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.