Workshop Description

Exponential growth of internet IP traffic is driving investment in national fixed and mobile networks, and in the international backbone connectivity, that connects these networks. However, the basis on which internet IP traffic is transported across and between networks has attracted little interest outside of specialised unregulated wholesale markets.

Voice IP traffic has been eroding traditional voice revenues for many years, but this could accelerate rapidly over the next few years as both fixed and mobile operators migrate their circuit switched voice traffic onto IP platforms. This migration will dramatically change the way voice services are interconnected and regulated. These changes in the industry mean that many of the old building blocks of the telecoms industry and the underlying regulatory framework will need to evolve fundamentally. The potential for further commercial and regulatory disputes in this area is substantial; the importance of understanding the technical, commercial, financial and regulatory implications of IP-based services and interworking will continue to increase accordingly.

The workshop will explore the changing structure of the telecoms industry resulting from the growth of IP traffic, the commercial models that are emerging and the implications for regulation.

Tuesday 24 March (Day 1)			
08.30-09.00	**Registration**		
09.00-09.30	**Introductions and opening remarks**		ITU/NTC
09.30-10.00	**Group photo**		
10.00-10.30	**Coffee break**		
10.30-11.30	**SESSION 1:** **Emerging regulatory trends in interconnection**	An overview of the emerging regulatory and international trends of the Telecom/ICT and interconnection.	ITU and FTI
11.30-13.00	**SESSION 2:** **Market Developments**	Key developments in voice and data markets and services for mobile and fixed operators resulting from growth in IP traffic. What markets may be regulated?	FTI & ITU Expert
13.00-15.00	**Lunch and prayer break**		
15.00-16.00	**SESSION 3:**	An overview of IP technology and the implications for network architecture, investment, operating costs and	ITU Expert

	Technical challenges of IP interconnection	interconnection including visit to equipment site and network elements	
	Wednesday 25 March (Day 2)		
09.00-10.30	**SESSION 4:** **Charges and costs for IP services**	How will IP based services be charged for in the future? How will they be costed? How will regulators determine regulated prices?	FTI & ITU Expert
10.30-11.00	**Coffee break**		
11.00-12.30	**SESSION 5:** **IP interconnection models**	An overview of the issues involved in establishing interconnection, commercial models, and RIO terms and conditions.	ITU Expert
12.30-14.00	**Lunch**		
14.00-15.30	**SESSION 6:** **Regulatory issues for IP services**	What are the issues facing regulators as a result of the growth of IP based traffic? What are the implications of 'net neutrality'? How will regulators deal with IP interconnection issues?	FTI & ITU Expert
16.00-17.00	**SESSION 7:** **International trends in IP interconnection**	An illustration of the main current and emerging issues involved in establishing interconnection charges for an IPO environment using a review of regional experience and practice	ITU Expert
	Thursday 26 March (Day 3)		
09.00-10.00	**SESSION 8:** **Case studies in IP interconnection**	- Sudan Case Study - Egypt case Study	Sudan Egypt
10.00-10.30	**Coffee break**		
10.30-11.15	**SESSION 9:** **Commercial issues in IP interconnection**	A review of the key commercial issues determining how interconnection agreements will be settled in practice.	FTI
11.15-12.30	**SESSION 10:** **Wider regulatory implications of IP services**	Assessing the extent to which regulation of NGN and NGA networks will be affected by IP interconnection issues. What are the implications for national broadband policies and effective competition.	ITU Expert
12.30-14.00	**Lunch**		
14.00-15.00	**Closing session**	Summary and recommendations from participants	ITU Experts
15.00-15.30	**Closing remarks**		ITU/NTC