

SOUTH ASIAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS REGULATORS' COUNCIL (SATRC)

BACKGROUND

The South Asian Telecommunications Regulators' Council was formed in 1997 and began functioning under the auspices of the APT. This council is responsible for the discussion and coordination of all issues relating to regulations in telecommunication sector, which are of common interest to the Telecom Regulators of South Asian Countries.

Member countries of the South Asian Telecommunications Regulators' Council (SATRC) are Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Iran, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. TITLE

1.1 The **Council** shall be known as The South Asian Telecommunication Regulators' Council (SATRC).

2. FUNCTION

2.1 The **Council** shall be responsible for the discussion and co-ordination of all issues relating to regulations in telecommunications which are of common interest to the Telecommunication Regulators of the South Asian countries.

2.2 These issues shall include, but shall not be limited to, radio frequency co-ordination, standards, regulatory trends and issues, strategies for telecommunication development and telecommunications related international affairs.

2.3 The **Council** shall also identify and promote areas of potential co-operation in telecommunications among South Asian countries and shall facilitate the exchange of information in these areas through activities such as seminars, training and workshops.

2.4 The **Council** shall function under the auspices of the Asia Pacific Telecommunity.

3. RELATIONSHIP WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

3.1 The **Council** may establish co-operative relationship with other associations of regulators and other international, regional or sub-

regional organisations and extend invitation to them for participation in the meetings.

- 3.2 Where the **Council** is of the view that any particular activity or issue in telecommunications is of such a nature as to warrant further study or action by any other regional or international organisations, it may make a recommendation to this effect through the appropriate channels of such other organisation.

4. MEMBERSHIP

- 4.1. The **Council** shall consist of the Director-General/Chairman/Head of the Telecommunication Regulatory Commission/Authority/Board of South Asian group of member countries of ITU and APT, and representatives from ITU and APT.

5. RECOGNITION OF RIGHTS

- 5.1 *The Council shall recognise fully the rights of a Member to regulate its telecommunications.*

6. ATTENDANCE

- 6.1 The **Council** may invite any administration, or person or organisation to attend its Meetings for any particular subject under discussion. These should include Secretary, Ministry of Communications, Chairmen of Telecommunications Board or Commission of ITU and APT member countries of South Asia.
- 6.2 The meetings of the **Council** shall be attended by Heads of Telecommunications Regulatory Authorities of South Asia and designated Senior Level Officers.
- 6.3 A Member of the **Council** may decide the strength and composition of its delegation to SATRC meetings.

7. CHAIRMAN

- 7.1 The Chairman of the Meeting shall be the member from the Telecommunication Regulatory bodies of the host country.

7.2 The Chairman shall hold office from one meeting to the next. The Chairmanship shall then pass to the Member from the host country of the next meeting.

7.3 The present SATRC Chairman is Chairman TRAI, Mr. Nripendra Misra.

8. CO-ORDINATION

8.1 The work of SATRC in between two consecutive meetings will mostly be done by electronic means. APT Secretariat will facilitate the work of SATRC.

8.2 The Host country shall act as the Secretariat for the Council until the chairmanship is transferred to the next host country, *who will then act as the Secretariat.*

8.3 The host country acting as the Secretariat shall be responsible for the preparation of the Agenda, the notification and organisation of the Meetings and the recording of the minutes of the Meeting.

9. FINANCES OF THE COUNCIL

9.1 Each Member shall bear the expenses of its delegation, including Council Members, to any council meeting, seminar, workshop, etc. The hosting Member country shall bear the other expenses.

10. FREQUENCY AND VENUE OF MEETING

10.1 The Council shall meet once a year, or at such other interval considered appropriate by the Members.

10.2 SATRC meetings shall be of three-days duration. If desired by members of SATRC, the meetings shall be reserved for regulators only.

10.3 Meetings shall be hosted by Members on a rotational basis, in such order as may be determined by the Council.

11. WORKING GROUPS

11.1 The **Council** may either at its meetings, or when necessary, in-between the meetings, by mutual consultation set up Working Groups on an ad-hoc basis to study or undertake detailed discussions on specific issues in telecommunications.

- 11.2 The Working Groups shall prepare short and focussed opinion, consultation or discussion papers on specific regulatory issues of common interest and concern to members of SATRC.
- 11.3 Contact persons shall be nominated by each member of SATRC for each issues taken up by the Working Groups.
- 11.4 Proposal for agreement on key regulatory issues shall be prepared depending upon the results of the papers.

12. REVIEW OF THE TERMS OF REFERENCE

- 12.1** The **Council** may amend or modify this Terms of Reference by consensus.

MEETINGS

The First SATRC meeting was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka from the 1st to the 3rd of May 1998.

The Second SATRC meeting was held in New Delhi, India from the 29th to the 30th of April 1999.

The Third SATRC meeting was held in Thimphu, Bhutan from the 19th to the 21st of March 2001 .

The Fourth SATRC meeting was held from the 17th to the 19th of December 2002 in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

The Fifth SATRC meeting was held from 3rd to 5th September 2003, in Kathmandu, Nepal

The Sixth SATRC meeting was held from 20th to 23rd September 2004 in Islamabad, Pakistan

The Seventh SATRC meeting was held from 13th to 15th December 2005 in Male, Maldives

The Eighth SATRC meeting was held from 23rd to 25th August 2006 in Bhutan.

The Ninth SATRC meeting was held from 10th to 12th December 2007 in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

The Tenth SATRC meeting was held from 13th to 15th October 2008 in New Delhi, India.