

Fundamental Principles of Interconnection

Fundamental Principles of Interconnection as per WTO/GATS framework:

COAI endorses and supports the best practice in interconnection regulation as enunciated in the WTO Reference Paper and GATT framework. This includes inter alia:

1. **Interconnection to be ensured:**

Interconnection with a major supplier will be ensured **at any technically feasible point** in the network. Such interconnection is provided:

- **under non-discriminatory terms, conditions** (including technical standards and specifications) **and rates** and of a **quality no less favourable** than that provided for its own like services or for like services of non-affiliated service suppliers or for its subsidiaries or other affiliates;
- **in a timely fashion, on terms, conditions** (including technical standards and specifications) **and cost-oriented rates** that are **transparent, reasonable, having regard to economic feasibility**, and **sufficiently unbundled** so that the supplier need not pay for network components or facilities that it does not require for the service to be provided; and
- upon request, at points in addition to the network termination points offered to the majority of users, **subject to charges that reflect the cost of construction of additional facilities.**

2. **Public availability of the procedures for interconnection negotiations:**

The procedures applicable for interconnection to a major supplier will be made publicly available.

3. **Transparency of interconnection arrangements:**

It will be ensured that **a major supplier will make publicly available** either its interconnection agreements, or a **reference interconnection offer**.

4. **Interconnection dispute settlement:**

A **service supplier requesting interconnection** with a major supplier **will have recourse**, either:

- **at any time or**
- **after a reasonable period of time** which has been made publicly known **to an independent domestic body,, to resolve disputes** regarding appropriate terms, conditions and rates for interconnection within a reasonable period of time, to the extent that these have not been established previously.