Report from the meeting of Regulatory Associations

GSR 11, Armenia City, Colombia

19 September 2011

Mr David Pérez Taveras, President of REGULATEL and of INDOTEL Executive Committee

Introduction

The meeting was chaired by Mr David Perez, President of the Latin American Telecom Regulators Forum – REGULATEL - and of the INDOTEL Executive Committee

53 participants from nine regional associations attended: ARCTEL/CPLP, AREGNET, ARTAC, CRASA, FRATEL, OCCUR, REGULATEL, WATRA; ARM, ITU was represented by Brahima Sanou, Director, ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau

Overviews of activities and presentations were made by REGULATEL, CRASA, ARCTEL, WATRA, AREGNET, FRATEL and ITU.

Presentations can be found on line at :

www.itu.int/ITU-D/treg/Events/Seminars/GSR/GSR11/rras11/index-en.html

Topics of discussion

The topics for discussion this year included:

- Regulatory Association sustainability and financial support,

- Presentation of the ICT Regulatory Decisions Clearinghouse (ICTDec), and

- Maintaining effective exchange of information and experiences among NRAs

Regional Associations - overview

Regulatory associations not only benefit national regulators but also operators, industry and consumers through their work and contributions to:

- Research, studies, data collection and analysis
- Information exchange points
- Regional publications, projects, etc.

RA sustainability and financial support

- Participants noted that:
  - ➢ Financial sustainability and the security of revenue generation are common challenges to all regulatory associations
  - ➢ Some national regulators cannot directly finance the work of regional associations due to internal legal or financial constraints
  - ➢ Financing from ITU, the European Community or other development partners is not always possible and is not sustainable

RA sustainability and financial support

- Some interventions highlighted that a small percentage of international interconnection and roaming revenues could be very important to finance development projects in the regions or in developing countries

- The need to regulate international interconnection and roaming is already being discussed in some associations

RA sustainability and financial support

- Collaboration among regulatory associations is needed to increase efficiency and improve regulation knowledge

- It was noted that the number of regional associations in the Africa region in some cases leads to a duplication of work and responsibilities

- Concerning sustainability, it was also noted that this is not only a financial issue, but also implies the support of decisions by national regulators

Effective exchange of information and experiences among NRAs

- The exchange of information and experience is one of the main objectives of regulatory associations, resulting in:
  - ➢conferences, meetings, and seminars
  - ➢trainings
  - ➢working groups
  - ➢study groups

Effective exchange of information and experiences among NRAs

- ITU objectives were also highlighted:
  - ➤ to encourage and facilitate dialogue between regional associations
  - ➤ to empower regional organizations
  - ➤ to help implement the projects and decisions taken
- BDT offers tools such as G-Rex, TREG, ICTEye and ICTDec that can help
- It was also noted that, depending on specific needs, these tools can be further developed and adapted for regional organizations

ICTDec

- ICTDec is an on-line resource that provides access to regulatory decisions originating from ICT decision-making bodies from around the world

- ICTDec now allows decision making bodies to upload decisions directly to the database, available in six languages

- ICTDec is open to the Regional Regulatory Associations, that can contribute to it and can find in it a useful source of information on ICT related legal disputes

- All RAs are invited to join ICTDec

Outlook and Conclusions

- Sustainability remains a major issue and concern for all regional associations

- Finding long-term stable funding is essential

- To benefit from the support and financial help of international organizations, working methods must focus more on precise, time-limited projects

- To increase the breadth and depth of discussions, annual meetings could be organized for one full day prior to GSR and a second annual meeting of Regulatory Associations should also be considered

Outlook and Conclusions

- To reduce costs and improve cooperation, a virtual space for exchange was also suggested

- Meetings and information exchange among regulatory associations need to be intensified

- ITU continues to offer support and cooperation to intensify and strengthen the work of Regional Associations, benefiting also the works on information and statistical databases produced by the associations

Thank you