their unique role and position to make a difference. ITU, he noted, is a neutral platform where we can discuss cooperation and share information between various regulatory associations across different regions.

Mr. Sanou stressed that as we stand at the beginning of a collaborative connected digital environment, the role of Regulatory Associations has become more and more challenging, but also offers more opportunities. Affordable communications are key and International Mobile Roaming is a fundamental part of the discussion. Regional Regulatory Associations are key partners that can work with ITU and others in defining strategic guidelines and recommendations that can create an enabling environment for the international mobile roaming market.

This year, more than 40 participants from 12 Associations (APT, AREGNET, ARTAC, CRASA, EACO, EMERG, FRATEL, OCCUR, REGULATEL, SATRC, UEMOA, WATRA) attended the meeting.

The meeting involved two main sessions, being:

- Presentation of the main projects and activities of each Regulatory Association;
- International Mobile Roaming (IMR).

Interventions were made from all the Regulatory Associations providing information on activities and projects, and highlighting in particular activities of the different RAs on connectivity, infrastructure sharing, spectrum management as well as on International Mobile Roaming. RAs also shared their experiences on their experiences relating to the funding of their projects and activities. They also shared experiences on their training and information exchange programmes.

Ms. Sofie Maddens, Head of the ITU BDT Regulatory and Market Environment Division (RME) presented the LET'S ROAM THE WORLD Initiative launched by the BDT Director in 2015. Recognizing ITU as a neutral platform that can play an important role in carrying out research and in sharing information on

legal, technical, regulatory and economic IMR issues, participants at the last LET'S ROAM THE WORLD Dialogue held in Geneva in September 2015 agreed that continuing the Dialogue would be useful. The aim is to create the framework for the definition of building blocks for Strategic Best Practices Guidelines addressed to all stakeholders and to create a harmonized enabling environment for IMR. IMR Round-Tables including ITU Members including regulators, policy makers, will be organized to continue the Dialogue, and Regulatory Associations in particular are considered key partners in this effort.

ITU has started developing draft building blocks based on international best practices and publications, text and documents from regional and international IMR initiatives. The aim is to use and disseminate such building blocks as a basis for discussion to stakeholders actively involved in the regulation and provision of International Mobile Roaming services.

RAs recognized that all stakeholders would benefit from working together at the regional level or in bilateral/multi country agreements to consider structural measures in the IMR market

in addition to any price regulatory measures, to ensure transparency, and to permit NRAs to monitor development in the IMR markets including sharing of information. RAs thanked the BDT Director for developing this initiative and expressed their willingness to collaborate and to exchange information with ITU and between each other in the framework of the LET'S ROAM THE WORLD INITIATIVE.

Participants thanked the International Telecommunication Union for organizing a successful and fruitful meeting where many views and information were exchanged, providing all greater insight on key topics that are creating a global impact on the Telecommunication/ICT industry and the promotion of a collaborative working environment.

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