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| **The 24th Meeting of the South Asian Telecommunication Regulators’ Council (SATRC-24)** | **SATRC-24/OUT-10 (Rev.1)** |
| 3 – 5 October 2023, Dhaka, Bangladesh | 5 October 2023 |

**SOUTH ASIAN TELECOMMUNICATION REGULATORS’ COUNCIL (satrc) action plan phase IX**

**SOUTH ASIAN TELECOMMUNICATION REGULATORS’ COUNCIL**

**(satrc) action plan phase IX**

1. **OBJECTIVE**

The SATRC activities are conducted through the SATRC Action Plan at different phases. The concept of developing SATRC Action Plan was initiated in 2005 from the fact that the key issues can be addressed in a more focused and harmonized manner by adoption of an Action Plan. The Action Plan provides a common charter to SATRC members for deriving the synergy of collaborative wisdom and action.

The SATRC Action Plan aims at addressing the regulatory issues and challenges of common concern to its members that arise due to market dynamics, technological developments, and innovations in the field of information and communications so as to harness their full potential for the benefit of all by utilizing the expertise and financial resources available from within its member countries.

The Action Plan Phase IX has been adopted by the 24th Meeting of SATRC (SATRC-24) held from 3 to 5 October 2023 in Dhaka, Bangladesh for the implementation period of 2024 – 2025. In the implementation of Action Plan Phase IX, SATRC will cover a number of specific issues that are common to the SATRC Members.

1. **STRUCTURE**

The two Working Groups of the SAP Phase VIII worked very efficiently and developed the outcomes as planned in a timely manner. Following two Working Groups will continue their activities:

* **Working Group Policy, Regulation and Services:** to deal with the issues related to policy, regulation and service development of Telecommunication and ICT sector in the region
* **Working Group on Spectrum:** to deal with the issues related to spectrum management, monitoring, sharing and coordinated efficient use of spectrum for different service in the region

Working Group will study the work items as decided by the SATRC Meeting. SATRC will base its decision on the relevance and practical use of the study outcomes. In view of the dynamic nature of the sector, it is important that the study on work items be done within short period of time.

The effectiveness of the Working Groups can be further improved by online working and enhanced participation of the relevant experts in physical meetings and e-meetings. Physical meetings of the Working Groups will continue to be organized in hybrid format. Working Groups will be able to undertake more work items which can be approved by the SATRC Chair by electronic consultation. In order to facilitate smooth working, it is requested that after approval of the Action Plan Phase IX by SATRC-24, the names of the experts should be confirmed urgently.

Besides Working Groups activities, SAP Phase IX will also include:

* **Capacity Building Workshops/Trainings:** To organize workshops/trainings for the personnel of regulatory bodies on the recent trends in telecommunication/ICT sector.
* **SATRC Web Portal:** To collect the information from regulatory bodies and publish it of SATRC webpage for information sharing among the regulators. APT Secretariat will send circular requesting SATRC Members to list the information to share on SATRC Web Portal.
* **SATRC Web Dialogues:** To share knowledge and experiences of policy/regulatory issues, challenges and best practices. It is aimed to fulfill intellectual curiosity of SATRC Members and provide opportunity to learn diversified perspectives in the field of Telecommunication/ICT.

**Working Procedure for the Working Groups:** The Working Groups will maintain the following working procedure:

* Working Group will be chaired by nominee from one of the regulators
* There should be at least one expert from each member regulator in each Working Group
* Regulators may nominate and encourage experts on relevant work from the industry sector of their country
* Each working group will work on a number of work items relevant to the need of the SATRC region
* Work items will be proposed by the regulators, working group experts and SATRC consultant considering the needs of the regulators and the industry
* Working group will have one physical meeting in a year. Beside physical meetings working group should conduct online activities through email reflector. The venue of the working group will be decided based on the invitation of the member regulators or APT Secretariat.
* For attending the working group meeting two fellowships per SATRC member will be granted. Fellowship nominee must be in the list of WG experts.
* Working group will decide the scopes of work of each working items
* The output of each work items could be a SATRC Report or Guideline or Opinion as decided by the working groups
* All the outputs of the working groups must have to be approved by the next immediate meeting of the SATRC

1. **Work Plan and Estimated Budget for SATRC Action Plan Phase IX: Time Frame 2024 – 2025**

| **Sl. No** | **Activities** | **Methodology** | **Work Items** | **Expected Output** | **Estimated Budget (US$)** | **Remarks** |
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| **1.** | **Working Group Policy, Regulation and Services** | Working Group will be chaired by Pakistan.  Bangladesh and Nepal will provide Vice-Chairs. At least one expert from each SATRC Country.  One physical meeting per year. Electronic meetings will be organized monthly/ bi-monthly basis.  Working Group will define the scope of each work item and expected outputs in defined time frame | 1. Study of the regulatory challenges concerning new technologies and smart solutions for Fixed and Mobile Broadband | SATRC  Reports/  Guidelines | **40,000** | Two fellowships will be granted for each SATRC Members for attending Working Group Meeting. |
| 1. Enhancing the Utilization of Universal Service Obligation Fund for Digital Inclusion |
| 1. Enhancing ICT E-Waste Management Regulations for Sustainable Development |
| 1. Study on challenges and addressal of online scams and digital financial frauds taking into account the consumer information protection and rights |
| 1. Analyzing the impact of convergence and emerging services on the tariff policies in SATRC countries |
| 1. Smart cities and societies: Experience and case studies in SATRC countries in deploying IoT, Big Data and similar technologies |
| **2.** | **Working Group Spectrum** | Working Group chaired by India.  Bhutan and Islamic Republic of Iran will provide Vice Chairs. At least one expert from each SATRC Country.  One physical meeting per year. Electronic meetings will be organized monthly/bi-monthly basis.  Working Group will define the scope of each work item and expected outputs in defined time frame | 1. Spectrum Approaches and Regulatory Requirements for NGSO Satellite Constellations for Space-based Communication Services | SATRC  Reports/  Guidelines | **40,000** | Two fellowships will be granted for each SATRC Member for attending Working Group Meeting. |
| 1. Current Practices of Licensing and Spectrum Assignment in Land Mobile Radio Systems particularly in VHF and UHF Person-to- Person Voice Communication System in SATRC Countries |
| 1. Spectrum Approaches and Regulatory Requirements to Enable Satellite - IMT Integration |
| 1. a) Spectrum Outlook in SATRC Countries   b) Registration of Frequency Assignments in MIFR by SATRC Countries |
| 1. Backhaul Infrastructure Readiness and Requirements for 5G Deployment in SATRC Countries |
| 1. Efficient Valuation and Pricing of Spectrum in SATRC Countries |
| **3.** | **Capacity Building** | Three workshops will be organized. The topics would be related to the activities of the SATRC Working Groups and recent trends. Consultation will be conducted in order the select the themes for the workshops. | 1. Workshop on Policy, Regulation and Service |  | **72,000** | Two fellowships for each SATRC Member will be granted.  One of the Workshops will be funded by the Extra Budgetary Contributions by the Government of Japan. |
| 1. Workshop on Spectrum |
| 1. Workshop on Recent Trend and Technologies |
| **4.** | **SATRC Web Portal** | To collect the information from SATRC Members and publish it of SATRC webpage for information sharing among the Members | To manage the SATRC web portal online hosting and other maintenance activities | Update of the web portal | 2,000 | APT Secretariat will contract the 3rd party provide to provide the hosting and the maintenance |
| **5.** | **Facilitation of fellowship for SATRC** | To provide fellowships to the Chair of the Working Groups to attend the SATRC Meetings to report the outcomes |  |  | **5,000** | SATRC Members to nominate Chairman and Lead Experts of the Working Groups to attend SATRC Meetings |
| **6.** | **SATRC Web Dialogue** | To organize series of SATRC Web Dialogue to share knowledge and experiences of policy/regulatory issues, challenges and best practices. |  | It is aimed to fulfill intellectual curiosity of SATRC Members and provide opportunity to learn diversified perspectives in the field of Telecommunication/ICT. | **4,000** | APT Secretariat will organize the web dialogue sessions virtually. Regional and international experts will be invited to deliver lectures. |
| **7.** | **Auditing and Miscellaneous Expenses** | Including the auditing fees of the EBC SATRC |  |  | **4,000** | APT Secretariat will communicate with the audit firm to conduct the audit |
| **8.** | **Administrative Fee**  **for EBC (7%)** |  |  |  | **10,000** |  |
| **Expected Expenses for Implementation of Action Plan Phase IX** | | | | | **177,000** | To be secured by extra budgetary contribution by SATRC Members |

1. **Estimated Income for Implementation of Action Plan Phase IX**

Expected income for the implementation of SATRC Action Plan Phase IX will be mainly the Extra Budgetary Contribution (EBC) from SATRC Members or any voluntary extra budgetary contributions by other APT members. The SATRC Members shall at least maintain the same level of contribution that they provided for Action Plan Phase VIII.

The estimated income, as pledged at the SATRC-24, for Action Plan Phase IX is shown in the table below.

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| **No.** | **Country** | **SATRC Members** | **Pledge Contributions for**  **Action Plan Phase IX**  **(USD)** |
| 1 | Afghanistan | Afghanistan Telecommunication Regulatory Authority (ATRA) | 6,000 |
| 2 | Bangladesh | Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) | 10,000 |
| 3 | Bhutan | Bhutan Infocomm and Media Authority (BICMA) | 5,000 |
| 4 | India | Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) | 40,000 |
| 5 | Islamic Republic of Iran | Communications Regulatory Authority (CRA), Islamic Republic of Iran | 11,000 |
| 6 | Maldives | Communications Authority of Maldives (CAM) | 5,000 |
| 7 | Nepal | Nepal Telecommunications Authority (NTA) | 10,000 |
| 8 | Pakistan | Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) | 15,000 |
| 9 | Sri Lanka | Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (TRC), Sri Lanka | 15,000 |
| Total Pledged EBC for SATRC Action Plan Phase IX | | | 117,000 |
| Amount Carried Forward from Action Plan Phase VIII | | | 50,004 |
| Contributions receivable (for previous cycles) | | | 10,000 |
| **Total fund availability for SATRC Action Plan Phase IX** | | | **177,004** |

1. **Tentative Calendar of the Implementation of SATRC Action Plan Phase IX**

Following tentative calendar is proposed for the implementation of SATRC Action Plan IX during the implementation period of 2024 – 2025.

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| **No.** | **Activity** | **Time Frame** | **Host (Venue)** |
| 1. | 1st Meeting of the SATRC Working Group on Policy, Regulation and Service | Q2 of 2024 | PTA (Pakistan) |
| 2. | 1st Meeting of the SATRC Working Group Spectrum | Q2 of 2024 | NTA (Nepal) |
| 3. | SATRC Workshop on Recent Trends and Technologies | Q3/Q4 2024 | CRA (Islamic Republic of Iran) |
| 4. | **25th SATRC Meeting** | **Q4 of 2024** | **TRAI (India)** |
| 5. | SATRC Workshop on Spectrum | Q1 of 2025 | TRAI (India) |
| 6. | SATRC Workshop on Policy, Regulation and Services | Q2 of 2025 | BTRC (Bangladesh) |
| 7. | 2nd Meeting of the SATRC Working Group on Policy, Regulation and Services | Q3 of 2025 | TRCSL (Sri Lanka) |
| 8. | 2nd Meeting of the SATRC Working Group on Spectrum | Q3 of 2025 | CAM (Maldives) |
| 9. | **26th SATRC Meeting** | **Q4 of 2025** | **PTA (Pakistan)** |

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