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Importance of digital dividend harmonization

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Define Digital Dividend and its Size

- The digital dividend is the amount of spectrum made available by the transition of analogue television to digital.
- Given the very important gains in spectrum efficiency resulting from the transition to digital, the digital dividend may represent very significant amounts of spectrum.



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Allocation of Digital Dividend

- Broadcasting services (e.g. provision of more programs, high definition, 3D or mobile television)
- Other services, such as the mobile service, in a frequency band which could be shared with broadcasting (e.g. short range devices) or in a distinct, harmonized allocation (e.g. IMT).



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Digital Migration and digital dividend

- Transition to digital TV is not an option
- Digital dividend is the output of Digital Switch Over
- No digital dividend if not planned **together with** DSO.
- Use of the funds generated?



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Lessons from history

- Three great consumer revolutions of the past 20 years
 - World Wide Web – 1.5 billion connected machines
 - Personal Computer = several billion
 - The GSM mobile phone – 7 billion.
 - 7 billion people In a global village



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The Questions/Answers

- Why have they become global? A common technical standard
- What do they have in common? In case of GSM, harmonized frequency bands



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Importance of harmonization

- Spectrum harmonization reduces the cost of mobile hardware
- Enables global roaming
- Reduces the complexity of the radio design
- Reduces interference with adjacent services and helps managing cross-border interference



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Global international framework for the digital dividend

International Telecommunications Union (ITU):

- Timely adoption and/or update of the international regulations on the use of spectrum: Radio Regulations and Regional Agreements, link:

<http://www.itu.int/pub/R-REG-RR/en>

- Standardization of radiocommunication equipment
- Information and assistance to ITU members



Release of the digital dividend for mobile

- Release is not automatic. It requires:
 - Regional cooperation/coordination decisions
 - National Spectrum Allocation decisions
 - Frequency coordination and replanning with neighbouring countries
 - Refarming of existing services
 - Licensing



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Digital Dividend - A national decision?

- To take the decision on Digital Dividend at the national level, it is important to take measures at the international level:
 - **Agree on a common allocation to the mobile service as part of the digital dividend**
 - **Coordinate frequencies and technical characteristics** of national television assignments in the band allocated to broadcasting, to enable transition to digital broadcasting and analog switch-off, hence release of digital dividend spectrum for both mobile and broadcasting. This involves coordinations in the GE-06 Agreement
 - **Harmonize the timing of transition from analogue to digital**
 - **Resolve any remaining interference problems**



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African requirements

- The achievements of African countries (through ATU) and Arab States (through ASMG) to modify the GE06 Plan in order to satisfy the spectrum requirements of digital TV broadcasting under 694 MHz . 100% of EACO countries have already successfully achieved the corresponding modifications of the GE06 Plan.



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Thank you for your attention!

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