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## **TURKSAT Comments on ICASA Public Consultation on the Long Term Spectrum Outlook**

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**South Africa**

Turksat would like to thank the South African Independent Communications Authority (ICASA) for the opportunity to provide comments on ICASA's public consultation on the Long-Term Spectrum Outlook and would like to submit below information and comments for your attention.

Turksat is a satellite operator, headquartered in Ankara/Türkiye, providing a broad range of satellite services since 1990s. Turksat currently operates five GSO satellites in three different orbital locations over various frequency bands. In addition to the traditional satellite broadcasting and news gathering services, Turksat provides aeronautical, maritime and land-based connectivity services, for both fixed and mobile platforms and end-users, supporting a wide range of applications such as direct-to-home broadband, mobile backhauling, in-flight connectivity, air traffic management, maritime, automotive, telemedicine, remote education, e-finance, oil and gas, mining, emergency response and humanitarian aid, government and defense.

With a view to expand its services to contribute bridging the digital divide and to join the competitive telecom environment across Africa, Turksat has implemented Ku band and Ka band HTS (High Throughput Satellite) capacity on-board its satellites over South Africa. Especially with the launch of TURKSAT 5B satellite carrying HTS spot beams, Turksat has been able to provide connectivity for urban and rural areas across South Africa, providing a powerful alternative to meet the traffic demands in the urban areas and to establish basic connectivity in the rural regions.

As you know, satellite communication has become the most viable way of providing connectivity where terrestrial infrastructure does not exist or not well-established. Satellite industry is highly technology driven and introduces cutting-edge technologies both in the space and the ground segments. With the introduction of HTS and VHTS satellites, fiber-like broadband connectivity can be provided through satellites together with improved antenna systems such as precise tracking capability and high directivity.

On the other hand, there has been studies and decisions at the ITU level regarding the ESIMs (Earth stations in motion) that are mobile satellite terminals operating with Fixed Satellite Service (FSS) networks. ESIMs can provide broadband connectivity for aeronautical, maritime and land-based platforms subject to national administration's authorizations and licensing conditions. It is worth noting that Turksat has developed its own SOTM (Satcom On The Move) terminals suitable for various types of ESIM applications that can serve across South Africa.

The successful deployment of satellite terminals rely heavily on national rules and regulations and it is, therefore, important to establish policy frameworks and regulatory regimes appropriate to the deployment of satellite communications technologies. As a satellite operator invested in the satellite communication market in South Africa, Turksat would like to highlight the importance of regulatory certainty and guaranteed access to satellite spectrum in this region. In this context, it is essential for satellite operators to have access to adequate spectrum for existing and future satellite services and protection of satellite and earth station receivers from co-frequency and adjacent-frequency interference, including Ku and Ka bands. Turksat also would like to encourage ICASA for blanket licensing and free circulation of ESIM terminals to foster the development of satellite services across the country.

Turksat would like to extend its sincere gratitude to ICASA for this opportunity and submits the above comments for your attention.

Kind regards,

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**TURKSAT**

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