

The Director General's – Draft Speech
Workshop on Review of Licensing Framework in Sri Lanka

Good Morning Ladies and Gentlemen

Mr. Sameer Sharma, Senior Advisor, ITU

Mr. Matthew O'Rourke, Consultant, ITU

DDG, Directors and Senior Staff of TRCSL

Representatives from Operators

It gives me great pleasure to say a few words on the occasion of the inauguration of this important workshop.

Firstly I wish to warmly welcome the ITU senior advisor and consultant of the ITU to Sri Lanka and hope you enjoy your stay in our country.

Sri Lanka has a very vibrant telecommunication sector with around 24.4 Mn mobile subscribers, 2.6 Mn fixed subscribers and 4 Mn broadband subscribers.

The current Section 17 licensing formats have been revised in keeping with the existing legal framework on several occasions over the years but the framework itself has not undergone any major modifications due to the limitations imposed by law.

A forward looking licensing framework is required to maximize benefits through the use of evolving technologies and to promote effective competition among operators and encourage investment in the

telecommunication sector. The review of the existing licensing framework is a timely exercise to achieve this.

We thank the ITU for assisting us to develop a new licensing framework in keeping with the current international trends. All the PSTN operators would have by now got the opportunity to meet the experts and provide their inputs during the last two days. Based on your suggestions and the deliberations today we will consider the way forward to achieve this.

I wish you all success and hope the deliberations at the workshop will be beneficial to the participants, and to our two ITU experts let me once again thank you for coming to Sri Lanka and I hope you will take back with you some wonderful memories of our beautiful country.

Thank You.