



Chairman's Report

REGULATORY ASSOCIATIONS MEETING

MANAMA, BAHRAIN

2 JUNE 2014

14H30 – 17H45

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to take this opportunity to give my sincere gratitude and thanks to the Kingdom of Bahrain represented in the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, Prime Minister of Bahrain.

My appreciation also, goes to His Royal Highness Sheikh Fawaz bin Mohammed bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Minister of State for Communications, and the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority of Bahrain, represented by Dr Mohammed Ahmed Alamer, the Chairman, wishing them all and the citizens of Bahrain continuous prosperity and progress.

As the ITU has always managed through the previous GSR meetings to create an umbrella of cooperation and platform of information sharing between various regulatory associations across different regions; it is at the ITU's request and invitation, that the Regulatory Association meeting was held this year under the presidency of AREGNET before the commencement of the GSR-14.

It is with great honor that the Sultanate of Oman had the opportunity to chair the meeting this year held in the Gulf Hotel, Manama, Bahrain, on the afternoon of June 2nd 2014, in the presence of Dr Mohammed Ahmed Alamer, Chairman of the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) of Bahrain and Mr Brahima Sanou, Director, BDT.

This year, more than 90 participants from 11 Associations (ARCTEL-CPLP, AREGNET, ARTAC, CRASA, EMERG, EaPeReg, FRATEL, REGULATTEL, OCCUR, WATRA, SATRC) attended the meeting.

The meeting involved four sessions where each session discussed various topics that address global regulatory challenges. It is my honor to present to you a summary of the meeting in the following points.

- The meeting started with some Regulatory Associations introducing their main activities, achievements and programs for the year to come.

- Interventions were made from ACCTEL-CPLP, AREGNET, CRASA, and REGULATTEL. Many Associations highlighted their experiences on the matter of funding of their projects and activities. The debate outlined that funding issues within the various associations remain for the moment a big challenge.
- The successful experience of the European Mediterranean Regulators' Group (EMERG) on enforcement and judicial review of the National Regulatory Associations (NRAs') decisions as well as the state of play of the Mobile Virtual Network Operators in the EMERG region was shared.
- This was followed by a presentation from ARCTEL on Internet Governance highlighting the following aspects and questions: What aspects of Internet governance are of interest to governments and regulators? How to increase representation in the international Internet Governance debate? How to motivate the new regional leaders to become active participants in Internet Governance meetings and activities, where the future of the Internet is shaped.
- Finally, ARCTEL presented on the topic of the Gray Market and terminals robbery, highlighting the main outcomes of the report on mobile robbery and counterfeit, which was requested by the Regulatory Associations (RA) meeting in 2012. The result of the debate on this agenda item outlined the need for regional actions in collaboration with the ITU BDT.

After the end of the four sessions, the ITU representative Mr Makhtar Fall informed the meeting that ITU intends to organize a High Level Dialogue on combating counterfeit ICT devices to be held in Geneva from 17 to 18 November 2014. The objectives of this ITU High Level Dialogue are namely to discuss the global scope and impact of counterfeiting, to examine the possible role of ICT standards development organizations (SDOs) and in particular the ITU, as well as to assist members in addressing their concerns regarding counterfeit devices.

The Regulatory Association meeting came up with the following recommendations:

- The importance of establishing a working group between the Regulatory Associations (RAs) and the industry Associations to work on the implementation of the recommendations presented by the ITU Report on the topic at the last Regulatory Associations (RAs) meeting in Warsaw.
- It was suggested to convene the meeting in Geneva or before a major ITU meeting with the support of The International Telecommunications Union (ITU), and to include a representative of each Association.
- ITU to include a topic related to combating counterfeit ICT devices, Gray Market and Terminals Robbery on the next GSR Agenda.

All the topics discussed in the RA meeting as well as information on the High Level Dialogue will be available on the ITU website.

Once again I would like to thank the International Telecommunication Union, the government of Bahrain and the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority of Bahrain for organizing a successful and fruitful meeting where many views and information were exchanged, providing us all greater insight on key topics that are creating a global impact on

our industry. Special thanks to the presenters for sharing their experiences and providing practical solutions that will help us when facing regulatory challenges.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to offer a special word of thanks to His Excellency, Dr Hamadoun I. Touré as last Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR 2014) to be held during his term of office as Secretary General. Dr Touré's exerted efforts and initiative prominent and highly commended and suffice to say the least about it.