

To
Bharti Airtel Limited
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New Delhi- 110070, India

Independent Assurance Statement on sustainability disclosures in the Integrated Annual Report for Financial Year 2018-19

Introduction and objective of engagement

Thinkthrough Consulting Private Limited (TTC) was engaged by Bharti Airtel Limited (the 'Company') to provide independent assurance on its sustainability disclosures in the Integrated Annual Report for Financial Year 2018-19 (the 'Report') that includes the Company's sustainability performance for the period 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019.

The Company has developed the Report based on the applicable accounting standards and has incorporated the principles of the International Integrated Reporting (<IR>) Framework published by the International Integrated Reporting Council (IIRC). Its sustainability performance reporting criteria has been derived from the GRI Standards, 2016 of the Global Reporting Initiative, and Business Responsibility Reporting Framework based on the principles of National Voluntary Guidelines of India (NVG) as prescribed by the Securities and Exchange Board of India, and AccountAbility's AA1000APS 2008 (Principles of Inclusivity, Materiality and Responsiveness).

Respective responsibilities

The Report content and its presentation are the sole responsibilities of the management of the Company. The Company management is also responsible for the design, implementation and maintenance of internal controls relevant to the preparation of the Report, so that it is free from material misstatement.

TTC's responsibility, as agreed with the management of the Company, is to provide assurance on the Report content as described in the 'Scope of assurance and methodology' section below. We do not accept or assume any responsibility for any other purpose or to any other person or organisation. Any reliance a third party may place on the Report is entirely at its own risk.

Assurance standard

The assurance process was conducted in line with the requirements of the AA1000 Assurance Standard (2008) Type 2 assurance¹. We applied a moderate² level of assurance.

Scope of assurance and methodology

The scope of assurance engagement was limited to review of sustainability data and information in the Report, pertaining to environmental and social performance for the period 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019. The sustainability disclosures covered as part of the scope of the assurance process included:

- Energy
- Waste
- GHG (carbon) emissions and intensity
- Employee training and education

We conducted review and verification of data collection, collation and calculation methodologies, and general review of the logic of inclusion/omission of relevant information/data in the Report. Our review was limited to:

- Evaluating the appropriateness of the quantification methods used to arrive at the sustainability disclosures presented in the Report;
- Review of consistency of data/information within the Report as well as between the Report and source;
- Review of sustainability data collection and management procedures;

¹ Type 2 Assurance: an engagement in which the assurance provider gives findings and conclusions on the principles of Inclusivity, Materiality and Responsiveness, and verifies the reliability of specified sustainability performance information AA1000AS (2008) Standard.

² A moderate level of assurance as per AA1000AS (2008) Standard is commensurate with "limited" assurance as defined in the International Standard on Assurance Engagements (ISAE) 3000



- Execution of audit trails of claims and data streams, on selective basis, to determine the level of accuracy in collection, transcription and aggregation.

Our evidence gathering process for this was conducted at the Company's office in Gurgaon. We did not conduct any physical verification of facilities of the Company at other locations as part of assurance. Audit trails and review were conducted through discussion with different internal stakeholders at the office in Gurgaon, and collection of evidences on sample basis provided by the respective stakeholders.

Limitations of our engagement

Our assurance scope excludes:

- Data and information outside the defined reporting period (1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019);
- Review of the 'economic performance indicators' included in the Report which, we have been informed by the Company, are derived from the Company's audited financial records;
- The Company's statements that describe expression of opinion, belief, inference, aspiration, expectation, aim or future intention.

Our assurance team and independence

TTC is a professional services firm that specializes in accountability on sustainability issues. The assurance was performed by our multi-disciplinary competent team of experts across domains of sustainability as well as GRI standard and AA1000 Assurance Standard. This team has extensive experience in conducting independent assurance of sustainability data, systems and processes across sectors and geographies. We have implemented measures to ensure that we follow the applicable independence procedures.

Our observations

While the sustainability disclosures of the Company as defined under the scope of assurance are fairly reliable, the Company has a scope to augment the robustness of its data management system, including internal review mechanism, to further enhance the accuracy of reporting.

Our conclusion

Based on the scope of our review, our conclusions are outlined below:

- **Inclusivity:** We are not aware of any matter that would lead us to conclude that the Company has not applied the principle of inclusivity in engaging with the key stakeholder groups;
- **Materiality:** Nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that any material topic has been excluded from the Report of the Company;
- **Responsiveness:** Nothing has come to our attention that would lead us to conclude that the Company has not applied the principle of responsiveness for communicating with stakeholders on material topics covering its sustainability performance.

Dipankar Ghosh, Partner
New Delhi
15 July 2019



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