(a) under terms, conditions (including with respect to technical standards, specifications, quality and maintenance) and rates which are non-discriminatory and no less favourable than those provided for its own like services under like circumstances, and of a quality no less favourable than that provided for its own like services, for like services of non-affiliated service suppliers, or for its subsidiaries or other affiliates;

(b) in a timely fashion, on terms, conditions (including with respect to technical standards, specifications, quality and maintenance) and cost-oriented rates that are transparent, reasonable, having regard to economic feasibility, and sufficiently unbundled so that the suppliers need not pay for network components or facilities that they do not require for the service to be provided; and

(c) 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.

4. Each Party shall ensure that major suppliers in its territory provide suppliers of public telecommunications transport networks or services of the other Party with the opportunity to interconnect their facilities and equipment with those of a major supplier through:

(a) a reference interconnection offer or another standard interconnection offer containing the rates, terms and conditions that the major supplier offers generally to suppliers of public telecommunications transport networks or services; or

(b) the terms and conditions of an interconnection agreement in effect.

5. Each Party shall ensure that the procedures applicable for interconnection with major suppliers in its territory are made publicly available.

6. Each Party shall ensure that major suppliers in its territory make publicly available either their interconnection agreements or their reference interconnection offers.

7. Each Party shall ensure that major suppliers in its territory that acquire information from another supplier of public telecommunications transport networks or services in the process of negotiating arrangements on, and as a result of, the use of network facilities or interconnection, use that information solely for the purpose for which it was supplied and respect at all times the confidentiality of information transmitted or stored.

8. Each Party shall ensure that major suppliers in its territory enable the use of network facilities, which may include, *inter alia*, network elements and associated facilities, to suppliers of public telecommunications transport networks or services of the other Party on terms and conditions (including in relation to rates, technical standards, specifications, quality and maintenance) which are transparent, reasonable, non-discriminatory (including with respect to timeliness) and no less favourable than those provided for their own like services under like circumstances.[1]

ARTICLE 8.49

Regulatory authority

1. Each Party shall ensure that its regulatory authority is legally distinct, and functionally independent[2] from any supplier of telecommunications services, telecommunications networks or telecommunications network equipment.

2. A Party that retains ownership or control of a supplier of public telecommunications transport networks or services shall ensure effective structural separation of the regulatory function of telecommunications from activities associated with the ownership or control.

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[1] For greater certainty, nothing in this paragraph shall be construed as preventing a Party from allowing a major supplier in its territory to reject co-location if there is a reasonable ground for rejection, in particular with regard to technical feasibility.

[2] For greater certainty, the regulatory authority of a Party shall not be regarded as not functionally independent solely based on the fact that an authority of that Party (other than the regulatory authority) holds shares or other equity interest in a supplier of telecommunications services, telecommunications networks or telecommunications network equipment.