

10.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 Recognizing that:

there exists many telecommunications based projects to be implemented by international Agencies and that these Agencies have access to their own telecommunications infrastructure that could provide these services very cost effectively; and

the existing telecommunications providers already have infrastructure in place. However, although prices have not yet been disclosed, the international and regional agencies are of the view that the current telecommunications services costs are too high; and

that governments have vested interest in both the profitability of telecommunications providers as well as the national security interests of the region.

It becomes imperative that government revisits its role in the telecommunications process. There clearly exists a conflict of interest. This role of governments should be restricted to formulation and articulation of telecommunication policy, while the provision of telecommunications services should be that of private enterprise. The policy at any stage should reflect the developmental objectives of the region and not merely the profitability of monopolistic interests.

10.2 Recognizing further;

that efficient, *state-of-the-art* data communication technology is critical for the development of an information technology-based economy, government should take all steps necessary to ensure that these services are provided at reasonable costs.