MEETING OF THE REGULATORY ASSOCIATIONS

Colombo, Sri Lanka
1 Ocober, 2012

Chairman's report

Introduction

At the invitation of Mr. Brahima Sanou, Director, ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau, and following RESOLUTION 48 (Rev. Hyderabad, 2010) - Strengthening cooperation among telecommunication regulators – calling on the ITU to organize, coordinate and facilitate activities that promote information sharing among regulators and regulatory associations on key regulatory issues at the international and regional level, the Regulatory Associations meeting, organized by the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), in collaboration with the Telecommunications Regulatory Commission of Sri Lanka TRCSL) was held at the Hotel Residence Colombo, Colombo, 1st October 2012.

This meeting, held on the day preceding the Global Symposium for Regulators 2012 (GSR12), was chaired by Mr. Ananda Raj Khanal, Director and Acting Chief of Office, Nepal Telecommunication Authority (NTA) and Chairman of South Asian Telecommunication Regulatory Council (SATRC) in presence of Mr. Anusha Palpita, Director General of the Telecommunications Regulatory Commission of Sri Lanka (TRCSL) and Mr. Brahima Sanou, Director, BDT, and was attended by 35 participants representing 10 Associations including: ARCTEL-CPLP, AREGNET, ARTAC, EMERG, FRATEL, REGULATEL, OCCUR, FTRA, SATRC and APT .

ITU was represented by Mr. Brahima Sanou, BDT Director, and presentations[1] were made by representatives of REGULATEL, ARCTEL-CPLP, EMERG, AREGNET and FTRA.

A brief summary of the conclusions of the meeting was presented by Mr. Khanal at the way forward session of the GSR 12.

Welcoming remarks

Mr. Khanal welcomed the participants and complimented the Regulatory Commission of Sri Lanka for the huge effort put in the perfect organization of the event.

He invited Mr Brahima Sanou, Director, BDT to make his opening remarks. Mr. Sanou welcomed the participants and thanked the authorities of Sri Lanka for the hospitality. He said that the Regulatory Associations meeting's importance and interest is growing every year.

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[1] Presentations are available at: http://www.itu-D/treg/Events/Seminars/GSR/GSR11/rras12/agenda.html

Mr Khanal also invited Mr Palita, Director General of TRCSL, to make his remarks. Mr Palpita thanked the ITU for giving this opportunity to host this event in Sri Lanka and expressed the hope that the programme would be very useful for the regulators in sharing experiences and best practices.

He wished all participants a fruitful discussion.

The meeting was articulated in three Sessions:

14:45 – 15:30   SESSION 1: "THE FUTURE OF REGULATORS" IN THE WORLD OF THE INFORMATION SOCIETY: WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE REGULATORS AND WHAT SHOULD BE THEIR COMPETENCES?

The session started with a presentation by Mr Gustavo Peña from REGULATEL on the Future of Regulators and two presentations from Mr. Badawi from NTRA Egypt on AREGNET and the Euro-Mediterranean Regulators Group (EMERG).

The result of the debate on this agenda item outlined that not everything can be regulated. Voice, data and video are the future elements for regulatory activities. The Regulatory Associations have an important role to play vis-à-vis the private sector and must establish best practices.

The Regulatory Associations collection of statistical data from the member regulators could be very useful for the ITU and can be officially adopted not duplicating efforts, time and other resources.

The problem of the Regulatory Associations is that, compared to the many and useful activities they undertake and recommendation they give, the level of implementation of such recommendations is not significant. There is still work to be done in this direction. It is felt that an unequivocal commitment is required for the implementation of the reports and recommendations adopted by the respective RAs.

15:30 – 16:15   SESSION 2: ROAMING EXPERIENCES WITHIN REGIONAL CONTEXT

The session started with a presentation from the Association of Communications and Telecommunications Regulators of the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (ARCTEL-CPLP) that outlined the work within the Portuguese Speaking Countries. ARCTEL-CPLP is developing a roadmap to reduce roaming tariffs within the Portuguese Speaking Countries, based on voluntary and close collaboration between regulators and operators, sustained by a strong political consensus.

ARCTEL-CPLP roadmap, even being quite ambitious, has the merit to be very clear.

The debate outlined that roaming is a problem in all the regions, with high concerns about bill shock, call centers and lack of transparency that not all but some operators apply.

Other Associations are working on best practices or send to customers awareness messages to avoid them high roaming bills.

Roaming issues within the various regions remain for the moment an unsolved problem.

Regulatory Associations have been suggested to share their experiences and best practices.

Roaming experiences within regional context are crucial to be taken into consideration.

16:30 – 17:30   SESSION 3: CHALLENGES OF TRANSNATIONAL REGULATION

The session started with two presentations from the Association of Communications and Telecommunications Regulators of the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (ARCTEL-CPLP) respectively on International harmonization of Electronic News Gathering (ENG) and on Regional approaches against mobile robbery, gray market and counterfit devices, and a presentation from the chairmen of FTRA on the project on roaming in Central African countries carried out by ARCTAC and on the creation of the African Regulatory Association following the adoption of the constitution of the Pan African Regulators' Network (PARENET during the FTRA

meeting held in Libreville (Gabon) in July 2012.

Following the presentation on mobile robbery, grey market and counterfit devices, and its impact in the industry, operators, governments and users, the debate outlined that Regional actions can be highly beneficial to this concern, such as:

- Sharing of GSM and CDMA blacklist databases through the signature of bilateral or multilateral agreements;
- Industry compliance with the security recommendations against reprogramming of duplication of the IMEI or manufacturer's electronic serial identification number;
- Establishment of regulatory fiscal and/or customs mechanisms that ensure the greater control applicable to imported handsets, preventing the exit or re-export of stolen mobile terminal devices and/or their parts;
- Conduction of campaigns to raise public awareness of the importance of reporting the theft and loss of their mobile terminal devices.

The Regional Associations can be proactive on this matter. This problem being sensitive for the industries, it should not be very difficult to have their cooperation. Many Associations witnessed their experiences on this matter, recognized that it is a crucial problem that need to be addressed together with the industry and the operators.

Regarding the International harmonization of ENG, taking into account Resolution ITU-R 59 from RA2012 that decided on studies for worldwide harmonization of frequency bands and/or tunning ranges for ENG and/or regional harmonization and conditions for their use by terrestrial electronic news gathering systems, the Associations:

- Encourage their Administrations/members to individually implement websites and local databases with information on ENG in a national basis and provide support to reach that end as well as deploying regional databases.

It was suggested that BDT should follow up on these proposals and support Associations on concrete action points for its implementation.

Closing remarks

Mr. Khanal thanked all participants for the very good presentations on hot and interesting issues and wished everybody a successful GSR12.

RECOMMENDATIONS
1. *The BDT is invited to support the Regulatory Associations activities to establish best practices and make roaming tariffs more affordable for users.*
2. *The meeting expressed the wish that ITU in collaboration with the GSM Association conduct studies on the issue of mobile robbery grey market and counterfit devices and provides guidelines and recommendations.*
3. *Because of the global nature of cybercrime, the meeting recommended a stronger cooperation among the different regulators of a same RA and between different RAs.*