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| African Telecommunication Union Administrations | | | |
| DRAft New Resolution [ATU-OTTS] - Enhance Global Collaboration to advance Over-The-Top (services), OTTs | | | |
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| **Abstract:** | This Contribution contains a draft new resolution that aims to facilitate global collaboration and consensus-building among government/regulators, licensees/operators, consumers, and researchers/standards organizations to drive the advancement of Over-The-Top services (OTTs). By balancing the diverse interests of all stakeholders, this resolution seeks to find a mutually beneficial solution that promotes innovation, growth, and consumer satisfaction in the OTT ecosystem. | |
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Proposal

This proposal is to adopt a multi-dimensional approach by considering the interests of all stakeholders across the OTT ecosystem, seeking to find a common ground that is acceptable to all. This approach encompasses multiple perspectives, fostering collaboration to drive innovation, improve services, create new opportunities for growth, and ensuring a sustainable solution that benefits all stakeholders

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DRAFT NEW RESOLUTION [ATU-OTTS] (New Delhi, 2024)

Enhance Global Collaboration to advance Over-The-Top (services), OTTs

(New Delhi, 2024)

The World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (New Delhi, 2024),

recalling

*a)* Resolution 206 (Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on OTTs;

*b)* Resolution 2 (Rev. Geneva, 2022) of this assembly, on ITU-T study group responsibilities and mandates;

*c)* Resolution 88 (Hammamet, 2016) on International mobile roaming,

considering

*a)* the need to discuss operational issues, as well as the policy, competition, innovation and economic implications of OTT services;

*b)* the benefits of OTT services to consumers, including persons with disabilities and specific needs;

*c)* the impact of OTT services on telecommunication/information and communication technologies (ICTs) markets especially in developing countries;

*d)* the attendant increase in data traffic due to proliferations of OTT services and the need for additional infrastructure deployment;

*e)* the consumer protection and data privacy concerns peculiar to the Telecom/ICT industry;

*f)* the need to promote a secured digital ecosystem without stifling innovation;

*g)* the need for an agreed definition and taxonomy of OTTs for use across the Union;

*h)* the impact OTTs has on the International mobile roaming market,

recognizing

*a)* studies by ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU‑D) and ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU‑T) on OTTs, particularly in ITU-T Study Groups 3 and 17 and ITU-D Study Group 1;

*b)* the wide range of OTT services and increasing demand thereof, which have significant implications on the capacity of telecommunication networks;

*c)* the international nature of OTT services and the right of each Member State to regulate its telecommunication/ICT industry;

*d)* the divergent approaches of Member States in addressing OTT related issues;

*e)* the growing significance of OTT services in the digital ecosystem and the numerous benefits they bring to users;

*f)* the importance of interoperability between OTT services and traditional telecommunication networks to ensure seamless connectivity for users,

recognizing further

*a)* that Over-The-Top services (OTTs) significantly contribute to the widespread adoption of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) by creating locally relevant content and driving increased usage of network capacity;

*b)* that the effectiveness of OTTs relies heavily on the availability of robust legacy infrastructure to support them and that developing countries face challenges in this area, as they often lag behind in ICT infrastructure development;

*c)* that building this essential infrastructure is costly and necessitates innovative and sustainable financing models to ensure progress, accessibility and inclusivity,

resolves

1 to continue capacity-building programmes on OTT, especially for developing countries;

2 to encourage collaboration between traditional telecommunication service providers and OTT service providers to develop interoperable solutions that enhance the user experience and promote seamless connectivity;

3 to promote the adoption of common technical standards and protocols that facilitate interoperability between OTT services and traditional telecommunication networks and services;

4 to encourage research and development efforts to foster innovation in OTT services and explore new opportunities for collaboration and partnership among different service providers,

instructs ITU-T study groups 2, 3, 12 and 17 within their mandates

1 to continue ongoing studies on operational, policy, economic, competition, and innovation aspects of OTT services;

2 to develop relevant ITU-T Recommendations, guidelines and technical reports taking into account consumer protection, innovation, and competition in the OTT sector;

3 to ensure collaborative efforts between policy makers, industry stakeholders and consumer advocacy to address issues of QoS, security, consumer protection, data privacy concerns and regulatory aspects on OTT services;

4 to promote studies on standardization activities related to OTT services;

5 to continue studying the impact of OTT services on traditional communication networks and services, and to develop policies that support the coexistence and interoperability of both OTT and traditional communication services;

6 to collaborate with OTT service providers and other stakeholders to address issues related to data privacy, cybersecurity, and access to emergency services;

7 to continue studying collaboration between telecommunication service and OTT providers;

8 to develop and implement data privacy and security guidelines that align with international best practices and standards, ensuring the protection of user information and trust in OTT services while acknowledging and respecting the sovereignty and regulatory frameworks of individual states;

9 to come up with an agreed definition and taxonomy of OTTs for use across the Union,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau

1 to provide the necessary assistance to relevant study groups in the implementation of this resolution;

2 to continuously monitor and track developments in the OTT sector and provide guidance on best practices, technical standards and industry benchmarks to support the sustainable growth, innovation, and seamless interoperability of OTT services, ensuring a high-quality user experience;

3 to encourage and monitor the development of global standards on OTT services, focusing on interoperability, robust security, QoS, and facilitating a seamless user experience across different platforms, devices and networks;

4 to organize workshops to bring together all stakeholders in the OTT ecosystem, aiming to facilitate collaboration, knowledge sharing, and consideration of all stakeholders' interests, while identifying and proposing innovative solutions to address their needs and interests wherever possible;

5 to follow up in the implementation of the outcome or recommendations of the workshops and report to TSAG summarizing the progress made in the implementation of the recommendations,

invites ITU Member States and Sector Members

1 to participate and contribute to the implementation of this resolution;

2 to share their experiences of OTT services in their countries in ITU-T study group meetings and workshops;

3 to adopt policies that promote competition among OTT service providers;

4 to bridge the gaps between OTT providers and telecom operators, ensuring a more cohesive and user-friendly experience for consumers;

5 to support initiatives that ensure inclusivity, transparency and non-discriminatory practices in the provision of OTT services, thereby promoting a level playing field for all stakeholders.