

## GSR13 Consultation

Contribution from the Telecommunications Regulatory Commission, Jordan

### Regulating Interconnection in an Era of Conversion

For many years, the regulation of the interconnection of telecommunications networks has been practiced by regulators around the world on the basis of traditional circuit-switched networks. Over the years, specialist experts in interconnection regulation who do not have a technical background (such as economists, financial analysts and lawyers) have developed an understanding of the nature of such networks and acquired some insight into their technical structure, thus enabling them to visualize the operational structure of the networks being interconnected and the technical aspects of such an interconnection.

Faced with the advent of conversion from circuit-switched networks interconnection to packet-switched Internet Protocol (IP) interconnection, those specialists need to understand the nature and technical aspects of IP networks and the new mode of their interconnection. They need to understand, for instance, why they have to disregard the idea of traffic termination charges and think in terms of peering on the basis of “bill and keep”. They need to comprehend, among others, the reason for changing from billing on the basis of time to billing on the basis of volume, and from pricing on the basis of distance to pricing on the basis of quality.

There are numerous papers and presentations that were published and/or discussed in international forums on the subject of IP Interconnection. However, most of those papers and presentations assume that the readers of the papers and the audience of the presentations have the necessary technical background that lies behind the reasons for the conversion from the traditional style of interconnection regulation to the new style of IP-based interconnection regulation.

This situation requires that regulators around the world, especially in developing countries, need to facilitate to their economists, accountants and lawyers who deal with interconnection issues, some means of induction and training on the technical aspects of packet switching in comparison to circuit switching, and the differences between the technologies that are employed in networks that operate such switching modes. It would, therefore, be useful if the deliberations of GSR 13 include an address to this matter, and that a plan be agreed to produce the necessary material that would enable those specialists to have an insight into the technical aspects of IP Interconnection.