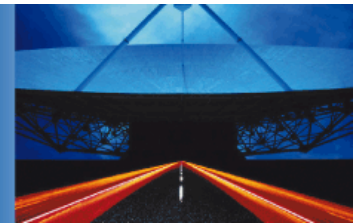




## Workshop on Market Mechanisms for Spectrum Management



ITU Headquarters, Geneva – 22 to 23 January 2007

### **Abstract**

The information and communication technologies (ICT) sector has recently been experiencing renewed growth. Notwithstanding the highly volatile market conditions of the past decade, long-term technology drivers suggest that tomorrow's telecom market demand will not be measured only in terms of increased bandwidth and quality of service, but will also offer truly pervasiveness access: "anytime, anywhere, by anyone and anything". Tomorrow's networks will have to provide the necessary flexibility, coverage and transparency to immerse users in a total connectivity universe. The deployment of such infrastructures can only be feasible by capitalizing on spectrum-based resources in new and innovative ways.

This new environment presents technical, commercial and policy challenges, none more so than in the field of spectrum management and trading. Traditional "command and control" spectrum management techniques are slowly being replaced by market mechanisms; and services operating in unplanned spectrum bands are becoming just as economically significant as those in planned bands. This raises the question of how centralized spectrum management agencies will need to adapt and whether techniques for rationing spectrum (e.g., licences, auctions) can coexist alongside unlicensed uses.

### **Workshop proposal and scope**

While the need for change in traditional spectrum management is clear, there is nevertheless no single approach that is universally applicable. Some economies are experimenting with secondary spectrum trading, while others are using generic, technology-neutral licensing as a way of embracing change. But how can the goals of spectrum efficiency and equitable allocation be reconciled? Can spectrum be regarded as property, to be bought and sold, or as a public resource that can only be leased for particular purposes? Is it possible to have different spectrum management approaches among neighboring countries and still maintain a harmonized approach at the regional and international levels?

In line with the stated objectives of the *WSIS Tunis Agenda for the Information Society* (November 2005), that "... *ITU and other regional organisations should take steps to ensure rational, efficient and economic use of, and equitable access to, the radio-frequency spectrum by all countries ...*", ITU and Italy will jointly organize a workshop to identify global trends and good practice in radio spectrum management and trading.

The workshop will examine, *inter alia*, the use of market mechanisms for both primary allocation of spectrum (e.g., auctions) and for secondary trading. It will look at recent trends in ITU Member States, the increasing demand for spectrum and will examine future challenges in developing policies for access to radio spectrum.

### **Workshop discussion points**

- How can the goals of spectrum efficiency and equitable allocation be reconciled?
- Can spectrum be regarded as property, to be bought and sold, or as a public resource that can only be leased for particular purposes?

- Is it possible to have different spectrum management approaches among neighboring countries and still maintain a harmonized approach at the regional and international levels?