

Question 18/2: Strategy for migration of mobile networks to IMT-2000 and beyond

1 Statement of the situation

While it seems clear that the migration to third-generation networks will be universal over time, it will not progress evenly in all countries, in particular developing countries. ITU-D can play an important role in assisting Member States and Sector Members in developing countries with a smooth migration of their existing first- and second-generation networks into third generation and beyond, both technically and economically.

2 Question or issue proposed for study

Identify the economic impact and development aspects for such migration, with particular attention to cost affordability for the end-users, as well as identification of migration techniques taking into consideration the experience of developed countries and the special needs of developing countries (e.g. sparse population, low traffic density, propagation conditions, and the need for a low-cost national IMT-2000 network). Examine the possibility of using first and second generation mobile spectrum for IMT-2000 and beyond.

3 Expected output

A guideline for smooth migration, including system interoperability among third-generation technologies, with proper collection, analysis and periodic dissemination of relevant data from relevant groups within ITU and those outside (operator groups for mobile services, etc.).

4 Timing

The course of the next ITU-D study period with a mid-term guide by early 2004.

5 Proposers/sponsors

This Question has been requested by ITU-D Study Group 2 and developing countries.

6 Sources of input

1. Collection of related technical progress in both ITU-R and ITU-T.
2. The ITU handbook on IMT-2000 and beyond.
3. Visions of national and/or regional organizations in developed countries (e.g. ETSI, TTA, ARIB, etc.).
4. Experiences of smooth migration by administrations of developed and developing countries.
5. Relevant input from manufacturers.

7 Target audience

	Developed countries	Developing countries	LDCs
Telecom policy-makers	X	X	X
Telecom regulators	X	X	X
Service providers/operators)	-	X	X
Manufacturers	X	-	-

a) Target audience - Who specifically will use the output

Telecommunication operators, policy makers and regulators.

b) Proposed methods for the implementation of the results

Operators will directly implement the results of this work.

8 Proposed methods of handling the question or issue

a) How?

Within a **study group**:

A core group of voluntary and BDT experts should be established and tasked with the timely proposed outputs for consideration by the study group in its yearly meeting. The core group should be composed of mobile services experts, preferably from mobile operators and manufacturers, with geographical balance between developed and developing countries.

b) Why?

The Question output needs a multi-year period to achieve its objectives, being mainly based on future work progress achieved by ITU-R and ITU-T and those national and/or regional organizations concerned in developed countries.

9 Coordination

The proposed expert core group should take into consideration (and without duplication of activities):

- output from the study groups in ITU-T and Working Party 8/F of ITU-R;
- any regional study for such migration, especially by regional operator groups (e.g. ETNO, mobile operator groups, etc.);
- output from those involved in dual-mode operations for the mobile services (terrestrial and satellite modes).

10 Other relevant information

Data related to IMT-2000 licensing regimes.
