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ARUSHA DECLARATION

on
WORLD
TELECOMMUNICATIONS
DEVELOPMENT



INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION

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FOREWORD

by the Secretary-General

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union which was held in Nairobi in 1982 set up an Independent Commission for World-wide Telecommunications Development. The Commission submitted its report entitled "The Missing Link" to the Secretary-General in January 1985. It has been widely circulated.

Furthermore, the First World Telecommunications Development Conference was convened by the ITU at Arusha, Tanzania, from 27 to 30 May 1985 at the kind invitation of the United Republic of Tanzania. The Conference issued the enclosed formal Declaration.

Subsequent to the World Telecommunications Development Conference, the ITU Administrative Council at its 40th regular session in July 1985

examined the report of the Independent Commission, endorsed the general thrust of the conclusions and recommendations embodied in the report and gave specific directives as per the attached resolution.

Considering the impact of modern telecommunications in the life of individuals and society as a whole, I commend the reading and appropriate follow up action on these two important documents by all concerned parties.

Geneva, 31 July 1985

*R.E. BUTLER
Secretary-General*

ARUSHA DECLARATION ON WORLD TELECOMMUNICATIONS DEVELOPMENT

1. The First World Telecommunications Development Conference was held in Arusha (Tanzania) from 27 to 30 May 1985. Delegations from 93 member countries of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), headed by Ministers or senior officials, and representatives from many international and regional organizations participated in the Conference. The purpose of the Conference was to bring together the Members of the Union, preferably at ministerial level, so as to study and exchange views on the many aspects of the report of the Independent Commission for World-wide Telecommunications Development that have national government policy implications.

2. The Conference, inaugurated by H.E. Ali Hassan Mwinyi the Vice-President of the United Republic of Tanzania and President of Zanzibar, was chaired by H.E. Mr. John S. Malecela, Minister of Communications and Works, Government of the

United Republic of Tanzania. Following an opening statement by Mr. R.E. Butler, Secretary-General of the ITU, the keynote address was delivered by Sir Donald Maitland, Chairman of the Independent Commission for World-wide Telecommunications Development. Many Ministers and representatives of Government and international organizations addressed the Conference, expressing their support and commitment to the development of telecommunications on a world-wide basis.

3. The Conference appreciated the initiatives taken by the ITU and the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania for convening it at this opportune time. While considering the Report of the Independent Commission, the Conference discussed a range of issues relevant to the development of telecommunications, particularly in the developing regions of the world.

4. The Conference noted with satisfaction the increasing measure of recognition being extended the world over to the contribution of telecommunications to the process of development and its crucial, catalytic role, particularly in developing countries for achieving rapid social, economic and cultural progress. This is recognized by the United

Nations Proclamation of the Transport and Communications Decade for Africa, 1978-1988, World Communications Year 1983: Development of Communications Infrastructures, and the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific and West Asia, 1985-1994. The Conference specially highlighted the role of telecommunications as an important instrument for bringing together peoples from the different parts of the world and as a factor for peace and prosperity.

The Conference noted:

- a) **the spectacular strides taken by telecommunications technology and the pivotal role played by it in various facets of human activity;**

- b) **the poor state of telecommunication facilities in most developing countries and even more so in the Least Developed Countries;**

- c) **the serious and worsening imbalance in the availability of telecommunication technology and services, between the developed and developing countries;**

- d) **the imperative and immediate need to improve this situation in order that all countries may benefit from telecommunications and become equal partners in progress; and**

- e) **the necessity to achieve this goal through a range of actions including cooperative endeavours of both the developed and the developing countries.**

5. The Conference recalled that the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference, Nairobi, 1982, had, *inter alia*, included specific provisions concerning the supportive role of the Union for the realization of telecommunication development including the promotion and offering of cooperation and assistance to developing countries as one of the purposes of the Union and had decided, under its Resolution No. 20

to set up the Independent Commission with the following mandate:

“to examine the totality of existing and possible future relationships between countries in the field of telecommunications involving technical cooperation and a transfer of resources in order to identify the most successful methods of such transfer;

to recommend a range of methods including novel ones for stimulating telecommunication development in the developing world using appropriate and proven technologies in ways which:

- a) serve the mutual interest of governments, operating companies, the public and specialized user groups in the developing world and of the public and private sectors in the developed countries; and
- b) lead to progressive achievement of self-reliance in the developing world and the narrowing of the gap between the developing and developed countries;

to consider the most cost-effective way in which the Union could stimulate and support the range of activities that might be necessary to achieve a more balanced expansion of telecommunication networks."

6. The Conference welcomed the Report of the Independent Commission aptly titled THE MISSING LINK, and commended the comprehensive manner in which the Commission had accomplished its task. The Conference endorsed the general thrust of the conclusions and recommendations embodied in this Report, and the principal objective set out therein: **"... by the early part of the next century, virtually the whole of mankind should be brought within easy reach of a telephone and in due course, the other services telecommunications can provide ..."**

7. The Conference felt that THE MISSING LINK covered several realities e.g. the ever-widening gap between the status of telecommunications in the developed countries and the developing world; the many constraints on the transfer of technology as

well as the inadequate flow of material and financial resources from the developed nations to developing countries; the lack of full appreciation of the need for higher priority in resource allocations to telecommunications as a cardinal requirement for the progress of humanity as a whole; the imbalance between technology growth and the real needs of the developing world; the inadequate linkage between the urban and rural sectors and the insufficient attainment of self-reliance.

8. The Conference was convinced that these constraints have to be overcome as a matter of urgency.

9. The Conference noted that the progress of technology held great promise for the more rapid growth of telecommunication services in the developing world. The Conference also felt that this promise can be fulfilled through the active support of the developing and developed countries, motivated by a mutuality of interest in the rapid growth

of telecommunications, because of the large and growing market of the developing world and also because improved telecommunication services between the developed and developing countries are, in themselves, of mutual benefit.

10. The Conference urged the governments of developing countries to consider the following:

- a) to accord, in their respective national development plans, sufficiently high priority to the telecommunications sector for the purpose of resource allocation of expansion, upgrading and modernization of their networks;**

- b) to take specific measures, technical as well as managerial, to improve the maintenance and operational efficiency of available facilities and to expand them in a planned manner availing themselves of the benefits of new technology and systems, as found appropriate;**

- c) to give particular emphasis to the training of personnel, at all levels, and for this purpose, to set up or augment necessary training facilities at the national, regional and sub-regional levels;**
- d) to establish wherever practical, common specifications for various items of equipments with a view to facilitating consolidated procurement to obtain economies of scale and better operational back-up;**
- e) to establish through cooperative endeavours, regional and sub-regional research and development activities and centres to study and resolve problems relevant to the local situation, as well as suitable manufacturing facilities whenever feasible;**
- f) to promote horizontal cooperation and mutual assistance for telecommunications development; and**
- g) to avail themselves of aid and technical assistance offered**

through multilateral and bilateral arrangements, in a coordinated manner, with the assistance, where necessary, of the ITU.

11. The Conference also urged the governments, telecommunication manufacturing and operating entities in developed countries to consider where applicable:

- a) matching the higher priority which the developing countries have been urged to accord to the telecommunications sector, with developed countries devoting larger financial and technical resources than hitherto for telecommunications within the various multilateral and bilateral aid programmes and, in this regard, paying special attention to the pressing needs of the Least Developed Countries;**

- b) designing and marketing lower-cost equipment and systems, particularly matched to the needs of the developing countries, specially those for rural communities;**

- c) offering wider opportunities for training of personnel from developing countries in all aspects of modern telecommunications;**

- d) actively participating in the setting up of and giving support to existing national/regional/sub-regional R & D centres and, where feasible, manufacturing facilities in the developing regions of the world, with appropriate technology-transfer arrangements; and**

- e) cooperating closely with the ITU to enable coordinated delivery of assistance to individual countries/regions/sub-regions and optimized benefit to recipient countries.**

12. The Conference appeals to all Governments of developed countries to support the rapid growth of telecommunications in the developing countries.

13. The Conference appeals to all Governments and regional and sub-regional organizations of developing countries to give high priority to telecommunications as recommended by the Independent Commission and in the light of the results of the Arusha World Telecommunications Development Conference.

14. The Conference request the UNDP, the World Bank, Regional and Sub-Regional Development Banks and all other interested international agencies, regional economic commissions and sub-regional economic committees, to bring the report of the Independent Commission to the attention of the respective policy-making bodies with a view to according a higher priority and enhanced allocations to the needs of the telecommunications sector.

15. The Conference emphasized the need for long-term, low interest loans for this sector particularly to economically most disadvantaged countries.

16. The Conference noted with considerable interest the recommendation of the Independent Commission that a Centre for Telecommunication

Development be set up, supported by voluntary contributions from government and non-government sources particularly in developed countries. This holds out prospects of significant augmentation of available resources for rendering technical assistance to developing countries. The Conference hopes that the Administrative Council of the ITU would consider this recommendation in the light of consultations being carried out by the Secretary-General, and take an appropriate decision at its forthcoming session in July 1985.

17. The Conference noted, however, that the conclusions of the Independent Commission will be submitted to the Administrative Council of the ITU, which will initiate any action that it considers appropriate.

18. The Conference recognized that there was a serious shortage of funds for actual investment on telecommunications in developing countries and that while, in principle, such investments could yield attractive returns, especially in the urban areas, for some time to come there is a need for accentuated investments to make up for past shortfalls such that eventual growth can be self-sustaining.

19. The Conference took note of the long-term measures proposed by the Independent Commission and called upon the member countries of the ITU to study them and take appropriate action so that more satisfactory financing and related institutional arrangements could be evolved.

20. Convinced that the ITU, as the specialized agency of the United Nations for telecommunications, has to play a dynamic role in the fulfilment of its purposes as spelt out in the International Telecommunication Convention, Nairobi, 1982, the Conference calls on all member states to extend every support to the Union in its endeavours to respond to its mandate.

21. The Conference expresses its appreciation for the excellent arrangements made by the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania and wishes to thank the Government and people of Tanzania for the very warm hospitality extended to it.

Done at Arusha 30 May 1985.

**RESOLUTION
OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL
OF THE INTERNATIONAL
TELECOMMUNICATION UNION**

R No. 929 CENTRE FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS
DEVELOPMENT

The Administrative Council,

recalling

- a) Resolution No. 20 of the Plenipotentiary Conference, Nairobi (1982), concerning the establishment of the Independent International Commission for World-wide Telecommunications Development;
- b) Resolution No. 24 of the Plenipotentiary Conference, Nairobi (1982), emphasizing the importance of telecommunications infrastructure for socio-economic development;
- c) Resolution No. 19 of the Plenipotentiary Conference, Nairobi (1982), on the special voluntary programme for technical cooperation;

d) Resolution No. 21 of the Plenipotentiary Conference, Nairobi (1982), calling for a review of the overall management and operation of technical cooperation and assistance activities of the Union;

recalling further that as stated in considering d), Resolution No. 18 of the Plenipotentiary Conference, Nairobi (1982), the Union is the most appropriate international forum for the study of all kinds of problems connected with telecommunications, and in particular, for coordinating most of the resources assigned to technical cooperation and assistance in the field of telecommunications;

recalling also the Arusha Declaration on World-wide Telecommunications Development;

having considered the Report of the Secretary-General on the action taken in accordance with Resolution No. 20 and in particular the Report, "The Missing Link", of the Independent Commission;

noting that the recommendations of the Independent Commission are addressed to all interested national and multinational institutions seeking support and necessary follow-up actions;

appreciating the general support for the Report of the Independent Commission;

endorses the general thrust of the conclusions and recommendations embodied in the Report;

noting further the conclusion of the Independent Commission on the need for strengthening and expanding the scope and the extent of advisory services and technical assistance to developing countries, including the multilateral assistance through the Union and the recommendation for the establishment of a Centre for Telecommunications Development as a step in this direction;

decides to establish within the framework of the Union, and in Geneva, a Centre for Telecommunications Development on the basis of voluntary funding and with its own separate and identifiable budget;

and that the Centre:

a) shall function in accordance with the objectives and policy guidelines laid down by the Administrative Council so as to be consistent with the general aims of the ITU in the development field;

b) should be supported by resources provided voluntarily in cash and, as appropriate, in kind, from governmental as well as non-governmental sources;

c) and its activities should complement, and, work in full coordination with, the Technical Cooperation Department of the ITU;

and that:

d) the Centre shall have an Advisory Board, consisting of 21 members including its Chairman, who shall be elected from among its members and one Senior Vice-Chairman (*ex-officio*) who shall be the Secretary-General. The Advisory Board may, if it deems necessary, also elect not more than two Vice-Chairmen from within its members;

e) members should be drawn from the different regions with the agreement of the administrations of their respective countries and should represent various interests and be responsive to the needs and views of the potential resource providers and beneficiaries;

f) the members be appointed initially for a period of two years with suitable provision subsequently for rotation of the membership with a view to achieving an appropriate balance between continuity and change;

g) the composition of the Advisory Board shall be decided by the Administrative Council on the basis of consultations by the Secretary-General. The composition of the first Advisory Board shall be as given in Annex 1 * to this Resolution;

establishes the following guidelines for the Advisory Board:

a) to provide, within the policy guidelines laid down by the Administrative Council, necessary directions to the Centre for its functioning; and to ensure that it is responsive to the needs and views of its potential contributors and beneficiaries;

b) to mobilize the resources required for the advisory services of the Centre to meet in coordination with the Technical Cooperation Department, the needs of developing countries and to ensure that an adequate part of those resources is available on a stable and continuing basis;

* Annex 1 to be completed following further consultations.

- c) to establish a biennial programme and resources budget, keeping in view the imperative need for optimum utilization of all the resources available;
- d) to oversee generally the working of the Centre;
- e) to recommend to the Secretary-General the appointment of suitable persons of eminence as Executive Director and Deputy Executive Director of the Centre;
- f) to ensure close and effective coordination of its activities with those of the Technical Cooperation Department and other international organizations for cost effective utilization of resources available to the Centre;
- g) to make the utmost use of available governmental and non-governmental know-how at national and regional levels;
- h) to ensure further that the work of the Centre and its advisory services fulfil the need for strict neutrality and objectivity and be available universally;

i) to formulate arrangements with the General Secretariat for working mechanisms to comply with the foregoing requirements and for evaluation of the activities of the Centre;

j) to frame its own internal rules and working procedures;

k) to establish the structure and working methods of the Centre within the guidelines of this Resolution and the comments in Chapter 8 of the Commission's Report and the financial resources available;

l) to inform contributors and administrations periodically of requests for assistance received by the Centre and of the action taken on such assistance;

m) to report annually through the Secretary-General, to the Administrative Council on the functioning of the Centre;

resolves

a) that those staff of the Centre who would be appointed on a fixed-term basis, would be subject to the conditions applicable to ITU staff;

b) that it will review annually the progress of the Centre in order to define its place in the Technical Cooperation activities of the ITU, with a view to making appropriate recommendations to the next Plenipotentiary Conference;

instructs the Secretary-General

a) to take necessary follow-up actions for a start-up of the Centre as quickly as possible during 1985;

b) to ensure that the Centre's activities are consistent with the provisions of the International Telecommunication Convention, Nairobi, 1982, and that the objectives and policy guidelines laid down by the Administrative Council are observed by the Centre;

c) to ensure further that the activities of the Centre are effectively coordinated with the Technical Cooperation Department;

d) to convene the first meeting of the Advisory Board at the earliest possible date; and to invite potential resource providers and other interested parties to participate, in a consultative capacity, during part of the first meeting of the Advisory Board;

e) to circulate the Annual Report of the Advisory Board to the Administrative Council, to all administrations for their comments so as to assist the Administrative Council in reviewing the report.
