7. Each Party shall ensure that a service supplier requesting interconnection with a major supplier has recourse, either:

(a) at any time; or

(b) after a reasonable period of time which has been made publicly known,

to an independent domestic body, which may be a regulatory authority as referred to in Article VI of this Annex, to resolve disputes regarding appropriate terms, conditions and rates for interconnection within a reasonable period of time, to the extent that these have not been established previously.

Article IV
Universal Service

1. Each Party has the right to define the kind of universal service obligation it wishes to maintain.

2. Measures by Parties governing universal service shall not be regarded as anticompetitive *per se*, provided that they are administered in a transparent, non-discriminatory and competitively neutral manner and are not more burdensome than necessary for the kind of universal service defined by the Party.

Article V
Licensing Procedure

1. Where a licence is required for the supply of a telecommunications service, the competent authority of a Party shall make the following publicly available:

(a) all the licensing criteria and the period of time normally required to reach a decision concerning an application for a licence; and

(b) the terms and conditions of individual licences.

2. The competent authority of a Party shall notify the applicant of the outcome of its application without undue delay after a decision has been taken. In case a decision is taken to deny an application for a licence, the competent authority of the Party shall make known to the applicant, upon request, the reason for the denial.

Article VI
Regulatory Authority

1. Each Party's regulatory authority for telecommunications services shall be separate from, and not accountable to, any supplier of basic telecommunications services.

2. Each Party shall ensure that the decisions of, and the procedures used by, its regulatory authority are impartial with respect to all market participants.

3. Each Party shall ensure that service suppliers of the other Party affected by the decision of the regulatory authority of the Party have recourse to appeal to a court in accordance with the laws and regulations of the Party.