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| **Regional Preparatory Meeting  for WTDC-17 for Americas (RPM-AMS)** | P:\SUP\Logos\Post-150th Anniv\ITU-logo-UNblue.jpg | |
| **Asuncion, Paraguay, 22-24 February 2017** | | |
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| **Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL)** | | |
| CITEL WORKING DOCUMENT: PRELIMINARY DRAFT WTDC-17 DECLARATION | | |

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| **Priority area:**  Strategic Plan, Action Plan, Declaration  **Summary:**  CITEL working document: Preliminary Draft WTDC-17 Declaration  **Expected results:**  Present this contribution as a working document of CITEL which contains the Preliminary Draft WTDC-17 Declaration to be reviewed and discussed during RPM-AMS.  **References:**  Original Version: Spanish (submission No. 1603) |

**Preliminary Draft WTDC-17 Declaration**

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Buenos Aires, 2017), which took place in Buenos Aires, Argentina, under the theme of "ICT for Sustainable Development Goals” (ICT④SDGs),

**Recognizes that**

1. Telecommunications/ICTs are a key enabler for social and economic development, and consequently for accelerating the timely implementation of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Action Lines, and assisting efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and Targets set out in the **Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**;

USA: Telecommunications/ICTs are a key enabler for social and economic development, and consequently for accelerating the timely attainment implementation of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Action Lines, and assisting efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and Targets set out in the **Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** "

ARG: Telecommunications/ICTs are a key enabler for social and economic development, **that contribute** in accelerating the timely implementation of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Action Lines, **and in moving forward joining** efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and Targets set out in the **Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**;

ARG: bis) ITU-D should adapt and reinforce the existing links between the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Action Lines and the Sustainable Development Goals and Targets through the Regional Initiatives, the Action Plan, and the contribution to ITU’s Strategic Plan, in order to support global evolution;

ARG: a) ter) Technological change and the new and innovative opportunities that Telecommunications/ICTs offer should be supported by ambitious decisions and measures in order to attenuate Digital Poverty, reduceinequalities and encourage our Planet’s protection, that are critical focal points for humanitarian progress.

RD: in this respect, ambitious decisions and measures need to be taken in order to reduce digital poverty and disparity, and in order to protect our planet and ITU must act accordingly to contribute with global solutions.

1. Telecommunications/ICTs also play a crucial role in various areas such as health, education, agriculture, governance, finance, commerce, disaster risk reduction and management, climate change mitigation and adaptation; particularly in least developed countries (LDCs), small island developing States (SIDS), landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) and countries with economies in transition;

PY: Telecommunications/ICTs also play a crucial role in various areas such as health, education, agriculture, governance, finance, commerce, disaster risk reduction and management, climate change mitigation and adaptation;

RD: telecommunications/ICTs also play a crucial role in various areas such as health, education, agriculture, governance, finance, commerce, poverty reduction and disaster risk management, climate change mitigation and adaptation; particularly in least developed countries (LDCs), small island developing States (SIDS), landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) and countries with economies in transition;

1. Access to modern, secure and affordable telecommunication/ICT infrastructure, applications and services offers opportunities for improving peoples' lives and ensuring that sustainable development across the world becomes a reality;

USA: Access to modern, secure and affordable telecommunication/ICT infrastructure, applications and services offers opportunities to increase productivity and efficiency, improve peoples' lives and ensuring that sustainable development across the world becomes a reality;

PY: Access to modern, secure and affordable telecommunication/ICT infrastructure, applications and services offers opportunities to improve peoples' lives and to ensure that sustainable development across the world becomes a reality; mostly in least developed countries (LDC), small island Developing States (SIDS), landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) and countries with transition economies

ARG: Access to modern, secure and affordable telecommunication/ICT infrastructure, applications and services offers opportunities to improve peoples' lives and to ensure that sustainable development across the world becomes a reality; mostly in least developed countries (LDC), small island Developing States (SIDS), landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) and countries with transition economies;

RD: access to modern, reliable, secure and affordable Telecommunication/ICT infrastructure, applications and services offers opportunities for improving peoples' lives and ensuring that sustainable development across the world becomes a reality;

1. Widespread conformance and interoperability of telecommunication/ICT equipment and systems through the implementation of relevant programmes, policies and decisions can increase market opportunities and reliability and encourage global integration and trade;

USA: pilots programmes on widespread conformity and interoperability of telecommunication/ICT equipment and systems interoperatividad, thanks to the implementation of relevant programmes, policies and decisions can increase market opportunities and reliability and encourage global integration and;

ARG & RD: the widespread conformance and interoperability of telecommunication/ICT equipment and systems thanks to the implementation of relevant programmes, policies and decisions can increase market opportunities, competitiveness and reliability, and encourage global integration and trade;

1. Telecommunication/ICT applications provide innovative and beneficial services for individuals, communities and societies at large, yet also can create challenges to building confidence and trust in the availability, reliability, security and use of telecommunication/ICT systems;

USA: Telecommunication/ICT applications provide innovative and beneficial services for individuals, communities and societies at large, yet also can create challenges to building confidence and trust in the availability, reliability, security and use of telecommunication/ICT systems; (IDEM)

1. Broadband access technologies, broadband-enabled services and ICT applications offer new (BETTER) opportunities for interaction among people, for sharing the world's knowledge resources and expertise, for transforming peoples' lives and for contributing to inclusive and sustainable development across the world;

USA: broadband access technologies, broadband-enabled services and ICT applications offer enhanced opportunities for interaction among people, for sharing the world's knowledge resources and expertise, for transforming peoples' lives and for contributing to inclusive and sustainable development across the world;

ARG: Broadband access technologies, broadband-enabled services and ICT applications offer new and/or enhanced opportunities for development and interaction among people, for sharing the world's knowledge and experiences, and for transforming every day life, in adittion to contributing to inclusive and sustainable development across the world;

1. Despite progress made during past years, digital divides still remain, and are compounded by disparities in access, use and skills between and within countries, in particular between urban and rural areas, as well as in the availability of accessible and affordable telecommunications/ICTs, particularly for women, youth, children, indigenous people and persons with disabilities and specific needs;

USA: Despite progress made during past years, digital divides still remain, and are compounded by disparities in access, use and skills between and within countries, in particular between urban and rural areas, as well as in the availability of accessible and affordable telecommunications/ICTs, particularly for women, youth, children, indigenous people and persons with disabilities and specific needs;

PY: despite progress made during past years, digital divides still remain, and are compounded by disparities in access, use and skills between and within countries, in particular between urban, rural and underserved areas, as well as in the availability of accessible and affordable telecommunications/ICTs, particularly for women, youth, children, indigenous people and persons with disabilities and specific needs;

RD: despite progress made during past years, digital divides still remain, and are compounded by disparities in access, use and skills between and within countries, in particular between urban and rural areas, as well as in the availability of accessible and affordable telecommunications/ICTs, particularly for women, youth, children, indigenous people and persons with disabilities and specific needs;

1. ITU is committed to improving people’s lives and making the world a better place throughtelecommunications and information and communication technologies (ICTs);

ARG: h) bis) developing infrastracture for telecommunications/ICTs in rural and distant areas, and ensuring the availability of affordable and accessible ICTs are for many countries major priorities, that in order to be successful require the identification of effective, innovative and affordable solutions.

RD: h) ter. Developing infrastructurte for telecommunications/ICT in rural and distant areas, and ensuring the availability of affordable and accessible ICT is a key priority for many countries, that in order to be successful require the identification of effective, innovative and affordable and sustainable solutions.

**Therefore declares that**

1. Broadly accessible and affordable telecommunications/ICTs make fundamental contributions towards the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

USA: Broadly accessible and affordable telecommunications/ICTs make fundamental contributions towards the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

2. Innovation is essential in ushering high-speed, high-quality ICT infrastructure and services;

USA: Innovation is essential in ushering high-speed, high-quality ICT infrastructure and services, and new and emerging technologies should be harnessed including for purposes of supporting global efforts aimed at further development of the information society;

PY: Innovation is essential in ushering high-capacity, high-quality ICT infrastructure and services

ARG: Innovation is essential, as a strategic factor for the development and sustainability of telecommunications/ICTs and for allowing high speed and quality services and infrastructure. New and emerging technologies should be harnessed including for purposes of supporting global efforts aimed at further development of the information society;

3. upon the convergence process, policy-makers and regulators should continue to promote widespread, affordable access to telecommunications/ICTs, including Internet access, through fair, transparent, stable, predictable and non-discriminatory enabling policy, legal and regulatory environments, including common approaches to conformance and interoperability that promote competition, increase consumer choice, foster continued technological and service innovation, and provide investment incentives at national, regional and international levels;

USA: policy-makers and regulators should continue to promote widespread, affordable access to telecommunications/ICTs, including Internet access, through fair, transparent, stable, predictable and non-discriminatory legal and regulatory environments, to promote competition, offering a greater offer for clients, promoting continued technological and service innovation, providing investment incentives at national, regional and international levels.

ARG: In order to ensure the sustainable development of convergence, policy-makers and regulators should continue to promote widespread, affordable access to telecommunications/ICTs, including Internet access, through fair, transparent, stable, predictable and non-discriminatory legal and regulatory environments, to promote competition, offering a greater offer for clients, promoting continued technological and service innovation, providing investment incentives at national, regional and international levels.

RD: that for convergent development, policy-makers and regulators should continue to promote widespread, affordable access to telecommunications/ICTs, including Internet access, through fair, transparent, stable, predictable and non-discriminatory legal and regulatory environments, incluiding common conformity and interoperatibility regimes that foster competition and inclusion, offering a greater offer for clients, promoting continued technological and service innovation, providing investment incentives at national, regional and international levels;

ARG: 3 bis: digital economy occupies a critical role in the innovation and evolution in the use of telecommunications/ICTs, having a transforming effect on people, societies and economies throughout the entire world.

4. New and emerging technologies such as big data and the Internet of Things should be harnessed for purposes of supporting global efforts aimed at further development of the information society;

PY: New and emerging technologies such as big data, cloud computing and the Internet of Things should be harnessed for purposes of supporting global efforts aimed at further development of the information society;

4. Digital literacy and ICT skills, as well as human and institutional capacity in the development and use of telecommunications/ICT networks, applications and services should be enhanced to enable people to contribute to ideas, knowledge and human development;

RD: Digital literacy and ICT skills, as well as human and institutional capacity in the development, appropriation and use of telecommunications/ICT networks, applications and services should be enhanced to enable people to contribute to ideas, knowledge and human development;

ARG: 4 bis Telecommunications/ICTs can contribute in creating opportunities for education and capacitation throughout people´s lives, including people with disabilities and specific needs; for their achievement the adoption of inmediate, sustained and specific measures is required, in order to ensure an inclusive, egalitarian and quality education for everyone.

5. Measuring the Information Society and providing the proper indicators/statistics are important for both Member States and the private sector in identifying and finding investment opportunities;

USA: measuring the Information Society and providing the proper indicators/statistics are important for both Member States and the private sector in identifying and finding investment opportunities;

RD: measuring the Information Society and providing proper and comparable indicators/statistics are important for the Member States, the private sector and the civil society with the first being able to identify gaps that need public policy intervention, the second identifying and finding investment opportunities and the third, appropriation and empowerment strategies of the different population groups jointly pursuing additional efforts in order to generate partnership and sustainability in telecommunication/ICT development;

6. An inclusive information society should take into account the needs of persons with disabilities and specific needs;

ARG: an inclusive information society should be commited to contributing to the social and economic progress of people, emphasizing the needs of persons with disabilities and specific needs, vulnerable and marginal groups, and to pursue mechanisms to generate a new way to relate socially and educationally in which stereotypes about women and men leave room to a new view in which all people, regardless of sex, age, race, religion, etc. are acknowledged as essential agents for sustainable development.

PY: an inclusive information society should take into account the needs of persons with disabilities and specific needs, and of other persons in vulnerable situations;

RD an inclusive information society should leverage peoples’ social and economic strengthening with a strong focus on the needs of persons with disabilities and specific needs, vulnerable and marginal groups and seek mechanisms to contribute to eliminate gender-related violence to generate a new way to relate socially and educationally in which stereotypes about women and men leave room to a new view in which all people, regardless of sex, age, race, religion, etc. are acknowledged as essential agents for the l digital ecosystem ;

ARG: 6 bis **opportunities provided by telecommunications/ICTs should be fully exploited, with the aim of ensuring equitable access to telecommunications/ICTs and innovations that foster sustainable socio-economic development, poverty alleviation, job creation, entrepreneurship and promoting digital inclusion and empowerment for all, particularly for women, youth, children, indigenous peoples and persons with disabilities, including age-related disabilities;**

ARG: 6 ter an information society should be backed up by a multistakeholder approach in which telecommunication/ICT development and growth provide investment predictability and leverage sustainability through innovation, competitiveness and integration, acknowledging essential principles for the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines and the Sustainable Development Goals in 2030;

RD: 6 quater. an information society should be backed up by a multistakeholder approach in which telecommunication/ICT development and growth provide investment predictability and leverage sustainability through innovation, competitiveness and integration, acknowledging essential principles to contribute in achieving the goals and targets of the SDGs;

7. building trust and security in the use of telecommunications/ICTs is apriority that requires international cooperation and coordination between governments, relevant organizations, private companies and other stakeholders in building capacity and exchanging best practices;

USA: building trust and security in the use of telecommunications/ICTs is apriority that requires international cooperation and coordination between governments, relevant organizations, private companies and other stakeholders in building capacity and exchanging best practices;

8. Cooperation between developed countries and developing countries is encouraged as this paves way for technical cooperation, technology transfer and joint research activities;

USA: Cooperation between innovative developed countries and developing countries has to be encouraged as this paves way for technical cooperation, technology and knowledge transfers, and joint research activities;

ARG 8 bis promotion of investments for the development of broadband infrastructure, services and applications contribute to the sustainable and econocomic groth of the poeples, and in this respect the Development Sector of ITUshall have to be a main actor to create alliances and spaces for cooperation among Member States, private sector, international funding agencies and other stakeholders;

9. Public-private partnerships need to be further strengthened in order to identify and apply innovative technological solutions and financing mechanisms for inclusive and sustainable development;

RD: 9 bis. those who are politically responsable and the regulatory agencies shuold continue to promote generalized and affordable access to telecommunications/ICT through enabling policies that are fair, transparent, stable predictable and non discriminatrory, as well as through legal frameworks that promote competition, increase options for consumers and Foster continuous innovation in technology and services;

10. innovation should be integrated into national policies, initiatives and programmes to promote sustainable development and economic growth through multi-stakeholder partnerships, between developing countries and between developed and developing countries to facilitate technology and knowledge transfer;

USA: Innovation should be integrated into national policies, initiatives and programmes to promote sustainable development and economic growth through multi-stakeholder partnerships, between developing countries and between developed and developing countries to facilitate voluntary technology and knowledge transfer on mutually agreed terms;

PY: innovation should be integrated into national policies, initiatives and programmes to promote sustainable development and economic growth through multi-stakeholder partnerships, between developing countries, and between developed and developing countries to facilitate knowledge transfer and ecologically rational technologies under favorable conditions, and even under mutually agreed upon under concessional and preferential terms;

RD: innovation should be integrated into national policies, initiatives and programmes to promote sustainable development and economic growth through multi-stakeholder partnerships, between developing countries, and between developed and developing countries to facilitate the transfer of technologies and knowledge;

11. International cooperation should be continuously enhanced amongst ITU Member States, Sector Members, Associates, Academia, and other partners, stakeholders, and initiatives to pursue sustainable development, through the use of telecommunications/ICTs;

ARG: 11 bis international cooperation should be continuously promoted and enhanced amongst ITU Member States, Sector Members, Associates, Academia, and other partners and stakeholders to pursue sustainable development, through the use of telecommunications/ICTs;

12. ITU membership and other interested parties should cooperate in implementation of Connect 2020 global telecommunication/information and communication technology goals and targets.

ARG. 12 bis the regions have articulated their specific priorities in a set of regional initiatives, which can be found in the Buenos Aires Action Plan adopted by this conference. The implementation of these regional initiatives deserve high priority on the part of ITU-D and development partners.

USA: Accordingly, we, the delegates to the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-17), declare our commitment, through multi-stakeholder partnerships, to accelerate the expansion and use of telecommunication/ICT infrastructure, applications and services for the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines and the timely attainment of the **Sustainable Development Goals and Targets set out in the Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**.

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-17) calls upon ITU Member States, Sector Members, Associates, Academia and all other partners and stakeholders to contribute towards the successful implementation of the Buenos Aires Action Plan.

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