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**Japan**

review of the 2012 international telecommunication regulations

**1 Legal analyses**

Regarding the scope of the ITRs, there is a huge divergence in views among Member States and it seems extremely difficult to reach a consensus, while Japan is of the view that the ITRs should remain focused on international telecommunication services offered to the public and should not be extended to domestic issues or to other communication-related services, infrastructure or networks, including issues related to the Internet. As everyone recognizes, telecommunications/ICT is a powerful and indispensable engine for sustainable economic growth and plays a significant role as a foundation of economic and social activities. In order to maximize those benefits, we need to build an enabling environment for accelerating operators’ business activity and fostering competition, instead of regulation.

Along with the rapid development of technologies, international telecommunications/ICT environments are drastically and rapidly evolving, and new trends/emerging issues (hereinafter referred to as new issues) are also ever-changing. As no one can predict how such new issues will develop in the future, it seems impossible to give a clear and precise definition of them.

Taking into account these facts, it is unfitting that continually changing new issues will be addressed by binding international instruments by making assumptions about how new issues will evolve. In addition, new issues cause a lack of stability to binding international instruments. Furthermore, setting an international legal framework to regulate new issues will make operators difficult to respond flexibly to rapidly evolving international environments, including technological change and emergence of new markets, and as a result decrease the potential of new business and technological innovation, which may make a negative impact on the global economic growth.

**2 Views on holding a new WCIT**

In the absence of international consensus on the ITRs among Member States, we do not recognize the necessity of revising the ITRs and of holding a World Conference on International Telecommunications (WCIT). As some members have already pointed out, we also have significant concern that the revision of the ITRs and its preparation process including holding WCIT will impose a huge financial and human resources’ burden on Member States, regional offices, ITU, WCIT host country and all the people involved.