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| PLENARY MEETING | **Document TDAG17-22/41-E** |
|  | **12 April 2017** |
|  | **Original: English** |
| Regional Preparatory Meeting for WTDC 17 for the Americas (RPM-AMS) |
| Outcomes from RPM-AMS |
|  |
| **Summary:**This document includes all agreed outcomes from RPM-AMS that took place in Asunción, Paraguay, from 22 to 24 February 2017, as reflected in the Chairman’s report (Document [RPM-AMS17/41](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMAMS-C-0041/)), namely:* Revised preliminary draft WTDC-17 Declaration, and
* Draft new Regional Initiatives.

**Action required:**TDAG is invited to note this document.**References:**[RPM-AMS17/41](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMAMS-C-0041/) |

**MOD** RPM-AMS/41/1

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),

recognizing

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

*b)* that ITU-D should adapt and reinforce the existing links between the WSIS Action Lines and the Sustainable Development Goals and Targets through the regional initiatives and Action Plan and by contributing to the ITU Strategic Plan, in order to support global evolution;

*c)* that technological change and the new and innovative opportunities provided by telecommunications/ICTs should be accompanied by ambitious decision-making and measures aimed at reducing poverty and inequalities and fostering the protection of our planet, all of which are spheres that are critical to the progress of humankind;

*d)* that telecommunications/ICTs also play a crucial role in various areas such as health, education, agriculture, governance, finance, commerce, poverty reduction, disaster risk reduction and management, climate change mitigation and adaptation;

*e)* that access to modern, secure and affordable telecommunication/ICT infrastructure, applications and services offers opportunities for boosting productivity and efficiency, improving peoples' lives and ensuring that sustainable development across the world becomes a reality, particularly in Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) and countries with economies in transition;

*f) that* widespread pilot programmes on conformance and interoperability of telecommunication/ICT equipment and systems through the implementation of relevant programmes, policies and decisions can increase market opportunities, competitiveness and reliability and encourage global integration and trade;

*g)* that telecommunication/ICT applications provide innovative and beneficial services for individuals, communities and societies at large, but canalso entail difficulties in terms of building confidence and trust in the availability, reliability and security in the use of telecommunication/ICT systems;

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

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

*j)* that ITU is committed to improving people’s lives and making the world a better place throughthe use oftelecommunications and ICTs;

*k)* that developing telecommunication/ICT infrastructure in rural, remote and underserved areas and ensuring the availability of affordable and accessible ICTs is a priority, calling for the identification of effective, innovative, affordable and sustainable solutions,

therefore declares

1 that widely accessible and affordable telecommunications/ICTs make a fundamental contribution to implementation of the WSIS Action Lines and of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals;

2 that is essential in enabling infrastructure deployment and boosting the penetration of high-capacity, high-quality ICT services, and that new and emerging technologies should be harnessed in the interests of supporting global efforts aimed at further development of the information society;

3 that 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, foster continued technological and service innovation, based on standards, platforms, environments and open applications, as well as on provisions which facilitate the harnessing of network capacities and efficient use of the spectrum, while at the same time creating investment incentives at the national, regional and international levels;

4 that innovation and evolution in the use of telecommunications/ICTs play, or are capable of playing, a fundamental role in the development of the digital economy, having a transforming effect on individuals, societies and economies throughout the world;

5 that digital literacy and ICT skills, as well as human and institutional capacity in the development, appropriation and use of telecommunication/ICT networks, applications and services should be enhanced to enable people to contribute to ideas, knowledge and sustainable development;

6 that telecommunications/ICTs can contribute to the creation of significant opportunities for education and training throughout people’s lives, including people with disabilities and specific needs, and that achieving this calls for the adoption of immediate, sustained and specific measures in the interests of ensuring an inclusive, egalitarian and quality education;

7 that the “Measuring the Information Society Report” and elaborating proper and comparable indicators/statistics is important for both Member States and the private sector, as well as other relevant sectors, in order to identify the levels of progress and development and any digital divides that still remain;

8 that an inclusive information society should be committed to fostering people’s social and economic progress, with emphasis on the needs of persons with disabilities and specific needs and of vulnerable and marginalized groups, and should pursue mechanisms for creating new forms of social and educational relationships in which female and male stereotypes make way for a new vision in which all individuals, irrespective of gender, age, race, religion and so on, are acknowledged as essential agents for sustainable development;

9 that an inclusive information society should create opportunities for women and girls, ensuring a global approach to gender equality;

10 that opportunities provided by telecommunications/ICTs should be fully exploited with the aim of ensuring equitable access to telecommunications/ICTs and to innovations that foster sustainable socio-economic development, poverty alleviation, job creation, entrepreneurship and the promotion of digital inclusion and empowerment for all, particularly women, young people, children, the elderly, indigenous peoples and persons with disabilities;

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

12 that building trust, confidence and security in the use of telecommunications/ICTs is a priority that calls for greater international cooperation and coordination between governments, relevant organizations, private companies and other stakeholders, in the interests of capacity building and exchange of best practices;

13 that cooperation between innovators in developed and developing countries, as well as between developing countries, is to be encouraged, since it paves way for technical cooperation, technology and knowledge transfer and joint research activities;

14 that the promotion of investment for the development of broadband infrastructure, services and applications contributes to the sustainable and integrated economic growth of peoples, and that in this respect the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector must be a key player in the creation of alliances and spaces for cooperation between Member States, the private sector, international funding agencies and other stakeholders;

15 that there is scope for the further strengthening of public and private models and of public-private partnerships in order to identify and apply innovative technological solutions and financing mechanisms for inclusive and sustainable development;

16 that innovation should be integrated into national policies, initiatives and programmes to promote sustainable development and economic growth through multi-stakeholder partnerships, between developing countries and between developed and developing countries to facilitate the voluntary transfer of knowledge and of ecologically rational technologies under favourable conditions and on mutually agreed terms;

17 that international cooperation should be continuously enhanced and promoted among ITU Member States, Sector Members, Associates, Academia and other partners, stakeholders and initiatives in the interests of achieving sustainable development through the use of telecommunications/ICTs;

18 that the ITU membership and other interested parties should cooperate in implementation of the Connect 2020 global telecommunication/information and communication technology goals and targets;

19 that the regions have articulated their specific priorities in a set of regional initiatives, which can be found in the Buenos Aires Action Plan adopted by this conference, and that the implementation of those initiatives deserves a high priority on the part of ITU‑D.

Accordingly, we, the delegates to the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC‑17), declare our commitment to catalysing the expansion and use of telecommunication/ICT infrastructure, applications and services for implementation of the WSIS Action Lines and timely attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals and Targets as set out in the document entitled "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-AMS/41/2

AMERICAS REGIONAL INITIATIVES

# AMS1: Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Communications

**Objective:** To provide assistance to Member States during all phases of disaster risk reduction, i.e. early warning, disaster response and relief and rehabilitation of telecommunication networks, particularly in Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and the Least Developed Countries (LDCs).

**Expected results**

1) Identification of suitable technologies to be used for disaster risk reduction communications, and development of implementation feasibility studies, conformance and interoperability among other technologies and services based on IP technology for emergency telecommunications.

2) Implementation of national and sub-regional early-warning systems, as well as emergency response and recovery , and identification of critical infrastructure, with special focus on Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Least Developed Countries (LDCs), considering the influence of climate change.

3) Assistance for the development of appropriate policy, regulatory and legislative frameworks, as well as protocols and inter-agency procedures on communications within disaster risk reduction at the national and regional level.

4) Regional meetings and workshops to share experiences and best practices on telecommunications/ICTs for preventive measures for disaster risk reduction and emergency response, maximizing resources, creating more innovative and effective programmes and coordinating actions in border areas for the Americas region.

5) Temporary availability of equipment for emergency and recovery communications in the Americas region, at the initial stage of a disaster intervention, as part of ITU cooperation in cases of emergency.

# AMS2: Spectrum management and transition to digital broadcasting

**Objective:** To provide assistance to Member States in the transition to digital broadcasting, the use of the digital dividend frequencies and spectrum management.

**Expected results**

1) Capacity building in spectrum management, digital broadcasting technologies, and the use of the digital dividend and new broadcasting services and applications, providing assistance in using the tools to support developing countries in improving international coordination of terrestrial services in border areas.

2) Support for the elaboration of spectrum-management plans at the national and regional levels, including the transition to digital broadcasting and the promotion of policies for the use of spectrum in underserved areas.

3) Elaboration of studies, indicators and guidelines on aspects of the assignment and use of radio-frequency spectrum, with a view, inter alia, to facilitating the use of spectrum for International Mobile Telecommunications and the harmonization of spectrum use among countries in the region, taking into account Resolution 9 (Rev. Dubai 2014) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference.

4) Assistance to countries in the promotion of inclusive strategies related to the digitization of broadcasting services, including the availability of affordable digital broadcast receivers, and communication strategies to educate and to promote consumer awareness.

5) Assistance in national and regional planning for the use of frequencies released by the transition to digital broadcasting and the deployment of new technologies for broadcasting services.

# AMS3: Deployment of broadband infrastructure, especially in rural and neglected areas, and strengthening of broadband access to services and applications

**Objective:** To provide assistance to Member States to identify needs and in the development of policies, mechanisms and regulatory initiatives to reduce the digital divide by increasing broadband access and uptake, as a means to achieve the SDG.

**Expected results**

1) Assistance in the development of a situational study on the deployment of broadband infrastructure for fixed and mobile services and spectrum use that will enable Administrations to identify the needs and opportunities especially of rural and neglected areas, taking into account specific sub-regional characteristics.

2) Assistance for the implementation or improvement of national broadband coverage plans; including support to educational institutions, advanced networks, research centers, cooperatives and non-profit organizations that provide telecommunication services, especially in rural, remote and underserved areas, taking into account mechanisms for access to spectrum and high-speed networks and fostering an enabling environment to promote investment in networks.

3) Establishment of metrics and methodologies for measuring the conditions of broadband services, leveraging public and private investments, public-private partnerships, and the participation of small and non-profit operators, especially in Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

4) Assistance for the implementation of plans that promote access to ICTs in municipalities, through the concept of digital/smart cities, and in public social service institutions as well as increase access and use of ICTs by the public, especially in rural and underserved areas, to foster access to social services.

5) Consolidation and dissemination of information, including through meetings and workshops, about standards and conformance and interoperability, and exchange best practices related to the deployment and operation of broadband networks especially in rural areas, and connectivity, with emphasis on LDC, LLDCs and SIDS.

# AMS4: Accessibility and affordability for an inclusive and sustainable Americas region

**Objective:** To provide assistance to Member States in ensuring the affordability of telecommunication/ICT services in order to build an Information Society for all and ensure the accessibility of telecommunications/ICTs for persons with disabilities and others in vulnerable situations.

**Expected results**

1) Assistance to develop guidelines and public policies to promote efficiency in the provision of and accessibility to telecommunication/ICT services, especially mobile and emergency services, and also considering, but not restricted to, the usage of audiovisual accessibility tools.

2) Assistance for the implementation of recommendations to help improve the affordability of broadband; analysing the different factors and recommendations on actions for the promotion of the development and management, as appropriate, of national, sub-regional and regional Internet exchange points (IXPs), subject to national decision, and related to policy and regulatory aspects for enabling the implementation of agreement and alliances on IXPs, in addition to recommendations to improve the availability of transport to international submarine fibre-optic network connection points, especially for LLDCs and SIDS.

3) Studies monitoring affordability levels in countries, disaggregated by socioeconomic variables and taking into account specific and vulnerable populations, for inclusion in the broadband plans, policies, strategies, actions and goals for these population groups in addition to recommendations based on studies of policies and initiatives that enable price reduction of telecommunication/ICT services, broadband deployment and efficient use of spectrum.

4) To recommend policies that facilitate an enabling environment for the full enjoyment of telecommunication/ICT access and use by all; through the implementation of local/national ICT projects to eliminate disparities in education at all levels and in professional training, the development of platforms to provide communication and relay services for persons with disabilities, the development of accessible websites for government programmes, services and information and the implementation of e-government services and other services.

5) Recommendations on actions for the promotion of cooperation and information sharing on all topics related to public and regulatory policies that improve affordability for telecommunication services and broadband.

# AMS5: Development of the Digital Economy, Smart Cities and Communities (SCC) & Internet of Things (IoT), Promoting Innovation

**Objective:** To assist Member States in developing national and regional policies to boost the digital economy, Smart Cities and Communities (SCC) and IoT.

**Expected results**

1) Provide assistance to Member States in the elaboration of ICT policies to promote the development of the digital economy in the region, leveraging new technologies to foster development and promotion of appropriate solutions.

2) Meetings and workshops on the impact of the digital economy in the region, in collaboration with other relevant organizations.

3) Elaboration of recommendations to promote the creation of innovation centers, including educational innovation, and projects that contribute to the ICT industry, with emphasis on Start-ups, SMEs and young entrepreneurs, with special focus on women, among others.

4) Identification of partners/alliances to strengthen innovation based on ICT and the funding of projects and initiatives for the development of the digital economy, SCC and IoT, building coalitions and multistakeholder alliances prioritizing young entrepreneurs.

5) To promote strategies and disseminate best practices on the appropriate management of e-waste.

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