



INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION

**TELECOMMUNICATION
DEVELOPMENT BUREAU**
ITU-D STUDY GROUPS

Document 2/083-E
7 July 1999
Original: English

SECOND MEETING OF STUDY GROUP 1: GENEVA, 30 AUGUST - 3 SEPTEMBER 1999
SECOND MEETING OF STUDY GROUP 2: GENEVA, 6 - 10 SEPTEMBER 1999

FOR ACTION

Question 10/2: Communications for rural and remote areas

STUDY GROUP 2

SOURCE: CHAIRPERSON OF STUDY GROUP 2

TITLE: REPORT OF THE RAPPORTEUR'S GROUP MEETING ON QUESTION 10/2,
GENEVA, 17 JUNE 1999

Action required:

Participants are invited to give their opinion on the three main issues raised in item 3.2. In addition, they are invited to discuss other input contributions, to agree on the name of the new Rapporteur assisted by an Associate Rapporteur for each of the sub-Questions, and to agree on a new Action Plan for the entire Question.

Abstract:

This report contains the main results of the Rapporteur's Group Meeting on Question 10/2 which was held in Geneva on 17 June 1999.

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1. Introduction

The meeting was attended by 16 representatives from 13 different countries.

2. Agenda

The Agenda (Document RGQ10/2001) was adopted without amendments.

3. Main results

3.1 Review of the results of the meeting on Question 10/2 in September 1998

In his introduction, Mr. N. Kisrawi, Chairperson of Study Group 2, informed the participants that Mr. D. Barr, Rapporteur for Question 10/2, has resigned for reasons beyond his control. Mr. G. Zita, one of the Vice-Chairpersons of Study Group 2 and Associate Rapporteur for Question 10/2, has accepted to act as Rapporteur until September 1999, but could not participate in the meeting. For these reasons, Mr. Kisrawi chaired the meeting.

After having reviewed the report of the September 1998 meeting on Question 10/2, the participants emphasized the importance of this Question for the developing countries requesting the BDT to assist them through the Valletta Action Plan and the Telecom Surplus Programme in the area of communications to remote and rural areas.

3.2 Discussion of input documents (Doc. RGQ10/2/002 from Mali)

This document highlights three issues. The first one is the fact that the radio broadcasting reaches the rural population in their various languages only during 1-2 hours out of the 18 hours of broadcasting in the official language. It is to be noted that the official language is not spoken by the majority of the rural population. The implementation of local radio broadcasting will contribute to solve universal access from the point of view of information destined for rural population. Each time a local radio broadcasting unit was created, the need for other telecommunication services was also created. This implies that Questions 10a/2 (*Communications for rural and remote areas*) and 10f/2 (*Measurement of the impact of information and communication technologies in rural and remote areas*) is an important issue for many rural areas.

The second issue mentioned in the document is the unavailability of telecommunication networks in the remote and rural areas, a problem which does not facilitate the development of public broadcasting services which need such networks to transmit programmes to the broadcasting transmitters in rural areas. It may be solved if telecommunication operators, when planning their networks, include the cost of channels for sound and television broadcasting.

As a third issue is mentioned the fact that rural radio broadcasting has many functions, namely social (helping people to change their behaviour), educational (more girls are going to school), etc. There is a link between Question 10/2 and Question 14/1 (*The role of telecommunications in social and cultural development, including the protection and promotion of indigenous culture and identity*).

The participants agreed that these three issues were relevant. As to the transmission of sound and television broadcasting programmes through telecommunication channels provided by the telecommunication operators, the participants highlighted the fact that this transmission could not be free of charge, especially if the operator is a private company. The governments may have to think of other ways of financing this transmission. Considering its importance, the meeting agreed

that this contribution by Mali should be presented to the Study Group meetings in September with some modifications.

3.3 Review of the activities undertaken in each sub-Question

Mr. Kisrawi explained to the meeting that no substantial progress has been reached yet and proposed the following (see item 3.4).

3.4 Organization of work until appointment of new Rapporteur(s) in September 1999

- Rapporteur for Question 10/2. By September 1999, the Chairperson of Study Group 2 hopes to be in a position to propose the main Rapporteur for this Question.

- Main Associate Rapporteur for sub-Question 10a/2. Mr. Zita may continue to assume this responsibility. Mr. Cayla (TRT Lucent Technologies, France) may prepare a contribution for the September meeting for this sub-Question.

- Sub-Question 10b/2. Mr. Girardet (BDT) is invited to prepare a contribution on ongoing activities on telecentres.

- Sub-Questions 10c/2 and 10d/2. Mr. Kisrawi will approach Mr. Minges of BDT to propose ways and means to answer these two sub-Questions.

- Sub-Question 10e/2. Mr. Traore (Mali) accepted to assist the main Associate Rapporteur for this Question (Mr. Lemma). He will review the contribution mentioned under item 3.2.

- Sub-Question 10f/2. The BDT Secretariat will approach Mr. Grant Thomas (ACACIA, Canada) and invite him to prepare a contribution. It should be reminded that this Question was proposed by Canada at WTDC-98.

- Sub-Question 10g/2. As was agreed, this sub-Question will be handled through a Focus Group. The BDT Secretariat will approach Mr. S. Ó Siochrú and invite him to prepare his contribution as the leader of the Focus Group.

It was reminded that all contributions should reach the BDT Secretariat in July 1999 in order to have them translated in time for the September meetings in the three languages (English/French/Spanish).

3.5 Any other business

Mr. Kawasumi (Japan), Rapporteur of the Focus Group on Topic 7 (*Study various mechanisms by which to promote the development of new telecommunication technologies for rural applications*) informed participants of the results of the Focus Group meeting on 16 June 1999.



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RGQ10/2/001-E
7 June 1999
Original: English only

Rapporteur's Group Meeting on Question 10/2 - Geneva, 17-18 June 1999

SOURCE: RAPPORTEUR FOR QUESTION 10/2

TITLE: DRAFT AGENDA

Documents

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|----|---|-----------|
| 1. | Adoption of the agenda | 001 |
| 2. | Review of the results of the meeting on Question 10/2 in September 1998 | 2/REP/006 |
| 3. | Discussion of input documents:
- Mali | 002 |
| 4. | Review of activities undertaken in each sub-Question | |
| 5. | Organization of work until appointment of new Rapporteur(s) in September 1999 | |
| 6. | Any other business | |
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[list of participants]