

Resolution No. (5) of 2008 with respect to Establishment and Formation of Spectrum Strategy and Coordination Committee

Minister of Cabinet Affairs, Minister responsible for the telecommunications sector:

After perusal of:

The Telecommunications Law issued by Legislative Decree No. (48) of 2002,

Resolution No. (8) of 2008 with respect to the Adoption of the Second National Telecommunications Plan issued by the Council of Ministers,

Decree No. (1) of 2008 with respect to naming the Minister responsible for the telecommunications sector,

Resolution No. (3) of 2008 with respect to the Adoption of Spectrum Planning and Allocation Policies.

The following is decided:

The First Article

A permanent committee called Spectrum Strategy and Coordination Committee shall be formed, which is responsible for providing views and advices on topics related to national, regional and international radio spectrum, chaired by Sheikh Salman bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, General Manager of Information Technology with membership of each of the following names:

- 1- Mr. Hisham Khalifa Al Binkhalial (Directorate of Wireless Licensing, Frequency and Monitoring).
- 2- Mr. Mohammed Tayeb Mahmoud (Telecommunications Regulatory Authority).
- 3- Mr. Essa Al Kaby (National Security Agency).
- 4- Major Eng. Mohammed Jalal (Bahrain Defence Force).
- 5- Major Mansoor Al Hajery (Ministry of Interior).
- 6- Major Eng. Hisham Al Thawadi (National Guard).

- 7- Mr. Essa Abdulla Yateem (General Organization of Sea Ports).
- 8- Mr. Ali Ahmed Mohammed (Civil Aviation Affairs).
- 9- Mr. Abdulla Al Balooshi (Radio and Television Corporation).

The membership term shall be three years subject to renewal.

The Second Article

The Committee shall aim to facilitate coordination of spectrum requirements and to support the development and maintenance of the National Frequency Plan (NFP) for all radio spectrum resources in the Kingdom, especially to meet the following objectives:

1. Satisfy the spectrum requirements of sector members including those responsible for national security and defence;
2. Support the introduction of more spectrally efficient technologies, including the timely introduction of digitised broadcasting networks;
3. Satisfy the requirements of international obligations and treaties;
4. Support economic growth and create employment;
5. Meet the needs of civil aviation and the maritime industries;
6. Provide for competitive telecommunication infrastructures through free and fair processes;
7. Introduce future generations of public and private mobile technologies;
8. Satisfy the spectrum requirements for internationally provided radio navigation services e.g. Galileo and GPS;
9. Facilitate the rollout of broadband telecommunications networks;
10. Facilitate regionally and globally harmonised frequencies for the PPDR (Public Protection and Disaster Relief) system, in order to help rescue and emergency teams communicate with each other,
11. Stimulate technological innovation and competitiveness in a technology neutral fashion;
12. Introduce new spectrum management techniques, where appropriate e.g. spectrum commons and spectrum property rights and trading etc;
13. Provide spectrum for rural telecommunications with a particular emphasis on the provision of spectrum for telecommunications services for educational (including art and culture) and other public interest (including health and emergency) purposes.

The Third Article

Decisions of the Committee shall not be valid unless they are adopted by the Minister responsible for the telecommunications sector.

The Fourth Article

The Committee shall issue regulations necessary for the conduct of its business and this regulation shall be adopted by the Minister responsible for the telecommunications sector.

The Fifth Article

The Committee may form specialized sub-committees chaired by one of the Permanent Committee's members to study certain issues that are presented to the Committee which considers referring them to a sub-committee among the following spectrum user categories in the Government and private sectors:

- Defence.
- Radio and TV broadcasting.
- Radio astronomical observatories and science.
- Public service, such as police, fire and ambulance.
- Short-range equipment users.
- Public network operators.
- Private trading systems.
- Air and maritime navigation services.
- Amateur wireless services and personal wireless contact.

The Sixth Article

The concerned bodies shall implement this Resolution which shall take effect on the date of its issuance and shall be published in the Official Gazette.

Minister of Cabinet Affairs
Minister responsible for the telecommunications sector
Ahmed bin Attiyatalla Al Khalifa

Issued on: 7 Shawwal 1429 (h)
Corresponding to: 6 October 2008