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| PLENARY MEETING | **Revision 2 toDocument 38-E** |
|  | **28 April 2017** |
|  | **Original: English** |
| Regional Preparatory Meeting for WTDC-17 for CIS (RPM-CIS) |
| Outcomes of RPM-CIS |
|  |
| **Summary:**This document includes all agreed outcomes from RPM-CIS that took place in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, from 9 to 11 November 2016, as reflected in the Chairman’s report (Document [RPM-CIS16/44](http://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMCIS-C-0044/)), namely:* Revised preliminary draft WTDC-17 Declaration,
* Draft new Regional Initiatives,
* Draft revised Rules of procedure of ITU-D (WTDC Resolution 1), and
* Draft revised Resolutions 2, 8, 9, 17, 23, 30, 37, 45, 54, 59, 66, 71, 73, and 81

Proposed suppression of Resolutions 31, 32 and 50.**Action required:**TDAG is invited to note this document.**References:**Document [RPM-CIS16/44](http://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMCIS-C-0044/) |

**MOD** RPM-CIS/38/1

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

*a)* telecommunications/ICTs are a key tool for implementing the World Summit on the Information Society Vision beyond 2015, approved by a Resolution of the General Assembly, and a key enabler for social and economic development; and consequently for accelerating the timely attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals and Targets set out in UNGA Resolution A/70/1 "**Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**";

*b)* telecommunications/ICTs also play a significant 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;

*c)* 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;

*d)* 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;

*e)* telecommunication/ICT applications can be life-changing for individuals, communities and societies at large, but they canalso increase the challenge of building confidence and security in the use of telecommunications/ICTs;

*f)* broadband access technologies, broadband-enabled services and ICT applications offer new 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;

*g)* despite all the progress made during past years, the digital divide still remains, and is compounded by disparities in access, use and skills between ITU regions, between individual countries, 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;

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

therefore declares that

1 universally accessible and affordable telecommunications/ICTs are a fundamental contribution towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 and drive development of the national and global economy as well as the building of the global information society;

2 innovation is essential in ushering high-speed, high-quality telecommunication/ICT infrastructure and services;

3 with 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 enabling policy, legal and regulatory environments, including common approaches to conformance and interoperability that promote competition, increase consumer choices, foster continued technological and service innovation and provide investment incentives at national, regional and international levels;

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;

5 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;

6 measuring the Information Society and providing the proper indicators/statistics are important for both Member States and the private sector with the former being able to identify gaps that need public policy intervention, and the latter, in identifying and finding investment opportunities;

7 an inclusive information society should take into account the needs of persons with disabilities and specific needs;

8 building trust, confidence and security in the use of telecommunications/ICTs, as well as protection of personal data and privacy, requires further international cooperation and coordination between governments, relevant organizations, private companies and other stakeholders;

9 cooperation between developed and developing countries as well as among developing countries are encouraged as this paves way for technical cooperation, technological transfer, and joint research activities, and helps to bridge the digital divide between countries;

10 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;

11 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;

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

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

Accordingly, we, the delegates to the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC‑17), declare our commitment to accelerate the expansion and use of telecommunication/ICT infrastructure, applications and services for building the information society and for the timely attainment of the **Sustainable Development Goals and Targets set out in UNGA Resolution A/70/1** "**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.

**ADD** RPM-CIS/38/2

CIS REGIONAL INITIATIVES

# CIS1:

# Development of e-health to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all, at all ages.

**Objective:**

To assist the ITU Member States within the region with the development of regulatory texts, technical solutions and specialized training programmes in the field of e-health (including telemedicine), with the aim of providing the public with improved medical services through the use of infocommunications.

**Expected results**

1) Provision of more complete information to the representatives of telecommunication administrations, government healthcare authorities, medical institutions and the private sector regarding the current legal/regulatory and organizational/technical frameworks in the area of e-health.

2) Establishment of pilot telemedicine stations with a guaranteed electricity supply derived from solar energy.

3) Development of technical solutions in the field of e-health, including telemedicine, the processing of digital medical data, personalized medical-service records, the electronic outpatient card, the electronic patient health record, and so on.

4) Recommendations on the application of modern technical solutions in the design of e-health systems, including telemedicine networks.

5) Courses focusing on the training of medical students, and on enhancing the skills of practising medical staff, in the use of ICTs in healthcare, including telemedicine, as well as courses for IT specialists on the maintenance of medical information systems.

**Relevant ITU‑D Objectives:**

Objective 3. Enabling Environment: Foster an enabling policy and regulatory environment conducive to sustainable telecommunication/ICT development.

3.3: Improved human and institutional capacity of ITU Membership to tap into the full potential of telecommunications/ICTs.

Objective 4: Inclusive Digital Society: Foster the development and use of telecommunications/ICTs and applications to empower people and societies for socio-economic development and environmental protection.

4.1: Improved access to and use of telecommunication/ICT in Least Developed Countries (LDCs), small island developing states (SIDS) and landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) and countries with economies in transition.

4.2: Improved capacity of ITU Membership to leverage ICT applications, including mobile, in high-priority areas (e.g. health, agriculture, commerce, governance, education, finance).

**Relevant WSIS Outcomes:** C4. Capacity building, C7. ICT Applications: E-health.

**Relevant Sustainable Development Goals:** 3. Good health and well-being, 16. Reducing inequality.

# CIS2:

# Use of telecommunications/ICT to ensure inclusive, equitable, quality and safe education, including the enhancement of women's knowledge of ICTs and e-government.

**Objective:** To provide ITU Member States within the region with centralized consultative and technical assistance in the various aspects of the use of telecommunications/ICT in education, as well as in regard to raising the level of people's ICT literacy, in the interests of human capacity building and of ensuring gender and social equality.

**Expected results**

1) Provision of consultative and technical support to representatives of educational establishments with regard to current progress in the use of telecommunications/ICTs in education.

2) Establishment of training centres for enhancing women's knowledge of ICTs and e-government.

3) Development of educational technologies and methods using telecommunications/ICTs.

4) Development of systems for providing pupils, parents and teachers with information on the safe use of Internet resources.

5) Further training courses, training sessions and seminars on introducing telecommunications/ICTs into education and human capacity building, including in rural areas, and also for persons with disabilities.

**Relevant ITU‑D Objectives:**

Objective 2: Modern and secure telecommunication/ICT Infrastructure: Foster the development of infrastructure and services, including building confidence and security in the use of telecommunications/ICTs.

2.2: Enhanced capacity of ITU Membership to effectively respond to cyberthreats and develop national cybersecurity strategies.

Objective 3. Enabling Environment: Foster an enabling policy and regulatory environment conducive to sustainable telecommunication/ICT development.

3.3: Improved human and institutional capacity of ITU Membership to tap into the full potential of telecommunications/ICTs.

Objective 4: Inclusive Digital Society: Foster the development and use of telecommunications/ICTs and applications to empower people and societies for socio-economic development and environmental protection.

4.2: Improved capacity of ITU Membership to leverage ICT applications, including mobile, in high-priority areas (e.g. health, agriculture, commerce, governance, education, finance).

4.3: Strengthened capacity of ITU Membership to develop strategies, policies and practices for digital inclusion, especially people with specific needs.

**Relevant WSIS Outcomes:** C3. Access to information and knowledge, C4. Capacity building, C5. Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs, C7. ICT Applications: E-learning.

**Relevant Sustainable Development Goals:** 4. Quality education, 5. Gender equality.

# CIS3: Development and regulation of infocommunication infrastructure to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe and resilient.

**Objective:** To assist ITU Member States within the region in developing regulatory instruments and technical solutions aimed at creating an enabling environment for the development of infocommunication infrastructure in cities and human settlements, including the use of smart devices.

**Expected results:**

1) Recommendations on the development of infocommunication infrastructure, including the use of telecommunications and other connective media to support and facilitate the sustainable development of smart cities in developing countries.

2) Recommendations on the development of the regulatory and legal framework governing the process of building and servicing infocommunication infrastructure in facilities of diverse ownership, including the use of smart devices for developing urban infrastructure.

3) Implementation of pilot projects for the introduction of smart devices in the interests of road-traffic safety, control of street lighting, energy saving, water-supply management, etc.

4) Greater awareness on the part of telecommunication administrations, regulatory bodies and telecommunication equipment developers, manufacturers and suppliers as to the strategies to be adopted in regard to the construction, and implementation of the vision, of smart cities in the CIS countries.

5) Further training courses, training sessions and seminars on the infrastructure of cities and human settlements.

**Relevant ITU‑D Objectives:**

Objective 2: Modern and secure telecommunication/ICT Infrastructure: Foster the development of infrastructure and services, including building confidence and security in the use of telecommunications/ICTs.

2.1: Enhanced capacity of ITU Membership to make available resilient telecommunication/ICT infrastructure and services, including broadband and broadcasting, bridging the digital standardization gap, conformance and interoperability and spectrum management.

2.2: Enhanced capacity of ITU Membership to effectively respond to cyberthreats and develop national cybersecurity strategies and capabilities, including capacity building.

Objective 3. Enabling Environment: Foster an enabling policy and regulatory environment conducive to sustainable telecommunication/ICT development.

3.1: Strengthened capacity of Member States to develop enabling policy, legal and regulatory frameworks conducive to development of telecommunications/ICTs. Telecommunication/ICT innovation.

3.4:Strengthened capacity of ITU Membership to integrate telecommunication/ICT innovation in national development agendas.

**Relevant WSIS Outcomes:** С2. Information and communication infrastructure, C7. ICT Applications: E-environment.

**Relevant Sustainable Development Goals:** 11. Sustainable cities and communities.

# CIS4: Monitoring of the ecological status and of the presence and rational use of natural resources.

**Objective**: To assist ITU Member States within the region in monitoring the ecological status and the presence and rational use of natural resources.

**Expected results:**

1) Development of information systems to support decision-making in regard to monitoring of the ecological status and of the presence and rational use of natural resources, including the creation of a spatial data infrastructure.

2) Creation of repositories of metadata relating to the results of studies on the ecological status of the region's natural resources.

3) Provision to the governmental authorities responsible for the conservation of natural resources of high-quality, well-organized and harmonized spatial information for use in analysing and forecasting the state of the environment.

4) Further training courses, training sessions and seminars on monitoring of the ecological status and of the presence and rational use of natural resources.

**Relevant ITU‑D Objectives:**

Objective 4: Inclusive Digital Society: Foster the development and use of telecommunications/ICTs and applications to empower people and societies for socio-economic development and environmental protection.

4.1: Improved access to and use of telecommunication/ICT in Least Developed Countries (LDCs), small island developing states (SIDS) and landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) and countries with economies in transition.

4.4:Enhanced capacity of ITU Membership to develop ICT strategies and solutions on climate-change adaptation and mitigation.

**Relevant WSIS Outcomes:** C7. ICT Applications: E-agriculture, E-environment.

**Relevant Sustainable Development Goals:** 6. Clean water and sanitation, 13. Climate action.

# CIS5: Fostering innovative solutions and partnership for the implementation of Internet of Things (IoT) technologies and their interaction in telecommunication networks, including 4G, IMT-2020 and next-generation networks, in the interests of sustainable development.

**Objective:** To assist ITU Member States within the region with a harmonious transformation of the telecommunication market and transition of telecommunication operators to the provision of innovative services to users, ensuring the stability and enhanced performance of telecommunication networks, including 4G, IMT-2020 and next-generation networks (hereinafter “telecommunication networks”) within a context of ubiquitous implementation of the IoT concept and technologies.

**Expected results:**

1) Development of recommendations on the use of modern technologies and advanced concepts for the operation of the telecommunication market, including principles for telecommunication network interworking, tariff-setting for services, numbering, addressing and identification, as well as issues relating to service quality, security and reliability and traffic management, including aspects of net neutrality.

2) Increased interoperability among telecommunication networks, services and devices through implementation of the IoT concept, including the industrial IoT.

3) Help in ensuring the required level of confidence and security when implementing the large-scale transformation of telecommunication networks within the context of introduction of the IoT concept, including the industrial IoT.

4) Establishment of a single toolkit and a set of specifications for the testing of devices, telecommunication networks and their components within the framework of the IoT concept, including the industrial IoT, on the basis of regional laboratories.

5) Development of recommendations relating to the establishment and operation of regional IoT laboratories, in the interests of sustainable development.

**Relevant ITU‑D Objectives:**

Objective 2: Modern and secure telecommunication/ICT Infrastructure: Foster the development of infrastructure and services, including building confidence and security in the use of telecommunications/ICTs.

2.1: Enhanced capacity of ITU Membership to make available resilient telecommunication/ICT infrastructure and services, including broadband and broadcasting, bridging the digital standardization gap, conformance and interoperability and spectrum management.

Objective 3. Enabling Environment: Foster an enabling policy and regulatory environment conducive to sustainable telecommunication/ICT development.

3.4:Strengthened capacity of ITU Membership to integrate telecommunication/ICT innovation in national development agendas.

**Relevant WSIS Outcomes:** C6. Enabling environment.

**Relevant Sustainable Development Goals:** 9. Industry, innovation and infrastructure, 17. Partnership for sustainable development.

**MOD** RPM-CIS/38/3

RESOLUTION 1 (Rev. BUENOS AIRES, 2017)

Rules of procedure of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Buenos Aires, 2017),

considering

*a)* the provisions of Article 21 of the ITU Constitution concerning the specific functions of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU‑D);

*b)* the general working arrangements of ITU‑D defined in the ITU Convention,

considering also

*a)* that ITU‑D shall work, among others, through telecommunication development study groups, the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG) and regional and world meetings organized within the framework of the Sector's Action Plan;

*b)* that, in accordance with No. 207A of the Convention, the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC) is authorized to adopt the working methods and procedures for the management of the Sector's activities in accordance with No. 145A of the Constitution,

considering

*a)* that the six[[1]](#footnote-1)1 regions have coordinated their preparations for this conference through preparatory meetings;

*b)* that many common proposals have been submitted to this conference from administrations which have participated in the preparations, thereby facilitating the work of this conference;

*c)* that this consolidation of views at regional level, together with the opportunity for interregional discussions prior to the conference, through the consolidated report on the results of the preparatory meetings, has eased the task of reaching a consensus at the last meeting of the TDAG of the ITU-D and during the conference,

resolves

that, for ITU‑D, the general provisions of the Convention referred to in *considering b)* and *considering also b)* should be supplemented by the provisions of this resolution and its annexes, bearing in mind that, in the case of inconsistency, the Constitution, the Convention and the General Rules of conferences, assemblies and meetings of the Union (in that order) shall prevail over this resolution.

SECTION 1 – World Telecommunication Development Conference

**1.1** The World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC), in undertaking the duties assigned to it in Article 22 of the ITU Constitution, Article 16 of the ITU Convention and the General Rules of conferences, assemblies and meetings of the Union, shall conduct the work of each conference by setting up committees and one or more groups to address organization, work programme, budget control and editorial matters, and to consider other specific matters if required.

**1.2** It shall establish a steering committee, presided over by the chairman of the conference, and composed of the vice-chairmen of the conference and the chairmen and vice-chairmen of the committees and any group(s) created by the conference.

**1.3** WTDC shall establish a budget control committee and an editorial committee, the tasks and responsibilities of which are set out in the General Rules of conferences, assemblies and meetings of the Union (General Rules, Nos 69-74):

a) The Budget Control Committee, *inter alia*, examines the estimated total expenses of the conference and estimates the financial needs of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU‑D) up to the next WTDC and the costs entailed by the execution of the decisions of the conference.

b) The Editorial Committee perfects the wording of texts arising from WTDC deliberations, such as resolutions, without altering their sense and substance, and aligns the texts in the official languages of the Union.

**1.4** In addition to the steering, budget control and editorial committees, the two following committees are set up:

a) The Committee on Working Methods of ITU‑D, the terms of reference of which are to examine proposals and contributions relating to cooperation among members; to evaluate the working methods and functioning of the ITU‑D study groups; to assess and identify options for maximizing programme delivery and to approve appropriate changes thereto with a view to strengthening the synergies between study group Questions, programmes and regional initiatives; and to submit to the plenary meeting reports, including proposals on the ITU‑D working methods for implementation of the ITU‑D work programme, on the basis of the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG) and study group reports submitted to the conference and the proposals of ITU Member States, ITU‑D Sector Members and Academia.

b) The Committee on Objectives, the terms of reference of which are to review and approve the outputs and outcomes for the objectives; to review and agree on the related study group Questions and regional initiatives and establish appropriate guidelines for their implementation; to review and agree on relevant resolutions; and to ensure that the output is in accordance with a results-based management approach aiming to improve management effectiveness and accountability.

**1.5** The plenary meeting of a WTDC may set up other committees or groups that meet to address specific matters, if required, in accordance with No. 63 of the General Rules. The terms of reference should be contained in the establishing resolution.

**1.6** All committees and groups referred to in §§ 1.2 to 1.5 above shall normally cease to exist with the closing of WTDC except, if required and subject to the approval of the conference and within the budgetary limits, the Editorial Committee. The Editorial Committee may therefore hold meetings after the closing of WTDC to complete its tasks as assigned by the conference.

**1.7** Prior to the inaugural meeting of WTDC, in accordance with No. 49 of the General Rules, the heads of delegation shall meet to prepare the agenda for the first plenary meeting and make proposals for the organization of the conference, including proposals for chairmanships and vice-chairmanships of WTDC and its committees and groups.

**1.8** The programme of work of WTDC shall be designed to provide adequate time for consideration of the important administrative and organizational aspects of ITU‑D. As a general rule:

**1.8.1** WTDC shall consider reports from the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) and, pursuant to No. 208 of the Convention, shall establish work programmes and guidelines for defining telecommunication development questions and priorities and shall provide direction and guidance for the ITU‑D work programme. It shall decide on the need to maintain, terminate or establish study groups, allocate to each of them the Questions to be studied and, taking into account consideration by the heads of delegation, appoint the chairmen and vice‑chairmen of study groups, of TDAG and of any other groups it has established, taking account of Article 20 of the Convention. The study group chairmen themselves shall, during the conference, be at the disposal of WTDC to provide information on matters relating to the study group they chair.

**1.8.2** WTDC shall establish a declaration, a plan of action, including programmes and regional initiatives, ITU‑D's contribution to the draft ITU strategic plan, ITU‑D study group Questions, as well as resolutions and recommendations.

**1.9** A WTDC may express its opinion relating to the duration or agenda of a future WTDC.

**1.10** During WTDC, the heads of delegation shall meet:

a) to consider the proposals concerning the work programme and the constitution of study groups in particular;

b) to draw up proposals concerning the designation of chairmen and vice‑chairmen of study groups, TDAG and any other groups established by WTDC (see section 2).

**1.11** In those cases indicated in § 1.8.1, a WTDC may be asked to consider the approval of one or more Recommendations. The report of any study group(s) or TDAG proposing such action should include information on why such action is proposed.

**1.12** WTDC texts are defined as follows:

a) *Declaration*: Statement of the main outcomes and priorities established by WTDC. The declaration is usually named after the conference venue.

b) *Action Plan*: A comprehensive package that will promote the equitable and sustainable development of telecommunication/ICT networks and services. It consists of study group Questions, programmes and regional initiatives that address the specific needs of the regions. The action plan is usually named after the conference venue.

c) *Objectives/programmes*: Key elements of the Action Plan, constituting components of the toolkit BDT uses when solicited by Member States and Sector Members to support their efforts to build the information society for all. In the implementation of objectives/programmes, account should be taken of the resolutions, decisions, recommendations and reports emanating from WTDC.

d) *Resolution/decision*: A WTDC text containing provisions on the organization, working methods and programmes of ITU‑D.

e) *Question*: Description of an area of work to be studied, normally leading to the production of new or revised Recommendations, guidelines, handbooks or reports.

f) *Recommendation*: An answer to a Question or part of a Question, which, within the scope of existing knowledge and the research carried out by study groups and adopted in accordance with established procedures, may provide guidance on technical, organizational, tariff-related and operational matters, including working methods, may describe a preferred method or proposed solution for undertaking a specific task, or may recommend procedures for specific applications. These Recommendations should be sufficient to serve as a basis for international cooperation.

g) *Report*: A technical, operational or procedural statement, prepared by a study group on a given subject related to a current Question. Several types of reports are defined in § 11.1 of section 2.

**1.13** Voting

Should there be a need to vote at WTDC, the vote will be conducted according to the relevant sections of the Constitution, Convention and General Rules.

**1.14** In accordance with No. 213A of the Convention, and the provisions of Article 17A of the Convention, WTDC may assign specific matters within its competence to TDAG for advice on the action required on those matters.

**1.15** TDAG is authorized in accordance with Resolution 24 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) of WTDC to act on behalf of WTDC in the period between conferences.

**1.16** TDAG shall report to the next WTDC on progress in matters that may be included in agendas of future WTDCs as well as on the progress of ITU‑D studies in response to requests made by previous conferences.

**1.17** Preparations for WTDCs

**1.17.1** The Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) shall organize, within the financial limitations, one regional development conference or preparatory meeting per region for each of the six regions, in a reasonable time-frame, prior to the last meeting of TDAG before the next WTDC, and avoiding overlap with other relevant ITU-D meetings, making full use of the regional offices to facilitate such conferences or meetings.

**1.17.2** The Secretary-General, in cooperation with the Director of BDT, shall on the basis of consultations with Member States and regional telecommunication organizations in the six regions provide assistance in such areas as:

i) organization of informal and formal regional and interregional preparatory meetings;

ii) organization of information sessions;

iii) identification of mutual coordination methods;

iv) identification of major matters to be resolved by the future WTDC.

**1.17.3** In close consultation with the chairmen and vice-chairmen of the regional development conferences or preparatory meetings, a report consolidating the results of such meetings shall be prepared for submission to the TDAG meeting immediately preceding WTDC.

**1.17.4** The last TDAG meeting shall be convened not less than three months before WTDC, in order to study, discuss and adopt the consolidated report presenting the outputs of the six regional conferences or preparatory meetings in final form, as a basic document to be included, once approved by TDAG, in the report on the application of this resolution for submission to WTDC, as well as to accomplish whatever else is desirable prior to WTDC (such as the adoption of Questions proposed for study by the study groups), including also a review and revision of all resolutions, recommendations and programmes with the aim of proposing the necessary updates to some or all of them if possible and their submission as proposals from TDAG to WTDC.

SECTION 2 – Study groups and their relevant groups

# 2 Classification of study groups and their relevant groups

**2.1** The World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC) establishes study groups, each studying telecommunication matters of interest to the developing countries in particular, including the issues referred to in No. 211 of the ITU Convention. Study groups shall observe strictly Nos 214, 215, 215A and 215B of the Convention.

**2.2** To facilitate their work, the study groups may set up working parties, rapporteur's groups and joint rapporteur's groups to deal with specific Questions or parts of thereof, including with the participation of other ITU Sectors. Working parties are understood to exist over an undefined period to answer Questions and study the topics put before the study group. Each working party will study Questions and these topics, and prepares draft reports, guidelines and other texts for consideration by the study groups. To limit the resource impact on ITU-D, Member States, Sector Members, Associates and Academia, a study group shall establish by consensus and maintain only the minimum number of working parties.

**2.3** Where appropriate, regional groups may be set up within the study groups to study Questions or problems, the specific nature of which makes it desirable that they be studied within the framework of one or more regions of the Union.

**2.4** The establishment of regional groups should not give rise to duplication of work being carried out at the global level by the corresponding study groups, their relevant groups or any other groups established pursuant to No. 209A of the Convention.

**2.5** Joint rapporteur's groups (JRG) may be established for Questions requiring the participation of experts from more than one study group. Unless otherwise specified, the working methods of JRGs should be identical to those of rapporteur groups. At the time a JRG is established, its terms of reference, reporting lines and final decision-making authority should be clearly identified.

# 3 Chairmen and vice-chairmen

**3.1** Appointment of chairmen and vice-chairmen by WTDC shall be primarily based upon proven competence both in matters considered by the study group concerned and in terms of the management skills required, taking into account the need to promote gender balance in leadership positions and equitable geographical distribution, in particular promoting the participation of developing countries through Member States and Sector Members.

**3.2** The mandate of the vice-chairmen shall be to assist the chairman in matters relating to the management of the study group, including substitution for the chairman at official ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU‑D) meetings or replacement of the chairman should he or she be unable to continue with study group duties.

**3.3** Study group vice-chairmen may in turn be selected as chairmen of working parties or as rapporteurs, with the sole limitation that they may not occupy more than two posts at the same time in the study period.

**3.4** Thereis a need to appoint only the relevant number of vice-chairmen for study groups and working parties in line with Resolution 61 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) of WTDC.

# 4 Rapporteurs

**4.1** Rapporteurs are appointed by a study group in order to progress the study of a Question and to develop new and revised reports, opinions and Recommendations. A rapporteur may have responsibility for only one Question.

**4.2** Because of the nature of the studies, rapporteur appointments should be based both on expertise in the subject to be studied and on the ability to coordinate the work. Elements of the expected work done by the rapporteurs are described in Annex 5 to this resolution.

**4.3** Clear terms of reference for the work of the rapporteur, including expected results, should be added to the corresponding Question, by the study group, as required.

**4.4** One rapporteur and one or more vice-rapporteurs are appointed, as appropriate, by a study group for each Question. The vice-rapporteur automatically takes over the chairmanship when the rapporteur is not available. This also includes the case of rapporteurs who are no longer representing the Member State or ITU‑D Sector Member which nominated them as participant in accordance with § ‎7.1 below. Vice-rapporteurs may be representatives from Member States, Sector Members, Associates or Academia[[2]](#footnote-2)1. When a vice-rapporteur is called upon to replace a rapporteur for the rest of the study period, a new vice-rapporteur is nominated from among the membership of the study group concerned.

# 5 Powers of the study groups

**5.1** Each study group may develop draft Recommendations for approval either by WTDC or pursuant to section 6 below. Recommendations approved in accordance with either procedure shall have the same status.

**5.2** Each study group may also adopt draft Questions in accordance with the procedure described in § 17.2 of section 4 below or for approval by WTDC.

**5.3** In addition to the above, each study group shall be competent to adopt guidelines and reports.

**5.4** In cases where the implementation of the results obtained is through activities of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT), such as workshops, regional meetings, or surveys, these activities should be reflected in the annual operational plan and conducted in coordination with the relevant study Question.

**5.5** In the cases where the terms of reference of a rapporteur group are completed prior to the end of the study period, the study group should issue guidelines, reports, best practices and Recommendations promptly for review by the membership.

# 6 Meetings

**6.1** The study groups and their relevant groups shall normally meet at ITU headquarters.

**6.2** Study groups and their relevant groups may meet outside Geneva if invited by Member States, ITU‑D Sector Members, or entities authorized in this respect by a Member State of the Union, having regard to facilitating the attendance of developing countries[[3]](#footnote-3)2. Such invitations shall normally be considered only if they are submitted to WTDC, to the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG) or to an ITU‑D study group meeting. If such invitations cannot be submitted to any of these meetings, the decision to accept the invitation rests with the Director of BDT in consultation with the chairman of the study group concerned. They shall be finally accepted after consultation with the Director if they are compatible with the resources allocated to ITU‑D by the Council.

**6.3** Regional and subregional meetings offer a valuable opportunity for information exchange and for the development of management and technical experience and expertise. Every opportunity should be taken to provide additional opportunities for experts (study group participants) from developing countries to gain experience by participating in regional and subregional meetings which deal with study group work. To this end, invitations to regional and subregional meetings organized on topics dealt with by study groups should be extended to participants of the rapporteur's groups concerned.

**6.4** The invitations referred to in § ‎6.2 above shall be issued and accepted, and the corresponding meetings outside Geneva organized, only if the conditions laid down in Resolution 5 (Kyoto, 1994) of the Plenipotentiary Conference and ITU Council Decision 304 are met. Invitations to hold meetings of the study groups or their relevant groups away from Geneva shall be accompanied by a statement indicating the host's agreement to defray the additional expenditure involved and that it will provide at least adequate premises and the necessary furniture and equipment free of charge, except that in the case of developing countries, equipment need not necessarily be provided free of charge by the host government, if the government so requests.

**6.5** Relevant groups of study groups may benefit from meetings held via teleconference, having regard to the possibilities of developing countries and their ability to participate by teleconference, or other alternative arrangements, rather than at ITU headquarters or in a region. A request by a rapporteur for such a meeting should be submitted to and approved by the parent study group.

**6.6** The dates, place and agenda for meetings of relevant groups shall be agreed by the parent study group.

**6.7** Should an invitation be cancelled for any reason, it shall be proposed that the meeting be convened in Geneva, in principle on the date originally planned.

# 7 Participation in meetings

**7.1** Member States, Sector Members, Associates, Academia and other entities duly authorized to participate in ITU‑D activities shall be represented, in the study groups and subordinate groups in whose work they wish to take part, by participants registered by name and chosen by them as representatives to make an effective contribution to the study of the Questions entrusted to those study groups. Chairmen of meetings may, in accordance with No. 248A of Article 20 of the ITU Convention, invite individual experts, as appropriate, to present their specific point of view at one or more meetings, without taking part in the decision‑making process and without giving the expert the right to participate in any other meetings to which a specific invitation by the chairman has not been extended.

**7.2** The Director of BDT shall keep up to date a list of the Member States, Sector Members, Associates, Academia and other entities participating in each study group.

**7.3** To the extent possible and practicable, study groups and their relevant groups shall endeavour to use remote participation technologies as part of efforts to encourage and enable broader participation in the work of the study groups by all Member States, Sector Members, Associates and Academia, especially for persons with specific needs, such as persons with disabilities.

**7.4** The rapporteur of each study Question shall coordinate and keep up to date a list of focal points from Member States, Sector Members, Associates and Academia in order to facilitate the communication and exchange of information on specific matters in the context of study.

# 8 Frequency of meetings

**8.1** The study groups shall in principle meet at least once a year during the interval between two WTDCs, preferably in the second half of the year so that working parties and rapporteur groups may meet in the first half of the year to prepare the necessary reports and submit them to the parent study group. However, additional meetings may take place with the approval of the Director of BDT, having regard to the priorities laid down by the preceding WTDC and the resources of ITU‑D.

**8.2** Working parties and their associated rapporteur groups shall in principle meet twice a year, at least in the period between two WTDCs, the second meeting being held in conjunction with the parent study group. However, additional meetings may be held with the consent of the parent study group and with the approval of the Director, having regard to the priorities laid down by the preceding WTDC and the resources of ITU‑D.

**8.3** Working parties should preferably meet back to back, although a working party may meet individually if the need arises or if the holding of a meeting is desirable (e.g. in association with seminars).

**8.4** To ensure the best possible use of the resources of ITU‑D and of those participating in its work, the Director, in collaboration with the study group chairmen, shall establish and publish a timetable of meetings well in advance. The timetable shall take account of such factors as the capacity of the ITU conference services, document requirements for meetings and the need for close coordination with the activities of the other Sectors and other international or regional organizations.

**8.5** In the establishment of the work plan, the timetable of meetings must take into account the time required for participating bodies to prepare contributions and documentation.

**8.6** All study groups shall meet sufficiently in advance of WTDC in order to enable the final reports and draft Recommendations to be disseminated within the required deadlines.

# 9 Establishment of work plans and preparation of meetings

**9.1** After each WTDC, a work plan shall be proposed by each study group chairman and rapporteurs, with the assistance of BDT. The work programme shall take account of the programme of activities and priorities adopted by WTDC. As an informational resource to support the development of the work plans, the Director of BDT shall, through the appropriate BDT staff (e.g. regional directors, focal points), prepare information about all ITU projects relevant to the particular study Question or issue, including those being implemented by the regional offices and in the other Sectors. This information should be provided to the study group chairmen and rapporteurs prior to the development of their work plans so as to allow them to take full advantage of new, existing and ongoing ITU work that could contribute to the study of their Questions.

**9.2** The implementation of the work plan will, however, depend to a large extent on the contributions received from Member States, Sector Members, Associates and Academia, duly authorized entities or organizations, and BDT, as well as on the opinions expressed by participants in the meetings.

**9.3** A circular with an agenda of the meeting, a draft work plan and a list of the Questions to be studied shall be prepared by BDT with the help of the chairman of the study group concerned.

**9.4** The circular must reach the bodies participating in the work of the study group concerned at least three months before the opening of the meeting.

**9.5** Details on registration, including a link to the online registration form, shall be included in the circular so that the representatives of the entities concerned can announce their intention to participate in the meeting. The form shall contain the names and addresses of intended participants and an indication of the languages required by participants. The form shall be submitted no less than 45 calendar days prior to the opening of the meeting, in order to secure interpretation and translation of documents in the requested languages.

# 10 Study group management teams

**10.1** Each ITU‑D study group has a management team composed of the chairman and vice‑chairmen of the study group, the chairmen and vice-chairmen of working parties and the rapporteurs and vice-rapporteurs.

**10.2** Study group management teams should maintain contact among themselves and with BDT by electronic means to the extent practicable. Appropriate liaison meetings should be arranged, as necessary, with study group chairmen from the other Sectors.

**10.3** The ITU‑D study group management team should meet prior to the meeting of the study group, in order to properly organize the coming meeting, including the review and approval of a time‑management plan. To support these meetings and identify any efficiencies, the Director of BDT shall, through the appropriate BDT staff (e.g. regional directors, focal points), provide information to study group rapporteurs on all relevant existing and planned ITU projects, including those being implemented by the regional offices and in the other Sectors.

**10.4** A joint management team will be established, chaired by the Director, composed of the ITU‑D study group management teams and the chairman of TDAG.

**10.5** The role of the joint management team of the ITU‑D study groups is to:

a) advise BDT management on the estimation of the budget requirements of the study groups;

b) coordinate issues common to study groups;

c) prepare joint proposals to TDAG or other relevant bodies in ITU‑D as required;

d) finalize the dates of subsequent study group meetings;

e) deal with any other issue that may arise.

# 11 Preparation of reports

**11.1** Reports of the study group's work can be of four major types:

a) Meeting reports

b) Progress reports

c) Output reports

d) Chairman's report to WTDC.

**11.2** Meeting reports

**11.2.1** Prepared by the study group chairman, the working party chairman or the rapporteur, assisted by BDT, meeting reports shall contain a summary of the outcome of the work. They must also indicate items which require further study at the next meeting or a recommendation for conclusion or completion of the work of a study Question or consolidation with another Question. The reports should also include reference to contributions and/or meeting documents, the main results (including Recommendations and guidelines), directives for future work (including referral of output reports to BDT for incorporation into relevant BDT programme activities as appropriate), planned meetings of working parties, if any, rapporteur's groups and joint rapporteur's groups, and liaison statements endorsed at the study group level.

**11.2.2** The report of a study group's first meeting in the study period shall include a list of the chairmen and vice-chairmen of working parties and/or rapporteur's groups, if any, and of any other groups that may have been created, and of the rapporteur and vice‑rapporteurs appointed. This list shall be updated, as required, in subsequent reports.

**11.3** Progress reports

**11.3.1** The following list of items is suggested for inclusion in progress reports:

a) brief summary of the status and draft outline of the output report;

b) conclusions or titles of reports or Recommendations to be endorsed;

c) status of work with reference to the work plan, including baseline document, if available;

d) draft new or revised reports, guidelines or Recommendations, or reference to source documents containing the Recommendations;

e) draft liaison statements in response to or requesting action by other study groups or organizations;

f) reference to normal or delayed contributions considered part of assigned study and a summary of contributions considered;

g) reference to submissions received in response to liaison statements from other organizations;

h) major issues remaining for resolution and draft agenda of future approved meetings, if any;

i) reference to the list of attendees at meetings held since the last progress report;

j) reference to the list of normal contributions or temporary documents containing the reports of all working party and rapporteur's group meetings since the last progress report.

**11.3.2** The progress report may make reference to meeting reports in order to avoid duplication of information.

**11.3.3** Progress reports by working parties and rapporteur's groups shall be submitted to the study group for approval.

**11.4** Output reports

**11.4.1** Such reports represent the expected deliverable, i.e. the principal results of a study. The items to be covered are indicated in the expected output of the Question concerned. Such reports shall normally be limited to a maximum of 50 pages, including annexes and appendices, with relevant electronic references as needed. When reports exceed the 50-page limit, and after consultation with the study group chairman concerned, annexes and appendices may be included without translation when they are considered of particular relevance and provided that the body of the report is within the 50-page limit. All reports shall be translated up to the number of pages agreed upon in the terms of reference for a Question, to the extent possible and within the available budget.

**11.4.2** To help maximize the use of study group final output reports, study groups may place final output reports and associated annexes in an online library accessible from the ITU‑D homepage as well as the study group document registry, until the study group decides that they have become outdated. Study group outputs should be incorporated into BDT programme and regional office activities and form part of the implementation of ITU‑D strategic objectives.

**11.4.3** To help ascertain the extent to which the Member States, and in particular the developing countries, benefit from the outputs of studies and to obtain feedback from the Member States on the outputs of studies, it would be useful for study group chairmen, with the help of the working party chairmen and Question rapporteurs, to prepare a survey or questionnaire to be sent to Member States before the end of the study period, the results of which will serve to prepare for the next study period.

**11.5** Chairman's reports to WTDC

**11.5.1** The chairman's report of each study group to WTDC shall be the responsibility of the chairman of the study group concerned, with the assistance of BDT, and shall be limited to:

a) a summary of the results achieved by the study group during the study period in question, describing the work of the study group and the outcome achieved, including discussion of the ITU‑D strategic objectives that are linked to the study group's activities;

b) reference to any new or revised Recommendations approved by correspondence by Member States during the study period;

c) reference to any Recommendations deleted during the study period;

d) reference to the text of any Recommendations submitted to WTDC for approval;

e) a list of any new or revised Questions proposed for study during the next study period;

f) a list of any Questions proposed for deletion, if any;

g) summary of collaboration between the programmes and regional offices in undertaking the activities of the study group.

**11.5.2** The preparation of Recommendations should follow the general practice of the Union. Examples include the recommendations and resolutions of WTDCs. A Recommendation should stand alone. Information may be annexed to the Recommendations, in order to accomplish this. A model Recommendation is set out in Annex 1 to this resolution.

SECTION 3 – Submission, processing and presentation of contributions

# 12 Submission of contributions

**12.1** Contributions should be submitted not later than 30 calendar days before the opening of a world telecommunication development conference (WTDC), and in any event the submission deadline for all contributions to WTDC shall be no later than 14 calendar days before the opening of the conference to allow for their timely translation and thorough consideration by delegations. The Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) shall immediately publish all contributions submitted to WTDC in their original language(s) on the WTDC website, even before their translation into the other official languages of the Union. All contributions shall be published not less than seven calendar days before WTDC.

**12.2** The submission of contributions to the meetings of TDAG, the study groups and their relevant groups shall be as follows:

**12.2.1** Member States, Sector Members, Associates, Academia, duly authorized entities and organizations and the chairmen and vice-chairmen of study groups or their relevant groups should submit their contributions to current ITU‑D studies to the Director using the official templates made available online.

**12.2.2** Such contributions should, *inter alia*, deal with the results of experience gained in telecommunication development, describe case studies and/or contain proposals for promoting balanced worldwide and regional telecommunication development.

**12.2.3** In order to facilitate the study of certain Questions, BDT may submit consolidated documents relevant to the Question or the results of case studies, including information on existing programme and regional office activities. Such documents will be treated as contributions.

**12.2.4** In principle, documents submitted to the study groups as contributions should not exceed five pages. For existing texts, cross-references should be used instead of repeating material *in extenso*. Information material can be placed in annexes or provided on request as an information document. An example of the form for the submission of contributions is set out in Annex 2 to this resolution.

**12.2.5** Contributions should be submitted to BDT using the online form in order to fast-track their processing by minimizing their reformatting, without any modification to the content of the text. Any contribution submitted by participants shall be immediately transmitted by BDT to the chairman of the study group and to the rapporteur in accordance with § ‎15.1 below.

**12.2.6** The collaboration between members of study groups and their relevant groups should be, as far as possible, by electronic means. BDT should provide all study group members with appropriate access to electronic documentation for their work, and promote the provision of appropriate systems and facilities to support the conduct of study group work by electronic means in all the official languages of ITU.

# 13 Processing of contributions

Input to study group, working party or rapporteur's group meetings may be of three types:

a) Contributions for action

b) Contributions for information

c) Liaison statements.

**13.1** Contributions for action

**13.1.1** All contributions for action received 45 calendar days before a meeting shall be translated and published not less than seven calendar days before the said meeting. Beyond this 45-day deadline, the contributor may submit the document in the original language and in any official language into which it may have been translated by the author.

**13.1.2**  After consultation with the chairman of the study group or rapporteur's group concerned, it may be agreed to accept contributions for action which go beyond the page-limit of five pages. In such cases, it may be agreed to publish a summary, which shall be drawn up by the author of the contribution.

**13.1.3** All contributions received less than 45 calendar days but at least 12 calendar days before a meeting shall be published but not translated. The secretariat shall publish these delayed contributions as soon as possible and not later than three working days after receipt.

**13.1.4** Contributions received by the Director of BDT less than 12 calendar days before a meeting shall not be entered on the agenda. They shall not be distributed but held for the next meeting. Exceptionally, contributions judged to be of extreme importance and urgency might be admitted by the chairman, in consultation with the Director, in derogation to the above deadlines, provided that these contributions are available to participants at the opening of the meeting. For such late contributions, no commitment can be made by the secretariat to ensure the document will be available at the opening of the meeting in all the required languages.

**13.1.5** No contributions for action shall be accepted after the opening of the meeting.

**13.1.6** The Director should insist that authors follow the rules established for the presentation and form of documents set out in this resolution and annexes and the timing given therein. A reminder should be sent out by the Director whenever appropriate. The Director, with the agreement of the study group chairman, may return to the author any document that does not comply with the general directives set out in this resolution so that it may be brought into line with those directives.

**13.2** Contributions for information

**13.2.1** Contributions submitted to the meeting for information are those which do not require any specific action under the agenda (e.g. descriptive documents submitted by Member States, Sector Members, Associates, Academia or duly authorized entities and organizations, general policy statements, etc.), as well as other documents considered by the study group chairman and/or the rapporteur, in consultation with the author, as being for information. They should be published in the original language only (and in any other official language into which they may have been translated by the author) and appear under a separate numbering scheme from the contributions submitted for action.

**13.2.2** Information documents considered to be of extreme importance might be translated after the meeting if requested by more than 50 per cent of the participants at the meeting, within the budgetary limit.

**13.2.3** The secretariat shall prepare a list of information documents that provides summaries of the documents. This list shall be available in all the official languages.

**13.3** Liaison statements

Liaison statements are documents that provide a response to a question raised by another study group of any Sector of the Union, or request action by other study groups or organizations. Liaison statements shall be approved by the chairman of the study group concerned before their transmission to the study group or organization concerned. Incoming liaison statements shall not be translated. A template for liaison statements is set out in Annex 4 to this resolution.

# 14 Other documents

**14.1** Background documents

Reference documents containing only background information relating to issues addressed at the meeting (data, statistics, detailed reports of other organizations, etc.) should be available upon request in the original language only and, if available, also in electronic format.

**14.2** Temporary documents

Temporary documents are documents produced during the meeting to assist in the development of the work.

# 15 Electronic access

**15.1** BDT will post all input and output documents (e.g. contributions, draft Recommendations, liaison statements and reports) as soon as electronic versions of these documents are available.

**15.2** A website dedicated to the study groups and their relevant groups shall be constantly updated to include all input and output documents as well as information related to each of the meetings. While the website of the study groups shall be in six languages, those of specific meetings shall be in the languages of the meeting concerned as per § ‎9.5 above.

**15.3** It must be ensured that the website dedicated to the study groups is available in the six languages of the Union on an equal footing and constantly updated.

**15.4** The special website shall enable users of the TIES system to have real-time access to temporary and draft documents.

# 16 Presentation of contributions

**16.1** Contributions for action shall be relevant to the Question or the subject under discussion as agreed by the chairman, the rapporteur for the Question, the coordinator of the study group and the author. Contributions must be clear and concise. Documents that are not directly related to the Questions under study should not be submitted.

**16.2** Articles that have been or are to be published in the press should not be submitted to ITU‑D, unless they relate directly to Questions under study.

**16.3** Contributions that include passages of an unduly commercial nature shall be deleted by the Director of BDT in agreement with the chairman; the author of the contribution shall be advised of any such deletions.

**16.4** The cover page shall indicate the relevant Question(s), agenda item, date, source (originating country and/or organization, address, telephone number, fax number, and possible e‑mail address of the author or contact person of the submitting entity), as well as the title of the contribution. Indication should also be made as to whether the document is for action or for information and the action required, if any, and an abstract should be provided. A model is set out in Annex 2 to this resolution.

**16.5** If existing text needs to be revised, the number of the original contribution shall be indicated and revision marks (track changes) shall be used in the original document.

**16.6** Contributions submitted to the meeting for information only (see § ‎13.2.1 above) should include a summary prepared by the author. When summaries have not been provided by authors, BDT shall, to the extent possible, prepare such summaries.

SECTION 4 – Proposal and adoption of new and revised Questions

# 17 Proposal of new and revised Questions

**17.1** Proposed new Questions for the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU‑D) shall be submitted at least two months prior to a world telecommunication development conference (WTDC) by Member States, Sector Members and Academia authorized to participate in the activities of the Sector.

**17.2** However, an ITU‑D study group may also propose new or revised Questions at the initiative of a member of that study group if there is consensus on the subject. These proposals shall be submitted to the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG) for endorsement.

**17.3** Each proposed Question should state the reasons for the proposal, the precise objective of the tasks to be performed, the urgency of the study and any contacts to be established with the other two Sectors and/or other international or regional bodies. Authors of Questions should use the online template for the submission of new and revised Questions based on the outline found in Annex 3 to this resolution, in order to ensure that all relevant information is included.

# 18 Adoption of new and revised Questions by WTDC

**18.1** Before a WTDC, TDAG shall meet to examine proposed new Questions and, if necessary, recommend amendments to take account of ITU‑D's general development policy objectives and associated priorities, and to review the reports of the ITU regional preparatory meetings for WTDC.

**18.2** At least one month before a WTDC, the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau shall communicate to Member States and Sector Members a list of the Questions proposed, together with any changes recommended by TDAG, and make these available on the ITU website.

# 19 Adoption of proposed new and revised Questions between two WTDCs

**19.1** Between two WTDCs, Member States, Sector Members, Academia and duly authorized entities and organizations participating in ITU‑D activities may submit proposed new and revised Questions to the study group concerned.

**19.2** Each proposed new and revised Question should be based on the template/outline referred to in § ‎17.3 above.

**19.3** If the study group concerned agrees by consensus to study the proposed new and revised Question and some Member States, Sector Members or other duly authorized entities and organizations (normally at least four) have committed themselves to supporting the work (e.g. by contributions, provision of rapporteurs or editors and/or hosting of meetings), it shall address the draft text thereof to the Director of BDT with all the necessary information.

**19.4** The Director, after endorsement by TDAG, shall inform Member States, Sector Members, Academia and other duly authorized entities of the new and revised Questions by circular.

SECTION 5 – Deletion of Questions

# 20 Introduction

Study groups may decide to delete Questions. In each individual case, it has to decide which of the following alternative procedures is the most appropriate.

**20.1** Deletion of a Question by the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC)

Upon agreement by the study group, the chairman shall include the request to delete a Question in the report to WTDC, for decision.

**20.2** Deletion of a Question between WTDCs

**20.2.1** At a study group meeting, it may be agreed, by consensus among those present, to delete a Question, e.g. because work has been terminated. Notification of this agreement, including an explanatory summary about the reasons for the deletion, shall be provided to Member States and Sector Members by circular. If a simple majority of the Member States has no objection to the deletion within two months, the deletion comes into force. Otherwise the issue is referred back to the study group.

**20.2.2** Those Member States that indicate disapproval are invited to provide their reasons and to indicate the possible changes that would facilitate further study of the Question.

**20.2.3** Notification of the result will be given in a circular, and the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group will be informed by a report from the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau. In addition, the Director shall publish a list of deleted Questions whenever appropriate, but at least once by the middle of a study period.

SECTION 6 – Approval of new or revised Recommendations

# 21 Introduction

After adoption at a study group meeting, Member States can approve Recommendations, either by correspondence or at a world telecommunication development conference (WTDC).

**21.1** When the study of a Question has reached a mature state resulting in a draft new or revised Recommendation, the approval process to be followed is in two stages:

– adoption by the study group concerned (see § ‎21.3);

– approval by the Member States (see § ‎21.4).

The same process shall be used for the deletion of existing Recommendations.

**21.2** In the interest of stability, revision of a Recommendation should not normally be considered for approval within two years, unless the proposed revision complements rather than changes the agreement reached in the previous version.

**21.3** Adoption of a new or revised Recommendation by a study group

**21.3.1** A study group may consider and adopt draft new or revised Recommendations, when the draft texts have been prepared and made available in all the official languages sufficiently in advance of the study group meeting.

**21.3.2** A rapporteur's group or any other group which feels that its draft new or revised Recommendation(s) is (are) sufficiently mature can send the text to the study group chairman to start the adoption procedure according to § ‎21.3.3 below.

**21.3.3** Upon request of the study group chairman, the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau shall explicitly indicate, in a circular, the intention to seek approval of new or revised Recommendations under this procedure for adoption at a study group meeting. The circular shall include the specific intent of the proposal in summarized form. Reference shall be provided to the document where the text of the draft new or revised Recommendation may be found.

This information shall be distributed to all Member States and Sector Members and should be sent by the Director so that it shall be received, so far as practicable, at least two months before the meeting.

**21.3.4** Adoption of a draft new or revised Recommendation must be unopposed by any Member State present at the study group meeting.

**21.4** Approval of new or revised Recommendations by Member States

**21.4.1** When a draft new or revised Recommendation has been adopted by a study group, the text shall be submitted for approval by Member States.

**21.4.2** Approval of new or revised Recommendations may be sought:

– at a WTDC;

– by consultation of the Member States as soon as the relevant study group has adopted the text.

**21.4.3** At the study group meeting during which a draft is adopted, the study group shall decide to submit the draft new or revised Recommendation for approval, either at the next WTDC or by consultation of the Member States.

**21.4.4** When it is decided to submit a draft to WTDC, the study group chairman shall inform the Director and request the Director to take the necessary action to ensure that it is included in the agenda of the conference.

**21.4.5** When it is decided to submit a draft for approval by consultation, the conditions and procedures hereafter will apply.

**21.4.6** At the study group meeting the decision of the delegations to apply this approval procedure must also be unopposed by any Member State present.

**21.4.7** Exceptionally, but only during the study group meeting, delegations may request more time to consider their positions. Unless advised of formal opposition from any of these delegations within a period of one month after the last day of the meeting, the approval process by consultation shall continue. In this case, the draft shall be submitted to the next WTDC for consideration*.*

**21.4.8** For the application of the approval procedure by consultation, within one month of the adoption of a draft new or revised Recommendation by a study group, the Director shall request Member States to indicate within three months whether they approve or do not approve the proposal. This request shall be accompanied by the complete final text, in the official languages, of the proposed new or revised Recommendation.

**21.4.9** The Director shall also advise Sector Members participating in the work of the relevant study group under the provisions of Article 19 of the ITU Convention that Member States are being asked to respond to a consultation on a proposed new or revised Recommendation, but only Member States are entitled to respond. This advice should be accompanied by the complete final texts, for information only.

**21.4.10** If 70 per cent or more of the replies from Member States indicate approval, the proposal shall be accepted. If the proposal is not accepted, it shall be referred back to the study group.

**21.4**.**11** Any comments received along with responses to the consultation shall be collected by the Director and submitted to the study group for consideration.

**21.4.12** Those Member States which indicate that they do not approve are encouraged to state their reasons and to participate in the future consideration by the study group and its relevant groups.

**21.4.13** The Director shall promptly notify, by circular, the results of the above consultation approval procedure.

**21.4.14** Should minor, purely editorial amendments or correction of evident oversights or inconsistencies in the text as presented for approval be necessary, the Director may correct these with the approval of the chairman of the relevant study group.

**21.4.15** ITU shall publish the approved new or revised Recommendations in the official languages as soon as practicable.

# 22 Reservations

If a delegation elects not to oppose the approval of a Recommendation but wishes to enter reservations on one or more aspects, such reservations shall be mentioned in a concise note appended to the text of the Recommendation concerned.

SECTION 7 – Support to the study groups and their relevant groups

**23** The Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) should ensure that, within the limits of existing budgetary resources, the study groups and their relevant groups have appropriate support to conduct their work programmes as outlined in the terms of reference and as envisioned by the World Telecommunication Development Conference's work plan for the Sector. In particular, support may be provided in the following forms:

a) appropriate administrative and professional staff support from BDT and the other two Bureaux and the General Secretariat, as appropriate;

b) contracting of outside expertise, as necessary;

c) coordination with relevant regional and subregional organizations.

SECTION 8 – Other groups

**24** As far as applicable, the same rules of procedure for study groups in this resolution should also apply to other groups referred to in No. 209A of the ITU Convention and their meetings, for example with respect to the submission of contributions. However, these groups shall not adopt Questions nor deal with Recommendations.

SECTION 9 – Telecommunication Development Advisory Group

**25** In accordance with No. 215C of the ITU Convention, the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG) shall be open to representatives of administrations of Member States and representatives of Sector Members of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU‑D) and to chairmen and vice‑chairmen of the study groups and other groups. Its principal duties are to review priorities, programmes, operations, financial matters and strategies in ITU‑D; to review the implementation of the operational plan of the preceding period, progress in the implementation of the regional initiatives, priorities in the execution of those initiatives, the assigned resources and their linkage with the strategic and operational plans, in order to identify areas in which the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) has not achieved or was not able to achieve the objectives laid down in that plan, so as to advise the Director of BDT on the necessary corrective measures; to review progress in the implementation of its work programme; to provide guidelines for the work of the study groups, recommending measures, *inter alia*, to foster and give effect to cooperation and coordination with the Radiocommunication Sector, the Telecommunication Standardization Sector and the General Secretariat, as well as with other relevant development and financial institutions.

**26** A world telecommunication development conference shall appoint the TDAG bureau, comprising the chairman and the vice-chairmen of TDAG. The chairmen of ITU‑D study groups are members of the TDAG bureau.

**27** In appointing the chairman and the vice‑chairmen, particular consideration shall be given to the requirements of competence and the need to promote gender balance in leadership positions and equitable geographical distribution, and to the need to promote more efficient participation by developing countries.

**28** The World Telecommunication Development Conference(WTDC) may assign temporary authority to TDAG to consider and act on matters specified by WTDC. TDAG may consult with the Director on these matters, if necessary. WTDC should assure itself that the special functions entrusted to TDAG do not require financial expenses exceeding the ITU‑D budget. The report on TDAG activity on the fulfilment of specific functions shall be submitted to the next WTDC. Such authority shall terminate when the following WTDC meets, although WTDC may decide to extend it for a designated period.

**29** TDAG holds regular scheduled meetings, included in the ITU‑D timetable of meetings. The meetings should take place as necessary, but at least once a year. The timing of meetings should be such as to allow TDAG to effectively review the draft operational plan before its adoption and implementation. TDAG meetings should not take place in conjunction with the study group meetings. Meetings of the advisory groups of the three Sectors of the Union should preferably be held back to back whenever possible.

**30** In the interest of minimizing the length and costs of the meetings, the chairman of TDAG should collaborate with the Director in making appropriate advance preparation, for example by identifying the major issues for discussion.

**31** In general, the same rules of procedure as for study groups in this resolution should also apply to TDAG and its meetings, for example in respect of the submission of contributions. However, at the discretion of the chairman, written proposals may be submitted during the TDAG meeting, provided they are based on ongoing discussions taking place during the meeting and are intended to assist in resolving conflicting views which exist during the meeting.

**32** TheTDAG bureau should maintain contact among themselves and with BDT by electronic means to the extent practicable and meet not less than once per year, including one meeting prior to the meeting of TDAG, in order to properly organize the coming meeting, including the review and approval of a time‑management plan.

**33** In order to facilitate its task, TDAG may complement these working procedures with additional procedures. It can establish other groups to study a particular topic, where appropriate, as provided in Resolution 24 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) of WTDC and within existing financial resources.

**34** After each TDAG meeting, a concise summary of conclusions shall be drawn up by the secretariat to be distributed in accordance with normal ITU‑D procedures. It should contain only TDAG proposals, recommendations and conclusions in respect to the above items.

**35** In accordance with No. 215JA of the Convention, at its last meeting prior to WTDC, TDAG shall prepare a report for WTDC. This report should summarize TDAG's activities on the matters assigned to it by WTDC, including linkages to the strategic and operational plans, and offer advice on allocation of work, proposals on ITU‑D working methods, strategies and relations with other relevant bodies inside and outside ITU, as appropriate. Likewise, it shall offer advice on the implementation of the regional initiatives. This report shall be transmitted to the Director for submission to the conference.

SECTION 10 – Regional and world meetings of the Sector

**36** In general, the same working methods found in this resolution, and in particular those relating to the submission and processing of contributions, apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to other regional and world meetings of the Sector, with the exception of those referred to in Articles 22 of the ITU Constitution and 16 of the ITU Convention.

Annex 1 to Resolution 1 (Rev. Dubai, 2014)

Model for drafting Recommendations

The ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU‑D) (general terminology applicable to all Recommendations),

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (terminology only applicable to Recommendations approved at a WTDC),

considering

This section should contain various general background references giving the reasons for the study. The references should normally refer to ITU documents and/or resolutions.

recognizing

This section should contain specific factual background statements such as "the sovereign right of each Member State" or studies which have formed a basis for the work.

taking into account

This section should detail other factors that have to be considered, such as national laws and regulations, regional policy decisions and other applicable global issues.

noting

This section should indicate generally accepted items or information that support the recommendation.

convinced

This section should contain details of factors that form the basis of the Recommendation. These could include objectives of government regulatory policy, choice of financing sources, ensuring fair competition, etc.

recommends

This section should contain a general sentence, leading into detailed action points:

specific action point

specific action point

specific action point

etc.

Note that the above list of *action verbs* is not exhaustive. Other *action verbs* may be used when appropriate. Existing Recommendations provide examples.

Annex 2 to Resolution 1 (Rev. Dubai, 2014)

Model for submission of contributions for action/for information[[4]](#footnote-4)1

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Venue and date of meeting** | **Document No./Study Group-E** |
| **Date** |
| **Original language** |
|  |  | **FOR ACTION** | Indicate which is appropriate |
| **FOR INFORMATION** |
| **QUESTION:** |  |
| **SOURCE:** |  |
| **TITLE:** |  |
| **Revision to previous contribution (Yes/No)**If yes, please indicate the document number*Any changes in a previous text should be indicated with revision marks (track changes)* |
| **Action required**Please indicate what is expected from the meeting(for contributions submitted for action only) |
| **Abstract** |
| Include here a summary of a few lines outlining your contribution |
|  |
| Start your document on the following page(maximum 4 pages) |
| Contact: Name of author submitting the contribution:Phone number:E-mail:  |

Annex 3 to Resolution 1 (Rev. Dubai, 2014)

Template/outline for proposed Questions and issues
for study and consideration by ITU‑D

\* *Information in italics describes the information which should be provided by the author under each heading.*

**Title of Question or issue** (the title replaces this heading)

# 1 Statement of the situation or problem *(the notes follow these headings)*

\* Provide an overall general description of the situation or problem which is proposed for study, with specific focus on:

– *the implications for developing countries and LDCs;*

*– gender perspective; and*

*– how a solution will benefit these countries. Indicate why the problem or situation warrants study at this time.*

# 2 Question or issue for study

\* State the Question or issue that is proposed for study, expressed as clearly as possible. The tasks should be tightly focused.

# 3 Expected output

\* Provide a detailed description of the expected output of the study. This should include a general indication of the organizational level or status of those who are expected to use and to benefit from the output. Outputs may include a set of actions, activities, work and work products specific to the work of the study Question, including those undertaken pursuant to programmes and regional initiatives that are relevant to the work of the Question (e.g. documented best practices, guidelines, workshops, capacity-building events, seminars, etc.). More specifically, study outputs may promote gender equality and greater access by women to communications technologies and as well as to employment, health and education.

# 4 Timing

\* Indicate the required timing, noting that the urgency of the output will influence both the method used to carry out the study and the depth and breadth of the study. Outputs and the work of a Question may be completed in less than the four-year study cycle.

# 5 Proposers/sponsors

\* Identify by organization and contact point those proposing and supporting the study.

# 6 Sources of input

\* Indicate what types of organizations are expected to provide contributions to further the work, e.g. Member States, Sector Members, Associates, other UN agencies, regional groups, other ITU Sectors, BDT focal points, as appropriate, etc.

\* Also include any other information, including potentially useful resources, such as expert organizations or stakeholders, that will be helpful to those responsible for carrying out the study.

# 7 Target audience

\* Indicate expected types of target audience, by noting all relevant points on the matrix which follows:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Developed countries | Developing countries[[5]](#footnote-5)\* |
| Telecom policy-makers | \* | \* |
| Telecom regulators | \* | \* |
| Service providers/operators | \* | \* |
| Manufacturers | \* | \* |
| ITU‑D programme  |  |  |

Where appropriate, please provide explanatory notes as to why certain matrix points were included or excluded.

a) Target audience – Who specifically will use the output

\* Indicate as precisely as possible which individuals/groups/regions within the target organizations will use the output. In addition, indicate as precisely as possible which ITU‑D programmes, regional initiatives and strategic objectives the work of the study Question could/will be relevant to, and how the results of the work of the study Question can/could be used to fulfil the objectives of those relevant programmes, regional initiatives and strategic objectives.

b) Proposed methods for the implementation of the results

\* In the author's opinion, how should the results of this work best be distributed to and used by the target audience and the specified relevant programmes and/or regional offices.

# 8 Proposed methods of handling the Question or issue

a) How?

\* Indicate the suggested handling of the proposed Question or issue

1) Within a study group:

– Question (over a multi-year study period) 🞏

2) Within regular BDT activity (*indicate which programmes, activities,
projects, etc. will be involved in the work of the study Question*):

– Programmes 🞏

– Projects 🞏

– Expert consultants 🞏

– Regional offices 🞏

3) In other ways – *describe* (e.g. regional, within other organizations
with expertise, jointly with other organizations, etc.) 🞏

b) Why?

\* Explain why you selected the alternative under a) above.

# 9 Coordination and collaboration

\* Include, inter alia, the requirements for coordination of the study with all of:

– regular ITU‑D activities (including those of the regional offices);

– other study group Questions or issues;

– regional organizations, as appropriate;

– work in progress in the other ITU Sectors;

– expert organizations or stakeholders, as appropriate.

\* The Director shall, through the appropriate BDT staff (e.g. regional directors, focal points), provide information to rapporteurs on all relevant ITU projects in the regions. This information should be provided to the meetings of the rapporteurs when work of the programmes and regional offices is in the planning stages and when it is completed.

\* Identify which programmes, regional initiatives and strategic objectives are related to the work of the Question and list specific expectations for collaboration with the programmes and regional offices.

# 10 BDT programme link

\* Note the programme and regional initiatives of the Action Plan that would best contribute to, help facilitate and make use of the outputs and results of this Question, and list specific expectations for collaboration with the programmes and regional offices.

# 11 Other relevant information

\* Include any other information that will be helpful in establishing how this Question or issue should best be studied, and on what schedule.

Annex 4 to Resolution 1 (Rev. Dubai, 2014)

Template for liaison statements

Information to be included in the liaison statement:

1) List the appropriate Question numbers of the originating and destination study groups.

2) Identify the study group or rapporteur's group meeting at which the liaison was prepared.

3) Include a concise and clear subject. If this is in reply to a liaison statement, make this clear, e.g. "Reply to the liaison statement from (*source and date*) concerning...".

4) Identify the study group(s), if known, or other organizations to which sent.

NOTE – Can be sent to more than one organization.

5) Indicate the level of approval of such liaison statement, e.g. study group, or state that the liaison statement has been agreed at a rapporteur's group meeting.

6) Indicate if the liaison statement is sent for action or comments, or for information only.

NOTE – If sent to more than one organization, indicate this for each one.

7) If action is requested, indicate the date by which a reply is required.

8) Include the name and address of the contact person.

NOTE – The text of the liaison statement should be concise and clear using a minimum of jargon.

NOTE – Liaison statements among ITU‑D groups should be discouraged and problems should be solved through informal contacts.

Example of a liaison statement:

QUESTIONS: A/1 of ITU‑D Study Group 1 and B/2 of ITU‑D Study Group 2

SOURCE: Chairman of ITU‑D Study Group X or Rapporteur's Group for Question B/2

MEETING: Geneva, September 2014

SUBJECT: Request for information/comments by [deadline when it is an outgoing liaison statement] – Reply to liaison statement from ITU‑R/ITU‑T WP 1/4

CONTACT: Name of chairman or rapporteur for Question [number]
Tel./fax/e-mail

Annex 5 to Resolution 1 (Rev. Dubai, 2014)

Rapporteur's checklist

1 Establish a work plan in consultation with the group of collaborators. The work plan should be reviewed periodically by the study group and contain the following:

– list of tasks to be completed;

– target dates for milestones;

– results anticipated, including titles of output documents;

– liaison required with other groups, and schedules for liaisons, if known;

– proposed meeting(s) of rapporteur's group and estimated dates, with request for interpretation, if any.

2 Adopt work methods appropriate to the group. Use of electronic document handling (EDH), electronic and facsimile mail to exchange views is strongly encouraged.

3 Act as chairman at all meetings of the group of collaborators. If special meetings of the group of collaborators are necessary, give appropriate advance notice.

4 Delegate portions of the work to vice-rapporteurs or other collaborators, depending on the workload.

5 Keep the study group management team regularly informed of the work progress. In case no progress can be reported on a given Question between two study group meetings, the rapporteur should nevertheless submit a report indicating the possible reasons for the lack of progress. To allow the chairman and BDT to take the necessary steps for the work to be done on the Question, reports should be submitted at least two months before the study group meeting.

6 Keep the study group informed of the progress of work through reports to study group meetings. The reports should be in the form of white contributions (when substantial progress has been made such as completion of draft Recommendations or a report) or temporary documents.

7 The progress report mentioned in §§ 5 and 6 above should, as far as applicable, comply with the format given in § 11.3 of section 2 of this resolution.

8 Ensure that liaison statements are submitted as soon as possible after all meetings, with copies to the study group chairmen and BDT. Liaison statements must contain the information described on the *Template for liaison statements* described in Annex 4 to this resolution. BDT may provide assistance in distributing the liaison statements.

9 Oversee the quality of texts up to and including the final text submitted for approval.

**MOD** RPM-CIS/38/4

RESOLUTION 2 (REV. BUENOS AIRES, 2017)

Establishment of study groups

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Buenos Aires, 2017),

considering

*a)* that the mandate for each study group needs to be clearly defined, in order to avoid duplication between study groups and other groups of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU‑D) established pursuant to No. 209A of the ITU Convention and to ensure the coherence of the overall work programme of the Sector as provided for in Article 16 of the Convention;

*b)* that, for carrying out the studies entrusted to ITU‑D, it is appropriate to set up study groups, as provided for in Article 17 of the Convention, to deal with specific task-oriented telecommunication questions of priority to developing countries, taking into consideration the ITU strategic plan and goals for 2016-2019, and prepare relevant outputs in the form of reports, guidelines and/or Recommendations for the development of telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICTs);

*c)* the need as far as possible to avoid duplication between studies undertaken by ITU‑D and those carried out by the other two Sectors of the Union;

*d)* the successful results of the studies under the Questions adopted by the World Telecommunication Development Conference (Hyderabad, 2010) and assigned to the two study groups,

resolves

1 to create within the Sector two study groups, with a clear responsibility and mandates as set out in Annex 1 to this resolution;

2 that each study group and their relevant groups will study the Questions adopted by this conference and assigned to it in accordance with the structure shown in Annex 2 to this resolution, and those adopted between two world telecommunication development conferences in accordance with the provisions of Resolution 1 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) of this conference;

3 that the study group Questions and BDT programmes should be directly linked in order to enhance awareness and use of the BDT programmes and the study group output documents, so that the study groups and the BDT programmes benefit from each other's activities, resources and expertise;

4 that the study groups should make use of the relevant outputs of the other two Sectors and the General Secretariat;

5 that the study groups may also consider other ITU materials relevant to their mandates, as appropriate;

6 that each Question will consider all aspects related to the topic, objectives and expected output in line with the related programme;

7 that the study groups will be managed by the chairmen and vice-chairmen as shown in Annex 3 to this resolution.

Annex 1 to Resolution 2 (Rev. Dubai, 2014)

Scope of ITU‑D study groups

# 1 Study Group 1

**Enabling environment for the development of telecommunications/ICTs**

– National telecommunication/ICT policy, regulatory, technical and strategy development which best enables countries to benefit from the impetus of telecommunications/ICTs, including broadband, cloud computing and consumer protection, as an engine for sustainable growth

– Economic policies and methods of determining costs of services related to national telecommunications/ICTs

– Access to telecommunications/ICTs for rural and remote areas

– Access to telecommunication/ICT services by persons with disabilities and specific needs

– The needs of developing countries in spectrum management, including the ongoing transition from analogue to digital terrestrial television broadcasting and the use of the digital dividend, in addition to any future digital switchover.

# 2 Study Group 2

**ICT applications, cybersecurity, emergency telecommunications and climate-change adaptation**

– Services and applications supported by telecommunications/ICTs

– Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs

– The use of telecommunications/ICTs in mitigating the impact of climate change on developing countries, and for natural disaster preparedness, mitigation and relief, as well as conformance and interoperability testing

– Human exposure to electromagnetic fields and safe disposal of electronic waste

– The implementation of telecommunications/ICTs, taking into account the results of the studies carried out by ITU‑T and ITU‑R, and the priorities of developing countries.

Annex 2 to Resolution 2 (Rev.BUENOS AIRES, 2017)

Questions assigned by the World Telecommunication
Development Conference to ITU-D study groups and their allocation by working party

# Study Group 1

Working Party 1/1 “Questions relating to the migration to broadband networks and next‑generation networks in developing countries”

– **Question 1/1:** Policy, regulatory and technical aspects of the migration from existing networks to broadband networks in developing countries, including next-generation networks, m-services, OTT services and the implementation of IPv6

– **Question 2/1:** Broadband access technologies, including IMT, for developing countries

– **Question 3/1:** Access to cloud computing: Challenges and opportunities for developing countries

– **Question 4/1:** Economic policies and methods of determining the costs of services related to national telecommunication/ICT networks, including next-generation networks

– **Question 5/1:** Telecommunications/ICTs for rural and remote areas

Working Party 2/1 “Questions relating to the creation of an enabling environment for the development of telecommunications/ICT and ICT applications”

– **Question 6/1:** Consumer information, protection and rights: Laws, regulation, economic bases, consumer networks

– **Question 7/1:** Access to telecommunication/ICT services by persons with disabilities and with specific needs

– **Question 8/1:** Examination of strategies and methods of migration from analogue to digital terrestrial broadcasting and implementation of new services

**Resolution 9:** Participation of countries, particularly developing countries, in spectrum management

# Study Group 2

Working Party 1/2 “Questions related to ICT applications and cybersecurity”

– **Question 1/2:** Creating the smart society: Social and economic development through ICT applications

– **Question 2/2:** Information and telecommunications/ICTs for e-health

– **Question 3/2:** Securing information and communication networks: Best practices for developing a culture of cybersecurity

– **Question 4/2:** Assistance to developing countries for implementing conformance and interoperability programmes

Working Party 2/2 “Questions related to climate change, environment and emergency telecommunications”

– **Question 5/2:** Utilization of telecommunications/ICTs for disaster preparedness, mitigation and response

– **Question 6/2:** ICT and climate change

– **Question 7/2:** Strategies and policies concerning human exposure to electromagnetic fields

– **Question 8/2:** Strategies and policies for the proper disposal or reuse of telecommunication/ICT waste material

Joint ITU-D SG 1/SG2 Group on the identification of study topics in the ITU-T and ITU-R study groups which are of particular interest to developing countries

– **Question 9/2:** Identification of study topics in the ITU‑T and ITU‑R study groups which are of particular interest to developing countries

NOTE – The full definition of the Questions can be found in section 5 of the Dubai Action Plan.

Annex 3 to Resolution 2 (Rev. Dubai, 2014)

List of chairmen and vice-chairmen

# Study Group 1

**Chairman**: Ms Roxanne McElvane (United States of America)

**Vice-chairmen**:

Ms Regina Fleur Assoumou-Bessou (Republic of Côte d’Ivoire)

Mr Peter Ngwan Mbengie (Republic of Cameroon)

Mr Victor Martinez (Republic of Paraguay)

Ms Claymir Carozza Rodriguez (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela)

Mr Wesam Al-Ramadeen (Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan)

Mr Ahmed Abdel Aziz Gad (Arab Republic of Egypt)

Mr Nguyen Quy Quyen (Socialist Republic of Viet Nam)

Mr Yasuhiko Kawasumi (Japan)

Mr Vadym Kaptur (Ukraine)

Mr Almaz Tilenbaev (Kyrgyz Republic)

Ms Blanca González (Spain)

# Study Group 2

**Chairman**: Mr Ahmad Reza Sharafat (Islamic Republic of Iran)

**Vice-chairmen**:

Ms Aminata Kaba-Camara (Republic of Guinea)

Mr Christopher Kemei (Republic of Kenya)

Ms Celina Delgado (Nicaragua)

Mr Nasser Al Marzouqi (United Arab Emirates)

Mr Nadir Ahmed Gaylani (Republic of the Sudan)

Ms Ke Wang (People’s Republic of China)

Mr Ananda Raj Khanal (Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal)

Mr Evgeny Bondarenko (Russian Federation)

Mr Henadz Asipovich (Republic of Belarus)

Mr Petko Kantchev (Republic of Bulgaria)

**MOD** RPM-CIS/38/5

RESOLUTION 8 (REV. BUENOS AIRES, 2017)

Collection and dissemination of information and statistics

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Buenos Aires, 2017),

recalling

*a)* Resolution 8 (Rev. Hyderabad, 2010) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference;

*b)* Resolution 131 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the information and communication technology (ICT) index and community connectivity indicators,

considering

*a)* that the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU‑D), as the main source of international information and statistics on telecommunications/ICTs, performs a key role in the collection, coordination, exchange and analysis of information;

*b)* the importance of the existing Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) databases, in particular the World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators (WTI) database and the regulatory database;

*c)* the usefulness of analytical reports published by ITU‑D, such as, among others, the World Telecommunication/ICT Development Report, the Measuring the Information Society report, the Trends in Telecommunication Reform report and the Global Cybersecurity Index & Cyberwellness Profiles report,

considering further

*a)* that the ICT sector at the national level is reforming at an incredible pace;

*b)* that policy approaches vary and countries can benefit from the experiences of others,

recognizing

*a)* that, by acting as a clearing house for the exchange of information and statistics, BDT will be able to assist Member States in making informed national policy choices;

*b)* that the countries must participate actively in this endeavour in order to make it successful;

*c)* that § 116 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society stresses that all indices and indicators must take into account different levels of development and national circumstances, bearing in mind that statistics need to be improved in a collaborative, cost-effective and non-duplicative fashion,

recognizing further

*a)* that ICT statistics are extremely useful for the work of the study groups and in assisting ITU to monitor and evaluate ICT developments and measure the digital divide;

*b)* the new responsibilities to be held by ITU‑D in relation to this subject, pursuant to the Tunis Agenda, in particular §§ 112 to 120 thereof,

resolves to instruct the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to continue to support this activity by providing adequate resources and according it the necessary priority;

2 to continue to work closely with Member States for the sharing of best practices concerning policy and national ICT strategies;

3 to continue to survey countries and produce world and regional analytical reports which highlight country lessons and experiences, in particular on:

• trends in telecommunication sector reform;

• world telecommunication developments at regional and international level;

• trends on tariff policies, in collaboration with the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector;

4 to rely primarily on official data provided by Member States based on internationally recognized methodologies; only in the absence of such information, other sources could be used;

5 to establish and collect community connectivity indicators and to participate in the development of core indicators to measure efforts to build the information society and, by doing so, to illustrate the scale of the digital divide and the efforts of developing countries to close the gap;

6 to monitor the development and improvement of methodologies relevant to indicators and methods of data collection, through consultation with Member States and experts, particularly by means of World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Symposium (WTIS);

7 to review, revise and further develop benchmarking and ensure that ICT indicators and the single ICT Development Index (IDI) and the ICT Price Basket reflect the real development of the ICT sector, taking into consideration different levels of development and national circumstances, in application of the WSIS outcomes;

8 to encourage countries to collect statistical indicators and information illustrating national digital divides as well as the efforts made through various programmes to close the gap, showing, as much as possible, the impact on gender issues, persons with disabilities and different social sectors;

9 to strengthen ITU‑D's role in the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development by acting as a member of the steering committee and through active participation in discussions and activities geared to achieving the partnership's main objectives;

10 to provide statistics and regulatory information on the ITU‑D website, and to establish appropriate mechanisms and modalities for countries which do not have electronic access to obtain this information;

11 to encourage Member States to bring together different stakeholders in government, academia and civil society in raising national awareness about the importance of the production and dissemination of high-quality data for policy purposes;

12 to provide technical assistance to the Member States for the collection of ICT statistics, in particular by means of national surveys, and for the development of national databases containing statistics and regulatory policy information;

13 to develop training material and conduct specialized training courses on information society statistics for developing countries, favouring collaboration with members of the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development when necessary, including the statistical department of the United Nations and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD);

14 to unify all BDT information and statistical databases on the BDT website so as to respond to the objectives stated in §§ 113, 114, 115, 116, 117 and 118 of the Tunis Agenda, and to play a primary role in relation to §§ 119 and 120;

15 to assist countries with indigenous populations in developing indicators to evaluate the impact of ICTs on indigenous peoples that enable the achievement of the objectives set forth in § C8 of the Geneva Plan of Action;

16 to continue to cooperate with the relevant international bodies, in particular the United Nations Statistics Division, and other international and regional organizations, such as OECD, involved in the collection and dissemination of ICT-related information and statistics;

17 to consult regularly with Member States as to the definition of indicators and methodologies for data collection;

18 to encourage and support Member States in the setting up of national centres for statistics on the information society and in the advancement of existing centres;

19 to begin putting this resolution into practice immediately after the conclusion of this conference by holding a meeting of experts within three months, with the purpose of setting the roadmap for the revision process, and to ensure that the results are taken into account as soon as possible, within the existing budget of BDT,

invites Member States and Sector Members

1 to participate actively in this endeavour by providing the statistics and information solicited, and by engaging actively in discussions with BDT on ICT indicators and data-collection methodologies;

2 to establish national systems or strategies for strengthening the consolidation of statistical information related to telecommunications/ICTs;

3 to contribute with experiences of policies that have a positive impact on ICT indicators;

4 to strive to harmonize their domestic statistical data-collection systems with the methods used at the international level,

encourages

donor agencies and relevant United Nations agencies to cooperate in providing relevant support and information on their activities.

**MOD** RPM-CIS/38/6

RESOLUTION 9 (Rev. BUENOS AIRES, 2017)

Participation of countries, particularly developing
countries, in spectrum management

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Buenos Aires, 2017),

considering

*a)* that the continuing growth in demand for spectrum, from both existing and new radiocommunication applications, places ever greater requirements on a scarce resource;

*b)* that, because of the investment in equipment and infrastructures, major changes in the existing use of the spectrum are often difficult to achieve, except in the long term;

*c)* that the marketplace drives the development of new technologies to find new solutions to address development problems;

*d)* that national strategies should take into account international commitments under the Radio Regulations;

*e)* that it is recommended that national strategies should also take into account global changes in telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICTs) and developments in technology;

*f)* that increased spectrum access may be facilitated through technical innovation and greater sharing capabilities;

*g)* that, based on its ongoing work, the ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU‑R) is well placed to provide worldwide information on radiocommunication technology and spectrum utilization trends;

*h)* that the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU‑D) is well placed to facilitate the participation of developing countries in ITU‑R activities, and, for those developing countries that so request, to distribute to them the results of particular ITU‑R activities;

*i)* that such information would assist spectrum managers in developing countries to develop their own national medium- or long-term strategies;

*j)* that such information would enable developing countries to benefit from sharing studies and other technical studies in ITU‑R, including new spectrum sharing approaches such as dynamic spectrum access (DSA);

*k)* that, within spectrum management, one of the most pressing concerns of many developing countries, including least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition, is the difficulty of elaborating methods for the calculation of fees for use of the radio-frequency spectrum;

*l)* that regional, bilateral or multilateral agreements could be a basis for fostering cooperation in the field of the radio-frequency spectrum;

*m)* that spectrum refarming[[6]](#footnote-6), in particular with regard to digital dividend frequency bands[[7]](#footnote-7) (the spectrum made available over and above that required to accommodate the existing analogue television services in a digital form) could accommodate the increasing demand for new and existing radiocommunication applications;

*n)* that spectrum monitoring includes effective use of spectrum monitoring facilities to support the spectrum-management process, the evaluation of spectrum utilization for the purpose of spectrum planning, the provision of technical support for frequency allocation and assignment and the resolution of cases of harmful interference;

*o)* the need, in studying spectrum-management best practices, to make broadband access more affordable to lower-income populations, especially in developing countries,

recognizing

*a)* that it is the sovereign right of every State to manage spectrum use within its territories;

*b)* that there is a strong need for the active participation of developing countries in ITU activities, as expressed in Resolution 5 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) of this conference, Resolution ITU‑R 7‑2 (Rev. Geneva, 2012) of the Radiocommunication Assembly and Resolution 44 (Rev. Dubai, 2012) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly, which may be represented individually and through regional groups;

*c)* that it is important to take into consideration the ongoing work in ITU‑R and ITU‑D, and the need to avoid duplication of effort;

*d)* the successful cooperation between ITU‑R and ITU‑D to produce the reports entitled "WTDC-98 Resolution 9: Review of national spectrum management and use of the spectrum – Stage 1: 29.7-960 MHz", "WTDC Resolution 9 (Rev. Istanbul, 2002): Review of national spectrum management and use of the spectrum – Stage 2: 960-3 000 MHz"; "WTDC Resolution 9 (Rev. Doha, 2006): Review of national spectrum management and use of the spectrum – Stage 3: 3 000 MHz – 30 GHz"; and "WTDC Resolution 9 (Rev. Hyderabad, 2010): Participation of countries, particularly developing countries, in spectrum management";

*e)* the considerable support given by the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) in the compilation of these reports, supporting developing countries;

*f)* the successful development of the Spectrum Fees Database (SF Database) and the initial compilation of guidelines[[8]](#footnote-8)2 and case studies to assist administrations in extracting information from the SF Database for use in the preparation of fee-calculation models that suit their national requirements;

*g)* that, in connection with the ITU‑R Handbook on National Spectrum Management and Report ITU‑R SM.2012, additional guidelines have been compiled offering various national approaches to spectrum-management fees for spectrum use;

*h)* that there is significant activity across multiple ITU‑R study groups to address spectrum sharing, which may have implications for national spectrum management and which may be of particular interest to developing countries;

*i)* that ITU‑R continues to update Recommendation ITU‑R SM.1603, which provides guidelines for spectrum redeployment;

*j)* that the ITU‑R Handbook on Spectrum Monitoring provides guidelines for the installation and operation of spectrum-monitoring infrastructures and the implementation of spectrum monitoring, while Recommendation ITU‑R SM.1139 prescribes administrative and procedural requirements for international monitoring systems,

taking into account

*a)* No. 155 of the ITU Convention, defining the aim of studies conducted within ITU‑R;

*b)* the current scope of ITU‑R Study Group 1, as defined by the Radiocommunication Assembly in Resolution ITU‑R 4-6,

resolves

1 to prepare a report within the next study period on national technical, economic and financial approaches to, and challenges of, spectrum management and spectrum monitoring, taking into consideration development trends in spectrum management, case studies on spectrum redeployment, licensing processes and best practices implemented in spectrum monitoring around the world, including consideration of new spectrum-sharing approaches;

2 to continue the development of the SF Database, incorporating national experiences, and provide additional guidelines and case studies, based on contributions from administrations;

3 to update the information available in national frequency allocation tables and make the Resolution 9 and ICT Eye portals complementary;

4 to compile case studies and collect best practices regarding national uses of shared spectrum access, including DSA, and study the economic and social benefits arising from the effective sharing of spectrum resources;

5 to continue to gather the necessary information on activities carried out by ITU‑D Study Groups 1 and 2, ITU‑R Study Group 1 and relevant BDT programmes,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to continue to provide the support described in *recognizing e)* above;

2 to encourage Member States from developing countries, at national and/or regional level, to provide ITU‑R and ITU‑D with a list of their needs with respect to national spectrum management, to which the Director should endeavour to respond, and an example of which is given in Annex 1 to this resolution;

3 to encourage Member States to continue to provide ITU‑R and ITU‑D with practical examples of their experiences of using the SF Database, development trends in spectrum management, spectrum redeployment and the installation and operation of spectrum-monitoring systems;

4 to take appropriate measures so that work in accordance with this resolution is carried out in the six official and working languages of the Union,

invites the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau

to ensure that ITU‑R continues the collaboration with ITU‑D in the implementation of this resolution.

Annex 1 to Resolution 9 (Rev. BUENOS AIRES, 2017)

Specific needs in spectrum management

The main types of technical assistance which developing countries expect from ITU are as follows:

# 1 Assistance in raising the awareness of national policy-makers as to the importance of effective spectrum management for a country's economic and social development

With the restructuring of the telecommunication sector, the emergence of competition, high demand for frequencies from operators, disaster mitigation and relief operations and the need to combat climate change, effective spectrum management has become indispensable for States. ITU should play a key role in raising the awareness of policy-makers by organizing special seminars designed specifically for them. To this end:

• In view of how important the regulators have become, ITU might include them in its regular distribution list for circulars providing information about the different education programmes and modules organized by the Union.

• ITU should include dedicated spectrum-management modules in the programmes of meetings (colloquiums, seminars) bringing together regulators and ministries responsible for spectrum management, with private‑sector involvement.

• Within the limits of available resources, ITU should make fellowships available for least developed countries’ participation at those meetings.

# 2 Training and dissemination of available ITU documentation

Spectrum management must be in accordance with the provisions of the Radio Regulations, regional agreements to which administrations are parties, and national regulations. Spectrum managers must be able to provide frequency users with relevant information.

Developing countries would like to have access to ITU‑R and ITU‑D documentation, which must be available in the six official languages of the Union.

Developing countries would also like to see suitable training provided in the form of specialized ITU seminars, in order to help frequency managers gain a thorough knowledge of ITU‑R Recommendations, Reports and Handbooks, which are constantly changing.

Through its regional offices, ITU could set up an effective system to provide frequency managers with real-time information on existing and future publications.

# 3 Assistance in developing methodologies for establishing national tables of frequency allocations and spectrum redeployment

Tables of frequency allocations form the mainstay of spectrum management; they identify the services provided and their category of use. ITU could encourage administrations to make available national frequency allocation tables to the public and stakeholders and facilitate administrations' access to information available in other countries, in particular by developing links between its website and the websites of administrations which have produced national tables of frequency allocations available to the public, allowing developing countries to obtain information on national allocations in a rapid and timely fashion. ITU‑R and ITU‑D could also compile guidelines for the development of the above‑mentioned tables. Spectrum redeployment is sometimes necessary to allow the introduction of new radiocommunication applications. ITU could provide support in this regard by compiling guidelines for the implementation of spectrum redeployment, on the basis of practical experience of administrations and based on Recommendation ITU‑R SM.1603 – Spectrum redeployment as a method of national spectrum management.

In certain circumstances, the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) could make available the assistance of its experts for the development of national tables of frequency allocations and for the planning and implementation of spectrum redeployments, at the request of the countries concerned.

To the extent possible, ITU‑D should incorporate appropriate issues into its regional seminars on spectrum management.

# 4 Assistance in setting up computerized frequency management and monitoring systems

These systems facilitate routine spectrum-management tasks. They must be capable of taking local features into account. The establishment of operational structures also enables the smooth execution of administrative tasks, frequency allocation, spectrum analysis and monitoring. According to the specific features of individual countries, ITU can provide expert help in identifying the technical means, operational procedures and human resources needed for effective spectrum management. The ITU‑R Handbook on Computer Aided Techniques for Spectrum Management and the ITU‑R Handbook on Spectrum Monitoring may provide technical guidelines for setting up the above‑mentioned systems.

ITU should improve the Spectrum Management System for Developing Countries (SMS4DC) software (including its availability in the other official languages), and ensure the necessary assistance and training in the implementation of the software in administrations' daily spectrum-management activities.

ITU should provide expert advice to administrations of developing countries and facilitate participation of developing countries in regional or international spectrum-monitoring activities, as necessary. ITU should also provide encouragement and assistance to administrations in setting up regional spectrum-monitoring systems, if required.

# 5 Economic and financial aspects of spectrum management

ITU‑D and ITU‑R could, together, provide examples of:

a) reference frameworks for management accounting;

b) guidelines for the implementation of management accounting, which could be very useful for calculating the administrative costs of spectrum management referred to in *recognizing g)* of this resolution;

c) guidelines of the methods used for spectrum valuation.

ITU could further develop the mechanism set up under *resolves* 2 of this resolution in order to enable developing countries to:

– learn more about practices in other administrations, which could be useful for defining spectrum fee policies tailored to each country's specific situation;

– identify financial resources to be allocated to the operational and investment budgets for spectrum management.

# 6 Assistance with preparations for world radiocommunication conferences (WRC) and with follow-up on WRC decisions

The submission of joint proposals is a way of guaranteeing that regional needs are taken into account. Alongside regional organizations, ITU could give impetus to the establishment and running of regional and subregional preparatory structures for WRCs.

With support from regional and subregional organizations, the Radiocommunication Bureau could communicate the broad outlines of decisions taken by the conferences, and thereby contribute to establishing a follow-up mechanism for such decisions at national and regional level.

# 7 Assistance with participation in the work of the relevant ITU‑R study groups and their working parties

The study groups play a key role in the drafting of Recommendations which affect the entire radiocommunication community. It is essential that developing countries participate in study group work in order to ensure that their specific features are taken into account. For effective participation of those countries, ITU could – through its regional offices – assist in running a subregional network organized around coordinators responsible for the Questions under study within ITU‑R, as well as by providing financial assistance in order for the coordinators to participate in meetings of the relevant ITU‑R study groups. The designated coordinators for the different regions should also assist in meeting the desired needs.

# 8 Transition to digital terrestrial television broadcasting

Most of the developing countries are currently undergoing the transition from analogue to digital terrestrial television broadcasting. There is thus a need for assistance in many topics, including frequency planning, service scenarios and technology selection, which all in turn affect spectral efficiency and the resulting digital dividend.

# 9 Assistance in identifying the most efficient ways to utilize the digital dividend

Developing countries, upon completing digital switchover, will have some portions of a very valuable spectrum freed, which are known as the digital dividend. Different discussions are being conducted on how to optimally reallocate, and enable more efficient use of, the relevant part of these bands. In order to maximize both economic and social impacts, it will be appropriate to consider including potential use cases and best practices in ITU's library, and to hold regular international and regional workshops on that subject.

# 10 New spectrum-access approaches

With the ongoing demand for high data rates, there is pressure on the limited spectrum resource. Developing countries need to be aware of innovative schemes for improving spectrum efficiency and spectrum use, through training, seminars and case studies on actual deployments and trials. Areas of particular importance include:

– sharing information and best practice on the use of dynamic spectrum access (DSA) approaches;

– reviews around the possibility of applying DSA approaches to enable better and more cost-effective provision of services.

– using the method of shared spectrum use, in particular licensed shared access (LSA) and shared spectrum and infrastructure access for a single technology (SSIA-ST).

# 11 Online spectrum licensing

As part of smart government, public services are increasingly being offered over mobile and online platforms. The process of spectrum licensing can also be automated, and the process of receiving requests for spectrum use and licensing can be made available online and on smart devices. Training and case studies can be offered to the developing countries in order for them to benefit from the experience of countries that have deployed such systems.

**MOD** RPM-CIS/38/7

RESOLUTION 17 (REV. BUENOS AIRES, 2017)

Implementation of regionally approved initiatives at the national, regional, interregional and global levels[[9]](#footnote-9)1

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Buenos Aires, 2017),

recalling

*a)* Resolution 34 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference on Assistance and support to countries in special need for rebuilding their telecommunication sector;

*b)* Resolution 135 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference on ITU's role in the development of telecommunications/information and communication technologies, in providing technical assistance and advice to developing countries and in implementing relevant national, regional and interregional projects;

*c)* Resolution 32 (Rev. Hyderabad, 2010) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference on International and regional cooperation on regional initiatives;

*d)* the mechanisms for international and regional cooperation to implement the outcomes of the WSIS High-Level Meeting, referred to in §§ 101 а), b) and с), 102 а), b) and с), 103, 107 and 108 of the Tunis Agenda,

considering

*a)* that telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICTs) continue to be one of the most vital elements for the growth of national economies and protection of the environment;

*b)* that the existence, at the national, regional, interregional and global levels, of suitable telecommunication networks and services for sustainable development is an essential element for national development and improving the social, economic, financial and cultural situation of Member States;

*c)* that, in order to achieve the objectives of the developing countries[[10]](#footnote-10)2, new approaches must be adopted with a view to meeting the challenges of growth, in both qualitative and quantitative terms;

*d)* that the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) is the appropriate framework for the exchange of experiences with a view to formulating the policies most likely to result in harmonious and complementary development which respects the aspirations of all countries to a thriving telecommunication sector in the service of economic development;

*e)* that developing countries are increasingly experiencing the need for knowledge of fast‑developing technologies and the associated policy and strategic issues;

*f)* the vital importance of the cooperation among Member States, ITU-D Sector Members and Associates for the implementation of these regional initiatives;

*g)* the need to coordinate and harmonize efforts to develop telecommunication infrastructure at the national, regional, interregional and global levels;

*h)* that the leadership of the ITU Member States is needed to outline a unified national vision of a connected society that is comprehensive of all stakeholders;

*i)* the commitment of the ITU Member States to promote access to ICTs at affordable prices, paying special attention to the least favoured segments,

recognizing

*a)* that developing countries and countries participating in these regional initiatives are at different stages of development;

*b)* the need, therefore, to exchange experiences on telecommunication development at a regional level in order to support these countries;

*c)* that there is a continued need for ITU to cooperate more closely with regional organizations, including regional organizations of regulators, in order to support these countries;

*d)* that exchanging information between regions on implementation of projects under regional initiatives promotes the development of international cooperation in the field of telecommunications/ICT,

taking into account

*a)* the vital importance of telecommunication development initiatives endorsed by all regional development conferences, and by the preparatory meetings preceding this conference;

*b)* that there is a lack of funding from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and other international financial institutions, impeding the implementation of such initiatives;

*c)* that developing countries are increasingly experiencing the need for knowledge of fast‑developing technologies and the associated policy and strategic issues;

*d)* the achievements of the Connect the World initiatives promoted by the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU‑D);

*e)* the satisfactory and encouraging results achieved by activities of this kind, which have helped cooperation in the creation of telecommunication networks;

*f)* that, given the resources at the disposal of developing countries, it is an important task to meet the requirements cited in *taking into account c)* above, and that, as the United Nations specialized agency for telecommunications, ITU is in a position to meet these requirements,

noting

*a)* that the ITU‑D centres of excellence training significantly assists the developing countries with knowledge-based requirements;

*b)* that the relevant regional organizations play a prominent and important role, especially in support of the developing countries,

*c)* the existence of regional and subregional organizations of regulators, examples of which are the regional telecommunication regulators' networks in some regions;

*d)* the development of cooperation and technical assistance activities among regional and subregional organizations of regulators,

resolves

1 that the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) should continue cooperation with the ITU regional offices to identify possible ways and means of implementing the regionally approved initiatives at the national, regional, interregional and global levels, including the Agenda for the Connectivity of the Americas, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), the Latin American Institute for Educational Communication (ILCE) and other similar initiatives in various regions, especially the new initiatives established at the two recent summits (for Africa and for the Commonwealth of Independent States), making the utmost use of available BDT resources, its annual budget and surplus income from ITU-TELECOM events, in particular by means of equitable budget allotments for each region;

2 that BDT continue to actively assist the developing countries in elaborating and implementing these initiatives, which are specified in section 3 of the Buenos Aires Action Plan;

3 that Member States should consider contributing in kind and/or in cash to the budget foreseen for implementation of these initiatives and the realization of other projects foreseen within the framework of these initiatives at the national, regional, interregional and global levels;

4 that BDT continue to conclude partnerships with Member States, ITU‑D Sector Members, financial institutions and international organizations in order to sponsor implementation activities for these initiatives;

5 that BDT should assist in the implementation of these initiatives at the national, regional, interregional and global levels, integrating as far as possible those initiatives that have the same content or objectives, taking into consideration the Dubai Action Plan;

6 that BDT, through the ITU regional offices, shall compile all the experiences accumulated during the implementation of regional initiatives in each region, and make them available to other regions in order to identify synergies and similarities that will make it possible to make better use of available resources, using the portal for project implementation, in the six official languages of the Union;

7 that BDT make information available on initiatives successfully implemented by each of the regions, so as to capitalize on the experience and leverage the outcomes, which might be replicated in order to save time and resources when setting up and designing projects in the other regions;

8 that BDT should strengthen its relations with regional and subregional regulatory organizations in different networks, through ongoing cooperation to stimulate the mutual exchange of experience and assistance with the implementation of these regional initiatives;

9 that BDT also channel the accumulated experience on regional initiatives through the regional offices, and make information available to Member States on implementation, outcomes, stakeholders, financial resources used and so forth;

10 that the agenda of Regional Development Forums should include an item on the possibility of using the results of regional initiatives implemented in other regions to meet the needs of the region in which the regional forum in question is being held,

appeals

to international financial organizations/agencies, equipment suppliers and operators/service providers to contribute, fully or partially, to financing these regionally approved initiatives,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to take all necessary measures for promoting and implementing these regionally approved initiatives at the national, regional, interregional and global levels, and in particular the similar initiatives agreed at international level;

2 to ensure that ITU-D actively coordinates, collaborates and organizes joint activities in areas of common interest with regional organizations and training institutions, and takes into consideration their activities, as well as providing them with direct technical assistance;

3 to put forward a request at the annual Global Symposium for Regulators meeting, for the meeting to support the implementation of these regional and international initiatives;

4 to ensure that the ITU regional offices have a role in monitoring the implementation of the initiatives approved in their regions, and to submit an annual report to the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group on the implementation of this resolution;

5 to continue to promote the dissemination to other regions of the results of projects implemented under regional initiatives;

6 that an annual meeting be held for each region in order to discuss the regional initiatives and projects for each region and mechanisms for implementation of the initiatives adopted and to make known the needs of the different regions, and that a regional development forum (RDF) may be held in conjunction with the annual meeting for each region;

7 to take all measures needed to promote consultation with the Member States in each region before implementing and executing approved initiatives in a timely fashion, in order to agree on priorities, suggest strategic partners, means of financing and other issues, thereby promoting a participatory, inclusive process of meeting the goals;

8 in consultation and coordination with the Directors of the Radiocommunication and Telecommunication Standardization Bureaux, to promote the joint work of the three Sectors in order to provide suitable, efficient, agreed assistance for Member States to implement the regional initiatives,

requests the Secretary-General

1 to continue the practice of implementing special measures and programmes to develop and promote activities and regional initiatives, in close cooperation with regional and subregional telecommunication organizations, including regulators, and other related institutions;

2 to make every possible effort to encourage the private sector to take actions to facilitate cooperation with member countries in these regional initiatives, including countries with special needs;

3 to continue to work closely with the coordination mechanism established in the United Nations family and with United Nations regional commissions such as, but not limited to, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA).

**MOD** RPM-CIS/38/8

RESOLUTION 23 (Rev. BUENOS AIRES, 2017)

Internet access and availability for developing countries[[11]](#footnote-12)1 and
charging principles for international Internet connection

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Buenos Aires, 2017),

recalling

*a)* Resolution 64 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on non-discriminatory access to modern telecommunication/information and communication technology (ICT) facilities, services and applications, including applied research and transfer of technology, on mutually agreed terms;

*b)* Resolution 101 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on Internet Protocol (IP)-based networks;

c) Resolution 37 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) "Bridging the digital divide";

d) Resolution 69 (Rev. Dubai, 2012) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA), on non-discriminatory access and use of Internet resources, inviting Member States to refrain from taking any unilateral and/or discriminatory actions that could impede another Member State from accessing public Internet sites and using the resources, within the spirit of Article 1 of the ITU Constitution and the principles of the World Summit on the Information Society;

*e)* the provisions of § 50 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, recognizing the particular concerns among developing countries that charges for international Internet connectivity should be better balanced to enhance access, and calling for the development of strategies for increasing affordable global connectivity, thereby facilitating improved and equitable access for all, by the means described in the said paragraph, especially items a), b), c), d), e), f) and g) thereof;

*f)* the four targets set by the Broadband Commission for Digital Development for making broadband universal and boosting affordability and uptake thereof, namely: making broadband policy universal; making broadband affordable; connecting homes to broadband; and getting people online;

*g)* Opinion 1 (Geneva, 2013) of the World Telecommunication/ICT Policy Forum (WTPF), which expresses the view that enabling the interconnection of international, national and regional networks through Internet exchange points (IXPs) may be an effective way to improve international Internet connectivity and to reduce the costs of such connectivity, with regulation only when necessary to promote competition, and invites Member States and Sector Members to work in a collaborative manner to do a number of things, including to promote public policies aimed at permitting the local, regional and international Internet network operators to interconnect through IXPs,

noting

*a)* that Recommendation ITU‑T D.50, on international Internet connection, recommends that administrations take appropriate measures nationally to ensure that parties (including operating agencies authorized by Member States) involved in the provision of international Internet connections negotiate and agree to bilateral commercial arrangements, or other arrangements as agreed between administrations, enabling direct international Internet connections that take into account the possible need for compensation between them for the value of elements such as traffic flow, number of routes, geographical coverage and cost of international transmission, and the possible application of network externalities, among others;

*b)* the rapid growth of the Internet and IP-based international services;

*c)* that international Internet connections remain subject to commercial agreements between the parties concerned, although Internet service provider (ISP) operators from developing countries have expressed concerns that such agreements have not achieved the required balance in regard to charges between developed and developing countries;

*d)* that the composition of costs for operators, whether regional or local, is, in part, significantly dependent on the type of connection (transit or peering) and the availability and cost of backhaul and long-haul infrastructure;

*e)* that the cost of transit is an obstacle for development of the Internet in developing countries;

*f)* that Opinion 1 (Geneva, 2013) considered that the establishment of IXPs is a priority to address connectivity issues, improve quality of service and reduce interconnection costs; and that IXPs and telecommunication traffic exchange points may play a relevant role in the deployment of Internet infrastructure and reaching the overall goals of improving quality, increasing the connectivity and resilience of networks, fostering competition and reducing the costs of interconnection;

*g)* that access to information and sharing and creation of knowledge contribute significantly to strengthening economic, social and cultural development, thus helping countries to reach the internationally agreed development goals and objectives, a process which can be enhanced by removing barriers to universal, ubiquitous, equitable and affordable access to information;

*h)* that continuing technical and economic development require ongoing studies in this area by the relevant ITU Sectors, in particular best practices for reducing the cost of international Internet connectivity (transit and peering);

*i)* that efficient networks and costs enable increased traffic volumes, economies of scale and a shift from transit connections to peering arrangements where appropriate;

*j)* that a rise in the costs of international connectivity will result in delayed access to and benefit from the Internet;

*k)* that the disparities in ICT development between countries remain substantial, ICT Development Index (IDI) values being on average twice as high in developed compared to developing countries,

recognizing

*a)* that commercial initiatives by service providers have the potential to deliver cost savings for Internet access, for example through the development of more local content and the optimization of Internet traffic routing patterns in a manner that provides for a greater proportion of traffic to be routed locally;

*b)* that the development of an information society requires not only the deployment of appropriate technical infrastructure but also measures to promote availability of local content, applications and services, in a range of languages and at affordable prices, while providing access to remotely available content regardless of location,

*c)* the need to bridge the digital divide at various levels (including the digital divide between ITU regions, countries, parts of countries, and between urban and rural areas),

taking into account

that, as part of the work of Study Group 3 of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU‑T), on tariff and accounting principles including related telecommunication economic and policy issues, a rapporteur group has been set up for the new study period (2012‑2015) for the purpose of drafting a supplement to Recommendation ITU‑T D.50 to facilitate the adoption of specific measures to reduce international Internet connection costs, especially for developing countries,

resolves to invite Member States

1 to support the work of ITU‑T in monitoring the application of Recommendation ITU‑T D.50, bearing in mind the importance of this issue of international Internet connection costs in the developing countries;

2 to make progress in the coordination of regional policies in order to reduce international Internet connection costs, by agreeing on specific measures that will lead to an improvement in conditions for developing countries, including the deployment of regional IXPs;

3 to create policy conditions for effective competition in the international Internet backbone network access market as well as in the domestic Internet access service market, as an important factor for lowering the cost of Internet access for users and service providers;

4 to implement the Tunis Agenda in this respect, particularly § 50 thereof,

reaffirms

its resolution in the quest to continue to ensure that everyone can benefit from the opportunities that information and communication technologies (ICTs) can offer, by recalling that governments, as well as the private sector, civil society and the United Nations and other international organizations, should work together to: improve access to information and communication infrastructure and technologies as well as to information and knowledge; build capacity; increase confidence and security in the use of ICTs; create an enabling environment at all levels; develop and widen ICT applications; foster and respect cultural diversity; recognize the role of the media; address the ethical dimensions of the information society; and encourage international and regional cooperation,

urges regulators

to promote such measures as may be considered appropriate to foster an improvement in conditions for service providers, including small and medium-sized ISPs and incumbent network access service providers, with a focus on reducing connectivity costs as referred to in *noting c), d), f)* and*i)* above,

urges service providers

to negotiate and agree to bilateral commercial arrangements enabling direct international Internet connections that take into account the possible need for compensation between them for the value of elements such as, *inter alia*, traffic flow, number of routes, geographical coverage and the cost of international transmission,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to organize and coordinate activities that promote information sharing among regulators on the relationship between charging arrangements for international Internet connection and the affordability of international Internet infrastructure development in developing and least developed countries, through cooperation with ITU‑T in this matter, by giving the necessary priority to the relevant study Questions in the work under the programme concerned;

2to undertake studies on the structure of international Internet connection costs for developing countries, with emphasis on the influence and effects of the connection mode (transit and peering), secure cross-border connectivity and the availability and cost of backhaul and long-haul physical infrastructure;

3to coordinate actions to provide training and technical assistance in order to encourage and promote the creation and development of regional interconnection infrastructure as a platform for exchanging Internet traffic between developing countries.

**MOD** RPM-CIS/38/9

RESOLUTION 30 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017)

Role of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector in
implementing the outcomes of the World Summit
on the Information Society and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Buenos Aires, 2017),

recalling

*a)* the relevant outcomes of both phases of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS);

*b)* United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) resolution A/70/125, on the outcome document of the high-level meeting of UNGA on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of WSIS;

*c)* UNGA resolution A/70/1 "Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development";

*d)* the WSIS+10 Statement on the Implementation of WSIS Outcomes and WSIS+10 Vision for WSIS Beyond 2015, adopted at the ITU-coordinated WSIS+10 High-Level Event (Geneva, 2014) and endorsed by the Plenipotentiary Conference (Busan, 2014), which was submitted as an input into the Overall Review of WSIS by the UNGA;

*e)* Resolution 71 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the strategic plan for the Union for 2012-2015;

*f)* Resolution 130 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on strengthening the role of ITU in building confidence and security in the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs);

*g)* Resolution 131 (Rev. Busan, 2014), related to measuring the ICTs to build an integrated and inclusive information society;*h)* Resolution 139 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on telecommunications/ICTs to bridge the digital divide and build an inclusive information society;

*i)* Resolution 140 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on ITU's role in implementing the outcomes of WSIS and in the overall review by UNGA of their implementation;

*j)*Resolution 200 (Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, "Connect 2020 Agenda for global telecommunication/information and communication technology development";

*)*

recognizing

*a)* that WSIS stated that the core competencies of ITU are of crucial importance for building the information society, and identified ITU as a moderator/facilitator for implementing Action Lines C2 and C5, and as a partner in Action Lines C1, C3, C4, C6, C7 and C11, as well as Action Line C8 as stated in Resolution 140 (Rev. Busan, 2014);

*b)* that it was agreed among the parties to follow up the Summit outcomes to appoint ITU as moderator/facilitator for the implementation of Action Line C6, in which it was previously only a partner;

*c)* the commitment of ITU to achieving WSIS objectives, as one of the most important goals for the Union;

*d)* that the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU‑D) – in view of its purposes and objectives; the nature of the existing partnership among Member States and ITU‑D Sector Members; its experience over many years in dealing with different development needs and implementing a range of projects, including infrastructure projects and specifically telecommunication/ICT infrastructure projects, financed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and various funds and through possible partnerships; the nature of its five existing objectives, adopted at this conference to meet the needs of the telecommunication/ICT infrastructure, including building confidence and security in the use of telecommunications/ICTs and fostering an enabling environment, and to achieve the WSIS goals; and the presence of its authorized regional offices – is a key partner in the implementation of WSIS outcomes, in respect of Action Lines C2, C5 and C6, which are the cornerstone of the Sector's work pursuant to the ITU Constitution and Convention, and also participates with other stakeholders, as appropriate, in the implementation of Action Lines C1, C3, C4, C7, C8, C9 and C11 and all other relevant action lines and other WSIS outcomes, within the financial limits set by the Plenipotentiary Conference;

*e)* that UNGA resolution A/70/125 calls for close alignment between the WSIS process and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, highlighting the crosscutting contribution of ICTs to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and poverty eradication, and noting that access to ICTs has also become a development indicator and aspiration in and of itself,

recognizing further

*a)* the commitment of ITU to implement relevant outcomes of the WSIS and the WSIS vision beyond 2015, as one of the most important goals for the Union;

*b)* that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has substantial implications on the activities of the ITU,

*c)* the potential of information and communications technologies to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other internationally agreed development goals;

taking into account

*a)* Resolution 75 (Rev. Dubai, 2012) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly, on the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector's contribution in implementing the WSIS outcomes;

*b)* Resolution 61 (Geneva, 2012) of the Radiocommunication Assembly, on the ITU Radiocommunication Sector's contribution in implementing the WSIS outcomes;

*c)* the programmes, activities and regional initiatives being carried out in accordance with the decisions of this conference for bridging the digital divide;

*d)* the relevant work already accomplished and/or to be carried out by ITU and reported to the ITU Council through the Council Working Group on WSIS (CWG‑WSIS),

noting

that, in accordance with Resolution 1332 of Council 2016, the objectives of the Council Working Group on WSIS are, among other things, to facilitate inputs from the ITU's membership on ITU implementation of relevant WSIS outcomes and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, to monitor and evaluate on a yearly basis the actions taken by ITU with respect to implementation of WSIS outcomes and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and to provide guidance to ITU on how its future and ongoing activities can help achieve the WSIS outcomes and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and provide direction in reviewing reporting and work plans to support those efforts;

*b)* Resolution 1336 of Council 2015, on the Council Working Group on international Internet-related public policy issues,

noting further

that the ITU Secretary-General created the ITU WSIS Task Force to formulate strategies and coordinate ITU's policies and activities in relation to WSIS and this Task Force is chaired by the Deputy Secretary-General, as noted by Council 2016 Resolution 1332,

resolves to invite the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector

1 to continue working in cooperation with the other ITU Sectors and with development partners (governments, specialized agencies of the United Nations, relevant international and regional organizations, etc.), through a clear plan and appropriate mechanisms for coordination among the different partners concerned at the national, regional, interregional and global levels, having particular regard to the needs of the developing countries[[12]](#footnote-13)1, including in the field of building the telecommunication/ICT infrastructure, building confidence and security in the use of telecommunications/ICTs, and implementation of the other WSIS goals, and WSIS vision beyond 2015 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development within its mandate;

2 to continue to encourage the principle of non-exclusion from the information society and to devise appropriate mechanisms to this end (§§ 20-25 of the Tunis Commitment);

3 to continue to facilitate an enabling environment encouraging ITU‑D Sector Members to give priority to investing in the development of the telecommunication/ICT infrastructure, encompassing rural, isolated and remote regions, through different technologies;

4 to assist Member States in finding and/or improving innovative financial mechanisms to develop telecommunication/ICT infrastructure (such as the Digital Solidarity Fund and others mentioned in § 27 of the Tunis Agenda, and partnerships);

5 to continue to assist developing countries in advancing their legal and regulatory frameworks in order to further the goal of building the telecommunication/ICT infrastructure and achieve the other WSIS goals, and implementation of WSIS vision beyond 2015 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development within its mandate;

6 to promote international cooperation and capacity building in issues related to cyberthreats and building confidence and security in the use of ICTs consistent with Action Line C5, in which ITU is sole facilitator;

7 to pursue its activities in the field of statistical work for telecommunication development, using the indicators required to evaluate progress in this area with a view to bridging the digital divide, *inter alia*, within the framework of the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development and consistent with §§ 113‑118 of the Tunis Agenda, acting on the content of Resolution 8 (Rev. Buenos-Aires 2017, 2014) of this conference;

8 to develop and implement the ITU‑D strategic plan, taking into account the need to give priority to building the telecommunication/ICT infrastructure, including broadband access, at the national, regional, interregional and global levels, and to achieve the other WSIS goals, WSIS vision beyond 2015 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, related to the activities of ITU‑D within its mandate;

9 to continue to propose at the forthcoming plenipotentiary conference appropriate mechanisms for funding the activities flowing from the WSIS outcomes that are relevant to the core competencies of ITU, specifically those to be adopted in relation to:

i) Action Lines C2, C5 and C6, in which ITU is now identified as the sole facilitator;

ii) Action Lines C1, C3, C4, C6, C7, including its eight sub-action lines, and C11, in which ITU is now identified as a co-facilitator, as well as C8 and C9, in which ITU is identified as a partner,

iii) related Sustainable Development Goals (SDG),

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to continue to provide CWG-WSIS with a comprehensive summary of ITU‑D activities on implementation of the WSIS outcomes and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

2 to ensure that concrete objectives and deadlines for WSIS and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, activities are developed and reflected in the operational plans of ITU‑D, in accordance with Resolution 140 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) and with the objectives that will be set for ITU‑D by the Plenipotentiary Conference in 2014 with regard to the implementation by ITU of UNGA Resolutions А/70/125 and А/70/1, as well as the WSIS+10 outcomes;

3 to provide the membership with information on emerging trends based on ITU‑D activities;

4 to take appropriate action to facilitate the activities to implement this resolution,

further instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to act as a catalyst in the development of partnerships among all parties, with a view to ensuring that initiatives and projects attract investment, and to continue to act as a catalyst in the following functions, among others:

– encouraging the implementation of regional telecommunication/ICT initiatives and projects;

– participating in the organization of training seminars;

– signing agreements with national, regional and international partners involved in development, when required;

– collaborating on initiatives and projects with other relevant international, regional and intergovernmental organizations, where appropriate;

2 to promote human capacity building in developing countries relating to various aspects of the telecommunication/ICT sector, consistent with the mandate of ITU‑D;

3 to foster, particularly with the ITU regional offices, the conditions required for a successful knowledge-based enterprise incubator process and other projects for small, medium and micro enterprises (SMMEs) in and among developing countries;

4 in implementing the WSIS outcomes, taking into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, within the mandate of the ITU Standardization Sector, to pay special attention to the needs of the developing countries;

5 to encourage the international financial institutions, Member States and Sector Members, in their respective roles, to address, as a priority issue, the building, reconstruction and upgrading of networks and infrastructure in developing countries;

6 to pursue coordination with international bodies, with a view to mobilizing the financial resources needed in the implementation of projects;

7 to take the necessary initiatives to encourage partnerships which have been given high priority pursuant to:

i) the Geneva Plan of Action;

ii) the Tunis Agenda;

iii) the outcomes of the WSIS review process,

iv) the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

8 to submit contributions to the annual relevant reports of the ITU Secretary-General on these activities,

calls upon Member States, Sector Members, Associates and Academia

1 to continue to give priority to the development of the telecommunication/ICT infrastructure, including in rural, remote and underserved areas, to building confidence and security in the use of telecommunications/ICTs, to fostering an enabling environment and to ICT applications, in order to build the information society;

2 to consider the development of principles towards the adoption of strategies in areas such as telecommunication network security, consistent with WSIS Action Line C5;

3 to submit contributions to relevant ITU‑D study groups and to the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group, where appropriate, and contribute to CWG-WSIS on implementing WSIS outcomes within ITU's mandate;

4 to continue to support and collaborate with the Director of BDT in implementing relevant WSIS outcomes and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in ITU‑D;

5 to engage in the WSIS and SDG process, in order to reaffirm the need to address remaining challenges of ICT for development to be addressed in the implementation of WSIS Vision beyond 2015 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

requests the Secretary-General

to bring this resolution to the attention of the Plenipotentiary Conference (Dubai, 2018) for consideration and required action, as appropriate, when reviewing Resolution 140 (Rev. Busan, 2014).

**SUP** RPM-CIS/38/10

RESOLUTION 31 (Rev. Hyderabad, 2010)

Regional preparations for world telecommunication
development conferences

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Hyderabad, 2010),

**SUP** RPM-CIS/38/11

RESOLUTION 32 (REV. HYDERABAD, 2010)

International and regional cooperation on regional initiatives

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Hyderabad, 2010),

**MOD** RPM-CIS/38/12

RESOLUTION 37 (REV. BUENOS AIRES, 2017)

Bridging the digital divide

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Buenos Aires, 2017),

recalling

*a)* Resolution 50 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference on the optimal integration of information and communication technologies;

*b)* Resolution 23 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference on the Internet access and availability for developing countries and charging principles for international Internet connection;

*c)* Resolution 139 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference on the Use of telecommunications/information and communication technologies to bridge the digital divide and build an inclusive information society;

*d)* Resolution 135 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference on ITU's role in the development of telecommunications/information and communication technologies, in providing technical assistance and advice to developing countries1 and in implementing relevant national, regional and interregional projects,

recognizing

*a)* that the telecommunication environment has undergone significant changes since WTDC‑14;

*b)* the continuing disparity in the access to information and communication technologies (ICTs) between different countries, regions of one country and also various social groups of the population, arises from differences of the level of social and economic development of the countries and regions, and also from the well-being of various groups of the population, referred to as the "digital divide";

*c)* that development in information and communication technologies (ICTs) has continued to reduce the cost of relevant equipment;

*d)* that numerous studies endorse the conclusion that investments in broadband infrastructure, applications and services contribute to sustainable and inclusive economic growth for peoples;

*e)* that the introduction of new applications and services has also resulted in bringing down telecommunication/ICT costs;

*f)* that in many ITU Member States regulations have been adopted dealing with regulatory issues such as interconnection, determination of tariffs, universal service, etc., designed to bridge the digital divide at the national level;

*g)* that the introduction of competition in the provision of telecommunication/ICT services has also continued to reduce telecommunication/ICT costs to users;

*h)* that national plans and projects for the provision of telecommunication services in developing countries contribute to reducing costs to users and bridging the digital divide;

*i)* that the integration models supported by the ITU Member States are an element that integrates, facilitates and does not exclude, one which takes into account the individual characteristics of all existing projects, respecting their autonomy and independence;

*j)* that the integration models propose ways to increase the profitability of existing infrastructure, to lower the cost of developing and implementing ICT projects and platforms, to provide for the sharing of expertise and skills, and to foster intraregional and extraregional technology transfers;

*k)* that it is necessary to coordinate the efforts of both the public and private sectors to ensure that opportunities arising from the information society yield benefits, especially for the most disadvantaged;

*l)* that there is still an ongoing need to create digital opportunities in developing countries, including the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition, taking advantage of the revolution that ICTs have witnessed and are currently witnessing;

*m)* that various activities are being executed towards bridging the digital divide by many international and regional organizations, such as, in addition to ITU, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the United Nations economic commissions, the World Bank, the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT), the regional economic communities, the regional development banks and many others, and that such activity has increased following the conclusion of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and the adoption of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, particularly in relation to implementation and follow-up;

*n)*  that the BYND2015 World Youth Summit participants, in the Declaration of Costa Rica 2013, called for equitable and universal access to ICTs, particularly for women and girls, as well as other groups marginalized by the digital divide, and called for the United Nations, the international community and all Member States to consider their words and put them into action,

considering

*a)* the role of ITU, in particular the specific functions of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU‑D);

*b)* the many stakeholders in the public, private, academic, non-governmental organization and multilateral sectors who are seeking to bridge the digital divide;

*c)* the progress accomplished in the implementation of the outcomes of Phases 1 and 2 of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS);

*d)* that, even with all the developments mentioned above, in many developing countries and especially in rural areas, telecommunications/ICTs, particularly in relation to the Internet, are still not affordable to the majority of the people, as is evident at present;

*e)* that each region, country and area should tackle its own specific issues regarding the digital divide, while stressing the importance of cooperation in this area at regional and international level in order to benefit from experience gained;

*f)* that many developing countries do not have the necessary basic infrastructure, long‑term plans, laws, appropriate regulations and such like in place for telecommunication/ICT development;

*g)* that the use of radiocommunication systems, in particular satellite systems, to provide access for local communities located in rural or remote areas without increased connection costs due to distance or other geographical characteristics is an extremely useful tool for bridging the digital divide;

*h)* that satellite broadband systems support communication solutions offering high connectivity, speed and reliability in both urban areas and rural and remote areas, and thus constitute a fundamental driver of economic and social development for countries and regions;

*i)* that the development of radiocommunication technologies and deployment of satellite systems enable sustainable and affordable access to information and knowledge, through the provision of communication services with high connectivity (broadband) and wide coverage (regional or global reach), which contribute significantly to bridging the digital divide, efficiently complementing other technologies and enabling countries to be connected directly, quickly and reliably;

*j)* that Programme 1 of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) under the Hyderabad Action Plan, on information and communication infrastructure and technology development, has provided assistance to developing countries in the area of spectrum management and in the efficient and cost‑effective development of rural, national and international broadband telecommunication networks, including satellite,

further considering

*a)* that the distribution of the benefits brought about by the ICT revolution is not equitable between developing and developed countries, and between social categories within countries, taking into account the commitments of both phases of WSIS to bridge the digital divide and transform it into a digital opportunity;

*b)* that equitable access to information and the transition of the countries of the developing world into knowledge economies and into the information age will enhance their economic, social and cultural development, in implementation of the aims of the Geneva Plan of Action and Tunis Agenda, taking into consideration that such access shall be affordable;

*c)* that Goal 2 (To provide assistance to developing countries in bridging the digital divide by achieving broader telecommunication/ICT-enabled socio-economic development) in Resolution 71 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the strategic plan for the Union for 2016-2019, continues to declare that the aim is for ITU to assist in bridging the national, regional and international digital divide in ICTs and ICT applications by facilitating interoperability, interconnection and global connectivity of telecommunication networks and services, and by playing a leading role, within its mandate, in the multistakeholder participation process for follow-up and implementation of the relevant goals and objectives of WSIS, and to focus on bridging the digital divide and providing broadband for all;

*d)* that, in 2015, the United Nations General Assembly assessed the outcomes and implementation of both the Millennium Development Goals and the WSIS Tunis Agenda and approved Resolution A/70/1 Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

confirms

the importance of approaches to funding for bridging the digital divide in the Geneva Plan of Action, the Tunis Agenda and the strategic plan for the Union and of their translation into equitable mechanisms for action, particularly in respect of issues related to Internet management, taking into consideration measures for promoting full gender equality, with due regard for people with specific needs, including persons with disabilities and age-related disabilities, youth and indigenous peoples, telecommunications/ICTs for disaster relief and mitigation, and the child online protection initiative,

undertakes

to carry out work from which all countries, especially the developing countries, may benefit, with a view to establishing international methods and specific mechanisms to strengthen international cooperation for bridging the digital divide, through connectivity solutions which support sustainable and affordable access to ICTs, and, in parallel, to continue to shorten the time-frames for implementation of the Digital Solidarity Agenda, beginning with the Geneva Plan of Action, the outcomes of the Connect the World summits, the Tunis Agenda and the strategic plan for the Union,

resolves

that the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) continue to adopt the necessary measures to implement regional projects derived from the non-exclusive integration models which it has acquired, to link all stakeholders, organizations and institutions of the various sectors in an ongoing relationship of cooperation in which information is disseminated over networks, so as to narrow the digital divide in line with the outputs of Phases 1 and 2 of WSIS,

resolves to request the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to continue to follow up the work pursuant to Resolution 8 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) of this conference in creating social connectivity indicators for the digital divide, standard indicators for each country and a single index, in cooperation with the competent organizations in the relevant United Nations agencies, using available statistics so that charts can be compiled to illustrate the current situation of the digital divide in each country and region;

2 to continue to advocate the advantages of developing low‑cost, high‑quality ICT-customer computers, that can be directly connected to the networks supporting the Internet and Internet applications, so that economies of scale can be achieved on account of their acceptability at the global level, taking into consideration the possibility of satellite use of this computer;

3 to continue to assist in developing a user-awareness campaign in order to build user trust and confidence in ICT applications;

4 to ensure that special programmes under the centres of excellence continue to address the specific issue of ICT training for poverty alleviation, and to give top priority to these centres;

5 to continue to foster the development of innovative models in order to reduce poverty and bridge the digital divide in the developing countries successfully;

6 to continue to identify key ICT applications in rural areas and to cooperate with specialized organizations with a view to developing a standardized user‑friendly content format that overcomes the barrier of literacy and language;

7 to continue to assist in reducing access costs by encouraging manufacturers to develop appropriate technology scalable to broadband applications and having a low operating and maintenance cost, this having been adopted as a key objective of the Union as a whole and ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU‑D) in particular;

8 to assist and support developing countries in researching and assessing difficulties and challenges in the operation and maintenance of multipurpose community telecentres in rural and remote areas, with a view to advising developing countries on models of multipurpose community telecentres, including digital inclusion, in rural and remote areas adapted to local circumstances;

9 to encourage members to provide ITU with ICT rural experiences, which can then be put on the ITU‑D website;

10 to continue to assist the Member States and Sector Members in developing a pro-competition policy and regulatory framework for ICTs, including online services and electronic commerce, as well as capacity building in connectivity and accessibility, taking into account the specific needs of women and disadvantaged groups;

11 to continue to encourage development of broadcast-mode methods for promoting ICT uses in rural areas;

12 to continue to help in promoting greater participation of women in ICT initiatives, particularly in rural areas;

13 to promote the implementation of studies or projects and activities, in collaboration with the ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU‑R), with a view, on the one hand, to complementing national radiocommunication systems, including satellite systems, and, on the other, to increasing knowledge and capacities thereof, in order to achieve optimum utilization of radio-frequency resource, particularly, the digital dividend and orbit spectrum resource, with the aim of stimulating the development and coverage of satellite broadband for bridging the digital divide;

14 to analyse the adoption of measures for collaboration with ITU‑R, in order to support studies, projects or systems and, at the same time, to implement joint activities which seek to build capacities in efficient use of the orbit/spectrum resource for the provision of satellite services, with a view to achieving affordable access to satellite broadband and facilitating network connectivity between different areas, countries and regions, especially in the developing countries,

invites Member States

1 to consider promoting relevant policies to foster public and private investment in the development and construction of radiocommunication systems, including satellite systems, in their countries and regions, and to consider including the use of such systems in their national and/or regional broadband plans, as an additional tool that will help to bridge the digital divide and meet telecommunication needs, especially in the developing countries;

2 when implementing Resolution 17 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of this conference, on implementation of regionally approved initiatives at the national, regional, interregional and global levels, to select a project among those proposed for the regions that reflects optimal integration of ICTs with the aim of bridging the digital divide.

**MOD** RPM-CIS/38/13

RESOLUTION 45 (REV. BUENOS AIRES, 2017)

Mechanisms for enhancing cooperation on the building of confidence and security in the use of ICTs, including countering and combating spam

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Buenos Aires, 2017),

recalling

*a)* Resolution 130 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the role of ITU in building confidence and security in the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs);

*b)* Resolution 174 (Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on ITU's role with regard to international public policy issues relating to the risk of illicit use of ICTs;

*c)* Resolution 179 (Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on ITU's role in child online protection;

*d)* Resolution 181 (Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on definitions and terminology relating to building confidence and security in the use of ICTs;

*e)* Resolution 45 (Rev. Hyderabad, 2010) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC);

*f)* Resolution 50 (Rev. Dubai, 2012) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA), on cybersecurity;

*g)* Resolution 52 (Rev. Dubai, 2012) of WTSA, on countering and combating spam;

*h)* Resolution 58 (Rev. Dubai, 2012) of WTSA, on encouraging the creation of national computer incident response teams (CIRTs), particularly in developing countries;

*i)* Resolution 69 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) of this conference, on the creation of CIRTs, particularly for developing countries, and cooperation among them;

*j)* Resolution 67 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) of this conference, on the role of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU‑D) in child online protection;

*k)* the noble principles, aims and objectives embodied in the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

*l)* that ITU is the lead facilitator for Action Line C5 in the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society (Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs);

*m)* the provisions of the Tunis Commitment and the Tunis Agenda relating to the building of confidence and security in the use of ICTs;

*n)* the goal set out in the strategic plan for the Union for 2012-2015, approved by Resolution 71 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, which calls on ITU‑D to promote the availability of infrastructure and foster an enabling environment for telecommunication/ICT infrastructure development and its use in a safe and secure manner;

*o)* Question 22 of ITU‑D Study Group 1 in the 2010-2014 study period and Question 3/2 of ITU-D Study Group 2 in the 2014-2017 study period, under which many members collaborated to produce reports, including course materials for use in developing countries, such as a compendium of national experiences, best practices for public-private partnerships, best practices for building a CIRT with accompanying course material, and best practices for a CIRT management framework;

*p)* the report of the Chairman of the High-Level Group of Experts (HLEG) of the Global Cybersecurity Agenda (GCA), established by the ITU Secretary-General pursuant to the requirements of Action Line C5 on building confidence and security in the use of ICTs and in accordance with Resolution 140 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the role of ITU as sole facilitator for World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Action Line C5, and Resolution 58 (Rev. Dubai, 2012), on encouraging the creation of national CIRTs, particularly for developing countries;

*q)* that ITU and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) in order to strengthen security in the use of ICTs,

considering

*a)* the role of telecommunications/ICTs as effective tools to promote peace, economic development, security and stability and to enhance democracy, social cohesion, good governance and the rule of law, and the need to confront the escalating challenges and threats resulting from the abuse of this technology, including for criminal and terrorist purposes, while respecting human rights (see also § 15 of the Tunis Commitment);

*b)* the need to build confidence and security in the use of telecommunications/ICTs by strengthening the trust framework (§ 39 of the Tunis Agenda), and the need for governments, in cooperation with other stakeholders within their respective roles, to develop necessary legislation for the investigation and prosecution of crime involving the use of ICTs at national levels, and cooperate at regional and international levels having regard to existing frameworks;

*c)* that United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Resolution 64/211 invites Member States to use, if and when they deem appropriate, the voluntary self-assessment tool that is annexed to the resolution for national efforts;

*d)* the need for Member States to develop national programmes for building confidence and security in the use of ICTs, centred around a national plan, public-private partnerships, a sound legal foundation, an incident management, watch, warning, response and recovery capability, and a culture of awareness, using as a guide the reports on best practices for a national approach to the building of confidence and security in the use of ICTs: building blocks for organizing national efforts to build confidence and security in the use of ICTs, drawn up under the two study periods of Question 22 of ITU‑D Study Group 1 (2006-2010 and 2010-2014) and the one study period of Question 3/2 of ITU-D Study Group 2 (2014-2017);

*e)* that the considerable and increasing losses which users of telecommunication/ICT systems have incurred from the growing problem of crime involving the use of ICTs and deliberate sabotage worldwide alarm all developed and developing nations of the world without exception;

*f)* the reasons behind the adoption of Resolution 37 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) of this conference, on bridging the digital divide, having regard to the importance of multistakeholder implementation at the international level and to the action lines referenced in § 108 of the Tunis Agenda, including "Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs";

*g)* the outcomes of several ITU activities related to the building of confidence and security in the use of ICTs, especially, but not limited to, the ones coordinated by the Telecommunication Development Bureau, in order to fulfil ITU's mandate as facilitator for the implementation of Action Line C5 (Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs);

*h)* that various organizations from all sectors of society work in collaboration to build confidence and security in the use of ICTs;

*i)* that Objective 3 of ITU‑D, set under the strategic plan for the Union for 2012-2015, contained in Resolution 71 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010), was to foster the development of strategies to enhance the deployment, and the safe, secure and affordable use of ICT applications and services towards mainstreaming telecommunications/ICTs in the broader economy and society;

*j)* that the fact, among others, that critical telecommunication/ICT infrastructures are interconnected at global level means that low infrastructure security in one country could result in greater vulnerability and risks in others;

*k)* that various information, materials, best practices and financial resources, as appropriate, are available to Member States from national, regional and other relevant international organizations, according to their respective roles;

*l)* that the results of the survey on awareness in regard to the building of confidence and security in the use of ICTs conducted by BDT and Question 22‑1/1 in the 2010-2014 study period showed that least developed countries require substantial assistance in this area;

*m)* that the ITU Global Cybersecurity Agenda (GCA) encourages international cooperation aimed at proposing strategies for solutions to enhance confidence and security in the use of telecommunications/ICTs,

recognizing

*a)* that measures undertaken to ensure the stability and security of telecommunication/ICT networks, to protect against computer crime/crime involving the use of ICTs and to counter spam must protect and respect the provisions for privacy and freedom of expression as contained in the relevant parts of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (see also § 42 of the Tunis Agenda) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

*b)* that UNGA Resolution 68/167, on the right to privacy in the digital age, affirms, *inter alia*,"that the same rights the people have off line must also be protected on line, including the right to privacy";

*c)* the need to take appropriate actions and preventive measures, as determined by law, against abusive uses of telecommunications/ICTs, as mentioned in connection with "Ethical dimensions of the information society" in the Geneva Declaration of Principles and Plan of Action (§ 43 of the Tunis Agenda), the need to counter terrorism in all its forms and manifestations on telecommunication/ICT networks, while respecting human rights and complying with other obligations under international law, as outlined in operative paragraph 81 of UNGA Resolution 60/1 on the 2005 world summit outcome, the importance of the security, continuity and stability of telecommunication/ICT networks and the need to protect telecommunication/ICT networks from threats and vulnerabilities (§ 45 of the Tunis Agenda), while ensuring respect for privacy and the protection of personal information and data, whether via adoption of legislation, the implementation of collaborative frameworks, best practices and self-regulatory and technological measures by business and users (§ 46 of the Tunis Agenda);

*d)* the need to effectively confront challenges and threats resulting from the use of telecommunications/ICTs such as for purposes that are inconsistent with objectives of maintaining international stability and security and may adversely affect the integrity of the infrastructure within States to the detriment of their security, and to work cooperatively to prevent the abuse of information resources and technologies for criminal and terrorist purposes, while respecting human rights;

*e)* the role of telecommunications/ICTs in the protection of children and in enhancing their development, and the need to strengthen action to protect children and youth from abuse and defend their rights in the context of telecommunications/ICTs, emphasizing that the best interests of the child are a key consideration;

*f)* the desire and commitment of all concerned to build a people‑centred, inclusive and secure development-oriented information society, premised on the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, international law and multilateralism, and respecting fully and upholding the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, so that people everywhere can create, access, utilize and share information and knowledge in complete security, in order to achieve their full potential and to attain the internationally agreed development goals and objectives, including the Millennium Development Goals;

*g)* the provisions of §§ 4, 5 and 55 of the Geneva Declaration of Principles, and that freedom of expression and the free flow of information, ideas and knowledge are beneficial to development;

*h)* that the Tunis phase of WSIS represented a unique opportunity to raise awareness of the benefits that telecommunications/ICTs can bring to humanity and the manner in which they can transform people's activities, interaction and lives, and thus increase confidence in the future, conditional upon the secure use of telecommunications/ICTs, as the implementation of the Summit outcomes has demonstrated;

*i)* the need to deal effectively with the significant problem posed by spam, as called for in § 41 of the Tunis Agenda, as well as, *inter alia*, spam, crime involving the use of ICTs, viruses, worms and denial-of-service attacks;

*j)* the need for effective coordination between ITU‑D programmes and Questions,

noting

*a)* the continuing work of Study Group 17 (security) of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU‑T) and other standards-development organizations on various aspects of security of telecommunications/ICT;

*b)* that spam is a significant problem and continues to pose a threat for users, networks and the Internet as a whole, and that the building of confidence and security in the use of ICTs should be addressed at appropriate national, regional and international levels;

*c)* that cooperation and collaboration among Member States, Sector Members and relevant stakeholders contributes to creating and maintaining a culture of building confidence and security in the use of ICTs,

resolves

1 to continue to recognize the building of confidence and security in the use of ICTs as one of ITU's priority activities and to continue to address, within its area of core competence, the issue of securing and building confidence in the use of telecommunications/ICTs, by raising awareness, identifying best practices and developing appropriate training material in order to promote a culture of building confidence and security in the use of ICTs;

2 to enhance collaboration and cooperation with, and share information among, all relevant international and regional organizations on initiatives relating to the building of confidence and security in the use of ICTs, within ITU's areas of competence, taking into account the need to assist developing countries,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to continue to organize, in collaboration with relevant organizations, as appropriate, in conjunction with the programme under Output 3.1 of Objective 3, based on member contributions, and in cooperation with the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau (TSB), meetings of Member States, Sector Members and other relevant stakeholders to discuss ways and means to build confidence and security in the use of ICTs;

2 to continue, in collaboration with relevant organizations and stakeholders, to carry out studies on strengthening the building of confidence and security in the use of ICTs in developing countries at regional and international level, based on a clear identification of their needs, particularly those relating to telecommunication/ICT use, including the protection of children and youth;

3 to support Member States' initiatives, especially in developing countries, regarding mechanisms for enhancing cooperation on the building of confidence and security in the use of ICTs;

4 to assist the developing countries in enhancing their states of preparedness in order to ensure a high and effective level of security for their critical telecommunication/ICT infrastructures;

5 to assist Member States in the establishment of an appropriate framework between developing countries allowing rapid response to major incidents, and propose an action plan to increase their protection, taking into account mechanisms and partnerships, as appropriate;

6 to implement this resolution in cooperation and collaboration with the Director of TSB;

7 to report the results of the implementation of this resolution to the next WTDC,

invites the Secretary-General, in coordination with the Directors of the Radiocommunication Bureau, the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau and the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to report on MoUs between countries, as well as existing forms of cooperation, providing analysis of their status, scope and applications of these cooperative mechanisms to strengthen the building of confidence and security in the use of ICTs and combat computer crime, with a view to enabling Member States to identify whether additional memoranda or mechanisms are required;

2 to support regional and global projects aimed at building confidence and security in the use of ICTs, such as IMPACT, FIRST, OAS, APCERT, among others, and to invite all countries, particularly developing ones, to take part in these activities,

requests the Secretary-General

1 to bring this Resolution to the attention of the next plenipotentiary conference for consideration and required action, as appropriate;

2 to report the results of these activities to the Council and to the Plenipotentiary Conference in 2018,

invites Member States, Sector Members, Associates and Academia

1 to provide the necessary support for and participate actively in the implementation of this resolution;

2 to recognize the building of confidence and security in the use of ICTs and countering and combating spam as high-priority items, and to take appropriate action and contribute to building confidence and security in the use of telecommunications/ICTs at the national, regional and international level;

3 to encourage service providers to protect themselves from the risks identified, endeavour to ensure the continuity of services provided and notify security infringements,

invites Member States

1 to establish an appropriate framework allowing rapid response to major incidents, and propose an action plan to prevent and mitigate such incidents;

2 to establish strategies and capabilities at the national level to ensure protection of national critical infrastructures, including enhancing the resilience of telecommunication/ICT infrastructures.

**SUP** RPM-CIS/38/14

RESOLUTION 50 (Rev. Dubai, 2014)

Optimal integration of information and communication technologies

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Dubai, 2014),

**MOD** RPM-CIS/38/15

RESOLUTION 54 (Rev. BUENOS AIRES, 2017)

Information and communication technology applications

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Buenos Aires, 2017),

recalling

*a)* Resolution 65 (Rev. Hyderabad, 2010) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC) on improving access to healthcare services by using information and communication technologies;

*b)* Resolution 74 (Rev. Hyderabad, 2010) of WTDC on more effective adoption of e‑government services;

*c)* Resolution 37 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) on Bridging the digital divide;

*d)* Action Line C7 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, covering the following ICT applications:

• e‑government

• e‑business

• e‑learning

• e‑health

• e‑employment

• e‑environment

• e‑agriculture

• e‑science,

considering

*a)* the lessons learned from the implementation of Action Line C7 of the Tunis Agenda;

*b)* that the goal of using and disseminating information and communication technology (ICT) is to bring benefits in all aspects of our daily life, and that ICTs are enormously important in facilitating citizens' access to these applications;

*c)* that the sharing of infrastructure, when employed to support these applications, will lead to considerable savings in the cost of provision;

*d)* that the dissemination of these applications must give due regard to local needs in terms of language, culture and sustainable development;

*e)* that one of the principal advantages of satellite is access to remote, local communities without increased connection costs due to distance or to the geographical features of the areas in which the societies are located;

*f)* that the security and privacy of these applications require the building of confidence in the use of ICT for this purpose;

*g)* that asICT is being continuously integrated into all sectors of society, the applications referred to in Action Line C7 of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) are triggering profound changes in social productivity and hastening a major leap forward in industrial productivity, thus creating a good opportunity for developing countries to raise their level of industrial development and improve social and economic growth;

*h)* that sharing of experiences and best practices among ITU members will help to facilitate deployment of these applications,

noting

*a)* that digital literacy is a requirement for closing the digital divide;

*b)* that developing countries benefit from integrating ICTs into educational systems, by providing a more effective education experience and ensuring that all students obtain the skills necessary to succeed in a knowledge‑based economy and society;

*c)* that the benefits extend beyond the students:

– to their families, who may benefit from access to ICTs;

– to the local community, by leveraging schools transformed into the digital literacy training centres for all citizens; and

– to the broader community, by significantly increasing broadband and ICT penetration;

*d)* that such a transformation will improve education, assist in connecting all citizens globally, and facilitate the effective use of national resources for the future of children and society;

*e)* that countries and communities have limited education budgets which have to be apportioned among many different needs, and so studies on the relative benefits of ICTs in educational systems will help countries and communities make informed decisions,

resolves to instruct the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to continue to conduct detailed studies on ICT applications, focusing on the eight areas referred to in Action Line C7 of the WSIS Geneva Action Plan, and ICT applications for industry, as well as studies on the requirements for sustainable management and investment in telecommunications that enable access to these applications and services, relying upon the expertise acquired in the implementation of that action line, and taking into consideration the means available for implementation (whether wireline, wireless, terrestrial, satellite, fixed, mobile, narrowband or broadband);

2 to facilitate discussion and exchange of best practices regarding the challenges and benefits of implementing projects or activities relating to e‑applications referred to in WSIS Action Line C7 through strategic partnerships;

3 to take into consideration the importance of the security and confidentiality of the ICT applications highlighted in WSIS Action Line C7 and of protection of privacy, in order to facilitate discussions regarding guidelines, tools, strategies and mechanisms; improve collaboration between government authorities; implement user-friendly government services, potentially including integration and personalization of services; improve the quality of e‑government services; and increase awareness of such services;

4 to promote the sharing of Member States' strategies, best practices and technological platforms, increased technical support and training for these various WSIS Action Line C7 applications, and the sharing of guidelines and best practices for these applications with the developing countries, *inter alia* through a regional and/or global collaborative network based on the creation and/or strengthening of ICT applications referred to in WSIS Action Line C7;

5 to work with respective sectors and other partners related to their ICT applications referred to in WSIS Action Line C7, with emphasis on services for remote and rural areas of developing countries, using all available means as indicated in *resolves* 1;

6 to continue to promote the development of telecommunication standards for e‑health network solutions and interconnection with medical devices in the developing-country environment of, in conjunction with the ITU Radiocommunication Sector and the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector in particular;

7 to continue to make these applications a major strand for the activities of the relevant BDT programme, focusing on its key role for the implementation of study Questions related to ICT applications for the previous and forthcoming study periods;

8 to circulate the outputs of these activities on applications to all Member States on a regular basis;

9 to continue to inform forthcoming WTDCs of the lessons learned and of any amendments the Director may propose with a view to updating this resolution;

10 to ensure that the necessary resources within the budgetary limits are allocated to the above actions,

invites

international financial institutions, donor agencies and private‑sector entities to assist and to develop different business models in developing ICT applications referred to in WSIS Action Line C7, including public-private partnership projects and programmes in developing countries,

invites Member States and Sector Members

1 to incorporate, in their e‑government strategies and programmes, actions to encourage the use of ICTs to improve collaboration between government authorities, actions to encourage the implementation of user-friendly services, potentially including integration and personalization of services to improve the quality of e‑government services, and actions to increase awareness of such services;

2 to provide the Telecommunication Development Bureau with details of work relating to monitoring and evaluation of the status, usage, quality and impact of e‑government;

3 to participate actively in regional and global collaborative forums dealing with experiences and best practices in the implementation of e‑government strategies and programmes,

encourages Member States and Sector Members

1 to participate in the study of the role of ICTs in educational systems, by contributing their own experiences regarding the implementation of ICTs for achieving universal education worldwide;

2 to support the collection and analysis of data and statistics on e‑applications services, such as ICT applications in industry, e‑government and e‑health and ICT in education, that will contribute to public policy design and implementation as well as enabling cross-country comparisons.

**MOD** RPM-CIS/38/16

RESOLUTION 59 (REV. BUENOS AIRES, 2017)

Strengthening coordination and cooperation among the three
ITU Sectors on matters of mutual interest

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Buenos Aires, 2017),

recalling

*a)* Resolution 123 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on bridging the standardization gap between the developing[[13]](#footnote-14)1 and developed countries;

*b)* Resolution 191 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on Strategy for the coordination of efforts among the three Sectors of the Union;

*c)* Resolution 5 (Rev.Buenos Aires,2017) of this conference*,* on enhanced participation by developing countries in the work of ITU;

*d)* Resolution ITU-R 7-2 (Rev. Geneva, 2012) of the Radiocommunication Assembly, Telecommunication development including liaison and collaboration with the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector;

*e)* Resolutions 17, 26, 44 and 45 (Rev. Hammamet,2016) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA), on mutual cooperation and integration of activities between ITU‑T and ITU‑D;

*f)* Resolution 57 (Rev. Hammamet,2016) of WTSA, on strengthening coordination and cooperation among the three ITU Sectors on matters of mutual interest,

considering

*a)* that a basic principle for cooperation and collaboration among the three ITU Sectors is the need for avoiding duplication of activities of the Sectors, and ensuring that the work is undertaken efficiently and effectively;

*b)* that the mechanism for cooperation at secretariat level among the three Sectors and the General Secretariat of the Union was established to ensure close cooperation between the secretariats and with the secretariats of external entities and organizations that deal with key priority issues, such as emergency telecommunications and climate change;

*c)* that interaction and coordination in the joint holding of seminars, workshops, forums, symposia and so forth have yielded positive results in terms of financial and human resource savings,

taking into account

*a)* the expanding sphere of joint studies between the three Sectors and the need for coordination and cooperation among them in this regard;

*b)* the growing number of issues of mutual interest and concern to the three Sectors including, but not limited to: electromagnetic compatibility, international mobile telecommunications, middleware, audiovisual broadcasting, access to telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICTs) for persons with disabilities, emergency telecommunications including preparedness, ICT and climate change, cybersecurity, IoT, compliance of systems with the Recommendations emanating from the ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU‑R) and ITU‑T study groups and their joint activities, etc.;

*c)* the need to avoid duplication and overlapping of work among the Sectors and to support efficient and effective integration among them;

*d)* the ongoing consultation among representatives of the three advisory groups in the discussion of modalities for enhancing cooperation among them;

*e*) the recent establishment of an Intersector Coordination Task Force (ISC-TF) in the secretariat headed by the Deputy Secretary-General, and an intersector Coordination Group on issues of mutual interest,

resolves

1 to invite the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG), in collaboration with the Radiocommunication Advisory Group and the Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group, to continue to assist the intersector Coordination Group on issues of mutual interest in the identification of subjects common to the three Sectors or of common interest bilaterally to ITU-D and either ITU-R or ITU-T, and in identifying the necessary mechanisms to strengthen cooperation and joint activity among the three Sectors or with each Sector, on issues of joint interest, paying particular attention to the interests of the developing countries, including through the establishment of the inter-sectoral coordination team on issues of mutual interest;

2 to invite the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT), in collaboration with the Secretary-General, the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau, and the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau, and the Intersector Coordination Task Force (ISC-TF), to report to the intersector Coordination Group on issues of mutual interest and the respective Sector advisory bodies on options for improving cooperation at the secretariat level to ensure that close coordination is maximized;

3 to invite the ITU‑D study groups to continue cooperation with the study groups of the other two Sectors, in order to avoid duplication of study activity and to benefit from the results of the work of the study groups of the two Sectors;

4 to invite the Director of BDT to inform TDAG annually on the implementation of this resolution.

**MOD** RPM-CIS/38/17

RESOLUTION 66 (Rev. BUENOS AIRES, 2017)

Information and communication technology and climate change

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Buenos Aires, 2017),

recalling

*a)* Resolution 35 (Kyoto, 1994) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on telecommunication support for the protection of the environment;

*b)* Resolution 182 (Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the role of telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICTs) in regard to climate change and the protection of the environment;

*c)* Resolution 1353 adopted by the 2012 session of the ITU Council, which recognizes that telecommunications and ICTs are essential components for developed and developing countries[[14]](#footnote-15)1 in achieving sustainable development, and instructs the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the Directors of the Bureaux, to identify new activities to be undertaken by ITU to support developing countries in achieving sustainable development through telecommunications and ICTs,

*d)* § 20 of the Geneva Plan of Action of the World Summit on the Information Society, on e‑environment, calling for the establishment of monitoring systems using ICTs to forecast and monitor the impact of natural and man-made disasters, particularly in developing countries;

*e)* Resolution 34 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) of this conference, on the role of telecommunications/ICT in disaster preparedness, early warning, rescue, mitigation, relief and response;

*f)* Resolution 673 (Rev.WRC-12) of the World Radiocommunication Conference (Geneva, 2012), on the use of radiocommunications for Earth observation applications, in collaboration with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO);

*g)* the outcomes of the United Nations Climate Change Conference (Bali, Indonesia, 3‑14 December 2007), highlighting the role of ICTs as both a contributor to climate change and an important element in tackling the associated challenges;

*h)* Resolution 73 (Rev. Dubai, 2012) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA), on ICTs, environment and climate change, defining the role of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU‑T) in this area;

*i)* the results of ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU‑D) Study Group 2 Question 24/2 on ICT and climate change, and Question 22‑1/2, dealing with the utilization of telecommunications/ICTs for disaster preparedness, mitigation and response, and ITU‑D Study Group 1 Question 24/1, on strategies and policies for the proper disposal or reuse of telecommunication/ICT waste material;

*j)* Resolution 1307 adopted by the 2009 session of the Council, ITU studies having shown that ICT is one of the critical elements, if not the fundamental element, in combating climate change, in terms of monitoring climate change and the role it can play in any international agreement in this area, in addition to mitigating the effects of climate change in many cases;

*k)* Opinion 3 (Lisbon, 2009) of the World Telecommunication Policy Forum, on ICT and the environment, which highlighted the importance of the work associated with climate change in its many facets, including the global problems of the distribution of food, as well as the need for study on environmentally safe disposal and recycling of discarded ICT equipment;

*l)* the outcomes of the United Nations Climate Change Conference (Copenhagen, Denmark, 7‑16 December 2009);

*m)* the Nairobi Declaration on the Environmentally Sound Management of Electrical and Electronic Waste, and the adoption by the ninth Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention of the Work Plan for the Environmentally Sound Management of E‑waste, focusing on the needs of developing countries;

*n)* Resolution 79 (Dubai, 2012) of WTSA, on the role of telecommunications/ICTs in handling and controlling e‑waste from telecommunication and information technology equipment and methods of treating it;

*o)* the progress already made in the international symposia on ICTs, environment and climate change, held in various parts of the world[[15]](#footnote-16)2, by distributing their outcomes as widely as possible;

*p)* the outcomes of ITU-T Study Group 5 (Environment and climate change), including the work in the Joint Coordination Activity on ICT and climate change, which is responsible for studies on methodologies for evaluating the ICT effects on climate change and also for studying design methodologies to reduce environmental effects, for example recycling of ICT facilities and equipment;

*q)* the Luxor Call to Action on "Building a Water Resource Efficient Green Economy", adopted at the ITU Workshop on ICT as an Enabler for Smart Water Management, held in Luxor, Egypt on 14‑15 April 2013;

*r)* UNGA resolution A/70/1 "Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development",

taking into consideration

*a)* that the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) estimated that global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions had risen by more than 70 per cent since 1970, having an effect on global warming, changing weather patterns, rising sea-levels, desertification, shrinking ice cover and other long‑term effects;

*b)* that climate change is acknowledged as a threat to all countries and calls for a global response;

*c)* the role that ICTs and ITU can play in promoting green ICTs to mitigate climate‑change effects;

*d)* the importance of promoting sustainable development and the ways in which ICTs can enable clean development;

*e)* that the consequences of developing countries' lack of preparation in the past have recently come to light, and that they will be exposed to incalculable dangers and considerable losses, including the consequences of rising sea levels for many coastal areas in developing countries;

*f)* that the strategic plan for the Union for 2012-2015 gives clear priority to combating climate change using ICTs;

*g)* that radio-based remote sensing applications on board satellites are the main global observation tools employed by the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) for climate monitoring, disaster prediction, detection and mitigation of the negative effects of climate change;

*h)* that the role of ICTs in tackling the challenge of climate change encompasses a wide array of activities, including, but not limited to: the development of energy-efficient devices, applications and networks; the development of energy-efficient working methods; the implementation of satellite and ground-based remote‑sensing platforms for environmental observation, including weather monitoring; and the use of ICTs to warn the public of dangerous weather events and provide communication support for governmental and non-governmental aid providers,

*i)* Recommendation ITU‑T L.1000, on the universal power adapter and charger solution for mobile terminals and other handheld ICT devices, and Recommendation ITU‑T L.1100, on the procedure for recycling rare metals in ICT goods;

*j)* the final report of ITU-D Study Group 1 on Question 24/1 (Strategies and policies for the proper disposal or reuse of telecommunication/ICT waste material) (study period 2010-2014),

taking into consideration further

*a)* the outcome document adopted by Rio+20, entitled "The Future We Want", reflecting the renewal of commitment towards advancing sustainable development and achieving environmental sustainability;

*b)* that this outcome document recognizes that ICTs are facilitating the flow of information between governments and the public, highlighting the need to continue working towards improved access to ICTs, especially broadband networks and services, and bridging the digital divide, recognizing the contribution of international cooperation in this regard;

*c)* that the Rio+20 conference has called for further mainstreaming of the three dimensions of sustainable development throughout the United Nations system, inviting UN specialized agencies to consider appropriate measures for integrating the social, economic and environmental dimensions across the UN system's operational activities and to support developing countries, on request, in achieving sustainable development,

aware

*a)* that ICTs also contribute to GHG emissions, a contribution which, although relatively small, will grow with the increased use of ICTs, and that the necessary priority must be given to reducing GHG emissions from equipment;

*b)* that ICTs will make a major contribution to mitigating and adapting to the effects of climate change, as well as monitoring changes,

noting

*a)* current and future work on ICTs and climate change, including the work in relevant ITU study groups such as ITU‑T Study Group 5 and ITU‑D Study Group 2, which focus on the study of ICT environmental aspects of electromagnetic phenomena and climate change;

*b)* the use of ICTs as energy-efficient and eco-friendly working methods, as exemplified by the Virtual International Symposium on ICTs and Climate Change (23 September 2009, Seoul, Republic of Korea);

*c)* that it is important to facilitate an environment in which ITU Member States, Sector Members and other stakeholders may cooperate to obtain and effectively use remote‑sensing data for the purposes of research in climate change, disaster management and public administration[[16]](#footnote-17)3;

*d)* the positive impact of ICTs in mitigating climate change, insofar as they offer more energy-efficient alternatives to other applications by providing more efficient energy-management systems (buildings/homes) and distribution systems (smart grid);

*e)* the outcomes of the conferences of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC);

*f)* that there are other international forums that are working on climate-change issues with which ITU should cooperate,

resolves

1 to give priority to ITU‑D activities in this area and to providing the necessary support, while ensuring appropriate coordination among the three ITU Sectors on a full range of issues, including, for example, studies on the impact of non-ionizing radiation;

2 to continue and further develop ITU‑D activities on ICTs and climate change in order to contribute to the wider global efforts to moderate climate change being made by the United Nations;

3 to include, as a priority, assistance to developing countries in strengthening their human and institutional capacity in tackling ICTs and climate change, as well as in areas such as climate‑change adaptation, as a key element of disaster-management planning;

4 to increase awareness and promote information-sharing on the role of ICTs in enhancing environmental sustainability, in particular by promoting the use of more energy-efficient[[17]](#footnote-18)4 devices and networks and more efficient working methods, as well as ICTs that can be used to replace or displace higher energy consuming technologies/uses;

5 to promote the development and application of renewable energy systems where appropriate, to support ICT operations and in particular continuity and resilience during disasters;

6 to assist in bridging the standardization gap by providing technical assistance to countries in developing their national green ICT action plans;

7 to set up e‑learning programmes on ITU‑D Recommendations related to ICT, the environment and climate change,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau, in collaboration with the Directors of the other Bureaux

1 to formulate a plan of action for the role of ITU‑D in this regard, taking into account the role of the other two Sectors;

2 to ensure that the plan of action is implemented under the relevant objective of the Dubai Action Plan dealing with ICTs and climate change, taking into account the needs of developing countries, and cooperating closely with the study groups of the other two Sectors and with ITU‑D Study Group 2 in its implementation of the relevant Questions on ICTs and climate change;

3 to promote liaison with other relevant organizations in order to avoid duplication of work and optimize the use of resources;

4 to organize, in close collaboration with the Directors of the Radiocommunication Bureau (BR) and the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau (TSB) and with other competent bodies, workshops, seminars and training courses in developing countries at the regional level for the purpose of raising awareness and identifying key issues;

5 to report on progress on the implementation of this resolution annually at the meeting of the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG);

6 to ensure, in implementing the Dubai Action Plan, that appropriate resources are allocated for initiatives related to ICTs and climate change;

7 to provide input to the ITU‑T calendar of events relevant to ICTs, the environment and climate change, based on proposals by TDAG and in close collaboration with the other two Sectors;

8 to develop pilot projects aimed at bridging the standardization gap on environmental sustainability issues, in particular in developing countries, and gauge the needs of the developing countries in the field of ICTs, the environment and climate change, within available resources;

9 to support the development of reports on ICTs, the environment and climate change, taking into consideration relevant studies, in particular the ongoing work under ITU‑D Study Group 2 Questions 5/2, 6/2 and 8/2 related to, *inter alia*, ICTs and climate change, and to assist affected countries with utilizing relevant applications for disaster preparedness, mitigation and response, and management of telecommunication/ICT waste;

10 to assist developing countries in undertaking proper assessment of the size of e‑waste and in initiating pilot projects to achieve environmentally sound management of e‑waste through e‑waste collection, dismantling, refurbishment and recycling;

11 to assist developing countries in initiating projects that achieve the sustainable and smart management of water resources through the use of ICTs;

12 to assist developing countries in initiating projects on disaster prediction, detection, monitoring, response and relief,

instructs the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group

to consider possible changes to working methods in order to meet the objectives of this resolution, such as extending the use of electronic means, virtual conferencing, teleworking, etc.,

invites Member States, Sector Members and Associates

1 to continue to contribute actively to the ITU‑D work programme on ICTs and climate change;

2 to continue or initiate public and private programmes that include ICTs and climate change, giving due consideration to relevant ITU initiatives;

3 to take necessary measures to reduce the effects of climate change by developing and using more energy-efficient ICT devices, applications and networks;

4 to continue supporting the work of the ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R) in remote sensing (active and passive) for environmental observation[[18]](#footnote-19)5 in accordance with relevant resolutions adopted by radiocommunication assemblies and world radiocommunication conferences;

5 to integrate the use of ICTs as an enabling tool to address and combat the effects of climate change into national adaptation and mitigation plans;

6 to incorporate the environmental indicators, conditions and standards in their national ICT plans;

7 to liaise with their relevant national entities responsible for environmental issues in order to support and contribute to the wider United Nations process on climate change, by providing information and developing common proposals related to the role of telecommunications/ICTs in mitigating and adapting to the effects of climate change, so that they can be taken into consideration within UNFCCC.

**MOD** RPM-CIS/38/18

RESOLUTION 71 (Rev.Buenos Aires, 2017)

Strengthening cooperation between Member States, Sector Members,
Associates and Academia of the ITU Telecommunication
Development Sector, including the private sector

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Buenos Aires, 2012017),

considering

*a)* No. 126 of the ITU Constitution, which encourages participation by industry in telecommunication development in developing countries[[19]](#footnote-20)1;

*b)* the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU‑D) provisions of the strategic plan for the Union relating to the promotion of partnership arrangements between the public and private sectors in developed countries;

*c)* the importance placed, in the outcome documents of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), including the Geneva Plan of Action and the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, on private-sector participation in meeting the objectives of WSIS, including public-private partnerships;

*d)* that Sector Members, in addition to their financial contributions to the three Sectors of ITU, also provide professional expertise and support to the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) and, conversely, can benefit from participation in ITU‑D activities,

considering also

*a)* that ITU‑D, during the period 2018-2021, should undertake actions in order to be responsive to Sector Members' needs, in particular at the regional level;

*b)* that it is in the interest of ITU to achieve its development objectives, increase the number of Sector Members, Associates and Academia (cf. Resolution 169 (Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference) and promote their participation in the activities of ITU‑D;

*c)* that partnerships between and among the public and private sectors, including ITU and other entities such as national, regional, international and intergovernmental organizations, as appropriate, continue to be key to promoting sustainable telecommunication/information and communication technology (ICT) development;

*d)* that such partnerships prove to be an excellent tool for maximizing resources for, and the benefits of, development projects and initiatives,

recognizing

*a)* the rapidly changing telecommunication environment;

*b)* the important contribution that Sector Members make toward the increased provision of telecommunications/ICTs in all countries;

*c)* the progress achieved, through BDT special initiatives such as partnership meetings and colloquiums, in strengthening cooperation with the private sector and increased support at the regional level;

*d)* the continued need to ensure increased participation of Sector Members, Associates and Academia,

recognizing further

*a)* that telecommunications/ICTs are of critical importance to overall economic, social and cultural development;

*b)* that Sector Members, Associates and Academia may face challenges in the provision of ICT services;

*c)* the important role played by Sector Members, Associates and Academia in suggesting and implementing ITU‑D projects and programmes;

*d)* that a large number of ITU‑D programmes and activities are of interest to Sector Members, Associates and Academia;

*e)* the importance of the principles of transparency and non-exclusivity for partnership opportunities and projects;

*f)* the need to promote increased Sector, Associate and Academia membership and their active participation in ITU‑D activities;

*g)* the need to facilitate exchange of views and information between Member States, Sector Members, Associates and Academia at the highest possible level;

*h)* that these actions should strengthen the participation of Sector Members, Associates and Academia in all ITU‑D programmes and activities,

noting

*a)* that the role of the private sector in a very competitive environment is increasing in all countries;

*b)* that economic development relies, among others, on the resources and capacity of ITU‑D Sector Members;

*c)* that ITU‑D Sector Members are engaged in the work accomplished within ITU‑D and can provide ongoing support and expertise to facilitate the work of ITU‑D;

*d)* that ITU‑D Associates and Academia are engaged in the work accomplished within ITU‑D and can provide scientific and knowledge background to support ITU‑D's work;

*e)* that ITU‑D Sector Members, Associates and Academia have a key role in addressing ways by which private-sector issues can be incorporated into ITU‑D strategy development, programme design and project delivery, with the overall goal of increasing mutual responsiveness to the requirements of telecommunication/ICT development;

*f)* that ITU‑D Sector Members, Associates and Academia could also advise on ways and means of enhancing partnerships with the private sector and of reaching out to the private sector of developing countries and the many companies that are not knowledgeable of ITU‑D activities;

*g)* the excellent results achieved through the high-level discussions that took place between Member States and Sector Members during the Global Industry Leaders Forum (GILF),

resolves

1 that the ITU‑D operational plans should continue to respond to issues relevant to Sector Members, Associates and Academia by strengthening the communication channels between BDT, Member States and ITU‑D Sector Members, Associates and Academia at both the global and regional levels;

2 that ITU‑D, and the ITU regional offices in particular, should employ the necessary means to encourage the private sector to become Sector Members and to take a more active part through partnerships with telecommunication/ICT entities in developing countries, and especially with those in the least developed countries, in order to help close the gap in universal and information access;

3 that ITU‑D should take the interests and requirements of its Sector Members, Associates and Academia into account in its programmes so as to enable them to participate effectively in achieving the objectives of ITU;

4 that a permanent agenda item dedicated to private-sector issues will be included in the plenary agenda of the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG), dealing with relevant inputs concerning the private sector;

5 that the Director of BDT, when implementing the ITU‑D operational plan, should consider the following actions:

i) to improve regional cooperation between Member States, Sector Members, Associates and Academia and other relevant entities, through the continuation of regional meetings addressing issues of common interest, in particular for Sector Members, Associates and Academia;

ii) to facilitate the development of public-private sector partnerships for the implementation of global, regional and flagship initiatives;

iii) to promote through its various programmes an enabling environment for investment and ICT development;

6 that ITU regional offices should more actively encourage representatives of the private sector and universities not previously involved in the Union’s activities to participate in regional and global ITU events in order to demonstrate the advantages of membership and attract investment in ITU projects of great importance to Member States,

resolves further

that appropriate steps should continue to be taken for the creation of an enabling environment at the national, regional, and international levels to encourage development and investment in the ICT sector by Sector Members,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to continue working closely with ITU‑D Sector Members, Associates and Academia for their participation in successful implementation of the Buenos Aires Action Plan;

2 to address, as appropriate, in the programmes, activities and projects, issues of interest to Sector Members, Associates and Academia;

3 to facilitate communications between Member States, and Sector Members on issues which contribute to an enabling environment for investment, particularly in developing countries;

4 to continue to organize meetings for high-level industry executives, e.g. chief regulatory officers (CRO) meetings, possibly back-to-back with the Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR), in order to foster exchange of information and assist in identifying and coordinating development priorities;

5 to further deploy and strengthen the ITU‑D Sector Members, Associates and Academia portal in order to help exchange and disseminate information for all ITU members;

6 to develop a comprehensive strategy for raising the motivation of representatives of the private sector, including universities, to become Sector Members, Associates, and Academia, as well as a strategy for more active involvement of current Sector Members, Associates and Academia in the Union’s activities, including participation in the work of ITU-D study groups, ITU TELECOM and Kaleidoscope events, innovative project competitions, and other ITU events,

encourages Member States, Sector Members, Associates and Academia of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector

1 subject to the relevant provisions of the Constitution and the Convention, to participate together and actively in the work of TDAG, to submit contributions, in particular regarding private-sector issues to be discussed, and to provide relevant guidance for the Director of BDT;

2 to participate actively at the appropriate level in all initiatives of ITU‑D;

3 to identify means of enhancing cooperation and arrangements between the private and public sectors in all countries, working closely with BDT.

**MOD** RPM-CIS/38/19

RESOLUTION 73 (Rev. Buenos AIRES, 2017)

ITU centres of excellence

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Buenos Aires, 2017),

recalling

*a)* Resolution 139 (Rev.Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICTs) to bridge the digital divide and build an inclusive information society;

*b)* Resolution 123 (Rev.Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on bridging the standardization gap between developing and developed countries;

*c)* the terms of the Dubai Declaration;

*d)* Resolution 15 (Rev. Hyderabad, 2010), of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC), on applied research and transfer of technology;

*e)* Resolution 37 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) of this conference, on bridging the digital divide;

*f)* Resolution 40 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) of this conference, on the Group on capacity-building initiatives (GCBI);

*g)* Resolution 47 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) of this conference, on enhancement of knowledge and effective application of ITU Recommendations in developing countries, including conformance and interoperability testing of systems manufactured on the basis of ITU Recommendations,

considering

*a)* that ITU centres of excellence (CoE) have been operating successfully since 2001 in several languages including English, Arabic, Chinese, Spanish, French, Russian and Portuguese in different regions of the world;

*b)* that the Centres of Excellence programme will come into operation as from 1 January 2015 in accordance with the new strategy;

*c)* that, in every country, specialists in the field of telecommunications/ICTs hold great potential for development of the sector;

*d)* that there is a need for constant upgrading of the qualifications of telecommunication/ICT specialists;

*e)* that key ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) projects in regard to the training of telecommunication/ICT staff, including the work of the ITU centres of excellence, make a significant contribution to upgrading the qualifications of telecommunication/ICT specialists;

*f)* that the centres of excellence should be financially self-sustaining;

*g*) that since the new strategy entered into force, Centres of Excellence worldwide have held enough events to accumulate some experience;

*h)* that the need for further improvement of the strategy has been discussed repeatedly at meetings of CoE steering committees,

recognizing

*a)* that telecommunication/ICT staff training and capacity building, taking into account gender equality, youth and persons with disabilities, as well as the population as a whole, should be constantly developed and improved;

*b)* that ITU centres of excellence fulfil an important role in the ITU capacity-building scheme, including under the ITU Academy activities;

*c)* that partnerships and cooperation between ITU centres of excellence and with other education centres contribute to effective training of specialists;

*d)* the sovereign right of each State to formulate its own policy in regard to the licensing of services for capacity building;

*e)* the need to attract, first and foremost, qualified experts from academia to the work of the ITU centres of excellence;

*f)* that activities in the field of human capacity building are being organized and held in parallel in the ITU centres of excellence and in the regional/area offices under the operational plan of ITU‑D;

*g*) that a number of questions regarding procedures for concluding contracts, possible sources of funding for the work of CoEs, procedures for billing and receiving payments, CoE documentary procedures, and procedures for registering CoE events, remain problematic for a number of regions owing to specific features of national legislations,

resolves

1 that the activity of ITU centres of excellence should be continued and executed in accordance with the new Centres of Excellence strategy;

2 that the programme's themes be agreed by each WTDC and constitute a high priority for the ITU members and other stakeholders in accordance with a prior assessment of needs conducted at global and regional levels in consultation with regional organizations in the telecommunication/ICT sector and in accordance with the ITU strategic plan;

3 when setting priorities for the work of the ITU centres of excellence, to proceed from the current needs of the region, which are to be identified using the regional organizations or associations in the telecommunication/ICT sector as well as through consultations with ITU members;

4 to consider that human capacity-building efforts should be concentrated in the ITU centres of excellence, whose activities should be included in the operational plans;

5 that the numbers of centres of excellence will be regulated and endorsed by the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG);

6 that a regular assessment of the activities of centres of excellence shall be conducted and reported to TDAG,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to analyse the problematic issues complicating the implementation of the new CoE strategy and make appropriate changes to the document *Operational processes and procedures for new ITU Centres of Excellence strategy;*

2 to provide assistance for the work of the ITU centres of excellence according it the necessary priority attention;

3 in drawing up ITU-D operational plans, to incorporate therein activities prepared and carried out by the ITU centres of excellence under the corresponding ITU-D action plans;

4 to make the necessary organizational arrangements for the formulation of standards for ITU human capacity-building activities;

5 to facilitate the work of the ITU centres of excellence, providing them with the necessary support;

6 to make the necessary organizational arrangements for setting up, within the ITU regional/area offices, a database of experts and participants in ITU centres of excellence activities, for exchanges of experts in the field,

calls upon Member States, Sector Members and Academia of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector

to participate actively in the ITU Centres of Excellence activity, including through the provision of recognized experts, training materials and also financial support.

**MOD** RPM-CIS/38/20

RESOLUTION 81 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017)

Further development of electronic working methods for
the work of the ITU Telecommunication
Development Sector

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017),

recalling

*a)* Resolution 167 (Rev. Busan, 2012014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on strengthening ITU capabilities for electronic meetings and means to advance the work of the Union;

*b)* Resolution 66 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on documents and publications of the Union, regarding the electronic availability of documents;

*c)* Resolution 32 (Rev. Dubai, 2012) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly, on strengthening electronic working methods (EWM) for the work of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU‑T), and the implementation of EWM capabilities and associated arrangements in the work of ITU‑T,

considering

*a)* the rapid technological change in the field of telecommunications and the associated policy, regulatory and infrastructure adaptations required at national, regional and global levels;

*b)* the consequent need for the widest possible engagement of the ITU membership from around the world to address these matters in the work of the Union;

*c)* that developments in technologies and facilities for the holding of electronic meetings and the further development of EWM will enable more open, rapid and easy collaboration between participants in the activities of ITU, which may be paperless;

*d)* that the implementation of EWM capabilities and associated arrangements will have significant benefits for the membership of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU‑D), including resource-limited individuals, organizations and States, by allowing them timely and effective access to standards information and the standards-making and approval process;

*e)* that EWM will be advantageous towards improving communication among members of ITU‑D and between other relevant standardization organizations and ITU, towards globally harmonized standards;

*f)* the key role of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) in providing support to EWM capabilities,

recognizing

*a)* the budgetary difficulty of developing countries have in participating actively in face-to-face ITU‑D meetings;

*b)* that numerous ITU‑D meetings and ITU meetings as a whole are already available as audio and video webcasts and that use of videoconferencing, audioconference calls, real-time captioning and web-based collaboration tools for electronic participation in certain types of meetings have been advanced in meetings of the Sectors and the General Secretariat;

*c)* that, at the regional and national levels, considerable progress has also been made in the use of EWM,

recognizing further

*a)* the difficulties that developing countries, in particular least developed countries, could have in implementing electronic working methods;

*b)* that the time difference between regions complicates remote participation in meetings,

mindful

that some activities and procedures associated with certain ITU‑D meetings still require direct face-to-face participation by the Union's membership,

noting

*a)* that, as an alternative to face-to-face meetings, there are benefits in utilizing electronic meetings to progress discussions;

*b)* that the existence of electronic meetings, with well-documented rules and procedures, will help ITU‑D in widening the involvement of potential stakeholders, particularly from developing countries, who are unable to participate in face-to-face meetings;

*c)* that electronic meetings may lead to increased efficiency of the activities of ITU‑D and reduction of costs for all parties,for example by reducing the need for travel and reducing the need for printed copies of documents, thereby contributing to climate neutrality;

*d)* that different modes of participation are suitable for different types of meetings;

*e)* that there is a need for procedures to ensure fair and equitable participation by all;

*f)* that electronic meetings can contribute to bridging the digital divide;

*g)* that there needs to be a coordinated and harmonized approach to the EWM technologies used, both in ITU‑D and in ITU as a whole,

noting further

*a)* the desire of members to receive documents in electronic format in a timely manner and the need to reduce the increasing amount of hard-copy documentation generated during meetings and dispatched by mail;

*b)* that many forms of EWM have already been implemented by ITU‑D, such as electronic document submission and the electronic forum service;

*c)* the preferred use of portable computers by members during meetings;

*d)* the advantage to the membership of facilitating greater electronic participation in the work of rapporteur groups, study groups and the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG), in particular by members unable to participate in meetings in Geneva and elsewhere;

*e*) the difficulties in bandwidth availability and other constraints, particularly in developing countries;

*f)* the economies possible from enhancing ITU‑D EWM capabilities (e.g. reduced costs for distribution of paper documentation, travel costs, etc.);

*g)* the experience gained by the other ITU Sectors and other organizations of collaboration using EWM;

*h)* that the use of EWM often helps to broaden significantly the opportunities for attracting experts to participate in ITU events, including events associated with the ITU Academy and centres of excellence,

resolves

1 to further develop facilities and capabilities for remote participation by electronic means in appropriate meetings of ITU‑D;

2 to build upon trials for electronic meetings, such that their subsequent implementation is technologically neutral, to the greatest extent possible, and cost effective, in order to allow broad participation, satisfying the necessary security requirements;

3 that the principal EWM objectives of ITU‑D are:

• that collaboration between ITU‑D members on the development and dissemination of texts should be also by electronic means, bearing in mind that the procedure for the approval of documents is specified in Resolution 1 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of this conference;

• that BDT, in close collaboration with the Radiocommunication Bureau (BR) and Telecommunication Standardization Bureau (TSB), should provide facilities and capabilities for EWM at meetings, workshops and trainings, particularly to assist developing countries, least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition that have bandwidth limitations and other constraints;

• to encourage electronic participation of developing countries in ITU‑D meetings, by providing simplified facilities and guidelines, and by waiving any expenses on those participants, other than the local call or Internet connectivity charges;

• that BDT should provide all members of ITU‑D with appropriate and ready access to electronic documentation for their work, including a global, unified and consolidated view of document traceability;

• to continue to develop regional EWM systems, including videoconferencing systems based at ITU’s regional and area offices worldwide;

• that BDT should provide appropriate systems and facilities to support the conduct of ITU‑D's work by electronic means; and

• that all activities, procedures, studies and reports of ITU‑D study groups be posted on the ITU‑D website in an easy manner to navigate and find all relevant information,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to take action, in consultation with TDAG, in order to provide appropriate electronic participation or observation facilities in ITU‑D meetings for delegates unable to attend face-to-face meetings;

2 to elaborate, together with the General Secretariat and Bureaux of the other Sectors, a coordinated and harmonized approach to the EWM technology used in ITU;

3 to involve TDAG in the evaluation of the use of electronic meetings and to develop further procedures and rules associated with electronic meetings, including the legal aspects;

4 to continue to implement and regularly update the EWM action plan to address the practical and physical aspects of increasing the EWM capability of ITU‑D, including the use of tools such as videoconferencing;

5 to ensure that the objectives referred to in *resolves* 2 above are systematically addressed in the EWM Action Plan, including individual action items identified by the ITU‑D membership or BDT, and to establish their priority and management in consultation with TDAG;

6 to identify and review costs and benefits of the action items on a regular basis;

7 to report to each meeting of TDAG on the status of the EWM Action Plan, including the results of the cost and benefit reviews described above;

8 to assign the executive authority, budget within BDT and resources to execute the EWM Action Plan as swiftly as possible;

9 to continue to develop and disseminate guidelines for the use of ITU‑D EWM facilities and capabilities;

10 to take action in order to provide appropriate electronic participation or observation facilities (e.g. webcast, audioconference, webconference/document sharing, videoconference, etc.) in ITU‑D meetings, workshops and training courses for delegates unable to attend events in person, and to coordinate with BDT to assist in the provision of such facilities;

11 to continue promoting electronic working methods so as to encourage and facilitate the participation of all developing countries in the work of ITU‑D;

12 to provide an ITU‑D website that is easy to navigate to find all relevant information, with use of the Union's six official languages on an equal footing;

13 to report to the ITU Council on an ongoing basis on the developments made with regard to electronic meetings, in order to assess progress in their use within ITU,

instructs the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group

1 to continue to participate in the development and implementation of the action plan on EWM and on further procedures and rules associated with electronic meetings, including the legal aspects;

2 to review the status of the EWM Action Plan on a regular basis,

invites Sector Members of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector

to assist BDT in implementing the EWM Action Plan.

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1. 1 Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT), African Telecommunications Union (ATU), European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT), Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL), Council of [Arab Ministers of Telecommunications and Information](http://www.lasportal.org/en/councils/ministerialcouncil/Pages/MCouncilAbout.aspx?RID=13" \o ") of League of Arab States (LAS), Regional Commonwealth in the Field of Communications (RCC). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. 1 These include colleges, institutes, universities and associated research institutions interested in telecommunication/ICT development. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. 2 These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. 1 This model outlines the information to be submitted and the format of the contribution. The contribution is, however, submitted through an online template. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. \* These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. As noted in Recommendation ITU‑R SM.1603, redeployment is also referred to as refarming. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Report ITU-R SM.2353 “The challenges and opportunities for spectrum amanagement resulting from the transition to digital terrestrial television in the UHF bands”. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. 2 Here, "guidelines" refers to a range of options that may be used by ITU Member States in their domestic spectrum-management activities. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. 1 An initiative shall take the form of an all-embracing heading under which a number of projects can be included, leaving it to each region to define these. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. 2 These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. 1 These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition. [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
12. 1 These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition. [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
13. 1 These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition. [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
14. 1 These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition. [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
15. 2 Kyoto, Japan, 15-16 April 2008; London, United Kingdom, 17-18 June 2008; [Quito, Ecuador](http://www.itu.int/ITU-T/worksem/climatechange/200907/index.html), 8‑10 July 2009; Seoul Virtual Symposium, 23 September 2009; Cairo, Egypt, 2‑3 November 2010; Accra, Ghana, 7-8 July 2011; Seoul, Republic of Korea, 19 September 2011; and Montreal, Canada, 29-31 May 2012. [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
16. 3 This includes areas such as water management, air quality, agriculture, fishing, health, energy, environment, ecosystems and pollution control. [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
17. 4 With respect to efficiency, promotion of efficient use of materials used in ICT devices and network elements should also be a consideration in ITU‑D activity. [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
18. 5 Environmental observation can be used to forecast weather and warn the public in the case of natural disasters, and to gather information on dynamic environmental processes and systems. [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
19. 1 These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition. [↑](#footnote-ref-20)