

## **Contribution from Telecommunications Authority of Turkey**

### **Regulatory Principles Deemed Essential by the Telecommunications Authority Of Turkey in Promoting Universal Access to Information and Communication Technologies**

The Turkish legal framework regarding telecommunications designates the Ministry of Transport as the policy-maker in defining the subject and scope of universal access upon receipt of affirmative opinion of the Telecommunications Authority. There are on-going studies towards replacing the applicable law with a new "Electronic Communications Law" that covers a wider description of "Universal Service/Access" and Universal Service Obligation which is not available in the existing law as well as cost calculation method of universal service and establishment of a funding mechanism to reimburse the costs incurred.

As an outcome of these studies, the role and tasks of the Authority concerning universal service/access will be redefined and the grounds for the secondary legislation to be issued by the Authority on universal service/access will be built.

Being still subject to approval, the draft new law gives the following regulatory principles for universal service under the heading of "Main Principles of Universal Service Policy":

- a) Making universal services accessible to everyone in the country independent from his/her geographical location,
- b) Provision of universal services at affordable prices considering the individual income level in the country,
- c) Taking necessary measures towards reasonable pricing and offering of technological choices that enable low income, disabled and other social groups to make use of such services,
- d) Provision of universal services at specified service quality standards,"