ATTACHMENT

TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICES REFERENCE PAPER

Scope

The following are definitions and principles on the regulatory framework for the basic telecommunications services.

Definitions

“Users” means service consumers and service suppliers.

“Essential facilities” means facilities of a public telecommunications transport network or service that:

a) are exclusively or predominantly provided by a single or limited number of suppliers; and
b) cannot feasibly be economically or technically substituted in order to provide a service.

“A major supplier” is a supplier which has the ability to materially affect the terms of participation (having regard to price and supply) in relevant market for basic telecommunications services as a result of:

a) control over essential facilities; or
b) use of its position in the market.

1. Competitive safeguards

1.1. Prevention of anti-competitive practices in telecommunications

Appropriate measures shall be maintained for the purpose of preventing suppliers who, alone or together, are a major supplier from engaging in or continuing anti-competitive practices.

1.2. Safeguards

The anti-competitive practices referred to above shall include in particular:

a) engaging in anti-competitive cross-subsidisation;

b) using information obtained from competitors with anti-competitive results; and
c) not making available to other services suppliers on timely basis technical information about essential facilities and commercially relevant information which are necessary for them to provide services.

2. Interconnection

2.1. This section applies to linking with suppliers, providing public telecommunications transport networks or services in order to allow the users of one supplier to communicate with users of another supplier and to access services provided by another supplier, where specific commitments are undertaken.

2.2. Interconnection to be ensured

Interconnection with a major supplier will be ensured 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 and of a quality no less favourable than that provided for its own like services or for like services of non-affiliated service suppliers or for its subsidiaries or other affiliates;
b) in a timely fashion, 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 need not pay for network components or facilities that it does 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.

2.3. Public availability of the procedures for interconnection negotiations

The procedures applicable for interconnection to a major supplier will be made publicly available.

2.4. Transparency of interconnection arrangements

It is ensured that a major supplier will make publicly available either its interconnection agreements or a reference interconnection offer.

2.5. Interconnection: dispute settlement

A service supplier requesting interconnection with a major supplier will have 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 body as referred to in paragraph 5 below, 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.