Sunil Kumar Singhal
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Sunil Kumar Singhal is a qualified telecommunication policy professional and presently working as Deputy Director General (Licensing Policy), Ministry of Communications, Government of India for telecommunication networks and services. He has over three decades of experience in regulating and administering telecommunications and broadcasting sectors. Since 2010, he has been continuously working on legal, public policy, licensing, regulatory, and other general aspects relating to telecommunications and broadcasting networks and services, which is the scope of the ITU-D Study Group-1. He has experience of working in the sphere of all seven questions of the Study Group-1.

During the last decade, Sunil Kumar Singhal has held various leadership positions at:

i. International Telecommunications Union (ITU) as:
   a. Vice-Chair of the ITU-D Study Group – 1 for 2022-25 study cycle; and
   b. Vice-Chair of the ITU's Empowered Group on International Telecommunications Regulations (EG-ITR) 2023-26;
ii. Department of Telecommunications (DoT), as an in-charge of licensing policy; and
iii. Advisor to Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) for broadcasting and telecommunications policy and regulations.

As advisor to TRAI, he had formulated the recommendations on national telecommunications policy which were subsequently adapted as National Digital Communications Policy 2018 by Government of India. Further, as an in-charge of licensing policy in DoT, he had extensively contributed in drafting of Telecommunications Bill, 2023. Presently, he is leading:

i. the drafting of the rules for telecommunication networks and services under the Telecommunications Act 2023; and
ii. the policy formulation for proliferation of broadband services in India.

His experience of working closely with ITU including TDAG and SGs has helped him in updating the India's telecommunications law, policy, licensing, and regulatory framework in line with the international best practices. He has extensively worked upon strategic issues relating to digital transformation and convergence, cross-sector collaboration, international coordination, collaborative regulation, data privacy and security, market structure, technology development, and spectrum management. He is well-versed with the latest developments in the field of telecommunications and broadcasting, particularly in the field of Data Centers, open Radio Access Networks (RAN), Cloud-native telecommunication networks, Network Function Virtualisation (NFV), Software Defined Networks (SDN), M2M platforms, Direct to Mobile (D2M) broadcasting services, Satellite Communication Services, and Artificial Intelligence (AI).

His association with APT started in 2010 when he attended the workshop on International Roaming organised by APT in Australia. Also, he is constantly working with ITU since 2014. His contribution on data privacy and security in ITU-T Study Group (SG)-3 was well appreciated. Presently, as the vice-chair

in ITU-D SG-1, he is coordinator for WTDC Resolution 9 (addressing the specific needs of the developing countries on spectrum management), synergies of study questions with ITU actions (e.g. projects), and joint activities (annual deliverables, workshops, webinars). As coordinator on these issues, on behalf of SG-1, he has actively collaborated with the representatives of the member states, ITU and project implementing agencies, and presented the details during the study group and rapporteur group meetings during the last three years.

Further as the vice-chair in the ITU's Empowered Group on International Telecommunication Regulations (EG-ITR), he is contributing on updating these regulations. He chaired the second meeting of the EG-ITR in 2024; and by using his collaborative and persuasive skills, he was able to finalise the work plan with the consensus of the members attending the meeting.

In 2016, he was invited as an expert by ITU Regional Telecommunications Economic and Financial Forum for Arab States at Muskat, Oman. During the event, he shared his insights on 'Affordable access to broadband services' and 'Economic and financial issues in a converged broadband environment'. Additionally, he was invited by the World Bank to share India's experience in opening International Long-Distance (ILD) telecommunication services for private participation. This session included discussions with the representatives from the Iraq Government, regulatory authorities, and parliamentarians. He has been acknowledged as an expert by both ITU and the World Bank.

His services to the Government of India have been recognised through several acknowledgements, including written appreciation letter from the Hon'ble Minister of Communications, the 'Bharat Sanchar Seva Padak' award at the National level, and the 'Vishisht Sanchar Seva Padak' award at the State level.

His collaborative approach, continuous engagement in studies on cutting-edge technologies, understanding of regulatory and economic developments in the global ICT landscape, and experience of working as Vice-Chair of ITU-D SG 1 would facilitate in steering the proceeding of the Study Group meetings. Based on his extensive experience and present responsibilities, he would be a fit candidate for Chair of the ITU-D Study Group – 1.

Sunil Kumar Singhal holds a Batchelor in Electronics and Communication Engineering degree from Jodhpur University and Masters in Business Administration from Delhi University. In addition, he has completed Advanced Professional Course in Competition Law and Market Regulation. He is also pursuing micro-master's program in Data, Economics, and Development Policy (DEDP) from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), USA.