

Good afternoon, Ladies and Gentlemen, I'm glad to have this opportunity to introduce ITU work in Study Group 3 about charging in international mobile roaming service, and will be happy to answer questions if any after my introduction.

ITU-T Study Group 3 determined in its last meeting in January 2012 draft new Recommendation D.98. According to ITU-T procedure, it will be approved in the next meeting of SG3 in September, unless there are significant objections from ITU Member States, which is not foreseen by the secretariat at this moment. SG3 provided text of this draft new Recommendation to WTO in a liaison statement.

In its introduction section, this Recommendation recognized the multi-country nature and the complexity of IMR issues.

Section 2 of this Recommendation listed other relevant ITU-T Recommendations like D.93, D.99, and D.140 as references. Section 3 of this Recommendation includes definitions on International mobile roaming service and IMR wholesale and retail rates. These definitions are in consistent with well accepted definitions generally agreed by all stakeholders.

Section 4 is the last section of this Recommendation, and it contains principles for lowering IMR rates. Section 4.1 is about empowering consumers, Section 4.2 proposes market-based solutions, and Section 4.3 is about Regulatory intervention.

Under section 4.1 empowering consumers, D.98 asks ITU Member States to encourage:

1. transparent information on IMR retail rates and structure before users roam internationally
2. usage alerts when users start to roam
3. warning alert when a certain cost has incurred
4. roaming cost caps
5. special user protection measures for inadvertent roaming in border regions
6. user choice of visiting network

Under section 4.2 market-based solutions, D.98 asks ITU Member States to encourage:

1. provision of roaming pricing plans which fit different users
2. support substitutes like local SIM cards, and provision of IMR by other means
3. regional and interregional cooperation
4. cooperation of mobile operators to lower wholesale tariffs.

Section 4.3 regulatory intervention is the most difficult part to reach consensus in SG3. Many ITU Member States are cautious in introducing strong languages which might implicitly pose obligation on their domestic regulations. Its final text says that Regulators and policy makers, MAY introduce regulatory interventions on IMR tariffs, and possible interventions MAY include regulatory measures such as usage alerts, bill caps, tariff caps and pre-selection.

This ends my introduction. Any questions?