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| CONTRIBUTION No 5 | | | | | |
| **Source:** | | Brazil | | | |
| **Title:** | | Measures to Increase the Efficiency of International Telecommunication Services Charging | | | |

**Background:**

The charging of international telecommunications services takes into consideration parameters such as type of service, origin, destination, quantity, duration and volume of data transferred. Operating agencies are usually free to determine their own charging methodologies and combination of charging parameters and measuring units, dependent on their individual market strategies.

There are, however, discrepancies in the utilization of such parameters and measuring units, and this can result in unfair and inefficient charging to end consumers. These discrepancies can be noticed particularly on international mobile roaming charges, where the parameters and measuring units used for charging local and roaming customers can be very different. A mobile operator can, for example, determine that calls originated in the national network will be fractionated by seconds, while its users will pay by minutes for calls originated when roaming abroad. The parameters and measuring units for charging access to mobile broadband are also usually different for local users and for the same users when roaming.

The use of different fractioning and measuring units for charging telecommunication services is a discrepancy that can lead to unfair charging and unfair rounding up of charges, and it deviates from the basic principle of charging consumers only for what they are effectively consuming. The utilization of reasonable and consistent measuring units can help in developing a market environment less susceptible to unfairness in the charging of telecommunication services.

**Proposal:**

To include the following provisions in Article 6, “Charging and Accounting”, of the International Telecommunication Regulations:

“Member States shall ensure that Operating Agencies establish charging units and parameters that bill telecommunication service consumers for what is effectively consumed.”

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