Abstract of presentation of Q7-2/1 "Regulatory policies on universal access to broadband services" within Session 1 " ITU-D Report on broadband activities".

The presentation gives a broad perspective on the activities undertaken within Study Group 1 regarding Question 7 on Universal Service. It is structured in three parts as follows:

- **Question 7 on Universal Service. Study periods 1998-2002 and 2002-2006. Outcomes and Reports.**

Brief description on Q7 activities in previous study periods, focusing on their ITU-D Reports.

- **Question 7-2/1. Scope. Progress report.**

Definition of the question as approved in Doha. Brief report on activities undertaken by the Rapporteur´s Group .

- **Question 7-2/1. Work programme.**

Encouraging participation in future activities by the Rapporteur´s Group, focusing on fostering membership inputs through questionnaire, contributions and participation in the 2008 Seminar.

- **Question 7 on Universal Service. Study periods 1998-2002 and 2002-2006. Outcomes and Reports.**

2002-2006 Final Report on Question 7-1/1: Innovative solutions for the management and financing of Universal Service and Universal Access policies. Free downloading form ITU web site and available in English, French and Spanish .
Summary: The Report looks into the ways in which Universal Service and Access policies are developed, implemented and financed. It begins with the observation that Universal Service and Access are dynamic and evolving concepts which is worthwhile to review from time to time in order to take account of technical progress, market developments and consumer demand. The report goes on to identify the key factors affecting the success of universal access and service policies in a number of developed and developing countries. It then goes on to depict innovative solutions implemented by several countries in regard to the management and financing of universal service/access. Finally, the report proposes guidelines based on analysis from these experiences.

- **Question 7-2/1. Scope. Progress report.**

Definition of the question as approved in Doha.

Q 7-2/1- Regulatory policies on universal access to broadband services. The question will study aspects relating to ways and means of promoting economic development by universal access/service, especially in respect of broadband services. Tariff structure and economic strategies must be examined in order to assess their impact on incentives to operators to invest in all areas. Unbundling of local loop access and interconnection between wired or wireless systems, as well as national roaming are also subjects that it is important to examine. The identification of ways and means of promoting universal access/service in respect of broadband services will also be addressed by the Rapporteur´s Group. Finally, the question will analyse how competition in related markets can promote investment in broadband networks.

Brief report on activities undertaken by the Rapporteur´s Group from 2006 to 2007.

The Rapporteur´s Group met twice, in March and September 2007. China, Korea, Mali and Venezuela presented their contributions to the Group, which can be downloaded from the Study Group 1 website.
The Group studied the responses to the questionnaire sent to Member States regarding national experiences in the implementation of universal access to broadband services and forecasts for the future development of broadband universal access. The Rapporteur noted some initial trends based on 31 responses received. Among the trends are that 80% of respondents indicated that broadband is not included in their universal access definition; 64% noted that there are public forms of broadband access; 51% of respondents reported no legislation on interconnection between operators to facilitate broadband access; 68% have no tax or duly incentives to promote universal access while 68% have no national legislation that takes into account the needs of disadvantaged people, in particular the disabled. The questionnaire also confirmed that broadband tariffs are more expensive in developing than in developed countries.

- **Question 7-2/1. Work programme.**

Work programme.

Report:
September 2008- Submission of Q7-2/1 Draft Report to Study Group 1.
2010- Final report and proposed Recommendations to be approved by Study Group.

The Rapporteur´s Group will work in collaboration with BDT to implement on the ground, through training seminars, the lessons learned from study of the question.

The Rapporteur´s Group welcomes active participation in the Question:

1.-Participants are invited to make contributions to the next Rapporteur´s Group meeting , preferably by the end of December so they can be translated and analyzed.

2.-Member States who have not yet answered the questionnaire in Document 1/063 are invited to do so in order to develop a final report.

3.- A seminar on the topic of universal access to broadband as well as on tariff issues will be organized prior to the September 2008 Study Group meeting.