



To

Bharti Airtel Limited
Bharti Crescent, 1, Nelson Mandela Road
Vasant Kunj Phase II
New Delhi 110070, India

Independent Assurance Statement on sustainability disclosures in the Integrated Report and Annual Financial Statements 2019-20

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 Report and Annual Financial Statements 2019-20 (the 'Report') that includes the Company's sustainability performance for the period 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020.

The Company has developed its Report based on the applicable accounting standards and has incorporated the principles of the Integrated Reporting (<IR>) Framework published by the International Integrated Reporting Council (IIRC). Its sustainability performance reporting criteria has been derived from Business Responsibility Reporting Framework based on the principles of National Voluntary Guidelines of India (NVG), 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 2019 to 31st March 2020. The sustainability disclosures covered in our sample review 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;

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 an audit trail of claims and data streams, on selective basis, to determine the level of accuracy in collection, transcription and aggregation;
- Review of sustainability data collection and management procedures.

Limitations of our engagement

The assurance scope excludes:

- Data and information outside the defined reporting period (1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020);
- 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.

Due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the resultant travel and meeting restrictions, data assurance was done through remote assessments using appropriate web-enabled tools. We did not conduct any physical verification at locations or offices of the Company. Audit trails and review were conducted through remote discussion with officials of the Company, and gathering of evidences on sample basis.

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 global sustainability reporting standards 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.

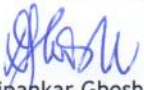
Our observations

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;
- **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
20 July 2020

