

ITU Regional Forum for Arab Region: IMT Systems Technology, Evolution and Implementation

Tunis, Tunisia, 7-9 May 2013

Outcomes and Recommendations

- Provide active contribution and participation during the concerned preparatory meetings as well as during the conference itself, for the next WTDC-14 (sixth World Telecommunication Development Conference, Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, 31 March to 11 April 2014) aiming at identifying priorities of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) for the development of telecommunications and information and communication technologies (ICTs) over the next four-year period, taking into account contributions made by Member States and Sector Members,
- Ensure better coordination with ITU to be prepared for WRC-15,
- Open a high level dialogue on Mobile Broadband between all stakeholders on strategies & policies aiming at Broadband development and exploring new ideas on how to foster demand for broadband and e-services,
- Ensure the cooperative coordination between broadcasting sector and telecommunication sector toward a converged approach ensuring the Broadband Mobile services to be offered at affordable price to the end users.
- Focus on harmonizing spectrum also in lower bands at the regional level, allowing Terminals and Equipment to be harmonized.
- Speed up Digital Dividend spectrum allocation
- Reducing costs via ensuring network openness and ubiquitous connectivity through network sharing and competition while accelerating new investments needed to handle data explosion
- Develop innovative business models and financing arrangements for Mobile Broadband,
- Work on developing new services, personalized applications and fully multilingual content to maximize the potentiality of Broadband.
- Build awareness and develop local content in order to stimulate the demand for Mobile Broadband Services. Building appropriate infrastructure is not enough. Revise legislative and regulatory frameworks concerning Mobile Broadband, with the scope of putting in place the necessary strategy and measures for providing Mobile Broadband services to all, with particular attention to remote and un-served areas.
- Promote the Arabic digital content and local applications by the wide spreading of broadband networks,
- Suitable new additional spectrum for future UMTS / IMT systems could be 600 MHz (TV UHF), 1.4 GHz (L-band), 2.7 GHz (S-band) and 3.9 GHz (C-band),

- Strong need to bridge gap between research and industrialization that not many organizations are able to fill,
- Commercialize innovative services as a way to insure the return on investment (ROI) for the operators,
- Focus on the right of everyone to get connected and on the need to cover the remote and un-served areas,
- Focus on ways to subsidize operators to provide universal service and to spread broadband as a platform for the development of research and innovation
- Focus on Privacy and security issues of the next generations technologies,
- Pay more attention to the health issues that can be raised by network densification,
- Attribute a great concern to enabling people with special disabilities to get connected through specific end-user equipment and applications,
- Working on tools and mechanisms that allows an efficient control of the QoS,
- Some solutions to the spectral resources scarcity problem :
 - Traffic offloading to other networks (Wi-Fi) or other connections (Femtocells),
 - Realizing the regulator role in the optimization of spectrum resources by encouraging the transition to digital TV in order to use the resulting frequencies (Digital Dividend),
 - Provide a regulatory framework for exclusive access to the spectrum of a license holder on a common base (Authorized Shared Access - ASA),
 - Use high frequencies such as 2.3 GHz and 3.6 GHz which are suitable for small cells,
- Ensure new technologies consuming less energy, in particular work on reducing energy consumption by base stations,
- Ensure a cooperative work between the global and regional regulators for possible spectrum reallocation,
- Reduce the cost per bit through the future networks,
- Focus on M2M services developing,
- Focus on strategies that make operators deal with OTT services,
- Focus on services dedicated to the developing countries and that may solve some of their daily life problems.
- Work closely with ITU-T SG3 for finding solutions for reducing the international interconnection costs and the terminating costs for allowing any operators offering Mobile Broadband Services to their customers at affordable price. The specific situation of Land-Locked countries have to also taken into account for allowing them accessibility to international interconnections at affordable price.

- Need to have regulatory clarity and certainty as well as appropriate policy in place (e.g. USO) in order to create favorable environment for investment from Governments and Private Investors sharing the risk of the investment through Public Private Partnerships (PPPs).
- Apply fair and appropriate Spectrum licensing procedures resulting in affordable spectrum pricing for Mobile Broadband Operators allowing them to offer Mobile Broadband services to their customers at lower price.