

**SATRC Workshop on Policy, Regulation and Services**

8 – 10 May 2023, Islamabad, Pakistan

**CONCEPT NOTE**

1. **Background**

The 22nd Meeting of the South Asian Telecommunication Regulators’ Council (SATRC-22) held virtually/online from 1 to 3 November 2021 approved the SATRC Action Plan Phase VIII (SAP-VIII) for the implementation period of 2022-2023. SAP-VIII consists of three basic activities: working groups, capacity building and web portal. SATRC Workshops are held as part of activities under capacity building with the objective of developing the capacity of human resources of the SATRC Members.

Following are the work items for the activities of SATRC Working Group on Policy, Regulations and Services for SAP-VIII:

* Questionnaire on Development of Enabling Policy and Regulatory Environments, in the Contexts of SATRC, to Embrace the New Ecosystem Brought by 5G.
* Questionnaire on Telecom Active Infrastructure Sharing.
* Questionnaire on Regulatory issues related to OTT Services and Applications.
* Questionnaire on NGSO satellite constellations: requirements, challenges and impact in South Asia.

1. **Objectives**

The SATRC Workshop on Policy, Regulations and Services will be held as a part of implementation of SAP-VIII. The objective of this workshop is to share insights, experiences, best practices as well as engage in dialogue to identify the challenges, opportunities and possible way forward on the work items under the SATRC Working Group on Policy, Regulations and Services for SAP-VIII in order to have better understanding on those issues. Important issues such as development of enabling policy and regulatory environments in SATRC countries, telecom active infrastructure sharing, regulatory issues related to OTT services and applications and requirement, challenges and impacts related to NGSO satellite constellations in the South Asia will be discussed. It will also provide an opportunity for the SATRC Members as well as industry to share their experiences and future plans. A number of experts and speakers will be invited to the workshop to share their invaluable insights and experiences.

1. **Expected Participation**

The SATRC Workshop on Policy, Regulations and Services will be targeted for mid-level and senior-level officers of the SATRC Members who are involved in the work of related areas. It is expected that the experts of the SATRC Working Group on Policy, Regulations and Services will also attend the workshop. Further, relevant experts from industry are also welcomed to participate at the workshop.

1. **Expected outcomes**

* Enhanced understanding of the SATRC Members on above mentioned work items of SATRC Working Group on Policy, Regulation and Services.
* Discussion will provide guideline to SATRC Working Group on Policy, Regulation and Services to develop tangible outcomes on the work items during the implementation of SAP-VIII.

1. **Timing and location**

The SATRC Workshop on Policy, Regulation and Services will be held from 8 – 10 May 2023 in Islamabad, Pakistan. It will be hosted by Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA). Details are provided in Information for Participants.

1. **Contact**

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1. **Tentative Programme**

The tentative programme of SATRC Workshop on Policy, Regulation and Services is provided in Annex A.

**Annex A**

**Tentative Programme**

**SATRC Workshop on Policy, Regulation and Services**

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| **Time**  **(UTC+5.00)** | **Monday, 8 May 2023** |
| 08:30 – 09:30 | Registration |
| 09:30 – 10:00 | **Opening**   * Welcome Address by Secretary General of Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT) * Opening Address by Chair of SATRC Working Group on Policy, Regulation and Services. * Welcome note by MoIT (TBD)( Minister/ Secretary/ Member Telecom) * Inaugural Address by Chairman of Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) * Presentation of Token of Appreciation   (Group Photograph) |
| 10:00 – 10:30 | **Coffee/Tea Break** |
| 10:30 – 11:00 | **Session 1 – Overview of APT, SATRC and Workshop**   * Outcomes of the 46th Session of the Management Committee of APT. * Overview of SATRC related activities, and details of the SATRC Workshop on Policy, Regulation and Services by APT Secretariat. * Overview of SATRC Working Group on Policy, Regulation and Services by Chair of SATRC Working Group on Policy, Regulation and Services. |
| 11:00 – 12:30 | **Session 2 –** **Emerging technologies and the evolving policy, regulation, and connectivity landscape.**  The world is witnessing an extraordinary technological feat and social revolution because of rapidly evolving digital ecosystem. Emerging technologies including Metaverse, Internet of Things (IoT), Evolution of WLAN (Wi-Fi 6e), Future Generations of Mobile Telephony (Terrestrial and Satellite 6G) and Free Space Optical (FSO i.e. Wireless communication in THz and beyond) have fundamentally disrupted/impacted every aspect of life across all sectors.  There is a need of a new and dynamic governance frameworks including policy and regulations to ensure inclusiveness and equitable benefit. In this constantly evolving digital and connectivity landscape, it is necessary to adopt a flexible and dynamic regulatory model capable of responding to changes and optimising impacts. At the same time, it is crucial to ensure that new policy/regulations do not hinder entrance of new players in the emerging markets and provide conducive platform for innovation and creativity.  The topics to be discussed in this session include:   * Short introduction to the new/ emerging technologies * Examining the impact and implications on policy and regulations. * Principles and approaches of regulating emerging technologies. * Strategies to ensure dynamic policy and regulatory framework. * New challenges and opportunities of emerging technologies. * Key perspectives to consider while adopting emerging technologies for digital transformation. * Role of government, regulator, and industry in ensuring privacy, consumer protection and security.   **Moderator:**  (TBC)  **Speakers:** SATRC Member/Industry Representatives |
| 12:30 – 14:00 | **Lunch Break** |
| 14:00 – 15:30 | **Session 3 – Development of Enabling Policy and Regulatory environments in the contexts of SATRC to embrace the new ecosystem brought by 5G.**  5G is expected to enable significant economic and social value by improving economic growth, enhancing citizen’s life experiences, and creating new business opportunities for many industries embarking on their digital transformations. 5G provides several potential use cases across industry verticals and will cater to diverse service requirements. It is also suggested that 5G deployment may help countries to meet sustainable development goals in areas of high societal impact like manufacturing, agriculture, energy, education, healthcare, transport, public security, and banking.  Adoption of anticipated use cases and management of 5G ecosystem would require coordinated efforts with cross-sectoral involvement. Development in enabling policy and regulatory environments is the key to foster an open and competitive economy in this new ecosystem brought by 5G. The main purpose of this work item is to identify such enabling policy and regulatory approaches in the context of SATRC.  The topics to be discussed in this session include:   * Roadmaps including spectrum allocation, sharing and harmonization. * 5G use cases in SATRC countries- Success Stories and Potential area/avenues. * Economic impacts of 5G * Commercial Success of 5G services – Revenue, RoI. End User Adoption * 5G roll-out challenges and risks. * Importance of 5G enablers (backhaul infrastructure, small cells, fiberization) * International best practices.   **Moderator:**  (TBC)  **Speakers:**  SATRC Member/Industry Representatives |
| 15:30 – 15:45 | **Coffee/Tea Break** |
| 15:45 – 17:15 | **Session 4** – **Development of Enabling Policy and Regulatory environments in the contexts of SATRC to embrace the new ecosystem brought by 5G (contd.)**  continuation of previous session |
| 19:00 |  |
| **Time**  **(UTC+5.00)** | **Tuesday, 9 May 2023** |
| 9:00 – 10:30 | **Session 5 –Regulatory issues related to OTT Services and Applications**  The innovation and technological advancements have brought in many new services in the ICT sector. Over the Top (OTT) services including social media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.) Streaming Platforms (Netflix, etc) Content Platform (Youtube, Wikipedia, etc.), Apps (News Portals, Shopping, Banking, search portals, etc. ), Voice & Video Telephony (whatsapp, Skype, etc.), Hybrid Telephony Platforms (BiP, etc.) are such services aided by the advancement in IP networks. However, there are some regulatory concerns across countries regarding regulatory compliance and impact of the OTT services. The licensed Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) have raised some objections as they feel and experience the adverse impact of OTT services on their network due to increased data traffic and possibility of revenue loss. Also, a new regulatory framework is required to be developed for addressing the compliance of these OTT with national laws and regulation, including competition and investment issues. Different regulatory approaches are being adopted by various regulators with respect to OTT services.  The topics to be discussed in this session includes:   * Status of OTT services and their regulatory framework in SATRC countries. * Social and economic impacts of OTT. * Regulatory issues and challenges related to OTT service and applications. * Regulatory trends around the world to address the impact of OTT services. * Way forward for SATRC countries to better accommodate OTT service.   **Moderator:**  (TBC)  **Speakers:**  SATRC Member/Industry Representatives |
| 10:30 – 11:00 | **Coffee/Tea** **Break** |
| 11:00 – 12:30 | **Session 6 – Regulatory issues related to OTT Services and Applications (contd.)**  continuation of previous session |
| 12:30 – 14:00 | **Lunch Break** |
| 14:00 – 15:30 | **Session 7 – Telecom Active Infrastructure Sharing –Policy and Regulatory approaches including analysis, awareness, principles, and practices.**  Deployment of high-quality network infrastructure is a capital intensive and requires huge investments and resources. Infrastructure sharing( active/passive) is a significant policy measures intended to downsize deployment and operational costs in mobile and fixed broadband networks, enabling faster broadband network deployment.  This session will focus on different infrastructure sharing strategies and policies, particularly emphasizing on the Active Infrastructure sharing aspects. Active infrastructure sharing is defined as the sharing of electronic infrastructure of the network and core network . This form can be further classified into MORAN (Multi-Operator Radio Access Network), where radio access networks are shared and dedicated spectrum is used by each sharing operator, MOCN (Multi-Operator Core Network), where radio access networks and spectrum are shared, and core network sharing, where servers and core network functionalities are shared.  The topics to be discussed in this session includes:   * Regulatory frameworks and approaches for active infrastructure sharing * How can infrastructure sharing drive growth? * Success Stories of Infrastructure Sharing * The impact of infrastructure sharing on competition and consumers. * Role of Telecom Infrastructure Licensees in Infrastructure Sharing (Tower Co., Netco., etc.) * Regulatory approaches towards Fee/ Duty to enable Infrastructure Sharing (e.g. Spectrum Sharing)   **Moderator:**  (TBC)  **Speakers:**  SATRC Member/Industry Representatives |
| 15:30 – 15:45 | **Coffee/Tea Break** |
| 15:45 – 17:15 | **Session 8 – Telecom Active Infrastructure Sharing –Policy and Regulatory approaches including analysis, awareness, principles, and practices (contd.)**  continuation of previous session. |
| **Time**  **(UTC+5:00)** | **Wednesday, 10 May 2023** |
| 9:00 – 10:30 | **Session 9 – NGSO Satellite Constellations: Requirements, Challenges, and Impact in South Asia**  NGSO Satellite Constellation is a group of communication satellites operating together in Low Earth Orbit (LEO) or Medium Earth Orbit (MEO) to cover a vast span of the globe or even the whole land mass which is used for global communications coverage. Some of the NGSO satellite constellations have features of inter-satellite communication link also. Considering the need to provide subscribers with reliable communications, by means of space-based communications, these services could be provided by the satellite access providers using NGSO Satellite constellations. It is necessary for countries to have laws and regulations established for such space-based communications to facilitate the easy entry of satellite-based operators.  The topics to be discussed in this session include:   * Requirements, challenges, and impact of NGSO satellite constellations. * International and regional standards and best practices. * Regulatory issues involve landing rights, spectrum assignment/ award mechanism (Administrative or Auction). * Licensing issues, * Co-existence and sharing of spectrum between Satellite and terrestrial services   **Moderator:**  (TBC)  **Speakers:**  SATRC Member/Industry Representatives |
| 10:30 – 11:00 | **Coffee/Tea Break** |
| 11:00 – 12:30 | **Session 10 – The new context of Regulation: Sustainability and Collaborative Regulations in the South Asian Region**  This session will cover sustainability and collaborative aspects of regulations. In the cross-sector collaborative sub-session, it will cover cross-cutting issues like cybersecurity, end user privacy and data protection amongst others. The sustainability aspect includes e-Waste management in telecom/ICT sectors which is source of generation of large amount of e-waste.  The topics to be discussed in this session includes:   * Cross-sector collaborative regulations including best practices. * e-Waste Management in Telecom/ICT Sector including national strategies. * Environmental Regulatory Regime for Telecom/ICT sector in SATRC Countries and way forward. * Regulatory trends around the world.   **Moderator:**  (TBC)  **Speakers:**  SATRC Member/Industry Representatives |
| 12:30 – 12:40 | **Intermission for Logistic Arrangements** |
| 12:40 – 13:00 | **Summary of Workshop and Closing**   * Summary of the Workshop by Chair of SATRC WG PRS. * Closing Remarks by Secretary General of APT. * Closing Remarks by Chairman of PTA. |
| 13:00 – 14:00 | **Lunch Break** |
| 14:00 | **Local Site Visit** |

*Note: For the delegates attending virtually, Zoom meeting room will be opened 30 minutes prior to the start of the session every day during the workshop.*