2. Each Party shall ensure that a major supplier which has control over essential facilities in its Area provides interconnection at any technically feasible point in the network. Such interconnection is provided:

(a) under non-discriminatory terms, conditions (including technical standards and specifications) and rates;

(b) with a quality no less favorable than that provided by such major supplier for its own like services, or for like services of non-affiliated service suppliers or of its subsidiaries or other affiliates;

(c) in a timely fashion and on terms, conditions (including technical standards and specifications) and cost-oriented rates that are transparent, reasonable, having regard to economic feasibility, and sufficiently unbundled so that the supplier of public telecommunications transport networks or services of the other Party need not pay for network components or facilities that it does not require for the services to be provided; and

(d) upon request, at points in addition to the network termination points offered to the majority of users, subject to charges that reflect the cost of construction of necessary additional facilities.

3. Each Party shall ensure that the procedures applicable for interconnection to a major supplier are made publicly available.

4. Each Party shall ensure that a major supplier in its Area makes publicly available either its interconnection agreements or reference interconnection offer.

Article 7
Independent Regulatory Body

1. Each Party shall ensure that its telecommunications regulatory body is separate from, and not accountable to, any supplier of telecommunications services.

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

Article 8
Universal Service

Each Party has the right to define the kind of universal service obligations it wishes to maintain. Such obligations shall not be regarded as anti-competitive *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 9
Public Availability of Licensing Criteria

1. Where a license is required for the supply of a telecommunications service, each Party shall make publicly available:

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

(b) the terms and conditions of individual licenses.

2. Each 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 or to revoke a license, each Party shall make known to the applicant, upon request, the reasons for the denial or revocation.

Article 10
Allocation and Use of Scarce Resources

1. Each Party shall carry out any procedures for the allocation and use of scarce resources related to telecommunications, including frequencies, numbers and rights of way, in an objective, timely, transparent and non-discriminatory manner.