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| **The South Asian Telecommunication Regulator’s Council (SATRC)** |  |
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**joint statement by**

**satrc members for the adoption of Regional mobile roaming**

Adopted by

**15th Meeting of the South Asian Telecommunications Regulator’s Council**

05 – 07 August 2014, Paro, Bhutan

We, the representatives of South Asian Telecommunications Regulators’ Council (SATRC), met in Bhutan at the 15th South Asian Telecommunication Regulators’ Council Meeting and affirmed that we have embarked on a new stage of cooperation and partnership towards adoption of strategies for implementing regional mobile roaming arrangement within the SATRC countries.

We reaffirmed all the goals and principles set forth for the SATRC regarding mutual coordination and cooperation in the field of Telecommunications/ ICT towards joint growth in the region. We recognize that our work towards achieving a true strategic partnership in implementing effective mobile roaming within the region would promote trade and services, and help connect people within the region.

The mobile roaming market within the intra-SATRC region has shown significant improvement over the last few years. Prices for roaming have declined and the choices in the market provided by alternative service providers have increased. However, such improvement still could not translate into promoting regional mobile roaming due to disparities in tariffs. Taking into account this development and also considering the role that the regulators in the region need to play for a larger good of the people of this region, today, we have endorsed the joint adoption of the regional strategies, including regulatory initiatives in bringing down the price of mobile roaming rates within our region. We reaffirm that the respective regulators will make decisive negotiations with the operators by the end of 2015 in their own countries and implement the recommendations adopted by the Council.

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