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The Southern African Development Community (SADC) Frequency Allocation Plan 2016 (“FAP 2016”) created a framework for harmonisation across SADC on the use of the radio frequency spectrum for IMT and other purposes. Countries included in the SADC FAP 2016 are Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The SADC FAP 2016 states that “Whereas harmonisation is important, this could however take place on various levels namely allocation level, (e.g. mobile service), application level (e.g. cellular mobile) or on technology level (e.g. LTE or mobile WiMAX). Although the ITU spectrum harmonisation is generally limited to the first level, (i.e. radio communication services) it does occasionally also endeavour to harmonise certain applications. A noteworthy example is where a band is “identified” for a specific application such as IMT. Although such identification does not establish any priority in the Radio Regulations, nor does it exclude the use of the particular frequency band for any other application within the same or other allocations, it does signal to the market the potential of harmonising the particular frequency band for the specified application. Within this application various technologies could then be deployed.” If no harmonisation of IMT frequency bands takes place within the SADC region it can become problematic considering possible interference between countries especially in the bordering areas.

The SADC FAP 2016 was developed taking into account international best practice in the development of Frequency Band Plans and considering the needs of the SADC Members. The table below is an extract of the SADC FAP 2016 which relates to the frequency bands allocated to Mobile Radiocommunications Services and Identified for IMT.