

RESOLUTION ITU-R 67

Telecommunication/ICT accessibility for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs

(2015)

The ITU Radiocommunication Assembly,

recalling

- a)* Article 8B of the International Telecommunication Regulations (ITR);
- b)* Resolution 70 (Rev. Dubai, 2012) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly, on telecommunication/information and communication technology (ICT) accessibility for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs, and the current regulatory framework, as well as the studies, initiatives and events on the subject carried out by the Telecommunication Standardization Sector of ITU (ITU-T) and its study groups, in particular Study Groups 2 and 16, in cooperation with the Joint Coordination Activities on Accessibility and Human Factors (JCA-AHF);
- c)* the outcome document of the High-Level Meeting on Disability and Development (HLMDD) convened by the United Nations General Assembly at the level of Heads of State and Government on 23 September 2013, under the theme “The ICT Opportunity for a Disability-Inclusive Development Framework”, which stresses the need for inclusive development in which persons with disabilities are both agents and beneficiaries;
- d)* Resolution 175 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on telecommunication/ICT accessibility for persons with disabilities, including age-related disabilities, which resolves to take account of persons with disabilities in the work of ITU;
- e)* Resolution 17 (Rev. Dubai 2014) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC), on regional initiatives, in which the Arab, Asia-Pacific, Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and European countries have identified harnessing the benefits brought by new technologies and guaranteeing access to telecommunication/ICT services for persons with disabilities as a common issue;
- f)* Resolution 58 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) of WTDC, on telecommunication/ICT accessibility for persons with disabilities, including age-related disabilities,

emphasizing

- a)* the WSIS+10 Statement on the implementation of WSIS outcomes and the WSIS+10 Vision for WSIS beyond 2015, adopted at the high-level event WSIS+10 coordinated by ITU (Geneva, 2014), which claims that “ICTs have the potential to be a key enabler of development, and to be a critical component of innovative development solutions in the Post-2015 Development Agenda. ICTs should be fully recognized as tools empowering people, and providing economic growth towards achieving development, taking into account the growing importance of relevant content, skills and an enabling environment”;
- b)* Resolution 191 (Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on a strategy for the coordination of efforts among the three Sectors of the Union;
- c)* Resolution 200 (Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the Connect 2020 Agenda for global telecommunication/ICT development, which established global goals and targets

that consider essential the existence of enabling environments to guarantee accessible telecommunications/ICTs for persons with disabilities worldwide;

d) Resolution 196 (Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on protecting telecommunication service users/consumers;

e) Resolution 197 (Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on facilitating the Internet of Things to prepare for a globally connected world, so that services can redefine the relationship between people and devices,

recognizing

a) the ongoing work in the Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R) to support the needs of and protect persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs:

i) Recommendation ITU-R M.1076, on Wireless communication systems for persons with impaired hearing;

ii) the relevant parts of ITU-R DTTB Handbook – Digital terrestrial television broadcasting in the VHF/UHF bands, about techniques to broadcast programmes for the hearing impaired;

iii) the initiatives tending to bridge the disability-related digital divide, including the work of ITU-R Study Group 6 on broadcasting and the creation of a new Inter-Sector Rapporteur Group on Audiovisual Media Accessibility (IRG-AVA) between ITU-R and ITU-T;

iv) the work of relevant ITU-R study groups regarding improved access to hearing aid prostheses worldwide and recognition of any barriers created by uses of spectrum without considering the requirements persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs;

b) that for radiocommunication services that could support applications for persons with disabilities, the particular set of characteristics and coexistence conditions of these devices with other applications may depend on the frequency band and other technical and operational characteristics;

c) that further studies may be needed on the implementation of technologies that support persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs, taking into account the relevant radio aspects,

taking into account

that the use of telecommunications/ICTs by persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs represents an essential tool for their personal, social and economic development, giving them the chance in their lives to empower their autonomy,

resolves to invite ITU-R

to continue conducting studies, research, guidelines and recommendations, related to telecommunication/ICT accessibility for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs, taking into account *recognizing b)* and *c)*, and in close cooperation with ITU-T and ITU-D,

instructs the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau

1 to cooperate with the Directors of the Telecommunication Development Bureau and the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau in the sustainable development of devices and applications promoting compatibility of the new technologies with the current ones to benefit telecommunication/ICTs for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs;

2 to encourage and promote representation by persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs so as to ensure that their experiences, views and opinions are taken into account when developing and progressing ITU-R work.