



**THIRD ANNUAL MEETING OF  
REGIONAL REGULATORY ASSOCIATIONS  
YASMINE HAMMAMET, TUNISIA, 13 NOVEMBER, 2005  
Medina Conference Centre**

---

## **Chairman's Report**

### **Introduction**

1 The third annual meeting of Regional Regulatory Associations was held in Yasmine Hammamet, Tunisia on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2005, under the theme "Fostering a Global Network of Regional Regulatory Associations". 41 participants took part in the meeting, representing regional regulatory associations, international organisations and national administrations. Consultants working on the ITU/InfoDev ICT Regulation toolkit were also present for the meeting Mr. Paul Morgan; the Director General of the Office of Utilities Regulation in Jamaica and Chairman of the Organization of Caribbean Utility Regulators (OOCUR) chaired the meeting.

### **Opening Remarks**

2 Brief opening statements were made by Mr Ali Ghodbani, the Director General of Instance Nationale des Télécommunications de Tunisie and Mr Hamadoun Touré, Director of the Telecommunications Development Bureau of the International Telecommunication Union.

### **Presentations**

3 During the meeting, regional regulatory associations made presentations to identify their achievements in the past year, their challenges and future plans. Presentations were made by: West Africa Telecommunications Regulators Association (WATRA), the Organisation of Caribbean Utility Regulators (OOCUR), the Arab Telecom and IT Regulatory Authorities Network, the ASEAN Telecommunication Regulators Council (ATRC), the Telecommunication Regulators Association of Southern Africa (TRASA), the Francophone Network for Telecommunications Regulation (FRATEL) and the Association of Regulators of Information and Communications for Eastern and Southern Africa (ARICEA).

Common aspects that emerged from these presentations demonstrated:

- 1) Commitment by regional regulatory associations to the development and articulation of common positions where desirable, for example at international fora and promoting the common regional issues.
- 2) Commitment by regional regulatory associations towards building capacity of member organizations through tailored training and development initiatives.
- 3) Facilitating the harmonization of policy at the regional level and forging the adoption of common guidelines on issues such as licensing, universal service, interconnection etc.

4 During the second session, information on activities that had been implemented in response to recommendations made in the second annual meeting of regional regulators were made by the Regulatory Reform Unit (RRU) of the BDT and InfoDev. Presentations were made on the ITU Tandem Programme<sup>1</sup>, the Telecommunications Decision Clearinghouse Project<sup>2</sup>, the Global Regulators exchange (G-Rex)<sup>3</sup> and the ITU-InfoDev ICT Regulation toolkit<sup>4</sup>. Participants also gave feedback on the just concluded Executive High Level training indicating that the training had not only been timely but was also responsive to their needs.

## Summary of the Discussion

5 During the discussion that followed, the following points were raised by the meeting:

- There need to facilitate interaction and exchange of information among and between regulatory associations in order to secure strong linkages between regulators, policy makers and development partners such that co-coordinated solutions towards sub - regional, regional, hemispherical and even global issues can be identified. Regional Regulators Associations committed to contribute to and perhaps even achieve these by inviting each other to their associations' activities. The ITU also encouraged the regional associations to communicate information on their meetings in advance so that it would be posted on G-Rex.

---

<sup>1</sup> The Tandem programme is a global skill exchange programme for regulators. For more information see: [http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/treg/Events/Seminars/2005/RegRegAssoc/Tandem\\_Program\\_Summary.pdf](http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/treg/Events/Seminars/2005/RegRegAssoc/Tandem_Program_Summary.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> The Telecommunications Clearinghouse Project seeks to overcome lack of local precedent faced by regulators in dispute resolution through provide a mechanism for global knowledge sharing. For more information see: [http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/treg/Events/Seminars/2005/RegRegAssoc/clearing\\_house.pdf](http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/treg/Events/Seminars/2005/RegRegAssoc/clearing_house.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> G-Rex is a password protected website for use by regulators and policy makers. For more information see: <http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/treg/Events/Seminars/2005/RegRegAssoc/G-REX%20Presentation.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> The ICT Regulation Toolkit is an on-line resource for policy-makers, regulators, the telecom industry, and consumers. It provides a global overview of ICT regulation and contains practical materials highlighting case studies, experiences and results. For more information see: <http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/treg/Events/Seminars/2005/RegRegAssoc/ICT%20Toolkit%20Overview%20Presentation.pdf> and <http://www.ictregulationtoolkit.org/>

- Participants noted the projects under implementation: The Tandem Programme, the Telecommunications Clearinghouse Project, the ITU-InfoDev ICT Regulation Toolkit and G-Rex, that are being conducted under the ITU-BDT at the request of regional regulators associations. They noted the need to take a leadership role in the usage of resources that are already available from the ITU and to act as a clearinghouse for the dissemination and promotion of this material and facilities within their respective regions.
- The need for the ITU-BDT in consultation with development partners to organize high level fora for ministers responsible for technology and communications together with policy makers with a focus on policy and effective regulation. This would enhance the diffusion of ICTs in the various regions and sensitize them to the challenges of the rapidly changing ICT environment and the imperatives for policy makers and regulators.

The meeting ended with a summary of the proceedings by the Chairman.