



A SOUTH AFRICAN PERSPECTIVE ON INTERNATIONAL MOBILE ROAMING

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CRASA MANDATE

- CRASA, formerly TRASA, is a forum of Communications Regulators in Southern Africa and incorporates all other ICT Stakeholders.
- Established in 1997 under the SADC Protocol on Transport, Communications and Meteorology.
- Pursues its goals and objectives to deepen SADC integration agenda to:
 - *Attain regional integration and development goals;*
 - *Achieve economic growth;*
 - *Accelerate poverty reduction; and*
 - *Achieve sustainable development.*



CRASA'S OBJECTIVES

- Enhance regulation and promote regulatory harmonisation in SADC
 - Promote investment in the sector
 - Promote regional integration (Merge the small national ICT markets to relatively larger ones and enable firms to exploit the achieved economies of scale)
 - Promote universal network development and universal access to ICT services;
- Promote the adoption of best practices, exchange of ideas and information and expertise
- Act as a common voice on international arena (credibility, visibility and better negotiating outcomes at the international fora)



COVERGE





OVERVIEW OF HOME & AWAY PROJECT

RIA 1

- Regional Alliance Task Team (RATT) set up to investigate ways of reducing high cost of IMR
- RIA 11 01h coAlliance Tas

OVERVIEW OF HOME & AWAY PROJECT

RIA 2

- The underlying costs of SADC regional roaming services and;
- The possible development of a harmonisation policy elopment of a



REFLECTIONS ON IMR

- International roaming and interconnect are not directly related
- Reference paper provides a standard framework for establishing an interconnect regime
- View international roaming as a retail pricing issue while interconnection is a wholesale issue
- Can the WTO be used to regulate IMR?
- No clarity regarding jurisdiction
- Some may view IMR as a commercial arrangement and would argue against WTO regulation.
- We may need debate around the legalities of this position.



SADC/CRASA POSITION

- Regional cooperation among regulators likely to be an effective route to take
- Seek to encourage cost-oriented IMR prices
- Promote economic efficiency and encourage competition in the IMR market and allow market forces to come into play
- Where regulators do set ceiling prices for IMR, then this should be done in the least intrusive manner



A SOUTH AFRICAN PERSPECTIVE

- International Mobile Roaming should be negotiated and agreed upon at national/regional level first
- Collective regional recommendation may then be extended to the ITU for consideration
- Should SADC/CRASA utilise the WTO or the ITU?
- Should there be joint jurisdiction in the regulation of IMR?
- This relates to the earlier discussion raised above.



CONCLUSION

- All price reduction initiatives must be sensitive to national considerations and regional peculiarities
- One size fits all approach not the most effective: Case of Mauritius and the Seychelles.
- Both the country and the operators rely on roaming as a source of foreign currency.
- Fundamentals affecting postpaid & prepaid subscribers are different and need to be

