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| **Expert Group onInternational Telecommunication Regulations****Second meeting – Geneva, 13-15 September 2017** |  |
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**Contribution from Australia**

**Introduction**

Australia welcomes the opportunity to provide input to the second meeting of the Expert Group on the International Telecommunications Regulations (ITRs), and is appreciative of the contributions made and the discussion to date. We also take this opportunity to acknowledge the efforts of the Chair and Vice Chairs in focusing and delivering on the work of the Expert Group.

Australia is not a signatory to the Final Acts of the 2012 World Conference on International Telecommunications (WCIT-12), and is not aware of any concerns about the coexistence of the 1988 and 2012 ITRs.

When the ITRs were adopted in 1988 most telecommunications operators were state-owned enterprises and an international treaty was necessary to give private telecommunications carriers a baseline global framework that ensured interoperability and guaranteed revenue flow. Since then, the telecommunications landscape has evolved. The primary functions of the ITRs, such as establishing principles on the provision of international telecommunications and facilitating global interconnection and interoperability are now being achieved through other mechanisms. The adoption of appropriate policy frameworks, promotion of investment in infrastructure and competitive markets has aided the successful deployment and use of telecommunications and ICTs.

Australia is still of the view that the ITRs should remain focused on the interconnection of international telecommunication networks and should not encompass matters such as those relating to the internet.

Australia considers that embarking on a revision of the ITRs could detract valuable ITU and member resources from other priority areas such as implementing the outcomes of the upcoming World Telecommunications Development Conference (WTDC-17), progressing the Connect 2030 Agenda, supporting the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and implementing the outcomes of the ten year review of World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS+10) and associated action lines.

Australia is eager to ensure the Union and the membership are well positioned to progress the ITU’s work in promoting connectivity, access to infrastructure and building capacity to bridge the digital divide. We look forward to continuing to work with the membership and other organisations as appropriate to achieve these goals.

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