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| Proposal on the Review and Revision of the International Telecommunication Regulations (ITRs) | |

Introduction

For over 150 years, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) has played a major role in promoting the global telecommunication development, a role that no other international organization is capable of playing. We are confident that, in the future, ITU will continue to play its unique part to fulfil its historic mission.

At present, the International Telecommunication Regulations (ITRs), as one of the pillar instruments of ITU, is in a dilemma – half of the ITU Member States have signed the ITRs (2012 version) whereas the other half have not done so. We believe that all Member States and Sector Members of ITU need to join hands in facing this reality and seeking solutions to this problem. The status quo can be changed only when we put it in serious consideration. Should such a status quo be maintained, it would by no means contribute to ITU in fulfilling its purposes.

Requirements

With the booming of the global telecommunications/Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) services as well as the revolution of telecom infrastructure and network technologies, new services and applications hold great promise. For telecom operators, they are in urgent need of a framework instrument such as ITRs that responds to the current global telecom development so as to provide guidelines for ITU members in their practical telecom operations, thus greatly promoting the undertaking of global telecommunications/ICT worldwide.

Currently, telecom operators in various countries are faced with not only the mission for development, but also major challenges that have profound implications on development, such as telecommunication frauds, online crimes and expansion of the terrorist forces by terrorists who make use of the dissemination capabilities of the Internet. All these pose serious threats to the peace and security of many countries, and even the world at large.

To address problems of a global nature, each and every Member State needs to realize that, as part of the Community of Shared Future for Mankind, they need to make unswerving efforts to achieve the common global prosperity. In doing so, ITU Member States must strengthen coordination and cooperation among them through relentless efforts in finding solutions to the issues they are facing, with a view to the healthy development of telecommunications/ICTs.

Proposals

It is desirable that ITU carries out detailed studies on:

# 1 New trends in telecommunications

The world has witnessed a boom of the global telecommunications/ICT services as well as revolutionary advances in telecom infrastructure and network technologies when new services and applications hold great promise. ITU is expected to carry out studies on new challenges arising from recent developments in telecommunication and put in place by internationally-agreed consensus, a legal framework instrument that could provide guidelines to ITU Member States in their telecom’s business practice, thus greatly promoting the undertaking of global telecommunications/ICT worldwide.

For instance, OTT voice services embody severe network/information security vulnerabilities. Currently, it is not required for users to go through identity authentication before they can register and use such services, which will fail the traceability system in case of security breaches.

For example, in terms of market entry for new services, point-to-point communications provided by OTT services must satisfy operation qualifications, irrespective of what technologies having been used.

Basic telecommunication carriers bear universal service obligations. OTT service providers are also expected to bear, through some mechanism, such obligations to facilitate the provision of universal services.

# 2 Making new rules

It is desirable to consider revising the ITRs to include new elements, and to develop framework instruments so that governments, when regulating and making policies, could make reference to specific international telecommunication regulations.

# 3 Facilitate studies and reach consensus

Member States and Sector Members are invited and encouraged to initiate studies on the ITRs and to provide constructive advices and recommendations with a view to reaching consensus and jointly solving practical problems that have emerged in the development of global telecommunication/ICT.

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