

**Bilateral Agreement between India and Afghanistan related to Orbit
Frequency Coordination of 'South Asia Satellite' proposed at 97.3°E**

The Government of Republic of India and the Government of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, hereinafter individually referred to as 'India' and 'Afghanistan' respectively and collective as the 'Parties':

Recalling the discussions held on 'Satellite for SAARC region' on 22nd June 2015 in New Delhi, India;

Desiring to facilitate international orbit-frequency coordination under the Radio Regulations of International Telecommunication Union (ITU);

Have reached the following Agreement on Orbit Frequency Coordination of 'South Asia Satellite':

Article – 1

This agreement between 'India' and 'Afghanistan' shall be used for the purpose of

- a) performing intersystem orbit-frequency coordination, on behalf of SAARC member nations participating in South Asia Satellite Project, with all non-SAARC countries identified by ITU for the operation of 'South Asia Satellite'
- b) fulfilling ITU level regulatory requirements and obtaining international level protection/recognition for this 'South Asia Satellite'

Article – 2

- 2.1. The proposed 'South Asia Satellite', will be utilised by member countries of SAARC participating in South Asia Satellite Project, for various satellite based services requiring connectivity among SAARC nations participating in South Asia Satellite Project.

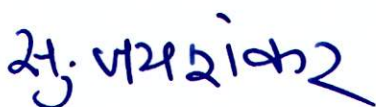
- 2.2. India has designed, built and launched the satellite. India will be performing necessary ITU regulatory actions.
- 2.3. The South Asia Satellite is a geostationary satellite and is planned to be located at 97.3°E. This satellite will be using the bands 13000-13250 MHz for uplink (LV and LH polarisations) and 11200-11450 MHz for downlink (LH and LV polarisations) in conformity with the provisions of ITU Radio Regulations (ITU RR) Appendix 30B. Service area and coverage area will include the territories of all SAARC member countries participating in South Asia Satellite Project.
- 2.4. The operation of the satellite will be covered under Indian ITU filing INSAT-KUP-FSS(97.3E).
- 2.5. Afghanistan recognises that in order to fulfil the requirement of the provision 6.6 of ITU RR Appendix 30B, agreement of the administrations whose territory is included in the service area of the proposed satellite network is necessary. Afghanistan hereby agrees for the inclusion of its territory in the service area of the proposed 'South Asia Satellite' covered under the ITU filing mentioned in point no. 4 above.
- 2.6. Afghanistan hereby agrees that India, acting as the Notifying administration on behalf of the group of SAARC countries participating in South Asia Satellite Project, can convey this agreement to ITU during the process of coordination. Afghanistan also agrees to convey this agreement to ITU, when the filing is published by ITU.
- 2.7. In addition, both Afghanistan and India agree that 'South Asia Satellite' and the national allotment of Afghanistan at 50°E can be operated in a compatible manner taking into account the ITU RR 30B provisions and the technological advancements in the satellite communication area.

This Agreement shall come into effect from the date of its signatures by the authorised representative of the Parties.

Done at New Delhi on the 11th day of September 2017, in two originals in the English language.

In Witness Whereof, the undersigned being duly authorised by their respective Governments have signed this Agreement

For India



Dr. S. Jaishankar
Foreign Secretary

September 11, 2017

For Afghanistan



Mr. Hikmat Khalil Karzai
Deputy Foreign Minister

September 11, 2017