



THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SECTORS IN GHANA, SOUTH AFRICA AND UGANDA

Ghana

Ghana sold an equity stake of 30% and management control of the state's sole service provider and licensed a second national operator in order to facilitate private-sector-led expansion of telecommunications infrastructure and services nationwide. The National Communications Authority Act of 1996, which went into effect in 1997, created Ghana's regulator, the Ghana National Communications Authority (GNCA). The regulator reports to the Ministry of Transport and Communications. GNCA is financed by license fees, spectrum fees and funds from parliament. The responsibilities of GNCA include licensing, number planning, tariff approval and establishing licensing fees together with the sector ministry, interconnection rates together with the sector ministry and the operator, technical standards, frequency allocation, type approval, and service quality monitoring. Ghana has full competition in cellular services, and duopolies in local, domestic long distance and international services. Ghana is a WTO member that has signed the Basic Telecom Services Agreement.

South Africa

The separation of Posts and Telecom occurred in 1991 with the formation of Telkom. The Telecommunications Act, Act 103 of 1996 created an independent regulator, the South African Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (SATRA). The policy maker is the Ministry for Posts, Telecommunications, and Broadcasting and the head of SATRA reports to Ministry of Communications. SATRA is financed by parliamentary appropriations and its responsibilities include licensing, number planning, tariff approval, technical standards, frequency allocation, type approval, monitoring service quality and establishing license fees. South Africa has a monopoly in basic telecommunications services, a duopoly in cellular services. (Note: A third cellular provider will be licensed in the future.) South Africa is a WTO member that has signed the Basic Telecom Services Agreement.

Uganda

The Uganda Communications Act of 1997 provided for the privatization of the state-owned operator and the licensing of a second operator. The 1997 act also created the Uganda Communications Commission (UCC), the country's telecommunications regulator. The Ministry of Works, Transport and Communications guides the UCC. License fees, loans and grants are approved by the government, and donations finance the UCC. Responsibilities of the regulator include number planning, tariff proposals, technical standards, interconnection rates, frequency allocation, type approval, and service quality monitoring. Uganda permits duopolies in local, long distance, international services and has a fair degree of competition in cellular services. Uganda is a WTO member that has signed the Basic Telecom Services Agreement.