

# International Spectrum Management Regime: A Case of Regulatory Lock-in for the Developing Countries?

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The authors are solely responsible for the opinions expressed in this presentation.

# Introduction

- Wireless Technologies.
- Radio Spectrum Management.
- Radio Sector of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU-R)

# International Spectrum Management Regime

- Neoliberalism / Liberalism vs. Neorealism / Realism, vs. Constructivism
- Regime analysis of the international spectrum management regime.

# Developing Countries Presence in the ITU-R



- Colonies - Non Dominant Majority – Regional Organisations (ATU-APT-ASMG-CEPT).
- Demanding preferential treatment.

# Resistance to New Services and Technologies



- Differences between the needs of developed countries and the concerns of developing countries.
- ITU-R Radio Regulations are the basis of the developing countries spectrum policy.

# Support to New Services and Technologies



- Equal treatment by the ITU-R to all technologies.
- International regulations under the umbrella of the ITU-R.

# Proactivity in WRC-12



- 470-790 MHz is allocated to broadcasting service.
- African and Arab countries call for immediate allocation of the band 694-790 MHz for mobile service without being one of the WRC-12 agenda items.
- After resistance from European countries, WRC-12 agreed to such allocation.

# Reflections on Regime Theories

- Neoliberalism / Liberalism: resistance or support to new services and technologies is related to the absence or presence of mutual interest with the other stakeholders.
- Constructivism: The attitudes of the policy makers in the leading developing countries have an impact on the positions of the developing countries.



# Policy Implications

- The international spectrum management regime is not completely a case of regulatory lock-in for the developing countries.
- WRC-12 highlighted the challenges to the traditional division of the world into three regions in terms of spectrum allocation.
- The decision of allocating spectrum to mobile services in the 694-790MHz band without being one of the conference agenda items was a significant challenge to the decision making procedures of the international regime.



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