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SERIES D: TARIFF AND ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES AND INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION/ICT ECONOMIC AND POLICY ISSUES

Recommendations for international
telecommunication/ICT economic and policy issues –
Economic and regulatory impact of the Internet,
convergence (services or infrastructure) and new services

Enabling environment for voluntary commercial arrangements between telecommunication network operators and OTT providers

Recommendation ITU-T D.1101

ITU-T D-SERIES RECOMMENDATIONS

TARIFF AND ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES AND INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION/ICT ECONOMIC AND POLICY ISSUES

TERMS AND DEFINITIONS	D.0
GENERAL TARIFF PRINCIPLES	
Private leased telecommunication facilities	D.1–D.9
Tariff principles applying to data communication services over dedicated public data networks	D.10–D.39
Charging and accounting in the international public telegram service	D.40–D.44
Charging and accounting in the international teletext service	D.45–D.49
Principles applicable to GII-Internet	D.50–D.59
Charging and accounting in the international telex service	D.60–D.69
Charging and accounting in the international facsimile service	D.70–D.75
Charging and accounting in the international videotex service	D.76–D.79
Charging and accounting in the international phototelegraph service	D.80–D.89
Charging and accounting in the mobile services	D.90–D.99
Charging and accounting in the international telephone service	D.100–D.159
Drawing up and exchange of international telephone and telex accounts	D.160–D.179
International sound- and television-programme transmissions	D.180–D.184
Charging and accounting for international satellite services	D.185–D.189
Transmission of monthly international accounting information	D.190–D.191
Service and privilege telecommunications	D.192–D.195
Settlement of international telecommunication balances of accounts	D.196–D.209
Charging and accounting principles for international telecommunication services provided over the ISDN	D.210–D.260
Economic and policy factors relevant to the efficient provision of international telecommunication services	D.261–D.269
Charging and accounting principles for next generation networks (NGN)	D.270–D.279
Charging and accounting principles for universal personal telecommunication	D.280–D.284
Charging and accounting principles for intelligent network supported services	D.285–D.299
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REGIONAL APPLICATION	
Recommendations applicable in Europe and the Mediterranean Basin	D.300–D.399
Recommendations applicable in Latin America	D.400–D.499
Recommendations applicable in Asia and Oceania	D.500–D.599
Recommendations applicable to the African Region	D.600–D.699
Recommendations applicable to the Arab Region	D.700–D.799
Recommendations applicable to the Eastern Europe, Central Asia and Transcaucasia Region	D.800–D.899
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION/ICT ECONOMIC AND POLICY ISSUES	
Charging and accounting/settlement mechanisms for international telecommunications services	D.1000–D.1019
Economic and policy factors relevant to the efficient provision of international telecommunication services	D.1020–D.1039
International Internet connectivity; and Tariff, Charging Issues of Settlements Agreement of Trans-multi-country Terrestrial Telecommunication	D.1040–D.1059
International mobile roaming issues	D.1060–D.1079
Alternative calling procedures and misappropriation and misuse of facilities and services	D.1080–D.1099
Economic and regulatory impact of the Internet, convergence (services or infrastructure) and new services	D.1100–D.1119
Definition of relevant markets, competition policy and identification of operators with significant market power (SMP)	D.1120–D.1139
Economic and policy aspects of big data and digital identity in international telecommunications services and networks	D.1140–D.1159
Economic and policy issues pertaining to Mobile Financial Services (MFS)	D.1160–D.1179

For further details, please refer to the list of ITU-T Recommendations.

Recommendation ITU-T D.1101

Enabling environment for voluntary commercial arrangements between telecommunication network operators and OTT providers

Summary

Recommendation ITU-T D.1101 addresses the measures for strengthening the commercial cooperation between over the top (OTT) providers and telecom operators. Given that network operators and OTTs are part of the international telecommunication/information and communication technology (ICT) ecosystem, this Recommendation encourages relevant stakeholders to work towards an enabling regulatory environment that supports and encourages the development of innovative business models in line with the advancement of technology and innovations, which are changing faster than ever.

History

Edition	Recommendation	Approval	Study Group	Unique ID*
1.0	ITU-T D.1101	2020-08-28	3	11.1002/1000/14269

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MNO, OTT, partnerships.

* To access the Recommendation, type the URL <http://handle.itu.int/> in the address field of your web browser, followed by the Recommendation's unique ID. For example, <http://handle.itu.int/11.1002/1000/11830-en>.

FOREWORD

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is the United Nations specialized agency in the field of telecommunications, information and communication technologies (ICTs). The ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) is a permanent organ of ITU. ITU-T is responsible for studying technical, operating and tariff questions and issuing Recommendations on them with a view to standardizing telecommunications on a worldwide basis.

The World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA), which meets every four years, establishes the topics for study by the ITU-T study groups which, in turn, produce Recommendations on these topics.

The approval of ITU-T Recommendations is covered by the procedure laid down in WTSA Resolution 1.

In some areas of information technology which fall within ITU-T's purview, the necessary standards are prepared on a collaborative basis with ISO and IEC.

NOTE

In this Recommendation, the expression "Administration" is used for conciseness to indicate both a telecommunication administration and a recognized operating agency.

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Introduction

There has been significant expansion in the social and economic impact of OTT on society, and its demand has been increasing faster than ever. In the long run, cooperation between OTT providers and network operators may encourage competitive markets and sustainable development of the international telecommunication/ICT ecosystem.

Recommendation ITU-T D.1101

Enabling environment for voluntary commercial arrangements between telecommunication network operators and OTT providers

1 Scope

This Recommendation addresses the measures for strengthening the commercial cooperation between OTT providers and telecom operators.

2 References

The following ITU-T Recommendations and other references contain provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this Recommendation. At the time of publication, the editions indicated were valid. All Recommendations and other references are subject to revision; users of this Recommendation are therefore encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent edition of the Recommendations and other references listed below. A list of the currently valid ITU-T Recommendations is regularly published. The reference to a document within this Recommendation does not give it, as a stand-alone document, the status of a Recommendation.

[ITU-T D.262] Recommendation ITU-T D.262 (2019), *Collaborative framework for OTTs*.

3 Definitions

3.1 Terms defined elsewhere

This Recommendation uses the following term defined elsewhere:

3.1.1 over-the-top (OTT) [ITU-T D.262]: An application accessed and delivered over the public Internet that may be a direct technical/functional substitute for traditional international telecommunication services.

NOTE – This definition of OTT is a matter of national sovereignty and may vary based among Member States.

3.2 Terms defined in this Recommendation

None.

4 Abbreviations and acronyms

This Recommendation uses the following abbreviations and acronyms:

ICT Information and Communication Technology

MNO Mobile Network Operator

OTT Over the Top

5 Conventions

None.

6 An enabling environment for voluntary commercial arrangements between telecommunication network operators and providers of OTT application

6.1 Given that network operators and OTTs are part of the international telecommunication/ICT ecosystem, Member States are encouraged to work with relevant stakeholders to develop an enabling environment for the benefit of all stakeholders.

6.2 Member States are encouraged to create an enabling regulatory environment that supports and encourages the development of innovative business models in line with the advancement of technology and innovations, which are changing faster than ever.

6.3 Recognizing that OTT providers create new demand for communication services, it is important for Member States to create frameworks that do not inhibit market entry. At the same time, Member States should continue to ensure that even if softer regulation is in place, a competitive landscape is assured for the benefit of consumers and innovation.

6.4 In order to capitalize on the consumer demand for OTT applications, Member States should enable telecommunication network operators the flexibility to adopt innovative business models, such as the transition to data-centric end-user tariff structures to reduce dependence on revenues from traditional telecommunication services.

6.5 Regulators are encouraged to permit telecommunication network operators to offer their own OTT applications without subjecting them to legacy telecommunication regulations, as long as those applications as well as underlying broadband Internet access services are offered in a way that does not disadvantage or discriminate against competitive alternatives.

6.6 Recognizing that the private and public sectors play a key role in the expansion of telecommunication/information and communication technologies (ICTs), for example through investments in infrastructures and services, Member States are encouraged to develop policy frameworks to enable voluntary commercial arrangements among telecommunication network operators and providers of OTT applications so as to allow each to invest in Internet infrastructure, without subjecting the parties to traditional telecommunication regulatory requirements.

6.7 In order to promote a competitive landscape for the benefit of consumers and innovation, Member States are encouraged to examine the appropriate level of regulations both to OTT providers and traditional telecommunication providers, which may include refraining from extending legacy telecommunication regulations to providers of OTTs and examining the reduction of the regulatory burden upon traditional networks and telecommunication services.

7 Specific measures

7.1 Member States are encouraged to promote mutual cooperation as far as practical between providers of OTTs and telecommunication network operators. To maintain competition in the market in the context of these partnership, member states are encouraged to consider conducting analysis on competition impacts (including transparency, non-discriminatory conditions, innovations and consumer benefits) of those arrangements.

SERIES OF ITU-T RECOMMENDATIONS

Series A	Organization of the work of ITU-T
Series D	Tariff and accounting principles and international telecommunication/ICT economic and policy issues
Series E	Overall network operation, telephone service, service operation and human factors
Series F	Non-telephone telecommunication services
Series G	Transmission systems and media, digital systems and networks
Series H	Audiovisual and multimedia systems
Series I	Integrated services digital network
Series J	Cable networks and transmission of television, sound programme and other multimedia signals
Series K	Protection against interference
Series L	Environment and ICTs, climate change, e-waste, energy efficiency; construction, installation and protection of cables and other elements of outside plant
Series M	Telecommunication management, including TMN and network maintenance
Series N	Maintenance: international sound programme and television transmission circuits
Series O	Specifications of measuring equipment
Series P	Telephone transmission quality, telephone installations, local line networks
Series Q	Switching and signalling, and associated measurements and tests
Series R	Telegraph transmission
Series S	Telegraph services terminal equipment
Series T	Terminals for telematic services
Series U	Telegraph switching
Series V	Data communication over the telephone network
Series X	Data networks, open system communications and security
Series Y	Global information infrastructure, Internet protocol aspects, next-generation networks, Internet of Things and smart cities
Series Z	Languages and general software aspects for telecommunication systems