|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| APTlogogreen3 | **ASIA-PACIFIC TELECOMMUNITY** |
| **The 17th Meeting of the South Asian Telecommunication Regulators’ Council (SATRC-17)**  | **Document No:****SATRC-17/OUT-11** |
| 4 – 6 October 2016, Dhaka, Bangladesh | **6 October 2016** |

**Secretary General**

**Summary records OF THE 17th Meeting of the south asian telecommunication regulators’ council**

1. **INTRODUCTION**

The 17th Meeting of the South Asian Telecommunication Regulators’ Council (SATRC-17) was held at Hotel Le Meridian, Dhaka, Bangladesh from 4 to 6 October 2016. The meeting was hosted by the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC).

The objectives of the meeting were to approve the outcomes of the SATRC Action Plan Phase V, adopt new SATRC Action Plan Phase VI and to share experiences among the regulators. Meeting also included regulatory roundtable discussion, industry-regulator dialog and industry session. The meeting was attended by 89 delegates representing SATRC Members, Affiliate Members, the telecom industry representatives of the host country, and APT Secretariat.

1. **OPENING SESSION (09:15 – 10:30, Tuesday, 4 October 2016)**
	1. The opening ceremony began with the announcement by the master of ceremony.
	2. **Welcome Address by Dr. Shahjahan Mahmood, Chairman, Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission**

Dr. Shahjahan Mahmood, Chairman, Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) delivered welcome address. Full texts of Dr. Mahmood’s address can be found in document SATRC-17/INP-01. Dr. Mahmood’s welcome address was followed by a short video presentation titled ‘Digital Bangladesh’.

* 1. **Welcome Address by Ms. Areewan Haorangsi, Secretary General, Asia-Pacific Telecommunity**

Ms. Areewan Haorangsi, Secretary General of APT made welcome address. Full texts of Secretary General’s address can be found in document SATC-17/INP-02.

* 1. **Address by Mr. R S Sharma, Chairman, South Asian Telecommunication Regulators’ Council (SATRC)**

Mr.R S Sharma, Chairman of SATRC and Chairman of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India delivered his address which can be found in document SATRC-17/INP-03.

* 1. **Address by Mr. Md. Faizur Rahman Chowdhury, Secretary, Posts and Telecommunications Division, Ministry of Posts, Telecommunications and Information Technology, Bangladesh**

In his brief address, Mr. Md. Faizur Rahman Chowdhury, Secretary, Posts and Telecommunications Division, Ministry of Posts, Telecommunications and Information Technology, Bangladesh welcome delegates to Dhaka for attending the SATRC-17. He thanked the APT and BTRC for organizing the SATRC-17 in Dhaka. He hoped for a successful meeting and happy stay of delegates in Dhaka.

* 1. **Address by the Honorable Special Guest H. E. Mr. Mohammed Shahriar Alam, M.P., State Minister for Foreign Affairs, People’s Republic of Bangladesh**

In his address, Honorable Special Guest H. E. Mr. Mohammed Shahriar Alam, M.P., State Minister for Foreign Affairs, People’s Republic of Bangladesh welcomed all the heads of regulators of SATRC members and delegates to Bangladesh. He also thanked Secretary General of APT and Chairman of BTRC for organizing such a meeting in Dhaka, Bangladesh. He mentioned that development of ICT is one of the prime agenda of the present government of Bangladesh. He mentioned the policies that had been taken step to build ‘Digital Bangladesh’. He hoped that through the SATRC meeting Bangladesh can learn the best practices from other South-Asian countries whereas other countries can also take some examples of good achievements of Bangladesh. He wished all the success of the meeting and a good stay in Dhaka. He also requested delegates to enjoy the immense natural beauty of Bangladesh in free time.

* 1. **Inaugural Address by Honorable Chief Guest H. E. Mr. Anisul Haq, M.P., Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, People’s Republic of Bangladesh**

Honorable Chief Guest H. E. Mr. Anisul Haq, M.P., Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, People’s Republic of Bangladesh delivered the inaugural address. Full texts of Minister’s address can be found in document SATRC-17/INP-04.

* 1. **Presentation of the Appreciation Plaques**

At the end of opening ceremony an appreciation plaques were handed over to the Honorable Special Guest and Honorable Chief Guest by Ms. Areewan Haorangsi, Secretary General of APT and by Dr. Shahjahan Mahmood, Chairman of BTRC.

The opening ceremony was followed by a group photograph.

1. **SESSION 1: PLENARY (10:45 – 11:15, Tuesday, 4 October 2016)**

The first session of the Plenary was chaired by Mr. R S Sharma, Chairman of SATRC.

* 1. **Adoption of Agenda**

Chairman asked comments on the draft agenda of the 17th SATRC Meeting which are available in document SATRC-17/ADM-01. As there was no comment, agenda was adopted.

* 1. **Chairmanship of the SATRC**

Secretary General of APT mentioned that according to the Terms of Reference of SATRC, Bangladesh who is the host of that meeting would take the chairmanship of SATRC for next one year period. She informed the meeting that Bangladesh had proposed the name of Dr. Shahjahan Mahmood, Chairman of Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulation Commission. The chairmanship SATRC was handed over to Dr. Mahmood.

|  |
| --- |
| **Decision no. 1 (SATRC-17)** |
| The meeting elected Dr. Shahjahan Mahmood, Chairman of Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulation Commission as the Chairman of SATRC until the next SATRC meeting.  |

Dr. Mahmood, the new Chairman of the SATRC thanked Mr. R S Sharma and TRAI for the leadership of SATRC for last one year. Dr. Mahmood said that he was pleased and proud to become the Chairman of SATRC which was the high level council of the regulators of the nine SATRC member countries. He promised that during his chairmanship he would work for the improvement of SATRC and make SATRC as an effective regional platform to discuss the regulatory issues.

**3.3 Outcomes of the 39th Session of the Management Committee of APT and Implementation Status of the Strategic Plan of APT for 2015 – 2017 9 (***Document No.: SATRC-17/INP-05 and INP-32)*

Secretary General presented the outcomes of the 39th Session of the Management Committee of APT (MC-39) which were relevant to the activities of SATRC. Secretary General informed the decisions and actions of the MC-39 which were relevant to the activities of SATRC.

Dr. Jongbong Park, Director Project Development of APT informed the meeting regarding the instructions of the MC to report the status of implementation of the Strategic Plan of APT 2015-2017. He referred to document SATRC-17/INP-32 which contained the matrix of implementation status of the Strategic Plan 2015 – 2017. He requested SATRC Members to report their status of implementation to APT Secretariat.

Chairman thanked Secretary General and APT Secretariat for presentation the documents. The documents were noted by the meeting.

1. **SESSION 2: REGULATORS’ ROUNDTABLE (11:15 – 12:30, Tuesday, 4 October 2016)**

The Regulators’ Roundtable was organized in order to facilitate discussion among the SATRC member regulators on their common issues on interest. The roundtable was moderated by Dr. Mahmood, Chairman of SATRC. The theme of the roundtable was ‘Evolution of regulatory framework in South Asia and Asia-Pacific – The regulatory tools required’. The head of the regulators or the heads of delegation of eight SATRC Members who attended SATRC-17 were invited as panelists in the roundtable discussion.

The roundtable discussion was focused on the following main topics:

* current regulatory regime in Asia-Pacific and problems in regulatory framework,
* emerging trends in telecom sector and challenges for regulators,
* previous regulatory efforts to cope with evolution and complex landscape, and
* creating a market friendly framework for smart digital economy.

Regulators’ roundtable acknowledged that the regulators in the South-Asian countries were facing similar challenges at evolution of telecommunication service and networks and introduction of digital economy. Regulators agreed the digital financial inclusion was an important element of digital economy and regulators need to be ready to cope with the challenges due to the introduction of digital economy. Interoperable financial infrastructure is an important element in telecommunication network which had to be regulated by the telecom regulators. Net neutrality is also an issue that telecom regulators need to look into detail for introducing digital economy.

Regulators acknowledged that the challenges of tackling the significant market power as well as merger and acquisition were the important key issues for all the South-Asian regulators. Due to the rapid movement in the mobile technology it had become difficult for many operators to stay in current market competition. Hence, merger and acquisition started to happen frequently in the region. However, many regulators are facing the problem to tackle the issue due to the lack of experience. Regulators emphasized a common regional approach in this regards.

Regulators also emphasized that to create a dynamic market a number of issues needed to bring in upfront. Among those are the introduction of mobile virtual network operator (MVNO), infrastructure sharing, reviewing licensing framework and enabling light touch market driven regulation. Some of the regulators also indicated the non-discriminatory regulation and no favor to state-owned companies would help to develop a market driven telecommunication development.

Regulators agreed that voice centric network business era had come to the end and demand for data in increasing many folds. In order to stimulate the growth of data demand developing contents in local languages was the key factor to create business opportunities. The issues related to cyber security and maintaining social and cultural values were posing challenges to regulators.

In order to create a market friendly framework for smart digital economy regulators emphasized on collaborative regulation. One of the good examples of collaborative regulation was the mobile banking which had been matured in some SATRC countries. Regulators were in the opinion that similar collaborative approaches need to be taken in other sectors such as agriculture, education, and health in order to leverage benefit from digital economy. Regulators pointed out that consumer awareness and protection of the interests of the consumers as well as protection of the investment would be the challenges for regulators in smart digital economy.

Regulators emphasized on enhanced regional collaboration and sharing of experiences through SATRC and undertake initiatives to develop common regulatory guidelines bases on the experiences. Regulators agreed to maintain their close cooperation through SATRC.

Chairman thanked all the head of the regulators and heads of delegation to attend the roundtable discussion and take part in active discussion. Chairman hoped that cooperation among the regulators would be maintain through SATRC.

1. **SESSION 3: INDUSTRY-REGULATOR DIALOGUE: ENABLING BROADBAND ACCESS FOR ALL (14:00 – 15:30, Tuesday, 4 October 2016)**

This session was moderated by Dr. Mahmood, Chairman of SATRC. The theme for dialogue was enabling broadband access for all. The topics that included in the discussion covered followings:

* connecting the unconnected in emerging and matured market in South Asia – innovative policy and regulatory strategy;
* facilitate international connectivity – A challenge for land-locked developing countries, least developing countries and small island developing countries;
* how will the demand for fixed and mobile broadband will evolve; and
* how can policy makers and regulators create opportunities for higher investment in the deployment of quality broadband network?

Seven high level executives from regulators and telecom industry were invited as panelist at this session to express their views on the theme of the discussion. Among them were:

* Mr. Digambar Jha, Chairman, Nepal Telecom Authority
* Dr. Syed Ismail Shah, Chairman, Pakistan Telecommunication Authority
* Mr. Alasdair Grant, Head of Asia-Pacific, GSMA
* Mr. Supun Weerasinghe, CEO, Robi Axiata Ltd.
* Mr. T I M Nurul Kabir, Secretary General, Association of Mobile Telecom Operators of Bangladesh
* Mr. Moynull Haque Siddiqui, Managing Director, Fiber@Home Ltd, Bangladesh
* Mr. Ashraful Amin, National Consultant, E-Service Team, A2i, Bangladesh.

Regulators and industry expressed their views on how broadband access could be more affordable in South-Asia. A number of key issues were identified by the regulators and industry:

* Mobile phone voice services has been made widely available in SATRC countries. However, the level of penetration of internet, particularly broadband, had not reached at a satisfactory level. A large number of people are still not connected to broadband services and the SATRC remains an emerging market in terms of providing broadband services. Hence, there are scopes and opportunities for regulators and industry to play to provide broadband services to the unconnected people.
* A sustainable national broadband roadmap/plan is key to enable broadband for all. The demand for data using mobile broadband will increase many fold whereas mobiles phone networks plays an important part of connecting the unconnected by providing last mile access to broadband in rural areas, the development of fixed broadband (either through fiber optics or fixed LTE) is the key for ensuring a sustainable growth of broadband.
* Government policy makers and telecom regulators need to come forward with innovative policy and industry friendly regulations to accelerate the investment in deploying quality broadband network which can ensure the return of investment for industry players. A number of SATRC Members are adopting policy to utilize the USO fund to provide nationwide fiber optic network to ensure the availability of broadband services at very remote corner of their countries. Access to such nationwide fiber optic networks have been made at non-discriminatory ways to all operators at nominal prices. Such kind on initiatives would encourage industry as investment in the transmission part of the network will be minimized.
* While the operators need to assured the roll-out of their broadband networks at the remote corners, regulators need to put incentives to investing operators in various possible ways such as minimizing their contribution to USO fund, access to the national transmission network with non-discriminatory access, liberalizing licensing schemes including usage of spectrum while applicable, providing right of ways at affordable prices, simplifying the taxation issues and others.
* In order to ensure the utilization of the broadband by mass populations particularly in the rural, governments need to encourage policy to develop contents in local languages and provide all the government related services to citizen via broadband networks. Due to the large number of populations in South-Asia, the demand for data will eventually increase many folds and it will create investment opportunities for industry, either mobile or fixed.
* The cost of international connectivity in some of the land locked developing countries in SATRC is extremely high while compared to developed countries in Asia and world. It provides a bottleneck for offering broadband services at affordable prices to the mass population. By taking appropriate policies and regulatory measures, this issue can be solved through bilateral, multi-lateral and regional cooperation. Neighboring countries which has access to submarine cables may offer the international connectivity on cost recovery basis. SATRC could be a good platform to have such kind of cooperation.

Chairman thanked all the panelist for sharing their views and experiences. He also suggested to make SATRC an effective platform where regulators and industry can exchange their views and discuss the way forward for the future development of broadband services and enabling broadband access for all in the region.

1. **SESSION 4: INDUSTRY SESSION – REGULATORY FRAMEWORK FOR CONVERGENCE ERA (15:45 – 17:15, Tuesday, 4 October 2016)**

This industry session was chaired by Mr. R S Sharma, Chairman of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI). The session invited high level representatives from industry to raise their concerns regarding the regulatory framework and development of business in the current convergence era. Four high level representatives from industry were invited to share their views on the theme.

Mr. Tomas Lamanauskas, Group Director for Public Policy, VimpelCom presented on ‘Going digital: Emerging policy challenges’ (*document SATRC-17/INP-20*). Mr. Lamanauskas mainly focused on the challenges that the mobile operators are facing due to the transformation of the digital society and how they are managing themselves to cope with the transformation. He explained that mobile technologies are leading the way to transform the way to digital society. The demand for data is increasing rapidly but the operators are facing problem to invest more on network upgrade due to the risk of return of investment. Operators are facing revenue and profitability constraints due to OTTs. Operator profit margin significantly decrease over time and require innovative solutions to address the challenges. Hence the operators are moving from traditional telecom service provider to customer centric digital service provider. However, moving forward bring many other policy challenges along with the current ones. Among those are voice over internet, traffic management, privacy, data management, electronic ID, cybersecurity etc. Innovative policy approaches such as outcome-based regulation, co-regulation and self-regulation would be required replacing current direct and prescriptive regulations.

Mr. Henry Parker, Public Policy Manager for Asia-Pacific, GSMA presented on ‘The future of regulation – Implications of the evolving digital eco-system’ (*document SATRC-17/INP-21*). Mr. Parker explained the digital eco-system and its’ importance to global economy. Digital eco-system can be considered as a combination of platforms each of which has fours modules: applications, contents, devices and communications. As a result of modularity, effective regulation requires a holistic approach that addresses the diversity of all the relevant platforms. If regulatory policies and institutions fail to adapt, markets can become distorted in ways that harm competition, slow innovation, and ultimately deprive consumers of the benefits of technological progress. According to GSMA, policy makers and regulators may follow three key principles for future: functionality based regulation rather than structure or technology based regulation, employ dynamic regulation rather than command and control based regulations and regulate on the basis of outcomes regardless of legacy approaches.

Mr. Foong Chee Keong, Group Head of Regulatory Affairs of Axiata Group Berhad presented on ‘Mobile network investment – Financial returns and investing for future demand’ (*document SATRC-17/INP-22*). Mr. Keong mentioned that with the increase of OTT players, the digital economy and value chain have become very complex and global. Mobile operators remain as critical part of the overall ecosystem. Mobile industry is now facing a ‘scissor curve’ challenging traditional business models and network investment economics. The economics of operating a mobile network is very challenging especially in rural areas and continued need to invest and re-invest to meet the data explosion. Mobile technology cycles every 10 years which is much more frequently compared to other sectors e.g. manufacturing, banking. Hence, mobile operators need to invest and re-invest. Therefore, certainty and sustainability are the two key drivers of long term mobile broadband infrastructure investment. According to Axiata, high quality regulatory principles such as long time interest of consumers, technology neutrality, non-discriminatory regulations, encouraging innovation, proportionality and responsiveness are key elements to maintain certainty and sustainability in investment in the sector.

 Mr. Rajiv Bawa, Head of Policy and Regulatory Affairs (Asia), Telenor Group presented on ‘Dynamics of business environment globally and in Asia-Pacific’ demand’ (*document SATRC-17/INP-23*). Mr. Bawa focused on the three policy agenda for a digital society and the roles of policy makers and regulators on those agenda. For building a digital society government, regulator and private sectors can work together. The role of the government includes promotion of the convergence policy across sectors; facilitate legal, tax and regulatory framework; digitalize key public services; strengthen ICT education and digital inclusion; and enable local entrepreneurs. The role of the regulators include ensure harmonization of frameworks and allocate spectrum for growth; oversee and enforce level playing field to ensure fair competition; and educate consumer of safe and secure internet use. The role of the private sectors include invest in high speed networks; introduce innovative services at affordable prices; ensure protection and appropriate use of customer data; and contribute to wider digital eco-system.

Chairman thanked all the speakers for their excellent presentations which focused the views of the industry on current and future regulatory framework. Chairman commented that the development of the sector rely on the cooperation among policy makers, regulators and industry. He hoped that the discussion and presentations had allowed the regulators to understand and listen to the expectation of the industry. He encouraged industry to take part actively in future SATRC discussions.

1. **SESSION 5: REGULATORY ISSUES AND CHALLENGES - REGULATION OF SPECTRUM AND 5G (9:00 – 10:30, Wednesday, 5 October 2016)**

This session was chaired by Dr. Syed Ismail Shah, Chairman, Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA). The objective of the session was to share the regulatory experiences and challenges on issues related to spectrum management and 5G. Fours presentations were delivered at this session.

Mr. Dezhi Xu, Vice-President of Wireless Marketing, Huawei Technologies presented on ‘Step into 5G: From today to tomorrow’ (*document SATRC-17/INP-24*). Mr. Xu focused on the transition to digital society and how migration to 5G would satisfy the human needs in a digital intelligent society. 5G will be the backbone of broadband IoT deployment. Hence, requirement of spectrum will be higher. According to Huawei about 300 MHz of spectrum will be required by each mobile operator by 2020 to fulfill the demand. For stepping into 5G era three key points are developing spectrum roadmap and release plan for mobile broadband; technology neutral approach for all bands; and open public facility for ICT infrastructure.

Mr. Jaipal Singh Tomar, Joint Advisor, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India presented on ‘Regulatory framework for spectrum sharing in India’ (*document SATRC-17/INP-25*). Mr. Tomar focused on the regulatory initiative for spectrum policy in India looking into the unique characteristic of Indian telecom market; and explained the reason of allowing spectrum sharing. Spectrum holding per operator in India is far less as compared to global average but the data demand is extremely high. The basic objective of spectrum sharing regulation is to provide an opportunity to the operators to pool their spectrum holdings and gain the better spectral efficiency. The salient features of the sharing guideline has been made available in the presentation.

Col. Md. Nasim Parvez, Director General of Spectrum Management, Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) presented on ‘Harmonized approach towards spectrum auction in South Asia’ (*document SATRC-17/INP-26*). Mr. Parvez focused on how harmonized approach for auction and pricing for spectrum allocation can be done in South Asia considering the economic landscape and national policy objective. The ARPU level (blended voice and Data) in South Asian countries are far below the global average. Data only ARPU is significantly low. Data is increasing exponentially leading to high demand of spectrum and advanced technology for quality experience. There is increase pressure on the mobile operators for cost optimization and increasing trend of spectrum pricing is major concern for them. For a sustainable growth the sector, reassessment of spectrum pricing policy is in dire need. Spectrum auction modality and pricing should be prudent enough so that the operators are encouraged to take more spectrum with less price rather than less spectrum with more price.

Mr. Joe Guan, Senior Policy Manager of Asia-Pacific, GSMA presented on ‘Create a facilitating framework for IoT’ (*document SATRC-17/INP-27*). Mr. Guan focused on how a facilitating regulatory framework for spectrum can be created for the deployment of IoT. IoT is a major new market that could form a cornerstone of the growing digital economy. Both licensed and unlicensed spectrum will be used for IoT depending on the requirements of the applications. Service quality and interference free operations are assured in the licensed bands. Technology and service neutrality required for licensed spectrum, vital to deliver the most reliable, high quality IoT services.

Chairman thanked all the speakers for their excellent presentations. Chairman indicated that the guideline for spectrum sharing developed by TRAI could be a good example in SATRC which other SATRC members can initiate. Chairman also emphasized on the harmonization of the use of spectrum in SATRC so that cross border interference can be reduced. Chairman also indicated the necessity of cooperation and readiness of the regulators for the 5G network particularly in regards to the allocation of spectrum.

1. **SESSION 6: REGULATORY ISSUES AND CHALLENGES – DIGITAL INCLUSION (10:45 – 12:15 Wednesday, 5 October 2016)**

This session was chaired by Mr. Digambar Jha, Chairman of Nepal Telecommunication Authority. The objective of the session was to share the regulators experiences and challenges focusing on digital inclusion. Four presentations were delivered at this session.

Brigadier General Md. Emdadul Bari, Director General of Systems and Services Division, BTRC presented on ‘Biometric verification of mobile phone users – Experience of Bangladesh’ (*document SATRC-17/INP-28*). Mr. Bari shared the experience of Bangladesh to develop the process of biometric verification of mobile phone users as part of the agenda of developing Digital Bangladesh. The objective of the verification process was not only for the sake of confirm the identity of users but also enable the opportunities to various facilities such as access to e-government services, m-commerce, mobile number portability and digital financial inclusions. A guideline was developed for the verification process and it was done free of charge. Verification process was very much successful by the joint initiative of the government, regulator and the operators. Awareness programme was initiated in the media and response from the users was very much positive. Immediate benefit of the verification process was clearly visualized such as dropping the illegal VoIP call by 60%.

Dr. Syed Ismail Shah, Chairman of Pakistan Telecommunication Authority presented on ‘Opportunities and challenges of telecom regulators in digital financial services’ (*document SATRC-17/INP-30*). Dr. Ismail focused on the opportunities and challenges of telecom regulators in digital financial services. Digital inclusion has become an integral part of socio-economic development due to the rapid progress of technology. Digital financial services opened a new era to involve people in digital economy. In SATRC countries, where a very large number of people do not have access to physical banking services, digital financial inclusion can create massive opportunities. However, there are number of challenges for regulators. Among those include creating awareness for customers; collaboration with financial regulators and other sector regulators; access to USSD channels; and encourage the high use of the service by government services and people.

Ll. Col. Mohammad Zulfikar, Director of Systems and Services Division, BTRC presented on ‘Digital financial inclusion – An empowering tool in developing countries’ (*document SATRC-17/INP-29*). Mr. Zulfikar discussed various aspects of digital financial inclusion and its viability as an empowering tool for developing economies. Mobile banking, using cell phone as a tool, extends banking services and online business to the door step of the common people. The coverage and convenience of mobile phones can be exploited for extending financial services and financial inclusion to the excluded population. Concern Authorities to work in harmony and close coordination to adopt appropriate regulation for smooth growth of DFS and thereby helping financial inclusion. Consumer Protection, QoS and QoE along with AML/ CFT must be addressed in all regards. Network Security to be also catered for optimally. Interoperability should be deployed in the ecosystem as an immediate endeavor.

Mr. Taimur Rahman, Chief Corporate and Regulatory Affairs Officer, Banglalink Digital Communications presented on ‘Connecting the unconnected: Regulatory policies to maximize infrastructure development in the competitive environment’ (*document SATRC-17/INP-31*). Mr. Rahman focused on how the regulators can facilitate the development of network infrastructure in competitive environment in order to maximize the connection. Demand for data connectivity, the main criteria for digital inclusion, is very high and ensuring connectivity by the current network providers is a challenge which requires proper policies and supportive regulatory frameworks focusing on optimizing the existing resources. To move forward the key issue that regulators need to take into account is infrastructure sharing, both passive sharing and active sharing. The right policy and regulatory guideline can encourage the operators to invest in infrastructure development for providing digital services.

Chairman thanked all the speakers to point out the key issues for consideration in their presentations. Chairman commented that some SATRC members like Bangladesh and Pakistan had developed a very well organized mobile financial services which can be followed by other SATRC members. Further, he commented the success of biometric verification of mobile phone users in Bangladesh and Pakistan is good example of experience sharing that other SATRC members can follow.

1. **SESSION 7: OUTCOMES OF SATRC ACTION PLAN PHASE V (14:00 – 15:30, Wednesday, 5 October 2016)**

This session was chaired by Dr. Mohammad N Azizi, Afghanistan Telecommunication Regulatory Authority (ATRA). The objective of the session was to report the outcomes of the SATRC Working Group on Policy, Regulation and Services (WG PRS) during Action Plan Phase V. Chairman informed that during Action Plan Phase V, WG PRS was assigned four work items.

1. Measures to protect the interest of consumers of telecom services
2. Policy, regulatory and technical aspects of OTT in SATRC countries
3. Emerging licensing framework including exit and relicensing policy
4. International connectivity for the provision of providing broadband services

Chairman commented that the work items are important and relevant to the regulators. The WG PRS developed 4 draft reports on those subject for the consideration of SATRC-17. Following reports were presented:

1. Draft SATRC Report on ‘Measures to protect the interest of consumers of telecom services’ (*document SATRC-17/INP-10*) was presented by Ms. Bhavna Sharma, TRAI in absence of the lead expert of the work item Gp. Capt. Shahji Pinnose from TRAI.
2. Draft SATRC Report on ‘Policy, regulatory and technical aspects of OTT in SATRC countries’ (*document SATRC-17/INP-11*) was presented by Mr. Wangay Dorji, Chairman of the WG PRS in absence of the lead expert of the work item Mr. Bijay Kumar Roy from NTA.
3. Draft SATRC Report on ‘Emerging licensing framework including exit and relicensing policy’ (*document SATRC-17/INP-12*) was presented by Ms. Bhavna Sharma, TRAI in absence of the lead experts of the work item Mr. A K Dhingra from TRAI.
4. Draft SATRC Report on ‘Identifying ways to lower international connectivity cost for the provision of broadband services’ (*document SATRC-17/INP-16*) was presented by Mr. Abdullah Nafeez Pasha from Communication Authority of Maldives who was also the led experts of the work item.

Chairman thanked the WG PRS chairman, lead experts and other experts for their hard work for preparing the reports on work items. Chairman commented that the reports contained good findings, suggestions and recommendations that regulators may look into while developing their own regulation. Chairman informed that the reports would be approved by the plenary of SATRC-17 in the following day.

1. **SESSION 8: OUTCOMES OF SATRC ACTION PLAN PHASE V (15:45 – 17:15, Wednesday, 5 October 2016)**

This session was chaired by Dr. Sadegh Abbasi Shahkouh, Vice-President of the Communication Regulatory Authority of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The objective of the session was to report the outcomes of the SATRC Working Group on Spectrum (WG Spec) during Action Plan Phase V. Chairman informed that during Action Plan Phase V, WG Spec was assigned four work items.

1. Non-Ionizing radiation safety in the frequency bands used for mobile phones
2. Spectrum re-farming in SATRC countries
3. Spectrum requirement for IMT in SATRC countries
4. Increasing role of network sharing for SATRC countries: From passive infrastructure sharing to mobile virtual network operation

Chairman commented that the work items are important and relevant in the context of spectrum management. The WG Spec developed 4 draft reports on those subject for the consideration of SATRC-17. Following reports were presented:

1. Draft SATRC Report on ‘Non-Ionizing radiation safety in the frequency bands used for mobile phones’ (*document SATRC-17/INP-14*) was presented by Mr. Jaipal Singh Tomar, TRAI in absence of the lead expert of the work item Col. Kapil Handa from TRAI.
2. Draft SATRC Report on ‘Spectrum re-farming in SATRC countries’ (*document SATRC-17/INP-13*) was presented by Mr. Jaipal Singh Tomar, TRAI in absence of the lead expert of the work item Mr. M P Gunasinghe from TRC, Sri Lanka.
3. Draft SATRC Report on ‘Estimation of spectrum requirement for mobile broadband in SATRC countries’ (*document SATRC-17/INP-17*) was presented by Ms. Rumana Haque, BTRC in absence of the lead expert of the work item Mr. Sohel Rana from BTRC.
4. Draft SATRC Report on ‘Increasing role of network sharing for SATRC countries: From passive infrastructure sharing to mobile virtual network operation’ (*document SATRC-17/INP-15*) was presented by Mr. Jaipal Singh Tomar, TRAI who was also the lead expert of the work item.

Chairman thanked the WG Spec chairman, lead experts and other experts for their hard work for preparing the reports on work items. Chairman commented that the reports focused on the key issues related to spectrum and contained good findings, suggestions and recommendations that regulators may look into while developing their own regulation. Chairman informed that the reports would be approved by the plenary of SATRC-17 in the following day.

1. **SESSION 9: PLNEARY SESSION - REPORT OF IMPLEMENTATION OF SATRC ACTION PLAN PHASE V (09:00 – 10:00, Thursday, 6 October 2016)**

This session was chaired by Dr. Shahjahan Mahmood, Chairman of SATRC. The objective of the session was to consider reports of the implementation of SATRC Action Plan Phase V and approve those report.

**11.1 Report of the implementation of SATRC Action Plan Phase V (Document SATRC-17/INP-06)**

APT Secretariat presented the report of implementation of SATRC Action Plan Phase V. It was reported that the SATRC Action Plan Phase V was adopted at the 15th SATRC Meeting held from 5 to 8 August 2015 in Paro, Bhutan for the implementation period 2015-2016. In included the WG activities and capacity building workshops. It was reported that each of the WGs were assigned with number of work items and WG meetings were held as planned to discuss those work items. A number of experts nominated by SATRC Members are involved in the WG activities.

Secretariat mentioned that the planned activities were implemented according to the timeline approved by the SATRC-15. APT Secretariat would like to thank all Chairs and experts of the working groups as well as SATRC Members for their continuous efforts and contribution to the implementation of the activities under the Action Plan. Member regulators contributed not only by means of the financial resources but also provided a number of working experts and by providing facilities for hosting the events. APT Secretariat also thanked the Government of Japan for its kind contribution for organizing the SATRC Workshop on Policy, Regulation and Services in Pokhara, Nepal. It was expected that similar cooperative approach would make it easy for the APT secretariat to implement the activities of Action Plan Phase VI, if approved by the SATRC-17, effectively and efficiently.

Chairman thanked APT Secretariat to present the report of implementation of Action Plan Phase V. He also thanked Secretary General and APT Secretariat for assisting the implementation of Action Plan in the correct direction. The report was approved by the meeting.

|  |
| --- |
| **Decision no. 2 (SATRC-17)** |
| The meeting approved the report of the implementation of SATRC Action Plan Phase V. |

**11.2 Report of the Income and Expenditure for Implementation of the SATRC Action Plan Phase V (Document SATRC-17/INP-07Rev.1)**

APT Secretariat introduced document SATRC-17/INP-07(Rev.1) which contained the report of income and expenditure for implementation of SATRC Action Plan Phase V. Secretariat mentioned that approved estimated expenses for the implementations was US$ 75,504 and income US$ 110,549. He mentioned that income mainly included the pledges contributions of SATRC Members as extra budgetary contributions. The actual expenditure for the activities under Action plan Phase V was US$ 28,568 and income amounts to US$ 131,000. He explained that the income was more than expected as one SATRC Members provided the due contributions in previous phase of Action Plans. He indicated that current balance at the fund US$ 61,387 which would be carried forward to Action Plan Phase VI**.** Secretariat further indicated that contribution in arrear amounts to US$ 9549. He sought approval of the SATRC to use the balance for the implantation of Action Plan Phase VI if approved by SATRC-17.

APT Secretariat also mentioned that a number of SATRC Members had provided the support in kind in various ways during the implementation of SATRC Action Plan Phase V. Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka hosted the events that were planned in Action Plan Phase V. All of the hosts provided meeting facilities, luncheon and dinner without any extra expenses to APT Secretariat. APT Secretariat gave its heartfelt thanks for those who have provided contribution in kind. APT Secretariat also thanked SATRC Members for their commitments for the successful implementation of SATRC Action Plan Phase V and financial contributions as EBC for implementation.

Chairman thanked APT Secretariat for giving the details of income and expenditure for Action Plan Phase V. He commented that it was encouraging to see that SATRC Members had voluntarily contributed to SATRC activities. He also thanked Secretary General and APT Secretariat for proper management of the fund. He also proposed to give authority to APT Secretariat to spend the balance for the implementation of SATRC Action Plan Phase VI. There was no further comment. It was approved by the meeting.

|  |
| --- |
|  **Decision no. 3 (SATRC-17)** |
| The meeting approved the report of the income and expenditure for implementation of SATRC Action Plan Phase V. SATRC also decided to give authority to APT Secretariat to spend the balance for the implementation of SATRC Action Plan Phase VI.  |

**11.3 Report of the Chairman of SATRC Working Group on Policy, Regulation and Services (Document SATRC-17/INP-08)**

Mr. Wangay Dorji, Chairman of SATRC Working Group on Policy, Regulation and Services (WG PRS), presented the WG PRS report. Mr. Dorji informed that WG PRS was chaired by him and vice-chaired by Mr. Abdul Samad, and consists of 21 experts from all of SATRC Members. The experts were nominated by the member regulators in response to the circular letter sent by APT Secretariat immediately after the 15th SATRC Meeting. Email reflector was established immediately after the formation of the working group. Four work items were assigned to the working group during the implementation of Action Plan Phase V:

1. Measure to protect interests of consumers of telecom services
2. Policy, regulator and technical aspects of OTT services in SATRC countries
3. Emerging licensing framework including exit and relicensing policy
4. International connectivity for the provision of providing broadband services

It was reported that the 1st meeting of the WG was held from 25 to 26 February 2015 in Kathmandu, Nepal which was hosted by Nepal Telecom Authority. The 2nd meeting was held from 23 to 24 March 2016 in Male, Maldives and was hosted by Communication Authority of Maldives. Experts of the WG participated actively in the meetings and emails reflector discussion.

The meetings defined the work scopes for the work items, developed work plan, appointed rapporteurs for ach work items, approved a number of questionnaires for the collection of information and finally developed the draft reports. Those draft report had been submitted to SATRC-17, as outcomes of Action Plan Phase V, for approval.

Chairman thanked Mr. Dorji to present the report of the activities of WG PRS. He thanked the WG chairman, vice-chairman, work items rapporteurs and all experts for their valuable contributions to the activities.

The report was noted by the meeting.

**11.4 Report of the Chairman of SATRC Working Group on Spectrum (Document SATRC-17/INP-09)**

Mr. Jaipal Singh Tomar from Telecom Regulatory Authority of India presented the report of SATRC Working Group on Spectrum (WG Spec) in absence of Mr. Sanjeev Banzal, Chairman of the WG. Mr. Tomar informed that working Group was chaired by Mr. Sanjeev Banzal from Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) and consists of 19 experts from all SATRC Members. Four work items were assigned to the working group under the Action Plan Phase IV:

1. Spectrum re-farming in SATRC Countries
2. Spectrum requirement estimation for IMT in SATRC Countries
3. Increasing role of network sharing regulation for SATRC countries: From passive network sharing to mobile virtual network operation
4. Non-ionizing radiation safety in frequency bands used for mobile telephone

Mr. Tomar informed that the 1st meeting of the WG was held from 27 to 28 May 2015 in Colombo. Sri Lanka. The meeting was hosted by the Telecommunication Regulatory Commission of Sri Lanka (TRCSL). The 2nd meeting was held from 24 to 25 May 2016 in New Delhi, India and hosted by TRAI. Experts of the WG participated actively in the meetings and emails reflector discussion. The meetings defined the work scopes for the work items, developed work plan, appointed rapporteurs for ach work items, approved a number of questionnaires for the collection of information and finally developed the draft reports. Those draft report had been submitted to SATRC-17, as outcomes of Action Plan Phase V, for approval.

Chairman thanked Mr. Tomar to present the report of the activities of WG Spec. He thanked the WG chairman, vice-chairman, work items rapporteurs and all experts for their valuable contributions to the activities.

The report was noted by the meeting.

**11.5 Approval of the Outcomes of SATRC Action Plan Phase V**

Chairman mentioned that the outcomes of the two WGs were presented in detailed in Session 7 and Session 8. The WGs finalized eight draft SATRC Reports on the work items. Those draft reports are available in documents SATRC-17/OUT-03, OUT-04, OUT-05, OUT-06, OUT-07, OUT-08 and OUT-09. Chairman sought approval of those outcomes as a whole.

There was no comment and the meeting approved the draft SATRC reports as presented.

|  |
| --- |
|  **Decision no. 4 (SATRC-17)** |
| The meeting approved the eight SATRC Reports of the work items undertaken for SATRC Action Plan Phase V. |

Chairman thanked all for approving the outcomes of SATRC Action Plan Phase V. The plenary was followed by the heads of delegation meeting.

1. **SESSION 10: PLENARY – SATRC ACTION PLAN PHASE VI AND THE WAY FORWARD (11:00 – 12:00, Thursday, 6 October 2016)**

This session was chaired by Dr. Shahjahan Mahmood, Chairman of SATRC. Chairman informed the meeting that that the heads of delegation hold two meetings during SATRC-17; first one was held on the evening of 5th October and the second one on morning of 6th October. Chairman summarized the discussion of the heads of delegation meeting and mentioned that the summary would be made available as an attachment in the summary records of SATRC-17.

* 1. **Consideration and adoption of the SATRC Action Plan Phase VI**

APT Secretariat presented the draft SATRC Action Plan Phase VI which is available in document SATRC-17/OUT-01(Rev.1). APT Secretariat mentioned that the heads of delegation during SATRC-17 considered in detail the proposals for SATRC Action Plan Phase VI for the duration 2017 – 2018 which were available in documents SATRC-17/INP-18 and INP-19. Secretariat added that document SATRC-17/OUT-01(Rev.1) had been finalized based on the decision of the heads of delegation meeting. Secretariat informed that proposed Action Plan Phase VI would maintain the similar structure of Action Plan Phase VI. The leadership of the SATRC WGs were decided by the heads of delegation as indicated in the document. Secretariat further informed that the work items of the WGs were discussed intensively by the heads of delegations and the final list of the work items had been incorporated in document SATRC-17/OUT-01(Rev.1). In order to enhance the activities of the SATRC WGs heads of delegation agreed to facilitate the organization of e-Meetings and remote participation in SATRC activities.

APT Secretariat informed that estimated expenses for implementation Action Plan Phase VI would be US$ 163,270 which would be covered by an estimated income of 187,936 from extra budgetary contributions by SATRC members. Secretariat informed that Afghanistan Telecommunication Regulatory Authority and Nepal Telecommunication Authority had increased their pledged contribution towards SATRC subjected to the approval of their corresponding authorities while other SATRC Members agreed to maintain their contributions at the same level of SATRC Action Plan Phase V. Secretariat further informed that the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC), Japan had offered to sponsor SATRC Workshop on Policy, Regulation and Services in document SATRC-17/INP-33. Heads of delegation of SATRC-17 had already accepted the kind offer of the Government of Japan. Secretariat further informed the list of indicated hosts for hosting the activities of SATRC Action Plan Phase VI.

Chairman thanked APT Secretariat to explain in detail the SATRC Action Plan Phase VI. Chairman also informed that the proposed Action Plan Phase VI had been intensively discussed at the heads of delegation meetings. Chairman added that the heads of delegation suggested a number of ways to improve the work of SATRC Action Plan Phase VI. Chairman suggested to follow those as suggested. Chairman expressed hope that the proposed Action Plan Phase VI would enhance the work of SATRC. He sought approval of the meeting.

|  |
| --- |
| **Decision no. 5 (SATRC-17)** |
| The meeting approved the SATRC Action Plan Phase VI for the duration 2017 – 2018 as presented in document SATRC-17/OUT-01(Rev.1). Meeting also decided to enhance the activities of SATRC Action Plan Phase VI as decided by the heads of delegation meeting.  |

|  |
| --- |
| **Action. 1 (SATRC-17)** |
| APT Secretariat to inform SATRC members about the Action Plan Phase VI and take necessary steps to implement Action Plane Phase VI for the duration 2017 – 2018.  |

**12.2 Consideration and adoption of the other output documents**

APT Secretariat presented the revision of the working methods of SATRC in document SATRC-17/OUT-02. APT Secretariat informed that the working methods of SATRC had been revised in two places: first revision was done based on the instruction of MC-39 regarding the role of the Chairman of SATRC. The second revision was done based on the decision taken by the heads of delegation regarding the number of vice-chairmen of SATRC WGs which had been increased to 2 for each WG.

Chairman thanked Secretariat for the presentation of the document and sought approval of the meeting. There was no comment and the revisions of the working methods were approved by the meeting.

|  |
| --- |
| **Decision no. 6 (SATRC-17)** |
| The meeting approved the revisions of the working methods of SATRC.  |

|  |
| --- |
| **Action. 2 (SATRC-17)** |
| APT Secretariat to submit the revised working methods of SATRC to the 40th Session of the APT Management Committee for approval. |

**12.3 Date and venue of the next SATRC Meeting**

Chairman informed the meeting Afghanistan Telecommunication Regulatory Authority (ATRA) and Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) offered to host the 18th meeting of SATRC. Chairman informed that after intensive discussion at the heads of delegation meetings it was agreed that the 18th meeting of SATRC would be hosted by ATRA in 2017 followed by the 19th meeting of SATRC by PTA in 2018 subjected to the approval of the APT Management Committee.

Chairman thanked Dr. Mohammad N Azizi, Chairman of ATRA and Dr. Syed Ismail Shan Chairman of PTA for their kind offers. It was agreed by the meeting.

|  |
| --- |
|  **Decision no. 7 (SATRC-17)** |
| 1. The meeting approved that the 18th meeting of SATRC would be hosted by Afghanistan Telecommunication Regulatory Authority in 2017 subjected to the approval of the APT Management Committee.
2. Meeting also approved that the 19th meeting of SATRC would be hosted by Pakistan Telecommunication Authority in 2018 subjected to the approval of the APT Management Committee.
 |

**12.4 Election of Vice-Chairman of SATRC**

Secretary General informed that according to the working methods of SATRC, the host of the next SATRC meeting would take the vice-chairmanship of SATRC. Secretary General mentioned that SATRC-17 had already decided that the 18th meeting of SATRC would be hosted by ATRA. Hence, according to the working methods of SATRC, Secretary General proposed the name of Dr. Mohammad N Azizi, Chairman of ATRA as the vice-chairman of SATRC.

Chairman thanked Secretary General for the proposal and endorsed as Chairman of SATRC.

|  |
| --- |
| **Decision no. 8 (SATRC-17)** |
| Meeting elected Mr. Dr. Mohammad N Azizi, Chairman of Afghanistan Telecommunication Regulatory Authority as the Vice-Chairman of SATRC. |

Chairman invited Dr. Azizi to take his seat on stage as the vice-chairman of SATRC. Dr. Azizi thanked Chairman, Secretary General and other heads of delegation for their consent to let ATRA to host the 18th SATRC meeting in 2017. He mentioned that it was an honor for him to serve SATRC as vice-chairman along with the Chairman of SATRC.

Chairman thanked all the delegates to attend the plenary session.

**13. CLOSING**

In his concluding remarks Chairman thanked the head of each delegation for their presence at the meeting and their effort for the successful meeting. He mentioned that SATRC-17 was a great gathering of the heads of regulators of SATRC members where regulators shared their experiences and challenges and leant from each other. He hoped similar cooperative approach would be maintained in future among SATRC members. He promised to provide his utmost efforts for SATRC as Chairman. Chainman also thanked other foreign delegates who travelled far to attend the meeting and contributed for the success of the meeting. Chairman expressed his sincere thanks to the Secretary General and APT Secretariat for their hard works for the overall preparation of SATRC-17. Chairman also expressed his sincere thanks to the officials and staff of BTRC who worked tirelessly for the success of SATRC-17.

Secretary General thanked all the regulators for very successful meeting and for their contribution to SATRC activities. She very much appreciated the commitment and contributions of SATRC Members towards SATRC activities. She mentioned that SATRC was unique sub-regional program which is fully financed by its Members and Members were keen to host and participate in SATRC activities. She congratulated on the new leadership taken by Dr. Shahjahan Mahmood SATRC Chairman and Dr. Mohammad N Azizi, Vice-Chairman of SATRC.

Secretary General thanked the Chairman of BTRC, the Commissioners, Director Generals and other officials of BTRC who had done the successful preparation and provided all the hosting facilities. She assured that APT Secretariat would do its best for the success of SATRC activities.

Heads of delegation expressed their sincere thanks to the Chairman of BTRC for extending warm hospitality and excellent hosting facilities during SATRC-17. They reiterated their commitments for successful cooperation in SATRC.

Chairman declared the meeting closed.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Annex**

**summary of DISUSSIONS OF the meetings of the heads of delegation**

The meeting of the heads of delegation of SATRC-17 was held from 17:30 to 20:00 hours on 5 October 2016 and from 10:15 to 11:00 hours on 6 October 2016. The meetings were chaired by Dr. Shahjahan Mahmood, Chairman of SATRC. Meeting discussed the following things:

1. **Discussion on the SATRC Action Plan Phase VI (Document SATRC-17/INP-18, INP-19)**

* 1. *Structure of Action Plan Phase VI*
* Heads of delegation decided to maintain the two working groups of SATRC. Those are WG on Policy, Regulation and Services and WG on Spectrum.
* Heads of delegation also agreed to maintain the capacity building workshop under SATRC Action Plan Phase VI
* Heads of delegations committed to make the best effort to enrich SATRC Web Portal by providing relevant up-to-date information.
* Heads of delegation also discussed the possibility of issuing SATRC Newsletter in regular interval under the supervision of the Chairman of SATRC.

* 1. *Proposed activities for Action Plan Phase VI and expenses*
* APT Secretariat introduced the proposed activities under SATRC Action Plan Phase VI which is in document SATRC-17/INP-18
* Heads of delegations agreed to have the following activities:
	+ Annual physical meetings of the SATRC Working Groups
	+ Organization of e-Meetings and enable remote participation at SATRC activities
	+ Three capacity building workshops
* Heads of delegation approved the estimated expenses of US$163,270 for the implementation of SATRC Action Plan Phase VI.

* 1. *Pledged contributions*
* In order to collect the fund for the implementation of SATRC Action Plan Phase VI, heads of delegation decided at least to maintain the level of contributions that they provided for Action Plan Phase V.
* Afghanistan Telecommunication Regulatory Authority increased its’ contribution to US$6,000.
* Nepal Telecom Authority increased its’ contribution to US$10,000.
* Other Members maintained their contributions at the same level.
* Total pledged contribution US$117,000 and total fund availability for Action Plan Phase VI is US$ 181,936.

* 1. *Leadership of the Working Groups*
* Heads of delegation decided that Mr. Wangay Dorji of BICMA continue as the Chairman of WG Policy, regulation and services and Mr. Sanjay Banzal of TRAI continue as the chairman of WG Spectrum
* Heads of delegation also decided to increase the number of vice-chairman of the Work groups to two.
* PTA and ATRA offered the two vice-chairmen for Working Group Policy, regulation and services
* BTRC and CRA offered the two vice-chairmen for Working Group Spectrum
* Members are requested to provide the name to APT Secretariat.
	1. *Selection of the Work Items for Action Plan Phase VI*
* Heads of delegation selected the following work items for WG Policy, regulation and services
	1. Policy and regulatory aspects of infrastructure sharing
	2. ICT regulatory framework for M2M communications and IoT for the SATRC countries
	3. Enhanced consumer protection in digital economy (taking into account the issues of Cybersecurity, Big Data and Data sovereignty)
	4. Regulatory approaches to enhance broadband experiences
	5. Regulatory framework for Mobile Virtual Network Operators (MVNO)
* Heads of delegation selected the following work items for WG Spectrum
	1. Proliferation of Wi-Fi network in SATRC
	2. Wireless backhaul – Spectrum, technology and policy considerations
	3. Developing spectrum roadmap in SATRC countries for future mobile broadband
	4. Spectrum management for the deployment of Internet of Things (IoT)
	5. *Host for the events related to Action Plan Phase VI*
		+ Heads of delegation indicated their choice to host various SATRC activities during Action Plan Phase VI.
1. **Consideration of the venue and date for SATRC-18**
* Pakistan and Afghanistan indicated their intentions to host SATRC-18.
* After intensive discussion, heads of delegation agreed that SATRC-18 would be hosted by ATRA SATRC Regulators Roundtable and Spectrum Workshop will be hosted by PTA in 2017 then SATRC-19 would be hosted by PTA in 2018 subject to get approval of subsequent Management Committee of APT.
* Heads of delegation also requested APT Secretariat to maintain the list of intended hosts who wish to offer hosting SATRC meetings in future in order for Heads of delegations to consider and decide upon future SATRC meetings.
* Heads of delegation also suggested that SATRC meetings can decide the hosts of at least next two SATRC meetings in order to avoid any misunderstanding and take preparation accordingly.
1. **Closing**

Chairman thanked all the heads of delegation for their attendance at the meeting. Chairman requested to maintain the solidarity and uniqueness of SATRC as a pioneer platform for the regulators in South-Asia.