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|  | ASIA-PACIFIC TELECOMMUNITY | |
| **The Thirteenth South Asian Telecommunications Regulators’ Council** **(SATRC-13)** | **Document**  **SATRC-13/OUT-04** |
| 18 – 20 April 2012, Kathmandu, Nepal | 20 April 2012 |

**Summary records OF THE 13th south asian telecommunication regulator’s council**

1. **INTRODUCTION**

The 13th South Asian Telecommunication Regulator’s Council (SATRC-13) was held at Hotel Yak & Yeti, Kathmandu, Nepal from 18 – 20 April 2012. The meeting was organized by the Asia Pacific Telecommunity (APT) and hosted by the Nepal Telecommunication Authority (NTA).

The objectives of the meeting were to approve the outcomes SATRC Action Plan Phase III, adopt Action Plan Phase IV and to share experiences among the regulators. The meeting was attended by [74] delegates representing SATRC member administrations, affiliate members, and the private sectors of the host country.

1. **OPENING SESSION**
   1. The opening ceremony began with the traditional ceremony of lamp lightening by the Minister of Information and Communication, H. E. Mr. Raj Kishor Yadav.
   2. **Welcome Address by Mr. Bhesh Raj Kanel, Chairman, Nepal Telecommunication Authority**

Mr. Bhesh Raj Kanel, Chairman of Nepal Telecommunication Authority delivered welcome address. Welcoming all the delegates to the 13th meeting of SATRC he mentioned that last few years SATRC had seen fastest telecommunication growth in the world. He added that also brought several challenges in the region such as equitable distribution of telecom services, spectrum management and introduction of new technologies in wireless broadband. He mentioned that SATRC gives a platform for the members to discuss and learn from the success and failure of the regulatory regimes. He thanked APT for providing excellent support for SATRC activities. He hoped that the outcomes of the meeting would help to strengthen the future activities of SATRC and increase the relationship among it’s members.

Full texts of Mr. Kanel’s speech can be found in document INP-01.

* 1. **Opening Remarks by Mr. Toshiyuki Yamada, Secretary General, Asia Pacific Telecommunity**

Mr. Toshiyuki Yamada, Secretary General of APT welcome all the delegates. He thanked both the Minister and Minister of State, Ministry of Information and Communication for their honored presence at the opening ceremony. He also thanked Nepal Telecommunication Authority (NTA) for making excellent arrangement. Mr. Yamada mentioned that in recent years South Asian region had seen rapid development telecommunications. Broadband access to communications and access to internet through mobile devices have increased and had changed the business scenario for telecom industry. He hoped that in SATRC, regulators would discuss openly various important issues such as license renewal, equitable access to scare resources and taxation, and would take initiatives to improve the telecommunication environment in the region.

Indicating the completion of SATRC Action Plan Phase III successfully, he mentioned that 12 outcomes had been produced and submitted to the Council as completion of work items under Action Plan Phase III. He thanked SATRC working group chairs and experts who had worked hard for the final outcomes. He also thanked the host countries who had hosted various SATRC events during the implementation of Action Plan Phase III. He hoped in future SATRC would be able to deliver more useful outcomes through adopting new phase of Action Plan. He informed the Council about the appointment of Mr. Amarendra Narayan, former Secretary General of APT as consultant of SATRC.

Full texts of Mr. Yamada’s speech can be found in document INP-02.

* 1. **Address by Mr. Lotfollah Saboohi, Chairman SATRC and Vice President, Communication Regulatory Authority, Islamic Republic of Iran**

In his address, Mr. Lotfullah Saboohi, Chairman of SATRC expressed his sincere gratitude to the Government of Nepal and Nepal Telecommunication Authority for hosting the meeting. He thanked the Minister and Minister of State for attending the opening ceremony.

He mentioned that the work taken under SATRC Action Plan Phase III had been completed successfully. He thanked the chairmen and experts of the three SATRC working groups for their dedicated work. He added that there is impressive growth in the telecommunication in last few years in terms of speed, convergence, innovative regulatory approaches to regional interconnection, roaming, cloud computing, spectrum policy etc. mentioning the theme “Women and Girls in ICT” of this year World Telecommunication and Information Society he requested the regulators and policy makers to increase participation of women experts in the work of SATRC. He hoped SATRC will gain further strength under the chairmanship of Nepal.

Full texts of Mr. Yamada’s speech can be found in document INP-03.

* 1. **Inaugural Address by H. E. Mr. Raj Kishor Yadav, Minister of Information and Communication, Nepal**

H. E. Mr. Raj Kishor Yadav, Minister of Information and Communication, Nepal delivered the inaugural address. He welcomed all the delegates at the meeting. He emphasized that at current telecommunication development scenario, it is not possible for a single country to make effort by its own, rather it in necessary to have cooperative approaches. Mentioning the importance of SATRC, he compared SATRC as an umbrella for member countries for taking collaborative approach in the field of telecommunication regulation. He mentioned that regulators play important roles to advice government for the smooth growth of the telecommunication sector. He said SATRC discusses important issues such as spectrum management, policy and regulatory trends, licensing, broadband etc. and developed good outcomes through Action Plan deliberations which can guide the members to take appropriate actions. He hoped for a successful meeting.

Full texts of Minister’s speech can be found in document INP-04.

1. **PLENARY SESSION**

A short plenary session was held after the opening session in order to approve the agenda and program of the 13th SATRC Meeting and to hand over the chairmanship of the SATRC. Mr. Lotfollah Saboohi, Chairman of SATRC chaired the plenary session. Chairman introduced the agenda and tentative program of the meeting. It was agreed by the meeting.

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| **Decision no. 1 (SATRC-13)** |
| Agenda and program of the 13th meeting of the Council were approved by the meeting. |

He mentioned that according to the term of reference of SATRC, Nepal who is the host of this meeting would take the chairmanship of SATRC for next one year period. He informed the meeting that Nepal has proposed the name of Mr. Bhesh Raj Kanel, Chairman of Nepal Telecommunication Authority. The chairmanship SATRC was handed over to Nepal.

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| **Decision no. 2 (SATRC-13)** |
| Council appointed Mr. Bhesh Raj Kanel, Chairman of Nepal Telecommunication Authority as the Chairman of SATRC until the next meeting. |

Mr. Kanel, the new Chairman of the SATRC thanked Mr. Saboodi for his leadership of SATRC for last one year. Mr. Kenal said that he is happy and proud to become the Chairman of SATRC which is the high level council of the regulators of the nine SATRC member countries. He promised that during his chairmanship tenure he would work for the betterment of SATRC.

1. **SESSION 1: INDUSTRY-REGULATOR DIALOGUE**

Two sessions were allocated for Industry-Regulator dialogue during SATRC-13. Two themes were allocated for the two sessions accordingly:

* Driving broadband initiatives in SATRC countries - Cooperation between the regulators and Industry
* Current telecommunication trends and regulatory approach - Industry perspective.

**Session Theme: Driving Broadband Initiatives in SATRC Countries - Cooperation between the Regulators and Industry**

The first theme session of the Industry-Regulator dialogue was chaired by Mr. Bhesh Raj Kanel, chairman of SATRC. Chairman comments that even though the telecommunication penetration is increasing very fast in SATRC countries, the growth of broadband penetration is still low. He mentioned, some of the SATRC countries are doing well but others are still lagging behind. Therefore, he added, the topic of dialogue is quite important in the context of SATRC. He introduced the panelists:

* Mr. Zakaria Hassan, Senior Vice President, Etisalat, Afghanistan
* Mr. Bharat Bhatia, Director, Motorola Solutions India
* Mr. Sameer Sharma, Senior Advisor, ITU Regional Office for Asia-Pacific
* Mr. Binay Bohra, President, ISP Association of Nepal

Chairman requested Mr. Zakaria Hassan to present his views on the discussion theme. Mr. Zakaria delivered a presentation which can be found in document INP-23. According to Mr. Zakaria following are the areas to consider for the facilitation of broadband:

* Network Facilities: includes access network, backhaul transmission system and national/international transmission system
* Technology Solutions: Access technologies for urban and rural areas, transmission systems
* Policy, Telecom Act and Regulation
* Investment Enabling Environments.

He pointed out that licensing is the key issue for the industry in SATRC countries. He also pointed out four enablers in driving the broadband initiatives: policy, telecom act, regulation and license right. He said regulators played key role on the 4 enablers and cooperation of industry should be sought on those. Further cooperation area could be on developing competition, investment in network facilities, protection of consumer rights, quality of service and rural telecom development.

Mr. Bharat Bhatia from Motorola delivered the next presentation of the theme. He pointed out two key segments in broadband initiatives: for public and consumer; and for industry, commerce and the government. He added that broadband provides 6.25 times boost to economic development as compared to mobile voice. He mentioned why broadband is key requirement for enterprise and governments. Regarding the cooperation he mentioned several key points such as independent regulator, convergence law, spectrum management, regulation for all IP NGN regime, industry participation and self regulation. He also commented on the relaxing of restrictive licensing models in SATRC countries. Mr. Bhatia’s presentation slides can be found in document INP-24.

Mr. Sameer Sharma from ITU focused basically on how the broadband can be made affordable to developing countries. He mentioned that broadband price is still high in developing countries. According to him the key to affordable broadband service is in addressing costs at each stage of end-to-end eco system. He mentioned that wireless broadband could be the viable option for developing countries for affordable broadband. He pointed out the areas where initiatives need to be taken such as, reducing the cost of device and contents; reducing the cost of wireless access and customer access; reducing the cost of NGN and backhaul; securing and reducing the cost of global capacity and connectivity; reducing government taxes and charges, and improved regulatory regime. Mr. Sharma’s presentation slides can be found in document INF-02.

Mr. Binay Bohra from ISP Association of Nepal pointed out the factors which are causing the low penetration rates of broadband in some SATRC countries. He pointed out four major factors, such as, socio-economic conditions of the country, absence of broadband access network, lack of local contents and government regulation and policy. He indicated a number of areas that need to be accelerated to drive the broadband initiatives. Those are: easy access to wireless broadband spectrum, nationwide optical network in partnership, infrastructure sharing to avoid network duplication, deregulatory approach to VoIP and IPTV, developing local content and caching international content locally, protect online interests of consumer etc. Mr. Bohra’s presentation slides can be found in document INF-04.

Chairman thanked all four panelists for their valuable comments and views on how to drive broadband initiatives in SATRC countries. He asked comments from the floor. Delegates from NTA commented that why the price of spectrum should be sacrificed while there are many other factors as well which are contributing to the high market price of broadband. Mr. Bohra replied that spectrum should not be given free and price should not be overpriced. Mr. Bhatia commented that spectrum scarcity should not be created and price should be justified. He reminded that previously in many Asian countries spectrum was given free of charge; however it did not help to accelerate the services. Mr. Hassan commented that auction for spectrum allocation should be as quick as possible with clear objective and assignment should be simplified. He commented government should create any barrier by putting high price and benefit of people should come first. Mr. Sharma suggested for the market based mechanism for spectrum price based on the economic value of spectrum. Delegates from TRAI, India commented spectrum is not only the case rather overall value chain should be maintained. For example, he mentioned that revue earned from spectrum can be utilized in the areas where there is no competition.

Delegates from Orascom Bangladesh commented the price of spectrum for wireless broadband and business viability of broadband. He said that two factors are contradicting and need to be addressed together in a manner that investor are interest to invest on latest technologies. He added that price for spectrum of latest wireless technologies such as 3G and LTE should be justified so that the customers get maximum benefits.

Mr. Amarendra Narayan, Consultant of SATRC asked Afghanistan how they have created demand for the nationwide extensive fiber optic network. He said the demand creation in low and fiber capacity is unused which in turns reflects that the initiative is not economically viable. Mr. Hassan replied that investment was fully provided by governments up to provincial capital. Regarding the viability he commented there is lot of potential to use the fiber optic network inside Afghanistan. Currently World Bank is working with the Government of Afghanistan to maximize the use to fiber optic network.

Chairman thanked all the delegates for their live and active participation.

1. **SESSION 2: INDUSTRY-REGULATOR DIALOGUE (CONTINUED)**

**Session Theme: Current Trends and Regulatory Approach in SATRC Countries - Industry Perspective**

This session of the Industry –Regulator dialogue was chaired by Mr. Lotfollah Saboohi, Vice President of the Communication Regulatory Authority of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The theme for this session of Industry-Regulator dialogue was “Current Trends and Regulatory Approach in SATRC Countries – Industry Perspective.

Chairman introduced three panelists for the discussion on theme topics. The panelists are:

* Mr. Amar Nath Singh, Managing Director, Nepal Telecom
* Mr. Zakiul Islam, Senior Director, Regulatory and Legal Affairs, Orascom Bangladesh Limited
* Mr. Pasi Koistinen, Chief Executive Officer, Ncell Nepal

He commented that regulators play the leading role in the ICT development. However, he emphasized that dialogue between regulators, operators, service providers and equipment vendors can lead effect cooperation and accelerate the growth of ICT sector. Chairman requested Mr. Amar Nath Singh for his view on the theme topics.

Mr. Amar Nath Singh commented that the teledensity in the SATRC countries is increasing rapidly due to the rapid development of mobile telephone. However, he pointed out a number of regulatory issues that presently hindering the growth of the sector. Among those are: high license fee, providing roaming facility to the limited mobility operators, ineffective use of spectrum by providing license to rural telephony and number of operators. He also mentioned that operators expect four key approaches from regulatory bodies. Those are: determinacy, expertise, neutrality and humility. He commented that mobile broadband ecosystem is driven by mobile operators, content and service providers, device manufacturer and enablers. A cooperative approach among policy makers, regulators, operators and community would lead for bright future. Mr. Singh’s presentation slides can be found in document INP-25.

Mr. Zakiul Islam from Orascom Bangladesh indicated number regulatory challenges for the telecom operators. Among those are unpredictable regulatory regime, multiple regulators, heavy taxes on all stage of operation, insufficient local contents and lack of prior industry consultation. He pointed on the taxes on all stages of operation on mobile operators in most of the SATRC countries. He also pointed out the 3G spectrum allocation strategies in SATRC countries and commented it should be allocated based on customer benefit as well as interest of investor. His presentation slides can be found in document INP-26.

Chairman commented that the issues that Mr. Islam pointed out are common in most of SATRC countries. He added that sometimes those issues are not also under the control of the regulatory bodies. However, regulators can assist for solving those issues.

Mr. Pasi Koistinen from Ncell commented that regulators should work as facilitator in the competitive environment. He mentioned that cooperation between the regulator and operators can bring benefits for both parties. As example he informed that with the help of NTA and law enforcement agencies Ncell was able to reduce 90% of the illegal VoIP traffic over it’s network which benefitted both the operators as well as government. He also pointed out several regulatory challenges such as multiple authorities, creation of level playing field for competition, high taxation and slow decision process. He commented if regulators take the service oriented approach it would not only increase the investor’s confidence but also encourage investors to participate in the development process through rural development fund and good corporate citizen. He also pointed out a number of key points that need to be addressed by the regulators in the transition to 3G/4G mobile networks and services. His slides can be found in document INF-05.

Chairman thanked all the panelists for their valuable views on the theme topic. He mentioned that three panelists have touched almost all of the important aspects of regulation in SATRC countries.

1. **SESSION 3:**

This session was chaired by Mr. Bhesh Raj Kanel, Chairman SATRC. The objective of this session was to give a detailed report from APT Secretariat regarding the implementation of SATRC Action Plan Phase III including the financial status.

* 1. **Strategic Plan of the APT for 2012 – 2014**

Mr. Mohamed Amir, Director Project Development of APT presented the Strategic Plan of the APT for period 2012 – 2014 which was adopted by the 12th Session of the General Assembly of the APT held 16 – 18 November 2011 in Republic of Korea. He presented the key points of the Strategic Plan. The full version of the strategic plan can be found in document INP-05.

* 1. **Implementation Report of Action Plan Phase III**

This report was presented by Mr. Forhadul Parvez from APT Secretariat. He presented a detail report of the implementation of SATRC Action Plan Phase III. It was noted by the meeting. The full report is in document INP-06.

* 1. **Financial Report of Action Plan Phase III: Contribution and Expenditure**

This report was presented by Mr. Parvez from APT Secretariat. This report shows detail budget of SATRC Action Plan Phase III, pledged contribution by members, expenses of implementation in year 2010 - 2011. The report was noted by the meeting. The detail financial status is in document INP-07.

* 1. **Proposals for SATRC Working Methods**

Mr. Amir informed the meeting that APT Management Committee (MC) instructed each APT work program to develop their own working methods. He further informed that MC has also approved APT Documents Framework in order to streamline the outcomes of APT Work Programs and instructed all APT Work Programs to develop their own approval procedure of output documents. Based on the instructions from MC and existing Terms of Reference of the SATRC, APT Secretariat developed the draft Working Methods for SATRC which can be found in document INP-08. He mentioned that the proposed Working Method is standard format for all APT WPs and annex of the document contains the proposed approval procedure of SATRC output documents.

Chairman thanked Secretariat for drafting the proposed working method for SATRC. He asked comments from the floor. It was decided that the head of delegation meeting would go through the texts of the proposed working method and would submit to final plenary for approval.

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| **Decision no. 3 (SATRC-13)** |
| Council decided to discuss the texts of the proposed working method of SATRC at the head of delegation meeting and submit final plenary for approval. |

1. **SESSION 4: REPORT OF THE SATRC WORKING GROUPS AND APPROVAL OF THE OUTCOMES - WORKING GROUP POLICY AND REGULATION**

This session was chaired by Mr. Sonam Phuntsho, Director, Bhutan InfoCom and Media Authority (BICMA). The objective of the session was to report the activities of the SATRC Working Group on Policy and Regulation and approve the final outcomes of the WG.

Mr. Raj Kumar Upadhyay, Chairman of the SATRC WG Policy and Regulation provided his oral report to the council. Mr. Upadhyay informed the meeting that the WG consists of 12 experts from all of SATRC Members. The experts were nominated by the regulatory authorities of the SATRC member countries, in response to the circular letter sent by APT Secretariat immediately after the 11th SATRC Meeting. Electronic email reflector was established immediately after the formation of the working group. Four work items were assigned to the working group for the year 2010 – 2011:

1. Facilitation of Broadband in SATRC Countries
2. Adoption of Green Technologies
3. CIIP and Cybersecurity
4. VoIP Issues

Working Group had two meetings; the 1st meeting was in 2010 and the 2nd one in 2011. The meetings were attended by the enlisted experts. The Working Group on Policy and Regulation finalized four outcomes to be submitted to the 13th SATRC Meeting for approval. The outcomes are:

1. SATRC Guideline on Facilitation of Broadband in SATRC countries (Document No.: SATRC-13/INP-11)
2. SATRC Report on Adoption of Green Telecommunication in SATRC Countries (Document No.: SATRC-13/INP-12)
3. SATRC Report on Critical Information Infrastructure Protection and Cyber Security (Document No.: SATRC-13/INP-14)
4. SATRC Guideline on Key Regulatory Issues on Voice over IP (Document No.: SATRC-13/INP-13)

He informed that the outcomes would be presented to the meeting one by one for the approval of the council. Chairman thanked Mr. Upadhyay for the brief report of activities of the WG. He requested to present the outcomes one by one for approval.

* 1. *SATRC Guideline on Facilitation of Broadband in SATRC countries (Document No.: SATRC-13/INP-11)*

This outcome was presented by Mr. Wangay Dorji, Head of Telecommunication, BICMA and lead expert for the work item on “Facilitation of Broadband in SATRC countries”. He informed that document focuses on the study on global trend in broadband growth, global initiatives, current broadband scenario in the SATRC countries followed by analysis and recommendation for facilitating the growth of the broadband. He sought approval of the Council. It was suggested to change the type of the document as “SATRC Report” rather than “SATRC Guideline”. Council approved the outcomes as SATRC Report.

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| **Decision no. 4 (SATRC-13)** |
| Counucil on no. 3s SATRC Report.tyoyoe fo teh CMA and lead expert for teh ubmit final plenary for approval texts posed approval procil approved “SATRC Report on Facilitation of Broadband in SATRC countries” |

* 1. *SATRC Report on Adoption of Green Telecommunication in SATRC Countries (Document No.: SATRC-13/INP-12)*

This outcome was presented by Mr. Bijay Kumar Roy from Nepal Telecommunication Authority and lead expert for the work item on “Adoption of Green Technologies”. He informed that document focuses on information such as contribution of telecom industry towards environmental pollution and current developments in green technology deployment scenario in SATRC region. He sought approval of the Council. It was approved by the Council.

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| **Decision no. 5 (SATRC-13)** |
| Counucil on no. 3s SATRC Report.tyoyoe fo teh CMA and lead expert for teh ubmit final plenary for approval texts posed approval procil approved “SATRC Report on Adoption of Green Telecommunication in SATRC Countries ” |

* 1. *SATRC Report on Critical Information Infrastructure Protection and Cyber Security (Document No.: SATRC-13/INP-14)*

This outcome was presented by Mr. Upadhyay from TRAI, India who is the WG chairman as well as the lead expert of the work item “CIIP and Cybersecurity”. He informed that report provides the country specific status and existing regulatory framework for CIIP and cyber security. It also identified the challenges for SATRC countries. He sought approval of the Council. It was approved by the Council.

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| **Decision no. 6 (SATRC-13)** |
| Counucil on no. 3s SATRC Report.tyoyoe fo teh CMA and lead expert for teh ubmit final plenary for approval texts posed approval procil approved “SATRC Report on Critical Information Infrastructure Protection and Cyber Security” |

* 1. *SATRC Guideline on Key Regulatory Issues on Voice over IP (Document No.: SATRC-13/INP-13)*

This outcome was presented by Mr. Upadhyay. He informed that lead expert Mr. M.C.M Farook for work item was unable to attend the meeting. He informed that the outcomes had discussed in detail about the global status of VoIP, regulatory concerns impacting VoIP, status of VoIP in SATRC countries and recommended guideline for promoting VoIP services and its implementation. He sought approval of the meeting. It was approved.

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| **Decision no. 7 (SATRC-13)** |
| Counucil on no. 3s SATRC Report.tyoyoe fo teh CMA and lead expert for teh ubmit final plenary for approval texts posed approval procil approved “SATRC Guideline on Key Regulatory Issues on Voice over IP ” |

Chairman thanked Mr. Upadhyay and all of the WG experts who worked hard for finalizing the outcomes. He commented that all of the outcomes contained valuable information on the relevant subject and those had touched the current regulatory approach in practice in SATRC countries based on the survey result. Also reports have suggested a number of recommendations for SATRC member countries based on current situation. He hoped that the suggested recommendations would benefit the regulators of SATRC countries to solve the problems they are facing at present and going to face in near future. He suggested to circulate those outcomes tot all of the SATRC member regulators for their consideration. APT Secretariat assured that the final outcomes would be circulated to all after editorial corrections.

1. **SESSION 5: REPORT OF THE SATRC WORKING GROUPS AND APPROVAL OF THE OUTCOMES - WORKING GROUP SPECTRUM**

This session was chaired by Mr. Rajkumar Upadhyay, Senior Advisor, Telecommunication Regulatory Authority of India. The objective of the session was to report the activities of the SATRC Working Group on Spectrum and approve the final outcomes of the WG.

Ms. Mina Dashti, Chairman of the SATRC WG on Spectrum provided her oral report to the council. Ms. Dashti informed the meeting that the WG consists of 11 experts from all of SATRC Members. The experts were nominated by the regulatory authorities of the SATRC member countries, in response to the circular letter sent by APT Secretariat immediately after the 11th SATRC Meeting. Electronic email reflector was established immediately after the formation of the working group. Four work items were assigned to the working group for the year 2010 – 2011:

1. Cross Border Coordination and Emergency Telecommunication
2. Challenges of Future Technologies in Spectrum Management
3. Spectrum Sharing and Trading
4. Pricing in Spectrum Allocation

Working Group on Spectrum finalized five outcomes for approval of the Council. The outcomes are:

1. SATRC Guideline on Harmonized Use of Frequency Bands for Public Protection and Disaster Relief (PPDR) (Document No.: SATRC-13/INP-15)
2. SATRC Report on Efficient Use of Spectrum by Using LTE (Document No.: SATRC-13/INP-16)
3. Guideline for SATRC on Acceding to Tampere Convention (Document No.: SATRC-13/INP-17)
4. SATRC Report on Spectrum Sharing and Trading (Document No.: SATRC-13/INP-18)
5. SATRC Report on Cognitive Radio System (Document No.: SATRC-13/INP-20)
6. SATRC Report on Spectrum Pricing (Document No.: SATRC-13/INP-22)

She informed that the outcomes would be presented to the meeting one by one for the approval of the council. Chairman thanked Ms. Dashti for the brief report of activities of the WG. He requested to present the outcomes one by one for approval.

* 1. *SATRC Guideline on Harmonized Use of Frequency Bands for Public Protection and Disaster Relief (PPDR) (Document No.: SATRC-13/INP-15)*

This outcome was presented by Lt. Col. Sajjad Hossain, Director of Spectrum Management, BTRC Bangladesh. He informed that the objective of this report is to provide guideline to SATRC members to harmonize the use of spectrum for the purpose of Public Protection and Disaster Relief (PPDR). This report has analyzed various spectrum bands available for PPDR use in SATRC countries. This has also included recommendation to harmonize the use of the spectrum bands for PPDR for maximum benefits. He sought approval of the report.

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| **Decision no. 8 (SATRC-13)** |
| Counucil on no. 3s SATRC Report.tyoyoe fo teh CMA and lead expert for teh ubmit final plenary for approval texts posed approval procil approved “SATRC Guideline on Harmonized Use of Frequency Bands for Public Protection and Disaster Relief (PPDR)” |

* 1. *SATRC Report on Efficient Use of Spectrum by Using LTE (Document No.: SATRC-13/INP-16*)

This outcome was presented by Ms. Dashti. She informed that Mr. Sanjiv Banjal from TRAI, India acted as lead expert for this work item. She informed that the objective of this report is to provide guideline to utilize the available spectrum efficiently and optimally so that higher bandwidth applications can be served with the available spectrum using latest technologies like LTE. This report has analyzed various mobile systems available in SATRC countries. This has also included the challenges being faced by SATRC countries due to spectrum shortage. Recommendation has been made to overcome these challenges. She sought approval from the Council. It was approved.

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| **Decision no. 9 (SATRC-13)** |
| Counucil on no. 3s SATRC Report.tyoyoe fo teh CMA and lead expert for teh ubmit final plenary for approval texts posed approval procil approved “SATRC Report on Efficient Use of Spectrum by Using LTE ” |

* 1. *Guideline for SATRC on Acceding to Tampere Convention (Document No.: SATRC-13/INP-17)*

This outcome was presented by Ms. Dashti. She informed that Mr. Ikram-ul Haq from PTA, Pakistan acted as lead expert for this work item. She added that the objective of this report is to accelerate the SATRC members for joining to Tampere Convention. This report provides a guideline for SATRC members to join this convention. She sought approval from Council. It was approved.

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| **Decision no. 10 (SATRC-13)** |
| Counucil on no. 3s SATRC Report.tyoyoe fo teh CMA and lead expert for teh ubmit final plenary for approval texts posed approval procil approved “Guideline for SATRC on Acceding to Tampere Convention” |

* 1. *SATRC Report on Spectrum Sharing and Trading (Document No.: SATRC-13/INP-18)*

This outcome was presented by Ms. Dashti. She informed that Mr. Helasiri Ranatunga from TRC, Sri Lanka acted as lead expert for this work item. She added that the objective of this report is to give information to member regulators to explore the possibility of utilizing the scare spectrum resource more effectively through Spectrum Trading and Sharing. She sought approval from Council. It was approved.

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| **Decision no. 11 (SATRC-13)** |
| Counucil on no. 3s SATRC Report.tyoyoe fo teh CMA and lead expert for teh ubmit final plenary for approval texts posed approval procil approved “SATRC Report on Spectrum Sharing and Trading” |

* 1. *SATRC Report on Cognitive Radio System (Document No.: SATRC-13/INP-20)*

This outcome was presented by Ms. Dashti, Chairman of the WG and acted as lead expert for this work item. She informed that the objective of this report is to provide information to SATRC members regarding the challenges in spectrum management while adopting latest technologies like Cognitive Radio System (CRS). This report has analyzed various aspects of CRS. This has also included guideline and recommendation to adopt CRS. She sought approval from Council. It was approved.

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| **Decision no. 12 (SATRC-13)** |
| Counucil on no. 3s SATRC Report.tyoyoe fo teh CMA and lead expert for teh ubmit final plenary for approval texts posed approval procil approved “SATRC Report on Cognitive Radio System” |

* 1. *SATRC Report on Spectrum Pricing (Document No.: SATRC-13/INP-22)*

This outcome was presented by Mr. Min Prasad Aryal who acted as lead expert for this work item. He informed that the objective of this report is to provide consolidated information on spectrum pricing. This report has analyzed various pricing mechanism for spectrum available in SATRC countries and around the world. Recommendation has been made to setup proper regulatory approach for spectrum pricing. He sought approval from Council. It was approved.

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| **Decision no. 13 (SATRC-13)** |
| Counucil on no. 3s SATRC Report.tyoyoe fo teh CMA and lead expert for teh ubmit final plenary for approval texts posed approval procil approved “SATRC Report Spectrum Pricing”. |

Chairman thanked Ms. Mina Dashti and all of the WG experts who worked hard for finalizing the outcomes. He commented that spectrum had become important issues for all for the regulators. He said that all of the outcomes contained valuable information on the relevant subject and those has reflected current situation in SATRC countries based on the survey result. Also reports have suggested a number of recommendations for SATRC member countries based on current situation. He hoped that the suggested recommendations would benefit the regulators of SATRC countries to solve the problems they are facing at present and going to face in near future. He informed as decided earlier session the outcomes would be circulated by APT Secretariat to all of the SATRC member regulators for their consideration.

1. **SESSION 6: REPORT OF THE SATRC WORKING GROUPS AND APPROVAL OF THE OUTCOMES - WORKING GROUP NETWORK AND SERVICES**

This session was chaired by Mr. U. H. C. Priyantha, Deputy Director General, TRC, Sri Lanka. The objective of the session was to report the activities of the SATRC Working Group on Network and Services and approve the final outcomes of the WG.

Mr. V. K. Agrawal, expert of the WG Network and Service from TRAI reported the activities of the WG in absence of Mr. Indrajith Hangdapangoda, Chairman of the WG. Mr. Agrawal informed the meeting that the WG consists of 10 experts from all of SATRC Members. The experts were nominated by the regulatory authorities of the SATRC member countries, in response to the circular letter sent by APT Secretariat immediately after the 11th SATRC Meeting. Electronic email reflector was established immediately after the formation of the working group. Four work items were assigned to the working group for the year 2010 – 2011:

1. Ensuring Quality Mobile Handsets to South Asian Consumers
2. Evolution of NGN and NGA: Interconnection Tariffs in SATRC Countries
3. Retail Tariffs: QoS Sensitive Pricing for IP based Services
4. Roaming and International Tariffs in SATRC Countries

Working Group on Network and Services finalized two outcomes for approval of the Council:

1. SATRC Report on “ NGN Interconnection Charges” (Document No.: SATRC-13/INP-19)
2. Guideline for SATRC on Ensuring Quality Mobile Handsets to South Asian Consumers (Document No.: SATRC-13/INP-21)

He informed that the outcomes would be presented to the Council for approval. Chairman thanked Mr. Agarwal for the brief report of activities of the WG. He requested to present the outcomes for approval.

* 1. *SATRC Report on “ NGN Interconnection Charges” (Document No.: SATRC-13/INP-19)*

This outcome was presented by Mr. Agrawal who is the lead expert on the work item. He informed that the objective of the report is to provide a complete picture of the NGN interconnection scenario and charging mechanism for each interconnection scheme. Since IP interconnection has not been introduced in SATRC countries the report had focused mainly on the international practices where NGN interconnection has been introduced. He sought approval of the report. It was approved by the council.

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| **Decision no. 14 (SATRC-13)** |
| Counucil on no. 3s SATRC Report.tyoyoe fo teh CMA and lead expert for teh ubmit final plenary for approval texts posed approval procil approved “SATRC Report on NGN Interconnection Charges”. |

* 1. *Guideline for SATRC on Ensuring Quality Mobile Handsets to South Asian Consumers (Document No.: SATRC-13/INP-21)*

This outcome was presented by Mr. Min Prasad Aryal who is the lead expert on the work item. He informed that the objective of the report is to provide a guideline to the SATRC member regulators how to ensure the quality of the mobile handsets. He informed that the report also contained the current situation of the low quality handset market spread and measures taken by the regulators in SATRC countries based on the survey result. Report also suggested recommended guideline for ensuring the quality of the handset. He sought approval of the report from Council. It was approved.

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| **Decision no. 15 (SATRC-13)** |
| Counucil on no. 3s SATRC Report.tyoyoe fo teh CMA and lead expert for teh ubmit final plenary for approval texts posed approval procil approved “Guideline for SATRC on Ensuring Quality Mobile Handsets to South Asian Consumers ” |

Chairman thanked Mr. Agarwal and Mr. Aryal and all of the WG experts who worked hard for finalizing the outcomes. He said that all of the outcomes contained valuable information on the relevant subject and those has reflected current situation in SATRC countries based on the survey result. Also reports have suggested a number of recommendations for SATRC member countries based on current situation. He hoped that the suggested recommendations would benefit the regulators of SATRC countries to solve the problems they are facing at present and going to face in near future.

1. **SESSION 7: DISCUSSION ON SATRC ACTION PLAN PHASE IV**

This session was chaired by Mr. Ilyas Ahmed, Chief Executive of Communication Authority of Maldives. Main objective of the session was to discuss the SATRC Action Plan Phase IV.

* 1. **Proposals for SATRC Action Plan Phase IV (Document. INP-09)**

Mr. Amarendra Narayan, Consultant of SATRC presented document INP-09 which contains the proposal for SATRC Action Plan Phase IV structure. Mentioning the objective and importance of SATRC, Mr. Narayan said the proposed Action Plan IV contains three basic components: working group activities, capacity building workshop and SATRC web portal for information sharing. He pointed that for Action Plan Phase IV two working groups viz. WG on Policy and Regulation, and WG Network and Services would be merged considering the similarity of work. He also presented the working procedure of the working groups.

Chairman thanked Mr. Narayan for presenting the proposals. He mentioned that the head of delegation meeting would finalize the merging of the two working groups.

Proposal for Action Plan Phase IV was noted by the meeting for further discussion at the head of delegation meeting.

* 1. **Proposed Work Items for Action Plan Phase IV (Document. INP-10)**

Mr. Narayan introduced document INP-10 which contains the proposed work items to be included at Action Plan Phase IV. He informed that the work items had been proposed by the three working groups worked under Action Plan Phase III. He mentioned that the detail of each work item had also been included in the document.

Chairman thanked Mr. Narayan for the proposals of the work items. He commented that all of the proposed work items are important and relevant to the work of SATRC. However, due to the lack of resources all of the items cannot be included under Action Plan Phase IV. Items would be included based on the priority basis and it would be done by the head of delegation meeting.

Proposal of Work Items for Action Plan Phase IV was noted by the meeting for further discussion at the head of delegation meeting.

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| **Decision no. 16 (SATRC-13)** |
| Counucil on no. 3s SATRC Report.tyoyoe fo teh CMA and lead expert for teh ubmit final plenary for approval texts posed approval procil decided that proposed structure of SATRC Action Plan Phase IV (document INP-09) and proposed work items (document INP-10) would be discussed in detail at the Heads of Delegation meeting and would be submitted to closing plenary for approval. |

Chairman requested Mr. Narayan to give views on key issues of concern and interest to the region. Mr. Narayan made a short presentation on this issue which can be found in document INP-27. Chairman commented that if necessary work items could be included from the slides of Mr. Narayan.

1. **SESSION 8: DISCUSSION ON THE KEY REGULATORY ISSUES**

This session was chaired by Mr. Ilyas Ahmed, Chief Executive of Communication Authority of Maldives. Main objective of the session was to discuss and exchange of views on two key regulatory issues: Cybersecurity and regional roaming in SATRC countries.

Chairman invited Mr. Sameer Sharma from ITU to deliver a presentation on Cybersecurity and Child Online Protection. Mr. Sameer presented ITU’s Cybersecurity agenda and initiatives for Child Online Protection. Presentation slides are available in document INF-03.

Chairman invited Mr. Pasi Koistenin, CEO of NCell, Nepal for presenting his views on simplifying regional roaming in SATRC countries – points to be considered by the regulators and mobile industry. Mr. Pasi Koistenin emphasized on customer knowledge on roaming. He mentioned very few customer are having the knowledge of roaming and when they roam few things need to be keep in mind such as who are the operators in visiting country, price of roaming etc. He mentioned regulators can play roles in providing above information and make customer easy feeling about roaming. He mentioned some initiatives that can be taken by operators to make the roaming less costly. One he mentioned that self-regulation by the operators who runs business in multiple countries. Those type of operators may encourage people to use their network at reasonable rate.

Chairman thanked Mr. Koistenin and mentioned roaming issues in SATRC countries is important. He asked comment from floor. Mr. Narayan commented that mobility in the region has increased and people’s confidence of mobile telecommunication has increased. Regulators need to address the issue on urgent basis. Mr. Zakiul Islam from Orascom Bangladesh commented that there is communication gap and lack of knowledge about roaming. He also said interconnection charge played an important role determining the price of roaming and need to be addressed. He requested collaborative efforts among regulators and operators in SATRC countries. Chairman reminded that discussion on roaming issue is not new in SATRC. However, little progress had been made. He suggested to discuss the issue in a smaller scale rather than in whole SATRC region. He mentioned if it could be done by two or three countries, the concept can be extended into whole SATRC region.

Mr. Sharma mentioned several initiatives in EU and between Malaysia and Singapore for reducing roaming rates. He suggested the regulators to have mutual cooperation which could lead the operators for cooperation as well. Mr. Sonam Phuntsho, director of BICMA emphasized the necessity of agreement among regulators in SATRC countries. He suggested that group of two or three countries may initiate and develop some concrete recommendations on that. He suggested concrete measures by the regulators and operators of those two of three countries as case study. He also suggested to include this as priority work item in SATRC.

Mr. Amir from APT Secretariat reminded that Bali Action Plan included facilitation of roaming in the region. He mentioned high level commitment is already there for roaming issue. He commented that regulators have good relationship with the operators in the SATC countries therefore regulators could take the initiative to discuss with their respective operators on the possible way forward and action on regional roaming within SATRC countries. He felt bilateral discussions between SATRC countries initiated by regulators with operators on board the discussions, will help towards a positive action in the region.

Chairman commented that the issue of roaming could be include as work item for Action Plan Phase IV on priority basis and it would be considered in the Heads of Delegation meeting. He thanked all the delegates for their valuable contributions on roaming.

1. **SESSION 9: THE WAY FORWARD AND CLOSING**

This session was chaired by Mr. Bhesh Raj Kanel, Chairman of SATRC. Objective of this session was to approve the outcomes of SATRC-13 meeting.

* 1. **Adoption of SATRC Working Method (Document. SATRC-13/OUT-01)**

This document was presented by Mr. Amir from APT Secretariat. Chairman informed that the head of delegation meeting approved the working method of SATRC which also includes the output document approval process of SATRC. He asked comments from floor. It was approved by the Council.

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| **Decision no. 17 (SATRC-13)** |
| Council approved the Working Method of SATRC which is in document OUT-01. |

Chairman indicated that the approved Working Method of SATRC had suggested a Vice Chairman for SATRC in order to facilitate the work of the SATRC Chairman. He further mentioned that the Head of Delegations Meeting decided that the Vice Chairman would be nominated from the next host of SATRC meeting. In this regard he proposed the name of Mr. Ilyas Ahmed, Chief Executive of Communication Authority of Maldives as the Vice Chairman of SATRC. It was approved by the Council.

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| **Decision no. 18 (SATRC-13)** |
| Council nominated Mr. Ilyas Ahmed, Chief Executive of Communication Authority of Maldives as the Vice Chairman of SATRC for the next one year term. |

Mr. Ilyas Ahmed thanked Chairman and all the SATRC regulators to have confidence on him. He promised to give his best effort for the betterment of SATRC activities.

* 1. **Adoption of SATRC Action Plan Phase IV (Document. SATRC-13/OUT-02Rev.1)**

Mr. Amirintroduced the document. He mentioned that the document had been discussed in detail at the Heads of Delegation meeting. Key points of the Action Plan Phase IV are:

* Two working groups: WG Policy, Regulation and Services; WG Spectrum
* One physical meeting for each working group each year
* Two capacity building workshops related to the activities of the working groups
* Total estimated budget of US$113,400 for implementation
* Same level of extra budgetary contribution by SATRC Members what they have contributed for Action Plan Phase III

He sought adoption of the document by the Council. Chairman thanked Mr. Amir for presenting the document. Chairman asked comments from floor. It was suggested to include the issue of roaming in SATRC countries to be included as priority work item under the WG Policy, Regulation and Service. It was agreed by the Council.

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| **Decision no. 19 (SATRC-13)** |
| Council adopted the SATRC Action Plan Phase IV as described in document OUT-02(Rev.1). |

* 1. **Adoption of the SATRC Implementation Calendar for 2012 -2013 (Document. SATRC-13/OUT-03)**

Mr. Amir introduced the document. He mentioned that in next one year time four SATRC events had been agreed by the head of delegation meeting. Event’s name, time frame and venue had been mentioned in the document. He presented the document for the adoption by the Council. It was adopted by the Council.

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| **Decision no. 20 (SATRC-13)** |
| Council adopted the SATRC Implementation Calendar for 2012 -2013in document OUT-03. |

**12.4 Date and Venue of the 14th SATRC Meeting**

Mr. Ilyas Ahmed, Chief Executive of Communication Authority of Maldives invited the Council to have it’s 14th Meeting in Maldives. It was agreed by the Council. Chairman instructed APT Secretariat to communicate with the Communication Authority of Maldives for exact date and venue of the meeting.

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| **Decision no. 21 (SATRC-13)** |
| It was decide that the 14th SATRC meeting will be held in Maldives and will be hosted by Communication Authority of Maldives. |

* 1. **Closing**

Mr. Mohamed Amir of APT thanked all the regulators for very successful meeting and for their contribution to SATRC activities. He also congratulated on the new leadership taken by Mr. Bhesh Raj Kanel, SATRC Chairman and Mr. Ilyas Ahmed, Vice Chairman of SATRC. He thanked the team of NTA and MoIC who had successfully provided all the hosting facilities. He assured that APT Secretariat would do its best for the success of SATRC activities.

Mr. Kanel, SATRC Chairman thanked the head of each delegation for their presence at the meeting and their effort for the successful meeting. He also thanked Mr. Yamada and APT secretariat for their hard works. He promised that as the Chairman of SATRC he would try his best to enhance the SATRC activities among its members.

Chairman declared the meeting closed.

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**EMBEDDED ATTACHMENTS:**

* **Working Methods of SATRC**



* **SATRC Action Plan Phase IV**

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* **SATRC Implementation Calendar 2012-2013**

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