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| Note by the Secretary-General | |
| resolutions of the WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE (wtdc-17) BROUGHT TO the attention of  the plenipotentiary conference | |
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The World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-17, Buenos Aires, Argentina, 9-20 October 2017) has adopted a number of Resolutions which were requested to be brought to the attention of the Plenipotentiary Conference. The text of these Resolutions is attached.

Houlin Zhao

Secretary-General

Annex

ANNEX

Resolutions of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-17)

brought to the attention of the Plenipotentiary Conference

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RESOLUTION 5 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017)

Enhanced participation by developing countries[[1]](#footnote-1)1  
in the activities of the Union

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

considering

*a)* Resolutions 25 and 123 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on strengthening the ITU regional presence and bridging the standardization gap between developing and developed countries;

*b)* Resolution 30 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on special measures for the least developed countries (LDCs), small island developing states (SIDS), landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) and countries with economies in transition;

*c)* Resolutions 166, 167, 169 and 170 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, to encourage and facilitate the participation of developing countries and their Sector Members and academia in the activities of the Union;

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

*e)* Resolution 198 (Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on empowerment of youth through telecommunications/ICTs;

*f)* Resolution ITU‑R 7 (Rev. Geneva, 2015) of the Radiocommunication Assembly, on telecommunication development including liaison and collaboration with the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D);

*g)* Resolutions 54 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016) and 59 and 74 (Rev. Dubai, 2012) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA), on the need to improve the participation of developing countries and their Sector Members in the work of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T),

recognizing

*a)* the multifarious difficulties encountered by the developing countries, in particular LDCs, SIDS, LLDCs and countries with economies in transition, as well as countries under stringent budgetary restrictions, in ensuring their effective and efficient participation in the work of ITU‑D and the study groups;

*b)* that harmonious and balanced development of the worldwide telecommunication network is of mutual advantage to the developed and the developing countries;

*c)* the need to identify a mechanism for developing countries to participate in and contribute to the work of the ITU‑D study groups;

*d)* the importance of bringing the work of the ITU‑D study groups closer to developing countries, especially in those cases where it is not possible to establish a physical presence;

*e)* that limited resources and experience of attendants from developing countries remain a challenge for enhancing their effective participation in ITU activities;

*f)* the encouraging results attained through the remote participation pilot test undertaken in the last study period by the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT),

convinced

*a)* of the need to enhance the effective participation and attendance of developing countries in the work of ITU;

*b)* of the integrating role the ITU regional and area offices may take on in this task,

resolves to instruct the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to ensure that ITU‑D study group meetings and forums/seminars/workshops are held, to the extent practicable, and within the available financial limits, outside Geneva, limiting their deliberations to subjects stipulated in their agendas and reflecting the actual needs and priorities of the developing countries;

2 to ensure that ITU‑D, including the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG), at both the headquarters and regional level, participates in the preparation and implementation of world telecommunication policy forums, and invites the study groups to participate therein,

further instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 in close collaboration with the Directors of the Radiocommunication and Telecommunication Standardization Bureaux, to consider and implement the best ways and means to assist developing countries in preparing for and participating actively in the work of the three Sectors, and notably in the Sector advisory groups, assemblies and conferences and in the study groups of relevance to developing countries, particularly in relation to the work of the ITU‑T study groups, in line with the resolutions mentioned under *considering* above;

2 to conduct studies on how to increase the participation of developing countries and of Sector Members and other telecommunication players from developing countries in the work of ITU‑D;

3 to extend, within the financial limitations and taking into account other possible sources of financing, the granting of fellowships to participants from developing countries attending study group meetings, the advisory groups of all three Sectors and other important meetings, including conference preparatory meetings, combining, wherever applicable, attendance at more than one successive event;

4 to assist developing countries in the preparation of and participation in ITU meetings and conferences as well as those of regional organizations, through training programmes on preparatory process, meeting leadership skills, meeting structures, formalities and how to improve participation and contribute to the meetings;

5 to continue promoting remote participation and meetings and electronic working methods so as to encourage and facilitate the full participation of developing countries in the work of ITU‑D,

invites the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau and the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau

to encourage meetings to be held outside Geneva where this will facilitate greater participation of local experts from countries and regions distant from Geneva,

invites Member States, Sector Members and Associates

1 to participate or increase their participation in the activities of the Union based on procedures approved under Resolutions 169 and 170 (Rev. Busan, 2014);

2 subject to the relevant provisions of the ITU Constitution and Convention, to consider the appointment of candidates to chairmanships and vice-chairmanships of the Sector advisory groups, study groups and other groups, based on an equitable distribution method approved under Resolution 166 (Rev. Busan, 2014);

3 to strengthen their cooperation with the ITU regional offices in relation to implementation of this resolution,

requests the Secretary-General

to report to the Plenipotentiary Conference on the expected financial implications of the implementation of this resolution, proposing also other possible sources of financing,

invites the Plenipotentiary Conference

1 to give the necessary attention to implementation of this resolution when establishing the basis for the budget and related financial limits;

2 when adopting the financial plan of the Union, to provide the necessary funds to BDT in order to facilitate the wider attendance and participation of developing countries in the activities of ITU‑D.

RESOLUTION 16 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017)

Special actions and measures for the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and  
countries with economies in transition

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

recalling

*a)* United Nations resolutions concerning programmes for least developed countries (LDCs), small island developing states (SIDS), landlocked developing countries (LLDCs), and countries with economies in transition;

*b)* Resolution 68/198 of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), on information and communication technologies (ICT) for development;

*c)* UNGA Resolution 68/220, on science, technology and innovation for development;

*d)* UNGA Resolution 70/1, on transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

*e)* UNGA Resolution 70/125, on the outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS),

considering

*a)* Resolution 30 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on special measures for LDCs, SIDS, LLDCs and countries with economies in transition;

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

recognizing

that telecommunications/ICTs are a key tool for implementing the WSIS vision beyond 2015 and a key enabler for social, environmental, cultural and economic development, and consequently for accelerating the timely attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and associated targets,

noting

*a)* Resolution 1 (Dubai, 2012) of the World Conference on International Telecommunications, on special measures for LLDCs and SIDS for access to international optical fibre networks;

*b)* the striking imbalance in telecommunication/ICT development between these countries (LDCs, SIDS, LLDCs and countries with economies in transition) and other countries, the persistence of which exacerbates the digital divide;

*c)* that these countries and countries in special need are vulnerable to extreme levels of devastation resulting from natural disasters and lack the capacity to respond effectively to these calamities;

*d)* the existence of countries which owing to geographical and political conditions have limited access to terrestrial and marine international cable systems,

appreciating

the special measures taken for the benefit of these countries in the form of concentrated assistance provided under the Doha Action Plan,

still concerned

*a)* that, despite all the measures taken so far, the telecommunication networks in many of these countries remain in a very poor state of development in urban, semi-urban and rural areas;

*b)* that the geographical situation of SIDS and LLDCs is an obstacle to the establishment of international telecommunication network connectivity with these countries;

*c)* that multilateral and bilateral flows of technical assistance and investment finance to these countries are constantly declining;

*d)* that to date there are many countries in this category;

*e)* with the low level of resources allocated to the special programme for these countries,

aware

that improved telecommunication networks in these countries will constitute a major driver underpinning their social and economic recovery and their development, and an opportunity for them to establish their information societies, and will be a tool for developing the digital economy,

resolves

to endorse the new priority areas for the next four years, the associated programme of action for these countries and its implementation strategy,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to continue to review the state of telecommunication/ICT services in LDCs, SIDS, LLDCs and countries with economies in transition, so identified by the United Nations and needing special measures for the development of telecommunications/ICTs, and to identify areas of critical weakness requiring priority action;

2 to continue submitting to the ITU Council concrete measures intended to bring about genuine improvements and effective assistance to these countries, from the Special Voluntary Programme for Technical Cooperation, the Union's own resources and other sources of finance;

3 to implement fully a programme of assistance for these countries as contained in the Buenos Aires Action Plan;

4 to give priority to requests received from these countries in implementing other Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) programmes of assistance to developing countries[[2]](#footnote-2)1 that are intended to improve and provide effective assistance to these countries;

5 to pay special attention to suburban and rural telecommunication/ICT development in these countries, with a view to achieving universal access to telecommunication and information technology services;

6 to continue to work towards providing the necessary administrative and operational structure for identifying the needs of these countries and for proper administration of the resources appropriated for LDCs, SIDS, LLDCs and countries with economies in transition;

7 to report annually on this matter to the Council,

requests the Secretary-General

1 to request the forthcoming Plenipotentiary Conference (Dubai, 2018) to provide the necessary budget for these countries with a view to enabling BDT to undertake essential and programmed activities for them;

2 to continue enhancing the assistance provided to these countries through other resources, and in particular through unconditional voluntary contributions and appropriate partnerships, as well as any surplus income from world and regional telecommunication exhibitions and forums;

3 to propose new and innovative measures capable of generating additional funds to be used for telecommunication/ICT development in these countries, in order to benefit from the possibilities afforded by financial mechanisms in facing the challenges of utilizing ICT for development purposes, as stated in the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society,

calls upon governments of least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition

1 to continue to accord higher priority to ICT development as well as disaster response and risk reduction planning, and to adopt measures, policies and national strategies that are conducive to bringing about faster development of telecommunications/ICTs in their countries, such as sector liberalization and the introduction of new technologies;

2 in selecting technical cooperation activities financed by bilateral and multilateral sources, to continue to accord high priority to telecommunication/ICT activities and projects;

3 to accord priority to the development of ICTs in national development plans,

calls upon other Member States and Sector Members

to establish partnerships with these countries, either directly or through BDT, in order to bring increased investment into the ICT sector and to stimulate the modernization, affordability and expansion of networks, including access to international optical fibre networks, in these countries in a bold attempt to reduce the digital divide and to achieve the ultimate goal of universal access in line with the Geneva Plan of Action, the Tunis Commitment, the Tunis Agenda, the World Summit on the Information Society vision beyond 2015 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

RESOLUTION 17 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017)

Implementation of and cooperation on regionally approved regional initiatives at the national, regional, interregional and global levels[[3]](#footnote-3)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 (ICTs), in providing technical assistance and advice to developing countries[[4]](#footnote-4)2 and in implementing relevant national, regional and interregional projects;

*c)* Resolution 157 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on strengthening of the project execution function in ITU;

*d)* Resolution 21 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of this conference, on coordination and collaboration with regional organizations;

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

*f)* the mechanism for cooperation at regional and international level to implement the outputs of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) as set out in §§ 101 a), b) and c), 102 a), b) and c), 103, 107 and 108 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society,

considering

*a)* that telecommunications/ICTs are one of the most vital elements for the growth of national economies and protection of the environment;

*b)* that, in order to achieve the objectives of the developing countries, new policy approaches may be required to meet the challenges of growth, in both qualitative and quantitative terms;

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

*d)* that the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) is an appropriate platform for the exchange of experiences and best practices on development of the telecommunication/ICT sector;

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

*f)* the satisfactory and encouraging results achieved by projects which have received international cooperation support under an initiative of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT);

*g)* that telecommunication networks and services for sustainable development are an essential element for national development and improving the social, economic, financial and cultural situation of Member States;

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

*i)* 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;

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

*k)* the importance of the telecommunication/ICT sector and its contribution to the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),

recognizing

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

*b)* that, given the resources at the disposal of developing countries, it is an important task for ITU, as the United Nations specialized agency on telecommunications, to help these countries meet the requirements cited in *considering c)* above;

*c)* the need, therefore, to exchange experiences on telecommunication development at regional, interregional and global level in order to support these countries;

*d)* that ITU and regional organizations share common beliefs that close cooperation can promote regional telecommunications/ICTs in order to support these countries;

*e)* 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,

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)* the achievements of the Connect the World initiatives promoted by ITU‑D;

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

noting

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

*b)* that the relevant regional organizations play a prominent and important role in supporting the developing countries in areas such as regional cooperation and technical assistance activities;

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

resolves

1 that 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, 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 regional initiatives, which are specified in section 3 of the Buenos Aires Action Plan;

3 that the budget allocation for the implementation of the regional initiatives be individualized in the budget of the Sector to be executed by BDT, discriminating between funds for ongoing projects and funds for new projects, divided by region;

4 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;

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

6 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 Buenos Aires Action Plan;

7 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;

8 that BDT make information available on initiatives successfully implemented by each of the regions (outcomes, stakeholders, financial resources used, and so on), 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, using the portal for the execution of projects in the six official languages of the Union;

9 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;

10 that BDT should take all necessary steps to encourage exchanges of experience between developing countries, especially in the area of ICTs;

11 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;

12 that ITU-D should strengthen its relations with regional and subregional telecommunication organizations in order to identify synergies with their activities that may support the implementation of the regional initiative,

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 in 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 (GSR) meeting, for GSR 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, identify the impact of these regional initiatives, considering the possible benefits at national level, in collaboration with countries served by these regional initiatives, and 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 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 States 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 the five United Nations regional commissions;

4 to bring this resolution to the attention of the Plenipotentiary Conference with a view to securing adequate financial resources in the budget to fulfil the initiatives approved by the regions.

RESOLUTION 20 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017)

Non‑discriminatory access to modern telecommunication/  
information and communication technology facilities,   
services and related applications

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

recalling

*a)* Resolution 102 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference;

*b)* Resolution 64 (Rev. Busan, 2014) 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, and e‑meetings, on mutually agreed terms;

*c)* Resolution 69 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly, on non-discriminatory access and use of Internet resources and telecommunications/ICTs,

recalling also

*a)* the decisions of the two phases of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) concerning non-discriminatory access, in particular §§ 15, 18 and 19 of the Tunis Commitment and §§ 90 and 107 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society;

*b)* United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Resolution 70/1, on transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

*c)* UNGA Resolution 70/125, on the outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the overall review of the implementation of the WSIS outcomes;

*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 UNGA overall review of WSIS,

taking into account

*a)* that ITU plays an important role in the promotion of global telecommunication/ICT standardization and development;

*b)* that, to this end, the Union coordinates efforts aimed at securing harmonious development of telecommunication/ICT facilities in all its Member States,

taking into account further

that this conference, like its predecessors, is required to formulate a viewpoint and draw up proposals on issues determining a worldwide strategy for the development of telecommunication/ICT facilities, services and applications, and facilitate mobilization of the necessary resources to that end,

noting

*a)* that modern telecommunication/ICT facilities, services and applications are established, in the main, on the basis of Recommendations of the ITU Radiocommunication (ITU‑R) and ITU Telecommunication Standardization (ITU‑T) Sectors;

*b)* that ITU‑R and ITU‑T Recommendations are the result of the collective efforts of all those taking part in the standardization process within ITU and are adopted by consensus by the members of the Union;

*c)* that limitations on access to the telecommunication/ICT facilities, services and applications on which national telecommunication/ICT development depends and which are established on the basis of ITU‑R and ITU‑T Recommendations constitute an obstacle to the harmonious development and compatibility of telecommunications/ICTs worldwide,

recognizing

that full harmonization of telecommunication/ICT networks is impossible unless all countries participating in the work of the Union without exception enjoy non-discriminatory access to new telecommunication/ICT technologies and modern telecommunication/ICT facilities, services and applications, without prejudice to national regulations and international commitments within the competence of other international organizations,

resolves

that there should be non-discriminatory access to telecommunication/ICT facilities, services and applications established on the basis of ITU‑R and ITU‑T Recommendations,

encourages the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

to engage in partnerships or strategic cooperation with parties which respect access to telecommunication/ICT facilities, services and applications without discrimination,

requests the Secretary-General

to transmit this resolution to the forthcoming plenipotentiary conference for consideration,

invites the Plenipotentiary Conference

to consider this resolution with a view to taking measures to foster global access to modern telecommunication/ICT facilities, services and applications,

invites Member States

1 to refrain from taking any unilateral and/or discriminatory actions that could impede technically another Member State from having full access to the Internet within the spirit of Article 1 of the ITU Constitution and the WSIS principles;

2 to help telecommunication/ICT equipment manufacturersand service providers in ensuring that telecommunication/ICT facilities, services and applications established on the basis of ITU‑R and ITU‑T Recommendations are made available for the use of the public without any discrimination, in accordance with the WSIS outcomes.

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, taking into account   
the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

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

*recalling*

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

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

*c)* UNGA Resolution 70/1, on transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

*d)* the WSIS+10 Statement on the implementation of WSIS outcomes and the 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 were submitted as an input into the UNGA's overall review on the implementation of WSIS outcomes;

*e)* Resolution 37 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of this conference, on bridging the digital divide;

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

*g)* Resolution 77 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of this conference, on broadband technology and applications for greater growth and development of telecommunication/information and communication services and broadband connectivity;

*h)* 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);

*i)* Resolution 131 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on measuring ICTs to build an integrating and inclusive information society;

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

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

*l)* Resolution 200 (Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the Connect 2020 Agenda for global telecommunication/ICT 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 and C9 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)* 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 four 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;

*d)* that UNGA Resolution 70/125 calls for close alignment between the WSIS process and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, highlighting the cross-cutting 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;

*e)* that the WSIS outcomes will help achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and help facilitate the development of the digital economy,

recognizing further

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

*b)* the potential of ICTs to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other internationally agreed development goals;

*c)* that ITU-D shall give high priority to building information and communication infrastructure (WSIS Action Line C2), this being the physical backbone for all e-applications;

*d)* that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has substantial implications for the activities of ITU;

*e)* that the ITU Council 2016 resolved to use the WSIS framework as the foundation through which ITU helps achieve the 2030 Agenda, within the ITU's mandate and within the allocated resources in the financial plan and biennial budget, noting the WSIS-SDG matrix developed by UN agencies,

taking into account

*a)* Resolution 75 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly, on the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector's contribution in implementing the WSIS outcomes, taking into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

*b)* Resolution ITU-R 61 (Rev. Geneva, 2015) 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 Council, including the annual reports on the activities of the Council Working Group on WSIS (CWG‑WSIS) and the Council Working Group on international Internet-related public policy issues (CWG-Internet),

noting

*a)* Resolution 1332 of Council 2016, on ITU's role in the implementation of the WSIS outcomes taking into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

*b)* Resolution 1336 of Council 2015, on CWG-Internet,

noting further

that the ITU Secretary-General created the ITU SDG&WSIS Task Force, whose role is to formulate strategies and coordinate ITU's policies and activities in relation to WSIS, taking into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and that this task force is chaired by the Deputy Secretary-General,

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[[5]](#footnote-5)1, including in the field of building the telecommunication/ICT infrastructure and building confidence and security in the use of telecommunications/ICTs, to support the implementation of the other WSIS goals that can help achieve 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and facilitate the development of the digital economy;

2 to continue its work on the realization of the WSIS vision beyond 2015;

3 to contribute to achievement of the objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through and in harmony with the WSIS framework;

4 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);

5 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;

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

7 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 SDGs;

8 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;

9 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 and taking into account new and emerging technologies;

10 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 and SDGs related to the activities of ITU‑D;

11 to continue to propose at the forthcoming plenipotentiary conference appropriate mechanisms for funding the activities flowing from the WSIS outcomes and SDGs 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) relevant SDGs and targets through and in harmony with the WSIS framework,

*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, taking into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

2 to ensure that concrete objectives and deadlines for WSIS and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development activities are developed and reflected in the operational plans of ITU‑D, in accordance with Resolution 140 (Rev. Busan, 2014) and with the objectives that will be set for ITU‑D by the Plenipotentiary Conference in 2018 with regard to the implementation by ITU of the WSIS+10 outcomes;

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

4 in close collaboration with the Directors of the Radiocommunication Bureau and the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau, to take account of the impact of ITU’s work related to digital transformation, which fosters sustainable growth of the digital economy, in line with the WSIS stocktaking process, and provide assistance to membership upon request;

5 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:

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

ii) participating in the organization of training seminars;

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

iv) 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 an environment, particularly with the ITU regional offices, that enables small, medium and micro enterprises (SMMEs) in and among developing countries to develop and grow;

4 in implementing the WSIS outcomes/SDGs within the mandate of ITU-D, to pay particular attention to the needs of developing countries;

5 to encourage 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 and WSIS vision beyond 2015;

iv) the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

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

9 to strengthen, involving, among others, the ITU regional and area offices, coordination and collaboration at the regional level with the UN regional economic commissions and UN Regional Development Group, as well as all UN agencies (in particular those acting as facilitator for WSIS action lines), and other relevant regional organizations, especially in the field of telecommunication/ICT, with the aim of the following:

i) aligning WSIS and SDG processes and their implementation as requested by UNGA Resolution 70/125;

ii) implementing ICT for SDG actions through the UN's "Delivering as One" approach;

iii) incorporating ICTs in the UN development assistance frameworks;

iv) developing partnerships for implementation of inter-agency and multistakeholder projects, advancing implementation of WSIS action lines and advancing achievement of SDGs;

v) highlighting the importance of advocacy for ICTs in national sustainable development plans;

vi) strengthening regional input to the WSIS Forum, WSIS Prizes and WSIS Stocktaking,

*calls upon Member States, Sector Members, Associates and Academia*

1 to continue to give priority to the development of 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 an inclusive and connected information society and achieve the SDGs, which can facilitate the growth of the digital economy;

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, taking into account the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda;

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

5 to engage in the WSIS and SDG processes, in order to reaffirm the need to address remaining challenges of ICT for development to be addressed in the implementation of the 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).

RESOLUTION 34 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017)

The role of telecommunications/information and communication   
technology in disaster preparedness, early warning, rescue,   
mitigation, relief and response

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

recalling

*a)* Resolution 36 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICTs) in the service of humanitarian assistance;

*b)* Resolution 136 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the use of telecommunications/ICTs for monitoring and management in emergency and disaster situations, and for early warning, prevention, mitigation and relief;

*c)* Resolution 646 (Rev.WRC‑15) of the World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC), on public protection and disaster relief;

*d)* Resolution 647 (Rev.WRC‑15) of WRC, on radiocommunication aspects, including spectrum management guidelines, for early warning, disaster prediction, detection, mitigation and relief operations relating to emergencies and disasters;

*e)* Article 5 of the International Telecommunication Regulations, on safety of life and priority of telecommunications;

*f)* Resolution 182 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the role of telecommunications/ICTs in regard to climate change and the protection of the environment;

*g)* Recommendation ITU‑T E.161.1, on guidelines to select emergency number for public telecommunication networks,

considering

*a)* that the Intergovernmental Conference on Emergency Telecommunications (Tampere, 1998) (ICET-98) adopted the Convention on the Provision of Telecommunication Resources for Disaster Mitigation and Relief Operations (Tampere Convention) and that this convention came into force in January 2005;

*b)* that ITU launched two new initiatives during the second Global Forum on Emergency Telecommunications (Kuwait, 2016) (GET-2016): the ITU Network of Volunteers for Emergency Telecommunications, and the Global Emergency Fund for Rapid Response;

*c)* that the second Tampere Conference on Disaster Communications (Tampere, 2001) (CDC‑01) invited ITU to study the use of public mobile networks for early warning and the dissemination of emergency information and the operational aspects of emergency telecommunications such as call prioritization;

*d)* that Resolution 646 (Rev.WRC‑15) resolves to encourage administrations to satisfy temporary needs for frequencies in emergency and disaster-relief situations, in addition to those normally made available by agreement with the administrations concerned, and to facilitate cross-border circulation of radiocommunication equipment intended for use in emergency and disaster-relief situations through mutual cooperation and consultation without hindering national legislation;

*e)* that Resolution 646 (Rev.WRC‑15) likewise resolves to encourage administrations to consider Recommendation ITU-R M.2015, and to use agreed frequency bands for public protection and disaster relief to the maximum extent possible when undertaking their national planning for their public protection disaster relief (PPDR) applications, particularly broadband, in order to achieve harmonization;

*f)* that the same Resolution 646 (Rev. WRC-15) further encourages administrations to consider also parts of the regionally harmonized frequency ranges for their PPDR applications;

*g)* that Resolution 647 (Rev.WRC-15) resolves that the Radiocommunication Bureau (BR), through the study groups, study those aspects of radiocommunications/ICTs that are relevant to early warning, disaster prediction, detection, mitigation and relief operations taking into account Resolution ITU‑R 55 (Rev. Geneva, 2015);

*h)* that the same Resolution 647 (Rev.WRC‑15) instructs the Director of BR to continue assisting Member States with their emergency communication preparedness activities by maintaining a database of information from administrations for use in emergency situations, which includes contact information and optionally includes available frequencies for use in emergency situations, reiterating the importance of having spectrum available in the very early stages of humanitarian assistance intervention for disaster relief;

*i)* that Resolution 647 (Rev. WRC‑15) likewise invites the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau (TSB) and the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) to collaborate closely with the Director of BR to ensure that a consistent and coherent approach is adopted in the development of strategies in response to emergency and disaster situations;

*j)* the work of the study groups of the ITU Radiocommunication (ITU‑R) and ITU Telecommunication Standardization (ITU‑T) Sectors in adopting Recommendations that have helped to provide technical information on satellite and terrestrial radiocommunication systems and wired networks and their role in disaster management, including important Recommendations pertaining to the use of satellite networks in times of disasters;

*k)* the work of the ITU‑T study groups in developing and adopting Recommendations for priority/preferential emergency telecommunications and emergency telecommunication services (ETS), including consideration of use of both terrestrial and wireless telecommunication systems during emergencies;

*l)* that the Radiocommunication Assembly updated Resolution ITU‑R 55 (Rev. Geneva, 2015), on ITU studies of disaster prediction, detection, mitigation and relief;

*m)* that the World Conference on International Telecommunications (Dubai, 2012) adopted provisions regarding the absolute priority of safety-of-life telecommunications, such as distress telecommunications, where technically practicable and in accordance with the relevant articles of the ITU Constitution and Convention and taking due account of the relevant ITU‑T Recommendations;

*n)* that modern telecommunications/ICTs are basic tools for disaster mitigation and relief;

*o)* that mobile and personal communication systems are beneficial for responding to disasters, and should therefore also be used before a disaster to ensure information can be shared with those who need it most;

*p)* the importance of utilizing both existing and new technologies and solutions (satellite and terrestrial) to satisfy a range of interoperability requirements and furthering the goals of public protection and diisaster relief;

*q)* the terrible disasters from which many countries suffer, and the disproportionate impact of disasters and of climate change on developing countries[[6]](#footnote-6)1;

*r)* that least developed countries (LDCs), landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) and small island developing states (SIDS) are particularly vulnerable to the impact that disasters can have on their economies and infrastructures and lack the capacity to respond to disasters;

*s)* that the requirements of persons with specific needs should be taken into account with respect to disaster warning, response planning and recovery efforts;

*t)* that climate change may be considered to be a major contributing factor to emergencies and disasters affecting humankind;

*u)* the role of the private sector, governments and international and non-governmental organizations in providing telecommunication/ICT equipment and services, expertise and capacity-building assistance to support disaster-relief and recovery activities, particularly through the ITU Framework for International Cooperation in Emergencies (IFCE);

*v)* that a disaster, when it occurs, may extend beyond the borders of a State, and its management may involve the deployment of efforts by more than one country in order to prevent loss of human life and regional economic crisis;

*w)* that coordination between international, regional and national organizations that specialize in disaster management and administrations increases the probability of saving human life when rescue operations are conducted, and thereby mitigates the consequences of a disaster;

*x)* that collaborative work and networking among disaster-management experts is essential;

*y)* that the use of telecommunications/ICTs for sharing of information in the event of a disaster is a powerful decision-making tool for rescue services and operating entities, and for communication with and between citizens,

noting

*a)* Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 9 (Building resilient infrastructures, promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialization and fostering innovation) and SDG 11 (Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable), adopted by the United Nations General Assembly at its 2015 Sustainable Development Summit;

*b)* § 51 of the Geneva Declaration of Principles adopted by the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), on the use of ICT applications for disaster prevention;

*c)* § 20 (c) of the Geneva Plan of Action adopted by WSIS, on e‑environment, which calls for the establishment of monitoring systems, using ICTs, to forecast and monitor the impact of natural and man‑made disasters, particularly in developing countries, LDCs and countries with small economies;

*d)* § 30 of the Tunis Commitment adopted by WSIS, on disaster mitigation;

*e)* § 91 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society adopted by WSIS, on disaster reduction;

*f)* the continued pursuit by ITU and other relevant organizations of joint activities being undertaken at the international, regional and national levels to establish internationally agreed means to operate systems for public protection and disaster relief on a harmonized and coordinated basis, and the successful role of BDT through its programme activities in this area;

*g)* that the capability and flexibility of all telecommunication facilities depend upon appropriate planning for the continuity of each phase of network development and implementation;

*h)* the successful role of BDT, in partnership with the ITU membership, with respect to rapid intervention in enabling and facilitating telecommunications/ICTs for countries which have suffered disasters;

*i)* that all phases of disaster operations can be greatly facilitated by national emergency communication plans that enable the pre‑positioning, rapid deployment and effective utilization of ICT equipment;

*j)* that including the use of telecommunication/ICT tools in infrastructure development planning can avert the risk of disasters and mitigate their effects,

noting further

*a)* the latest version of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU‑D) Handbook on Emergency Telecommunications (2014), the Compendium of the ITU's Work on Emergency Telecommunications (2007), the ITU Handbook on Best Practice on Emergency Telecommunications (2008), and the adoption of Recommendation ITU‑D 13 (Rev. 2005), on effective utilization of the amateur radio services in disaster-mitigation and relief operations;

*b)* that further guidance for ITU members on disaster-communication management is provided by the successful conclusions and outputs of ITU‑D Study Group 2, notably under Question 5/2, including the Handbook on Outside Plant for Areas Frequently Exposed to Natural Disasters and an online toolkit which will be updated on a regular basis;

*c)* the results of work done by ITU-R Study Groups 4, 5, 6 and 7 on the use of different radiocommunication systems in emergency situations, and in particular Recommendations ITU‑R S.1001, ITU-R M.1637, ITU-R BS.2107 and ITU-R RS-1859;

*d)* that the online toolkit maintained by ITU-D Question 5/2 and BDT serves as a publicly available resource with references and links to all relevant ITU resolutions, Recommendations, reports and handbooks;

*e)* that the ITU regional offices can be particularly helpful prior to and following emergencies, owing to their proximity to affected countries,

recognizing

*a)* that frequent tragic events in the world and the experience of BDT and the ITU membership in this area clearly demonstrate the need for enhanced disaster preparedness and for plans that incorporate consideration of high-quality communications equipment and services as well as reliable telecommunication infrastructure, in order to ensure public safety and assist disaster-relief agencies in minimizing risk to human life and to provide the necessary general public information and communication needs in such situations;

*b)* that natural disasters can damage both telecommunication/ICT infrastructures and electricity supplies that power telecommunication/ICT systems and devices, making services inoperable, such that considerations of redundancy and resilience of infrastructure and power supplies become important when planning for disasters;

*c)* that there is a growing general awareness at the global level of the potentially serious negative consequences of climate change,

resolves to instruct the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to continue to ensure that priority consideration is given to emergency communications as an element of telecommunication/ICT development, including continued close coordination and collaboration with ITU‑R and ITU‑T and relevant international organizations, and that coordination with BR must take into consideration the outcomes of studies, especially those mentioned in Resolutions 646 (Rev. WRC-15) and 647 (Rev. WRC-15), which provide for harmonized models for PPDR networks;

2 to organize a forum on emergency communications, periodically, and within budgetary resources, to provide administrations with best practices in terms of mechanisms, procedures and coordination for the use of telecommunications/ICTs in emergency situations;

3 to establish contact points at the level of BDT and the ITU regional offices, enabling affected Member States to request capacity building and direct assistance in terms of emergency communications, whereby the contact numbers of these points are to be circulated to ITU members and contact points are to be responsible for coordinating ITU assistance to disaster-struck countries and with relevant UN and international organizations that provide emergency communications;

4 to facilitate and encourage the use by members of telecommunications that are appropriate and commonly available for disaster response and mitigation, including those provided by amateur radio services, satellite and terrestrial network services/facilities;

5 to promote, in close collaboration with ITU‑R and ITU‑T, the implementation of early-warning systems, and emergency information broadcasting, for example audio and TV broadcasting, mobile messages, etc., taking into account persons with disabilities and specific needs;

6 to support administrations in their work towards the implementation of this resolution as well as the ratification and implementation of the Tampere Convention;

7 to report to the next world telecommunication development conference on the status of ratification and implementation of the Tampere Convention;

8 to support administrations and regulators in the areas identified in this resolution by taking appropriate measures during the implementation of the ITU‑D action plan;

9 to continue to support administrations in preparing their national disaster response and relief plans, including consideration of the necessary enabling national regulatory and policy environments to support the development and effective use of telecommunications/ICTs for disaster mitigation, relief and response;

10 to strengthen the role of the ITU regional offices, in coordination with the above-mentioned points of contact, in assisting Member States and Sector Members in developing emergency preparedness plans and early-warning systems, in organizing training workshops on emergency relief and response, in providing equipment training, in fostering collaboration with all parties involved and in helping deploy communication equipment during emergencies;

11 as part of the ITU framework for cooperation in emergencies, to continue providing assistance to administrations, in coordination with the above-mentioned points of contact, within available resources, and in collaboration with the ITU membership and other partners, through the temporary supply of emergency communications equipment and services, especially during the initial phases of disasters;

12 to expedite the study of aspects of telecommunications/ICTs related to flexibility and continuity in the event of disasters, as part of national disaster plans, including promoting the use of broadband networks for emergency communications through the work of the ITU‑D study groups, in collaboration with expert organizations, taking account of the activities of the other ITU Sectors and relevant UN and other international organizations;

13 in implementing outcome 2.3 under Objective 2 for 2018-2021, to work collaboratively with the ITU‑D study Questions, as well as with the other two Sectors, ITU regional offices, the ITU membership and other relevant expert organizations, in implementing this resolution, and to report regularly on programme activities and relevant regional initiatives to the study groups;

14 to assist administrations in the use of mobile networks for the timely dissemination of alert messages and warnings in situations of risk or emergency, for those in potentially affected areas;

15 to assist Member States in enhancing and strengthening the use of all available services, including satellite, amateur radio and broadcasting services, in emergency situations, when conventional sources of electricity supply or telecommunications are often interrupted;

16 to include in the ITU Academy's training plans programmes on the use of ICTs for disaster management and mitigation;

17 to help activate the two new programmes of the Second Global Forum on Emergency Telecommunications (GET-2016), within existing budgetary resources,

requests the Secretary-General

to continue to work closely with the office of the United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator and other relevant external organizations with a view to further increasing the Union's involvement in, and support of, emergency communications and early-warning systems, and to report on outcomes of related international conferences, relief activities and meetings so that the Plenipotentiary Conference (Dubai, 2018) may take any action that it deems necessary,

invites

1 the United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator, the Working Group on Emergency Telecommunications and other relevant external organizations or bodies to ensure follow-up and continue collaborating with ITU, specifically BDT, in working towards implementing this resolution and the Tampere Convention, and supporting administrations and international and regional telecommunication organizations in the implementation of that Convention;

2 Member States to continue to deploy all necessary efforts to integrate disaster risk reduction and resilience into telecommunication development plans, as well as to incorporate ICTs into national or regional disaster-management plans and frameworks, taking note of the specific needs of persons with disabilities, children, older persons, displaced persons and the illiterate in disaster preparedness, rescue, relief and recovery planning, and the importance of collaborating with all stakeholders in all disaster phases;

3 regulators to ensure that disaster-mitigation and relief operations make provision for the necessary telecommunications/ICTs, through appropriate national regulations and national disaster plans as well as enabling regulatory and policy environments;

4 ITU‑D to take account of the particular telecommunication requirements of LDCs, LLDCs, SIDS and low-lying coastal countries in terms of disaster preparedness, rescue, relief and recovery;

5 Member States that have not yet ratified the Tampere Convention to take necessary action to do so as appropriate;

6 BDT to consider how space-based technologies can be used to help ITU Member States collect and disseminate data on the effects of climate change and support early warning, having regard to the link between climate change and natural disasters;

7 ITU‑D to take account of the work of ITU‑R study groups and dedicated working groups, considering the increased use of mobile and portable communication devices which can be used by first responders to transmit and receive critical information;

8 Member States to facilitate, to the extent practicable, cross-border circulation of radiocommunication equipment intended for use in emergency situations, rescue and relief operations and disaster-relief situations, through mutual cooperation and consultation, without prejudice to national legislation, in accordance with Resolution 646 (Rev.WRC‑15);

9 Member States to encourage authorized operating companies to inform all users, including roaming users, in good time and free of charge, of the number to be used for calls to the emergency services;

10 Member States to consider introducing, in addition to their existing national emergency numbers, a harmonized national/regional number for access to emergency services, taking into account the relevant ITU‑T Recommendations;

11 Sector Members to make the necessary efforts to enable the operation of telecommunication services in emergency or disaster situations, giving priority, in all cases, to telecommunications concerning safety of life in the affected areas, and providing for such purpose contingency plans;

12 Member States and Sector Members to work together on the study of new digital technologies, standards and related technical issues for improving radio broadcasting systems for sending and receiving information concerning public warning, rescue, disaster mitigation and relief;

13 Member states to consider the appropriate and effective mechanisms to facilitate disaster communications preparedness and response efforts;

14 Member States to coordinate on a regional basis, with the help of ITU bodies and regional and international specialized organizations, in order to draw up regional response plans in the event of a disaster;

15 Member States to develop partnerships, in order to reduce barriers to access to relevant data obtained through the use of telecommunications/ICTs required for the purpose of assisting rescue operations;

16 Member States to develop preparedness, disaster-recovery and business-continuity plans that provide redundant, resilient environments for essential government information systems;

17 Member States to foster the training and updating of knowledge of the actors involved in the implementation, maintenance and updating of the ICT systems intended to intervene in situations of emergency.

RESOLUTION 46 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017)

Assistance to indigenous peoples and communities through information and communication technology

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

recalling

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

*b)* Resolution 200 (Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the Connect 2020 Agenda for global telecommunication/ICT development,

recognizing

*a)* the need to achieve the goal of digital inclusion, enabling universal, sustainable, ubiquitous and affordable access to ICTs for all, including indigenous peoples, and to facilitate accessibility of ICTs for all, in the framework of access to information and knowledge;

*b)* the need to ensure the inclusion of indigenous peoples in the information society, as outlined in the Geneva Declaration of Principles and the Tunis Commitment of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), and to contribute to the development of their communities using ICTs, based on tradition and self-sustainability,

considering

*a)* that the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) provides assistance to indigenous peoples through all of its programmes in general, and Output 4.3 under Objective 4 in particular;

*b)* that the multistakeholder report delivered by the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) and the International Indigenous Steering Committee to the Tunis WSIS plenary (November 2005) highlighted the size of the population of indigenous peoples around the world and the fact that public-private partnerships and multistakeholder cooperation are essential to meet the needs of indigenous peoples more effectively towards their integration in the information society,

taking into account

*a)* that the WSIS Geneva Plan of Action and the Tunis Commitment established that the attainment of their objectives with regard to indigenous peoples and communities is a priority;

*b)* that Article 16 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples states the following: "Indigenous peoples have the right to establish their own media in their own languages and to have access to all forms of non-indigenous media without discrimination";

*c)* that Article 41 of the aforementioned Declaration states that: "The organs and specialized agencies of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations shall contribute to the full realization of the provisions of this Declaration through the mobilization, *inter alia*, of financial cooperation and technical assistance";

*d)* that according to the WSIS+10 Statement on implementation of the WSIS outcomes, digital integration remains an overall priority, beyond affordability and access to ICT networks, services and applications, particularly in rural and remote areas;

*e)* the linkage between WSIS Action Lines C2, C5 and C6 and the targets of Goal 9 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which include significantly increasing access to ICTs and striving to facilitate universal and affordable Internet access in the least developed countries by 2020 at the latest,

recognizing further

*a)* that the public policy recommendations and best practices developed through the "Connect a School, Connect a Community" initiative, in accordance with the principles established by WSIS, indicate that there are minimum conditions in the sphere of technology, capacity building, regulatory framework, self-sustainability and participation, and content development, which must be ensured to achieve ICT development in indigenous regions;

*b)* that the Declaration of the Second Summit on Indigenous Communication of Abya Yala, held in Mexico in 2013, decided to move ahead on consultation processes with international organizations in the interests of operationalizing the rights of indigenous peoples to communication laid down in the above-mentioned United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;

*c)* the necessity of continuing to foster the training of indigenous technicians on the basis of their cultural practices and technological innovation solutions, while at the same time ensuring the availability of resources and spectrum to support the development and sustainability of telecommunication/ICT networks operated by indigenous peoples;

*d)* that telecommunication networks operated by indigenous peoples themselves have been developed and that, in order to ensure their development and sustainability, it is necessary to continue fostering the training of indigenous technicians on the basis of their cultural practices and technological innovation solutions, while at the same time ensuring the availability of resources and spectrum for implementing those networks;

*e)* that it is important to monitor closely the evolving communication experiences of the peoples in question and add to the public policy recommendations and best practices developed by ITU, taking into account the underlying technological innovations and organizational approaches that have stimulated their growth,

resolves

1 to reinforce assistance to indigenous peoples in all BDT programmes;

2 to support digital inclusion of indigenous peoples in general, and in particular their participation in workshops, seminars, forums and training on ICT for social and economic development;

3 to support, through the ITU Academy[[7]](#footnote-7)1, human-resource training programmes in the design and management of public policies aimed at the development of ICTs for indigenous peoples and communities, within available BDT funds and human resources;

4 to support, through the ITU Academy, capacity-building programmes for indigenous peoples in the maintenance and development of ICTs and networks in indigenous communities;

5 to incorporate, in these training programmes, best practices, experience and knowledge that the indigenous peoples have developed on the matter and, where appropriate, include the participation of indigenous experts and mechanisms for exchange and internships among their members, in accordance with applicable ITU rules and regulations governing recruitment;

6 to update the research on best practices and public policy recommendations for the development of ICTs in indigenous communities and foster the study of mechanisms that ensure the availability of spectrum for network deployment;

7 to promote training and innovative solutions through pilot projects that enable the implementation of local communication networks administered and operated by indigenous peoples,

invites the World Telecommunication Development Conference and the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1to ensure, within the available resources and partnerships to be implemented, that the necessary financial and human resources are allocated within BDT to respond to the existing global initiative for indigenous peoples;

2to recognize the importance of issues of concern to indigenous peoples worldwide in the determination of priority activities for the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D);

3to encourage Sector Members to promote the integration of indigenous peoples in the information society worldwide and to promote ICT projects that respond to their specific needs;

4 in line with the above, the ITU mandate, the WSIS outcomes and the SDGs, to recognize the global initiative of the assistance to indigenous peoples worldwide as an integral part of the activities of BDT,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to carry out the necessary actions to reinforce the implementation of the Buenos Aires Action Plan as it relates to indigenous peoples, establishing collaboration mechanisms with the Member States, other relevant regional and international organizations and cooperation agencies;

2that,within the allocated resources in the financial plan and biennial budget as approved by the ITU Council, as well as partnerships to be implemented, the necessary financial and human resources be allocated within BDT to respond to the existing global initiative for indigenous peoples;

3to recognize the importance of issues of concern to indigenous peoples worldwide in the determination of priority activities for ITU-D;

4 in line with the above, the ITU mandate, the WSIS outcomes and the SDGs, to recognize the global initiative of the assistance to indigenous peoples worldwide as an integral part of the activities of BDT,

requests the Secretary-General

1 to bring the continuous assistance provided by BDT to indigenous peoples through its activities to the attention of the next plenipotentiary conference, with a view to providing appropriate financial and human resources for the relevant actions and projects to be implemented in the telecommunication sector;

2 to submit a report on the BDT outcomes and activities in implementing this resolution to the Plenipotentiary Conference (Dubai, 2018), with a view to providing appropriate financial and human resources for the relevant actions and projects to be implemented in the telecommunication sector,

invites Member States

to provide the necessary facilities and information to allow the participation of members of indigenous peoples and communities in the activities provided for in this resolution.

RESOLUTION 48 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017)

Strengthening cooperation among telecommunication regulators

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

recalling

*a)* Resolution 48 (Rev. Hyderabad, 2010) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference;

*b)* Resolution 138 (Antalya, 2006) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR);

*c)* Resolution 135 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the ITU’s role in the development of telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICTs), in providing technical assistance and advice to developing countries[[8]](#footnote-8)1 and in implementing relevant national, regional and interregional projects;

*d)* Resolution 2 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the world telecommunication/ICT policy forum;

*e)* Resolution 70/125 of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), on the outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS);

f) UNGA Resolution 70/1, on transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

considering

*a)* that market liberalization, technological development and service convergence have resulted in new challenges, requiring new regulatory competencies among telecommunication regulators;

*b)* that an effective regulatory framework requires a balance of interest among all stakeholders, promoting fair competition and ensuring an equal-opportunity environment for all players, including addressing issues of consumer protection;

*c)* that ITU plays a fundamental role in providing global perspectives on the development of the information society, and one of the main tasks of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) under the terms of No. 127 of the ITU Constitution is to "offer advice, carry out or sponsor studies, as necessary, on technical, economic, financial, managerial, regulatory and policy issues, including studies of specific projects in the field of telecommunications";

*d)* that the rapid development of telecommunications/ICTs in recent years and the introduction of new technologies and systems calls for new approaches in the field of regulation;

*e)* that there is no single correct approach to telecommunication/ICT regulation in all countries, and the particular characteristics of each country must be taken into account; in an increasingly dynamic digital ecosystem, however, it is essential to seek harmonization of general principles;

*f)* that in the light of the considerable changes in telecommunications/ICTs, and the development of markets and society, telecommunication/ICT reforms have globally been implemented in most countries of the world, both developed and developing, including reforms of telecommunication/ICT regulation ;

*g)* that the success of telecommunication/ICT reform will mostly depend on the establishment and implementation of an effective regulatory framework, regulatory mechanisms and laws,

recognizing

*a)* that telecommunication regulators have been increasing, and that newly established regulators and regulators in developing countries would require strengthening of their competencies to cope with the increasing complexity of regulatory work with regard to the design and implementation of new laws and policies as part of telecommunication reform, especially in the rapidly changing telecommunication environment;

*b)* the need to exchange information and share experiences among regulators on telecommunication development and reform, particularly among regulators and newly established ones;

*c)* the importance and necessity of cooperation among these entities at the regional and international level,

recalling further

*a)* the relevant Buenos Aires Action Plan programmes, especially telecommunication/ICT regulatory symposia, forums, seminars and workshops;

*b)* the recommendations of past GSRs on the creation of a global exchange programme for regulators;

*c)* the success and continuation of the global exchange programme for regulators, which provides a platform for exchange of views on regulatory issues,

resolves

1 to continue the specific platform (G-REX) for telecommunication regulators to share and exchange matters concerning regulatory issues electronically;

2 that ITU, and in particular ITU-D, should continue to support regulatory reform by facilitating information and experience sharing among the membership;

3 that the Telecommunication Development Bureau should continue to coordinate and facilitate joint activities relating to telecommunication/ICT policy and regulatory issues with regional and subregional regulatory organizations and associations;

4 that ITU‑D should continue to provide further technical cooperation, regulatory exchange, capacity building and expert advice, with the support of its regional offices,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to continue to rotate GSR in different regions, to the extent possible;

2 to promote the formal meetings of regulators and regulatory associations at GSR and encourage the participation of other stakeholders;

3 to continue to have a specific platform for regulators and regulatory associations;

4 to organize, coordinate and facilitate activities that promote information sharing among regulators and regulatory associations on key issues at the international, inter-regional and regional level;

5 to organize seminars, regional workshops and training programmes and other activities to help strengthen regulators, and to provide resources and assistance in consolidating all work relating to key policy and regulatory issues within ITU-D and provide easier access to and strengthened transfer of knowledge, information and experience sharing among the regulators,

invites the study groups of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector

each within its mandate, to adopt the guidelines and best practices issued annually by GSR and to take them into account in their studies on relevant Questions,

calls upon Member States

1 to provide to the governments of countries in special need all possible assistance and support for regulatory reform, whether bilaterally, multilaterally or through the special action of the Union;

2 to share knowledge, skills and experiences in adapting, designing and implementing new laws and policies as part of telecommunication/ICT reform,

requests the Secretary-General

to transmit this resolution to the Plenipotentiary Conference (Dubai, 2018) in order to ensure that appropriate attention is given to these activities, in particular within the framework of the implementation of the WSIS outcomes, and in regard to the role of regulators in the implementation of the strategic plan for the Union.

RESOLUTION 55 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017)

Mainstreaming a gender perspective[[9]](#footnote-9)1 for an inclusive   
and egalitarian information society

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

noting

*a)* Resolution 70/1 of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), containing Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5 (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls),which recognizes that gender equality is a necessary right to contribute to achieving a peaceful, prosperous, and sustainable world, and more specifically SDG target 5.b (Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communication technology (ICT), to promote the empowerment of women), as well as SDG 9 (Build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization and foster innovation), which promotes subject areas that cut across other goals;

*b)* Resolution 70 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on gender mainstreaming in ITU and promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women through telecommunications/ICTs, which resolves to continue the work being done at ITU, and particularly in the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT), to promote gender equality in telecommunications/ICTs by recommending measures at the international, regional and national levels on policies and programmes for the economic and social empowerment of women and girls, helping to tackle disparities and facilitate the acquisition of life skills;

*c)* Resolution 55 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly, on mainstreaming a gender perspective in ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU‑T) activities, which ensures gender mainstreaming in ITU‑T activities,

noting further

*a)* UNGA Resolution 64/289, on system-wide coherence, adopted on 2 July 2010, establishing the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, which will be known as "UN Women", with the mandate to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women;

*b)* Resolution 2012/24 of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system, which welcomed the development of the UN System-Wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UNSWAP);

*c)* that the United Nations Chief Executives Board (CEB), in April 2013, advocated the "Action Plan to measure gender equality and the empowerment of women across the United Nations system", under which ITU will participate in the dissemination, coordination, communication and networking activities forming part of the strategy, as well as the United Nations Secretary-General’s launch of the System Wide Strategy on Gender Parity in September 2017;

*d)* the #eSkills4Girls initiative ("Transforming the future of women and girls in the digital economy"), which calls for support of the development of the #eSkills4Girls online platform and encourages multistakeholder partnerships such as the Global Partnership for Gender Equality in the Digital Age (EQUALS) to accelerate global progress on bridging the gender digital divide,

noting also

*a)* the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), namely the Geneva Declaration of Principles, the Geneva Plan of Action, the Tunis Commitment and Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, as well as the WSIS+10 review;

*b)* the four-year rolling operational plans for the ITU Radiocommunication (ITU-R), Telecommunication Standardization (ITU-T) and Telecommunication Development (ITU-D) Sectors and the General Secretariat adopted by the ITU Council;

*c)* the decision of the Council at its 2013 session to endorse the ITU Gender Equality and Mainstreaming Policy (GEM), with the aim of becoming a model organization for gender equality, and to leverage the power of telecommunications/ICTs to empower both women and men;

*d)* the establishment (endorsed at Council 2013), of an internal Gender Task Force by the Secretary-General, with the aim of fulfilling the main objectives of ensuring coordinated implementation of Resolution 70 (Rev. Busan, 2014), reporting progress to the governing bodies of ITU, preparing a Union-wide action plan to implement the ITU GEM Policy (Council 2013) and overseeing its implementation,

recognizing

*a)* that telecommunications/ICTs can help to create a world in which societies are free of gender discrimination, women and men enjoy the same opportunities, and the economic and social potential of women and girls is guaranteed in order to improve their conditions as individuals, taking into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

*b)* that the effect of telecommunications/ICTs as a catalyst will serve the actions and objectives agreed at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) to ensure that the world takes a more sustainable path to development, incorporating the social, economic and environmental dimensions, favouring social inclusion, equality of women and men, and strengthening protection of the environment on which all forms of life depend, taking into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

considering

*a)* the progress made by BDT in promoting the use of telecommunications/ICTs for the purpose of economic and social empowerment of women and girls, in particular the results of International Girls in ICT Day, within the framework of Resolution 70 (Rev. Busan, 2014), in which 300 000 girls and young women in over 166 countries were made aware of the job opportunities in the ICT sector between 2011 and 2017 with the support of BDT;

*b)* that the Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development has set an advocacy target which consists in achieving gender equality in broadband access by 2020;

*c)* the contributions made by ITU’s Gender Task Force , proposing ways of ensuring that gender mainstreaming and the empowerment of women is underscored in policies and programmes and fully integrated in ITU's work and strategic plan,

resolves

1 that BDT should maintain close links and collaborate, as appropriate, with the Gender Task Force set up by the Secretary‑General, and the Working Group on Broadband and Gender of the Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development, reciprocally supporting gender mainstreaming in the Union's activities, and that these groups should join forces to eliminate inequalities in access to and use of telecommunications/ICTs, in the interests of building a non-discriminatory and egalitarian information society, taking into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDG target 5.b);

2 that BDT should continue to work to promote gender equality in the field of telecommunications/ICTs, recommending action on policies and programmes at the international, regional and national level in order to improve the socio-economic condition of women, with greater emphasis on developing countries[[10]](#footnote-10)1, taking into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

3 that inclusion of the gender perspective should be ensured in the implementation of all relevant BDT initiatives and projects and of the outcomes of this conference;

4 that high priority be accorded to the incorporation of gender policies in the management, staffing and operation of ITU‑D;

5 that BDT should contribute to the economic empowerment and high-level professional employment of women in decision-making posts, encouraging women's leadership in the sphere of telecommunications/ICTs, collaborating to promote a plural, inclusive and integrating information society;

6 that telecommunications/ICTs contribute to preventing and eliminating violence against women and girls in both public and private spaces;

7 to invite the Telecommunication Development (TDAG), Radiocommunication (RAG) and Telecommunication Standardization (TSAG) advisory groups to assist in the identification of subjects and mechanisms to foster the mainstreaming of a gender perspective, as well as matters of mutual interest in that regard;

8 that BDT should and inform the ITU regional offices on, and ensure their participation in, progress and results achieved in implementing this resolution,

further resolves

to endorse the following measures:

1 design, implement and support projects and programmes in developing countries and countries with economies in transition that are either specifically targeted to women and girls or are gender sensitive, for the purpose of tackling the barriers that women and girls encounter in access to and use of ICTs in terms of digital literacy, training in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields, affordability, trust and confidence, at the international, regional and national levels, taking into account SDG target 5.b;

2 support the collection and analysis of sex-disaggregated data and the development of gender‑sensitive indicators that will enable cross-country comparisons and highlight trends in the digital gender divide in the sector;

3 evaluate relevant projects and programmes to assess gender implications, in connection with Resolution 17 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of this conference;

4 provide gender mainstreaming training and/or capacity building to BDT staff responsible for the design and implementation of development projects and programmes and work with them to develop gender‑sensitive projects as appropriate;

5 incorporate a gender perspective into study group Questions, as appropriate;

6 mobilize resources for gender-sensitive projects, including projects to ensure that women and girls can use ICTs for their own empowerment and create services and develop applications that contribute to the equality and empowerment of all women and girls;

7 develop partnerships with other United Nations agencies to promote the use of telecommunications/ICTs in projects aimed at women and girls, with the aim of encouraging women and girls to connect to the Internet, increasing training for women and monitoring the telecommunication/ICT gender gap, including supporting EQUALS – The Global Partnership for Gender Equality in the Digital Age;

8 promote educational programmes to protect women and girls from cyberviolence and to address their safety needs;

9 support International Girls in ICT Day and efforts of the ITU membership to undertake year-long activities to make girls and young women aware of job opportunities in the ICT sector and develop their ICT skills,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to report to TDAG and the Council annually on the results and the progress made on the inclusion of a gender perspective in the work of ITU‑D, and on the implementation of this resolution;

2 to continue the work of BDT in promoting the use of telecommunications/ICTs for the economic and social empowerment of women and girls, taking into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

invites the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

to assist members:

1 to encourage the mainstreaming of a gender perspective through appropriate administrative mechanisms and processes within regulatory agencies and ministries and to promote inter-organizational cooperation on this issue within the telecommunication sector, taking into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

2 to provide concrete advice, in the form of guidelines for gender‑sensitive project development and evaluation in the telecommunication sector as well as guidelines for projects aimed at bridging the gender digital divide;

3 to increase awareness of gender issues among members through the collection and dissemination of information related to gender issues and telecommunications/ICTs and through best practices on gender‑sensitive programming;

4 to establish partnerships with Sector Members in order to develop and/or support specific telecommunication/ICT projects that target women and girls in developing countries and in countries with economies in transition;

5 to encourage Sector Members to promote gender equality in the telecommunication/ICT sector through financial commitments to specific projects involving women and girls, taking into account SDG target 5.b;

6 to support active involvement of women experts in ITU‑D study groups and other ITU‑D activities, including project implementation,

invites the Plenipotentiary Conference

1 to build on and consolidate past accomplishments, by providing the necessary financial and human resources for the effective and sustained integration of a gender perspective in the development activities of ITU‑D;

2 to instruct the Secretary-General to bring this resolution to the attention of the United Nations Secretary-General in an effort to promote increased coordination and cooperation for development policies, programmes and projects that link access to and use and appropriation of telecommunications/ICTs and broadband for women and girls, taking into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

3 to support the promotion of gender equality, empowerment and the social and economic development of women and girls, taking into account SDG target 5.b.

RESOLUTION 58 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017)

Telecommunication/information and communication technology   
accessibility for persons with disabilities and persons   
with specific needs

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

recognizing

*a)* Resolution 175 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on telecommunication/information and communication technology (ICT) accessibility for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs;

*b)* Resolution 70 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly, on telecommunication/ICT accessibility for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs;

*c)* Article 12 of the International Telecommunication Regulations, adopted by the World Conference on International Telecommunications (Dubai, 2012), which states that Member States should promote access for persons with disabilities to international telecommunication services, taking into account the relevant Recommendations of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T);

*d)* the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU‑D) digital inclusion programme, which promotes telecommunication/ICT accessibility and use for the economic and social development of persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs;

*e)* the formation of the Global Initiative for Inclusive Information Communication Technologies (G3ict)[[11]](#footnote-11)1, and related activities/actions;

*f)* that the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT), in partnership with G3ict, has elaborated the Model ICT Accessibility Policy Report for policy-makers, regulators and service providers, which is freely available and accessible online, in order to: i) facilitate development of best policies and strategies for implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD); and ii) set forth action steps for an effective policy framework;

*g)* the related issues in ITU‑T;

h*)* the related issues in the ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU‑R);

*i)* the formation by the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) of the Dynamic Coalition on Accessibility and Disability (DCAD), in which ITU‑D participates, sponsored by the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau (TSB), and the partnership between ITU‑T and DCAD for the purposes of maximizing the benefits of electronic communications and online information over the Internet for all sectors of the global community;

*j)* the related resolutions from the Global Standards Collaboration (GSC) meetings;

*k)* activities relating to the development of new standards (e.g. ISO TC 159, JTC 1 SC35, IEC TC100, ETSI TC HF and W3C WAI), and the implementation and maintenance of existing standards (e.g. ISO 9241‑171);

*l)* Resolution 70/1 of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

considering

*a)* that the World Health Organization estimates that over one billion of the world's inhabitants live with some form of disability, and that there are different types of disabilities (e.g. physical, motor, cognitive, neurological and sensorial disabilities), each requiring special considerations when designing ICT public policy;

*b)* that the UNCRPD, which came into force on 3 May 2008, requires States Parties to take appropriate measures, namely:

1) undertake or promote research and development on, and promote the availability and use of, new technologies, including ICTs, mobility aids, devices and assistive technologies, suitable for persons with disabilities, giving priority to technologies at an affordable cost (Article 4, section 1 (*g*));

2) ensure ICT and emergency service access for persons with disabilities on an equal basis (Article 9, § 1(*b*));

3) promote ICT access for persons with disabilities to new ICT services, including Internet (Article 9, § 2 (g));

4) promote the design, production and distribution of accessible ICT at an early stage (Article 9, § 2(*h*));

5) ensure that persons with disabilities can exercise the right to freedom of expression and opinion (Article 21);

6) provide information in accessible formats and technologies appropriate to different kinds of disabilities in a timely manner and without additional cost (Article 21, § (*a*));

7) urge private entities that render services to the public to provide information and services in accessible and usable formats for persons with disabilities (Article 21, § (*c*));

8) encourage mass media (including information providers through Internet) to make their services accessible to persons with disabilities (Article 21, § (*d*));

*c)* that, in addition, the UNCRPD further states that there is discrimination on the basis of disability if there is denial of reasonable accommodation, considering "reasonable accommodation" to mean necessary and appropriate modification or adjustments not imposing a disproportionate or undue burden, to ensure to persons with disabilities the enjoyment or exercise of all human rights and fundamental freedoms (i.e. freedom of speech, access to information) (Article 2);

*d)* that States Parties to the UNCRPD undertake to collect adequate information for formulating and implementing policies to give effect to the Convention, and that this information must be disaggregated, and should help identify and address barriers faced by persons with disabilities in exercising their rights (Article 31);

*e)* that maximizing access to ICT services, products, content and terminals for persons with disabilities will support autonomy of persons with disabilities, access to digital literacy, with particular educational focus on aspects that cannot be offered through everyday education, incorporation in worthy ICT employment and, more generally, access to all the benefits that lead to social inclusion, including healthcare;

*f)* that UNGA Resolution 61/106 adopting the UNCPRD requests the Secretary-General (in § 5) "… to implement progressively standards and guidelines for the accessibility of facilities and services of the United Nations system, taking into account relevant provisions of the Convention, in particular when undertaking renovations";

*g)* that persons with disabilities, both acting as individuals and through relevant organizations, should be involved in and participate in the process of elaborating legal/regulatory provisions, public policy and standards, pursuant to the rationale of "nothing about us without us";

*h)* that Article 14 of UNGA Resolution 65/186 and the High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on Disability and Development (HLMDD) sent a message concerning the important role telecommunications and ICTs can play to enable a post-2015 disability-inclusive development framework, and HLMDD proposes to work together within the framework of the UN system towards the achievement of the United Nations common goal: "Inclusive development and a society in which persons with disabilities are both agents and beneficiaries";

*i)* that UNGA Resolution 66/288 endorses the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), entitled "The Future we want", which states as follows: "... 9. We reaffirm the importance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as well as other international instruments relating to human rights and international law. We emphasize the responsibilities of all States, in conformity with the Charter, to respect, protect and promote human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction of any kind as to race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth, disability age or other status",

recalling

*a)* that the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) acknowledged that special attention should be given to the needs of older persons and persons with disabilities: i) when elaborating national cyberstrategies, including educational, administrative and legislative measures; ii) for using ICT in education and human resources development; iii) in order that equipment and services offer easy and affordable access, under the principles of universal design and assistive technology; iv) to promote telework and to increase employment opportunities for persons with disabilities; v) for creation of content that is pertinent to persons with disabilities; and vii) to create the required abilities for the use of ICT by persons with disabilities;[[12]](#footnote-12)2

*b)* the Cairo Declaration (November, 2007) and the Lusaka Declaration (July, 2008) on supporting access to ICT services for persons with disabilities, as well as the Phuket Declaration on tsunami preparedness for persons with disabilities (March, 2007) and the IGF's Hyderabad Declaration on accessibility for persons with disabilities (December 2008),

*c)* the general observation of the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (April 2014) related to Article 9 on accessibility, to promote access for persons with disabilities to new information and communications technologies and systems, including the Internet;

*d)* that the implementation of the relevant WSIS action lines will contribute to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target 9.c (Significantly increase access to ICT and strive to provide universal and affordable access to the Internet in least developed countries by 2020),

taking into account

*a)* the principles that should govern ICT services, equipment and software in order to be accessible, namely: universal design, equal access, functional equivalence, affordability and accessibility, which means designing ICTs with parameters and capabilities adapted to the needs, preferences and special abilities of each user;

*b)* that telecommunication/ICT accessibility for persons with disabilities should be achieved through the formulation of policy options and cooperation between governments, specialized bodies, the private sector, non-governmental organizations and civil society;

*c)* that mainstreaming persons with disabilities, accessibility and inclusive planning in the strategic framework for reinforcing the disability perspective in the global development agenda[[13]](#footnote-13)3 highlights the importance of coordination and exchange of information by and between United Nations bodies concerned;

*d)* the prevailing difference in ICT accessibility for persons with disabilities in the regions, in countries, and within each country, emphasizing that 80 per cent of persons with disabilities live in developing countries[[14]](#footnote-14)4, according to the United Nations Development Programme;

*e)* that women and girls with disabilities suffer multiple disadvantages, being excluded on account of their gender and their disability,

resolves to invite Member States

1 to ratify the UNCPRD, and to take the relevant measures to ensure that ICT services, equipment and software contribute to the development of telecommunication/ICT accessibility and are effectively accessible to persons with disabilities, with the aim of promoting the inclusion of all members of society, in favour of those who are at risk of marginalization and socially vulnerable, taking into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

2 to develop national legal frameworks, including laws, regulations, policies, guidelines or other national and local mechanisms for telecommunication/ICT accessibility for persons with disabilities in accordance with the principles of equal access, functional equivalence, affordability and universal design, taking full advantage of available tools, guidelines and standards;

3 to consider establishing a government procurement policy foraccessible telecommunications/ICTs,establishing accessibility criteria;

4 to continue strengthening the collection and analysis of disaggregated data and statistics on disability related to telecommunication/ICT accessibility for persons with disabilities, aimed at creating e-accessibility statistics and similarly relevant indicators that will contribute to the public policy design, planning and implementation process;

5 to consider introducing telecommunication/ICT relay services[[15]](#footnote-15)5 for persons with disabilities, and encourage the development of applications for telecommunication terminals and products to increase the accessibility and usability of telecommunications/ICTs for persons with visual, auditory, verbal and other physical and cognitive disabilities, such as telecommunication/relay services for any combinations of hearing, visual, verbal and motor disabilities, accessible websites, public phones with accessibility features (e.g. volume control, information in Braille), public schools, institutions and community centres with a range of accessible equipment, including screen readers, Braille printers, hearing aids, among others, and to facilitate access to digital TV content, etc., in order to guarantee the rights of persons with disabilities to information and knowledge;

6 to encourage and enable active participation by persons with disabilities, both as individuals and as organizations, in the policy-making process for ICTs and related areas where ICTs have an impact, by ensuring that the consultation process, meetings and/or surveys are accessible to participation by persons with disabilities;

7 to promote and undertake research and development on ICT-accessible equipment, services and software, with emphasis on free and open-source software and affordable equipment and services;

8 to envisage establishing a programme that considers ICT-accessibility priorities, to be periodically reviewed in order to ensure its relevance to the specific local conditions of a country/region, with a view to progressive implementation;

9 to mainstream telecommunication/ICT accessibility for persons with disabilities, which involves taking into consideration accessibility principles in a cross-cutting manner;

10 to consider exemption from taxes and customs duties on ICT devices and assistive equipment for persons with disabilities, in accordance with the national regulations on this matter;

11 to establish ongoing and permanent collaboration between developed and developing countries in order to exchange information, technology and best practices related to telecommunication/ICT accessibility for persons with disabilities and specific needs;

12 to participate actively in accessibility-related studies in ITU‑D, ITU‑T and ITU‑R, and to encourage and promote self-representation by persons with disabilities in the development and standardization process, so as to ensure that their experiences, views and opinions are taken into account in all the work of the study groups;

13 to promote the development of learning and capacity-building opportunities to train persons with disabilities to use ICTs for their social and economic development, including through train-the-trainer courses and distance learning, for a more inclusive society;

14 to advocate for the rights of persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs, and contribute to their integrated development and full inclusion,

invites Sector Members

1 to adopt a self-regulation approach for rendering accessibility-related ICT equipment, software and services accessible for persons with disabilities, it being expressly understood that self-regulation does not override legal and regulatory provisions;

2 to adopt a universal design principle from an early stage when designing, producing and creating ICT equipment, services and software, so as to avoid costly retrofitting measures;

3 to promote, if applicable, research and development on ICT-accessible equipment, services and software, having due regard to affordability for persons with disabilities and specific needs;

4 to take due account of the situations and needs of persons with disabilities, encouraging their active participation so as to receive first-hand information on their requirements for telecommunication/ICT accessibility;

5 to collaborate with Member States in order to make telecommunication/ICT accessibility a reality for persons with disabilities, in particular to promote affordable accessible telecommunications/ICTs for persons with disabilities and specific needs;

6 to promote communication tools for persons with disabilities, so that they can access services and information independently and confidently,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to ensure that each ITU‑D programme, project or activity takes into account telecommunication/ICT accessibility issues and is adapted to the situations and/or needs of all persons with disabilities and with specific needs;

2 to develop and/or update tools and guidelines for use/reference by Member States in mainstreaming telecommunication/ICT accessibility issues in their national/regional policies and regulations, and provide the necessary capacity building, taking into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

3 to identify and document examples of best practice for accessibility in the field of telecommunications/ICTs for dissemination, publication and sharing of experiences, best practices and information among ITU Member States and Sector Members, taking into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

4 to consider holding seminars, symposia or forums for policy-makers, telecommunication regulators and Sector Members at which telecommunication/ICT accessibility policies are presented and discussed, and also to promote the elaboration of books, reports or literature that address telecommunication/ICT accessibility for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs;

5 to collaborate with the Radiocommunication Bureau (BR) and the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau (TSB) on accessibility-related activities, particularly in creating awareness and mainstreaming telecommunication/ICT accessibility policies, as well as creating programmes that enable countries to introduce services which allow persons with disabilities and specific needs to utilize ICT services effectively, reporting the findings to the ITU Council, as appropriate, in both cases;

6 to collaborate and cooperate with relevant United Nations entities and organizations for persons with disabilities in all regions in order to generate awareness of the need for the design and implementation of policies or self‑regulatory approaches that will make ICTs accessible for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs;

7 to ensure that the needs of the communities of persons with disabilities are taken into account in the provision of telecommunication/ICT accessibility equipment, services and software;

8 to consider the development of an internship programme for persons with disabilities who have expertise in the field of telecommunications/ICTs, so as to build capacity among persons with disabilities in the public policy-making process;

9 to strengthen the Digital Inclusion programme to promote telecommunication/ICT accessibility for persons with disabilities;

10 to promote the exchange of experiences and best practices in terms of access to telecommunication and ICT services for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs,

further instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to review, in consultation with the Secretary‑General, the accessibility of ITU services and facilities, including meetings and events, to consider taking actions, where appropriate, pursuant to UNGA Resolution 61/106, and to inform Member States and Sector Members about the implementation of such actions, as appropriate;

2 to contribute, within the scope of BDT, to uniting efforts for the implementation of the provisions of Resolution 70 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016) and Resolution 175 (Rev. Busan, 2014);

3 to provide advice to, evaluate and supervise initiatives, projects and programmes, so as to determine their impact in terms of telecommunication/ICT accessibility for persons with disabilities, under Resolution 17 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of this conference on regional initiatives, where appropriate;

4 to provide assistance to Member States, as appropriate, in the establishment of their national funding strategies aimed at addressing the needs of persons with disabilities;

5 to identify, within the study groups, taking into account the financial implications, new accessible software, services and solutions to enable all persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs to effectively use telecommunication/ICT services, on the basis of contributions from the Member States and Sector Members, as well as the ITU‑T and ITU‑R study groups, as appropriate,

invites the Plenipotentiary Conference

1 to build on and consolidate past accomplishments, by providing the necessary financial and human resources for the effective and sustained integration of telecommunication/ICT accessibility for persons with disabilities in the development activities of ITU;

2 to instruct the Secretary-General to bring this resolution to the attention of the Secretary-General of the United Nations in an effort to promote increased coordination and cooperation for development policies, programmes and projects for achieving ICT accessibility for persons with disabilities, in line with the principles of equitable access, functional equivalence, affordability and universal design, and fully harnessing the available tools, guidelines and standards, to eliminate obstacles and discrimination.

RESOLUTION 75 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017)

Implementation of the Smart Africa Manifesto and support for the development of information and communication technologies sector in Africa

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

considering

*a)* the provisions of the ITU Constitution, as contained in Chapter IV thereof on the Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU‑D), particularly with regard, *inter alia*, to the functions of the Sector for building awareness of the impact of telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICTs) on national economic and social development, its catalytic role in promoting the development, expansion and operation of telecommunication services and networks, especially in developing countries[[16]](#footnote-16)1, and the need to maintain and enhance cooperation with regional and other telecommunication organizations;

*b)* that, at its 22nd ordinary session, it was decided that the African Union Assembly "ENDORSES the key outcomes of the Transform Africa Summit hosted by H.E. Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda in October 2013 which adopted the SMART Africa Manifesto highlighting the need to place ICT at the centre of national socio-economic development agenda and SMART Africa Alliance as implementation framework";

*c)* Resolution 30 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on special measures for the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

*d)* the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2015-2020 adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in September 2015;

*e)* the outcome of the Geneva (2003) and Tunis (2005) phases of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) as well as the WSIS+10 Statement and WSIS+10 vision beyond 2015,

noting

that, in its Declaration and resolutions, the World Telecommunication Development Conference (Doha, 2006) reaffirmed a commitment to enhancing expansion and development of telecommunication services in developing countries and harnessing capacity for the application of new and innovative services,

taking note of

*a)* the recognition by the United Nations General Assembly in its Resolution 56/37 of the adoption by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its 37th ordinary session (Lusaka, July 2001) of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD);

*b)* the actions for NEPAD set out in annex hereto;

*c)* the declaration by the Economic and Social Council on the role of the United Nations system in supporting the efforts of African countries to achieve sustainable development,

taking cognizance of

*a)* the work under way to implement the African Regional Action Plan for the Knowledge Economy (ARAPKE);

*b)* the request, formulated in the Addis Ababa Declaration adopted by the Heads of State and Government during the 14th Conference of the African Union, that an African digital agenda be set;

*c)* the appeal made by the conference referred to in *b)* above to development partners, especially financing institutions, to integrate telecommunications/ICTs into their priorities by granting them financing conditions similar to those of other basic public utility infrastructures;

*d)* the African Union’s Agenda 2063 and NEPAD;

*e)* the decisions taken by the Connect Africa summit held in Kigali in October 2007,

recognizing

that, in spite of the impressive growth and expansion in infocommunication services recorded in the African region in recent years, many areas of major concern still exist and considerable disparities persist in the region, and the digital divide continues to widen,

recalling

the Connect Africa summit goals adopted by African Heads of State present on 29‑30 October 2007, which reflect the challenges and opportunities in the Africa region,

resolves to instruct the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to mobilize the resources needed to implement this resolution, which complements the resolutions resulting from the 14th Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, held in Addis Ababa in February 2010, on the theme "Information and communication technologies in Africa: challenges and prospects for development";

2 to pay particular attention to implementation of the provisions of the ITU‑D action plan relating to the recommendations of the report "Partnership framework for ICT infrastructure development in Africa", earmarking resources so that this can be permanently monitored;

3 to continue supporting the Smart Africa Manifesto in accordance with Resolution 195 (Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, and to provide technical expertise to carry out feasibility studies and project management for the implementation of the Smart Africa Manifesto,

instructs the Secretary-General

1 to engage the different United Nations agencies to support various components of the Smart Africa programmes, in areas within their scope and mandate;

2 to mobilize financial support from the existing networks, including broadcasters, satellite providers, etc.,

invites Member States

1 to cooperate with African countries in promoting regional, subregional, multilateral and bilateral projects and programmes for the implementation of the Smart Africa Manifesto;

2 to transmit this resolution to the Plenipotentiary Conference (Dubai, 2018) for consideration and in order to make available the financial resources required to implement it.

Annex to Resolution 75 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017)

Recommendations of the report "Partnership framework for   
ICT infrastructure development in Africa"

# 1 Infrastructure

i) Support to the Ministerial Committee of the African Union for the establishment of the Inter‑Agency Coordinating Forum

ii) Preparation of master plans for ICT infrastructure development (PIDA)

iii) Facilitation of the introduction of digital technologies, especially for broadcasting

iv) Support for all projects which promote ICT development and subregional and regional integration, for example, the East African Submarine Cable project (EASSy), the NEPAD e‑school initiative, the telecommunication/ICT component of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA), RASCOM, e‑Post Africa, COMTEL, SRII, INTELCOM II, the ARAPKE projects, etc.

v) Establishment and interconnection of national Internet exchange points

vi) Evaluation of the impact and adoption of measures for strengthening functional capacities and the new missions of subregional maintenance centres

vii) Encourage the establishment of technological alliances in order to promote research and development at a regional level

# 2 Environment

# Development and implementation of:

i) an Africa-wide vision, strategy and action plan for ICT

ii) a national vision and strategies for the development of ICT with maximum linkage to other national development strategies, notably the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP)

iii) elaboration of a national policy framework and strategy for universal access

iv) provision of support for the harmonization of policy and regulatory frameworks at the subregional level

# 3 Capacity building, cooperation and partnerships

i) Support for the elaboration of the planning and management of the frequency spectrum at national, subregional and regional levels

ii) Support the strengthening of ICT training institutions and the network of centres of excellence in the region

iii) Establishment of a cooperation mechanism amongst regional institutions that provide development assistance to African countries in the ICT sector

iv) Regional or multi-national approach to provision of support

v) Establishment of an ad hoc regional ICT think tank for Africa

vi) Strengthening of subregional telecommunication regulatory associations

vii) Strengthening of public-private partnership

viii) Establishment of an African ICT database

ix) Strengthening the capacities of regional economic communities for better implementation of the ICT projects and initiatives.

RESOLUTION 76 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017)

Promoting information and communication technologies  
among young women and men for social  
and economic empowerment

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

noting

*a)* Resolution 70 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, which calls for promoting and increasing the interest of, and opportunities for, women and girls in information and communication technology (ICT) careers during elementary, secondary and higher education so as to encourage girls to choose a career in the field of ICT and foster the use of ICTs for the social and economic empowerment of women and girls;

*b)* Resolution 198 (Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, which calls for empowerment of youth through telecommunications/ICTs;

*c)* the BYND 2015 Global Youth Summit, held in Costa Rica in September 2013 led by ITU, which brought together some 700 participants and over 3 000 young people around the world who logged in virtually to contribute their ideas to shape the sustainable development agenda in the post-2015 era;

*d)* that the world's youth have set priorities for the post-2015 development agenda in their "Costa Rica Declaration", as an outcome of the Global Youth Summit, which have been presented for consideration to the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) at its 68th session;

*e)* the fact that the United Nations Secretary-General has put "youth" as a priority in his Agenda and included youth employment, entrepreneurship and education as overall goals through the System-Wide Action Plan on Youth;

*f)* UNGA Resolution 70/1, on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 8 on promoting sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all, including the development and implementation of a global strategy for youth employment,

recognizing

*a)* that youth are digital natives, the best promoters of ICTs and a world force for progress;

*b)* that ICTs are tools through which both young women and men can substantively contribute to, participate in and leverage their social and economic development,

considering

*a)* the progress made by the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) in promoting gender equality, in the development and implementation of projects that target youth and young women and are gender sensitive, as well as in increasing awareness on the importance of education in the ICT sector and awareness on career development for young girls in ICTs and related fields within the Union and among Member States and Sector Members;

*b)* the results achieved within the framework of Resolution 70 (Rev. Busan, 2014), through which, since 2011, by promoting the International Girls in ICT Day, over 300 000 girls and young women in over 166 countries have been made aware of the job opportunities in the ICT sector with the support of BDT;[[17]](#footnote-17)1

*c)* the fact that ICTs play an important role in the promotion of education, career development and work opportunities, as well as for social and economic development of young women and men;

*d)* the fact that ITU, through the Global Youth Summit, engaged a worldwide community to gather their opinions and ideas on how technology can contribute to a better world and shape the post-2015 development agenda;

*e)* the fact that BDT plays a substantive role, through its activities, towards youth empowerment and involvement in the decision-making processes related to ICTs for development-related issues,

resolves

1 that the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU‑D), taking into account the above considerations, shall continue to support the development of activities, projects and events aimed at promoting ICT applications among young women and men, in particular in the areas of employment, entrepreneurship and education, and thereby contribute to youth educational, social and economic development and empowerment, taking into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

2 that the established ITU‑D objective on digital inclusion will continue to support the work promoting ICTs to young women and men,

resolves further

1 to establish partnerships with academia concerned with youth development programmes;

2 to add a youth dimension in Questions for study, wherever possible,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to seek appropriate means to integrate youth issues into the activities of BDT and to actively pursue diversity;

2 to ensure that the necessary resources, within budgetary limits, are allocated to these activities;

3 to promote ICTs among young women and men and their social and economic development and empowerment;

4 to provide guidance on measuring the extent of youth empowerment at national and international level;

5 to provide guidance on digital citizenship among youth, including e-government services,

invites the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

to assist Member States:

1 to promote enrolment in ICT-oriented education programmes, including from early education, and to promote ICTs for the social and economic development and empowerment of young women and men, taking into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

2 to provide concrete advice, in the form of guidelines, to integrate young women and men in the information society;

3 to establish partnerships with Sector Members, in order to develop and/or support specific ICT projects that target young women and men in developing countries and in countries with economies in transition, taking into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

4 to include a youth component in BDT activities aimed at raising awareness of the challenges that youth are facing in the ICT area, and calling for implementation of concrete solutions;

5 to promote ICT-friendly frameworks in education and careers for youth without gender discrimination, and thus encourage young girls and women to be part of the ICT sector,

encourages Member States

1 to share best practices on national approaches targeting the use of ICTs for the social and economic development of young women and men, taking into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

2 to develop national strategies for using ICTs as a tool for the educational, social and economic development of young women and men;

3 to promote ICTs for youth empowerment and involvement in the decision-making processes of the ICT sector;

4 to support ITU‑D activities in the field of ICTs for the social and economic development of young women and men;

5 to promote the relevance of ICTs as facilitators of new ideas for creating alternative work options;

6 to acknowledge the importance of entrepreneurship among youth, particularly in innovative sectors and new technology, for adding economic value and helping to create skilled jobs by promoting the use of ICTs among young women and men,

encourages Member States, Sector Members and Academia

1 to coordinate global and regional youth forums, considering available resources, taking into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

2 to provide access to telecommunications/ICTs and provide up-to-date training for young people on ICT use;

3 to foster collaboration with civil society and the private sector in order to provide specialized training for young innovators,

invites Academia

to equip youth with job-ready digital skills and, thereby, foster their empowerment and ability to compete in the global labour market to improve their quality of life, including through academic exchange programmes,

requests the Secretary-General

1 to bring this resolution to the attention of the Plenipotentiary Conference with a view to releasing appropriate resources, within the budgetary limits, for the corresponding activities and functions;

2 to bring this resolution to the attention of the United Nations Secretary-General in an effort to promote increased coordination and cooperation for development policies, programmes and projects that link ICTs to the promotion and empowerment of young women and men.

RESOLUTION 82 (Dubai, 2014)

Preserving and promoting multilingualism on the Internet  
for an inclusive information society

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Dubai, 2014),

considering

*a)* the provisions of Resolutions 101 and 102 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on ITU's role with regard to international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet and the management of Internet resources, including domain names and addresses;

*b)* Resolution 133 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the role of administrations of Member States in the management of internationalized (multilingual) domain names;

*c)* Resolution 154 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the use of the six official languages of the Union on an equal footing;

*d)* Resolution 69 (Rev. Dubai, 2012) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA), on non-discriminatory access and use of Internet resources;

*e)* that the mission of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU‑D) falls within the more general framework of ITU's purposes, laid down in Article 1 of the ITU Constitution, and is formulated as follows: "The mission of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU‑D) shall be to foster international cooperation and solidarity in the delivery of technical assistance and in the creation, development and improvement of telecommunication/information and communication technology (ICT) equipment and networks in developing countries. ITU‑D is required to discharge the Union's dual responsibility as a United Nations specialized agency and executing agency for implementing projects under the United Nations development system or other funding arrangements, so as to facilitate and enhance telecommunication/ICT development by offering, organizing and coordinating technical cooperation and assistance activities",

recalling

Resolution 20 (Rev. Hyderabad, 2010) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC), on non-discriminatory access to modern telecommunication/ICT facilities, services and related applications,

recognizing

*a)* Articles 19 and 27 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948, to the effect that: "Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers", and "Everyone has the right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits…";

*b)* Article 27 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights of 1966, and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of 1966, designed to impose specific obligations in regard to protection against sexual, religious, racial or other forms of discrimination, which stipulates that: "In those States in which ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities exist, persons belonging to such minorities shall not be denied the right, in community with the other members of their group, to enjoy their own culture, to profess and practise their own religion, or to use their own language";

*c)* United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Resolution 47/135 of 18 December 1992, adopting the Declaration on the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, which states that: "States shall protect the existence and the national or ethnic, cultural, religious and linguistic identity of minorities within their respective territories and shall encourage conditions for the promotion of that identity";

*d)* the United Nations Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) Statement of 1997 on universal access to basic communication and information services, which asserts that: "... the information and technology gap and related inequities between industrialized and developing nations are widening: a new type of poverty – information poverty – looms";

*e)* § 25 of the Millennium Declaration approved by UNGA, which refers to measures aimed at increasing the effectiveness of the United Nations in human rights and public information efforts;

*f)* UNGA Resolution 35/201, approved at the 97th plenary session on 16 December 1980, transmitting the recommendation on promotion and use of multilingualism and universal access to cyberspace;

*g)* the report drawn up by the Organisation for Economic Co‑operation and Development (OECD), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the Internet Society in 2012, entitled "The relationship between local content, Internet development and access prices", which informs us that there is a strong correlation between the development of local network infrastructure and the growth of local content, that local content is growing in volume as a result of investment worldwide, and that its composition is changing and local content is no longer dominated by developed countries, but is more representative of the diversity of multiple cultures, languages and communities existing in the world[[18]](#footnote-18)1,

emphasizing

*a)* the role played by ITU in the successful organization of the two phases of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), and that the Geneva Declaration of Principles and the Geneva Plan of Action, adopted in 2003, and the Tunis Commitment and the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, adopted in 2005, have been endorsed by UNGA;

*b)* the WSIS 2003 Declaration of Principles and its commitment to "build a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented information society, where everyone can create, access, utilize and share information and knowledge";

*c)* that the Internet is a subject of valid international interest and must flow from full multistakeholder cooperation, with a duty to guarantee equitable distribution of resources, facilitate access for all and guarantee stable and secure functioning of the Internet, having due regard to multilingualism, on the basis of the outcomes of the two phases of WSIS;

*d)* that the Geneva Declaration of Principles aimed at "building the information society: a global challenge in the new millennium" establishes, as one of its fundamental principles, under § B8 (Cultural diversity and identity, linguistic diversity and local content), that "the creation, dissemination and preservation of content in diverse languages and formats must be accorded high priority in building an inclusive information society, paying particular attention to the diversity of supply of creative work and due recognition of the rights of authors and artists. It is essential to promote the production of and accessibility to all content – educational, scientific, cultural or recreational – in diverse languages and formats. The development of local content suited to domestic or regional needs will encourage social and economic development and will stimulate participation of all stakeholders, including people living in rural, remote and marginal areas";

*e)* that the aforementioned Declaration of Principles also asserts that "the preservation of cultural heritage is a crucial component of identity and self-understanding of individuals that links a community to its past. The information society should harness and preserve cultural heritage for the future by all appropriate methods, including digitization";

*f)* that, similarly, at the WSIS meeting in Geneva, UNESCO introduced its concept of knowledge societies, emphasizing plurality, diversity and inclusion, and highlighting that the use of ICTs has to take into account universally recognized human rights, focusing on four principles: freedom of expression, universal access to information and knowledge, cultural and linguistic diversity and quality education for all;

*g)* that the UNESCO Convention of 2005 on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expression stipulates that: "Equitable access to a rich and diversified range of cultural expressions from all over the world and access of cultures to the means of expressions and dissemination constitute important elements for enhancing cultural diversity and encouraging mutual understanding";

*h)* that UNESCO has provided assistance to Member States in the implementation of the policy guidelines assembled in the recommendations for decision-makers, and carried out various training activities in respect of universal access to information and the promotion and use of multilingualism, in conjunction with the Organization of American States (OAS);

*i)* that the Paris Declaration on Open Educational Resources of 2012 recommends that States, within their capacities and authority, *inter alia*, promote the understanding and use of open educational resources, facilitate enabling environments for use of ICTs, reinforce the development of strategies and policies on open educational resources and encourage the development and adaptation of open educational resources in a variety of languages and cultural contexts,

taking into account

*a)* that International Mother Language Day, proclaimed by the UNESCO General Conference in November 1999, has been observed yearly since 2000 to promote linguistic and cultural diversity and multilingualism, and that the 2011 edition focused on the theme "Information and communication technologies for the safeguarding and promotion of languages and linguistic diversity";

*b)* that, in the changing telecommunication/ICT environment, a continuing challenge facing the Union is to remain a pre‑eminent intergovernmental organization where Member States, Sector Members and Associates work together to enable the growth and sustained development of telecommunications and information networks and applications, and to facilitate universal access so that people everywhere can participate in, and benefit from, the emerging information society;

*c)* that ITU is deploying maximum efforts, in collaboration and coordination with competent organizations in the field of Internet governance, to bring the greatest possible benefits to the world community;

*d)* that, at the operational level, ITU has been carrying out the tasks assigned under the WSIS outcomes, in its capacity as: lead facilitator (along with UNESCO and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)) for coordinating the multistakeholder implementation of the Geneva Action Plan; facilitator for Action Lines C2 (Information and communication infrastructure) and C5 (Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs) and, at UNDP's request, having accepted to play the role of facilitator for Action Line C6 (Enabling environment); co-facilitator for Action Lines C1 (Role of governments and all stakeholders in the promotion of ICTs for development), C3 (Access to information and knowledge), C4 (Capacity building), C7 (ICT applications: Benefits in all aspects of life) and C11 (International and regional cooperation); and partner in Action Lines C8 (Cultural diversity and identity, linguistic diversity and local content) and C9 (Media);

*e)* the 2012 report by the Broadband Commission for Digital Development, which makes it clear that content and broadband-enabled services in local languages as well as the capacities of local communities to create and share content are important drivers of the use of broadband infrastructure by local population;

*f)* the 2013 report of the Broadband Commission for Digital Development, which presents a series of strategies that governments worldwide, in particular the developing countries and other entities interested in education, should adopt in order to derive maximum benefit from the advantages offered by ICTs, including promoting mobility of education and open educational resources, supporting the development of content adapted to local contexts and languages, etc., pointing to the need to create ecosystems of online educational applications and services with local and homegrown content,

resolves to instruct the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau, in collaboration with the Director of Telecommunication Standardization Bureau

to include in the work programmes of relevant ITU‑D study groups necessary actions to preserve and promote multilingualism on the Internet and the provision of a huge range of social services, from health to education, with focus on the development of digital content from popular cultures and minority groups using a range of non-mainstream languages which are currently not covered in the Internet, in order to contribute from ITU‑D's vantage point, with the Member States, to guaranteeing digital inclusion, building an inclusive and plural information society, and prompting calls for action within the framework of ITU so as to ensure that the importance of preserving linguistic and cultural diversity is recognized, within the framework and available budgetary resources of ITU‑D,

further instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to ensure that, in all ITU‑D programmes, projects and activities, due account is taken of the need to resolve the issues that hamper the preservation and promotion of multilingualism in the digital ecosystem of the Internet and associated services;

2 to consider holding seminars, symposia or forums for policy-makers, telecommunication/ICT regulators, Sector Members and interested stakeholders, at which public policies for protecting linguistic and cultural diversity of communities, peoples and minority groups and persons with specific needs are presented and discussed, so that their voices are heard and their identities, lifestyles, etc., are taken into account;

3 to collaborate with the Radiocommunication Bureau and the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau in regard to their activities to promote awareness and mainstream policies, and in the creation of programmes and projects that help developing countries foster linguistic diversity and multilingualism on the Internet;

4 to provide advice to, evaluate and supervise projects, initiatives and programmes, so as to determine their impact in terms of preserving and promoting linguistic diversity and multilingualism, under Resolution 17 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) of this conference on regional initiatives, where appropriate;

5 to report to the ITU Council on the implementation of this resolution,

invites Member States and Sector Members, Academia and Associates, as appropriate

1 to participate actively in all international discussions and initiatives for guaranteeing the preservation and promotion of multiculturalism and multilingualism in the digital ecosystem of the Internet and associated services, with a view to ensuring universal access and bringing multilingual societies to life, and strengthening dialogue between cultures, openness and mutual understanding, tolerance towards others, etc.;

2 to submit contributions within ITU‑D in order to facilitate effective implementation of this resolution;

3 to promote the creation of capacity building to develop local digital content, in rural contexts and within vulnerable groups of the population, in order to preserve multiculturalism and promote their regional, national and local integration;

4 to contribute, with UNESCO, which is the facilitator for implementation of WSIS Action Line C8, focusing on concerns and requests for assistance, in particular from developing countries, to facilitating and fostering affordability of international Internet connectivity, and thereby overcome language barriers and increase use of the Internet;

5 to contribute to the establishment of regional, national and local strategic plans to promote sites which ensure and foster linguistic diversity and multilingualism in the digital ecosystem of the Internet;

6 to contribute to studying appropriate mechanisms for converting digital archives in non-mainstream languages, with a view to fostering socio-economic development and information and knowledge sharing between communities and groups with specific needs, and so that more and new voices can benefit from the potential offered by telecommunications/ICTs;

7 to recommend measures within their competencies for cooperation with academia, civil society and other interested and involved stakeholders, under a multistakeholder approach, with a view to reducing disparity, exclusion and discrimination in terms of opportunities, by exploiting the potential that protecting and safeguarding languages not present in the digital ecosystem of the Internet offers;

8 to promote awareness among equipment manufacturers and designers regarding the advantages of introducing in the regions already identified by UNESCO alternative alphabets for languages not present in the digital ecosystem of the Internet, to be used by people with different native languages, and thus contribute to moving forward towards digital inclusion, respecting their cultural identity,

invites the Secretary-General

1 to bring this resolution to the attention of the next plenipotentiary conference, for its consideration, taking into account past accomplishments, by allocating the necessary human resources to make effective contributions to ITU‑D's activities for institutionalizing the issue of multilingualism within ITU;

2 to bring this resolution to the attention of the Secretary-General of the United Nations in an effort to promote increased cooperation and coordination for development policies, programmes and projects in order to make progress in linguistic diversity and the Internet, in line with the principles of equitable access, functional equivalence, affordability and universal design, fully harnessing the available tools, guidelines and standards, for the elimination of all forms of discrimination and digital exclusion.

RESOLUTION 83 (Buenos Aires, 2017)

Special assistance and support to the Government of Libya  
for rebuilding its telecommunication networks

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)* the noble principles, purposes and objectives enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as well as in the Declaration of Principles adopted by the World Summit on the Information Society;

*c)* the purposes of the Union as enshrined in Article 1 of the ITU Constitution,

considering

*a)* that reliable telecommunication systems are indispensable for promoting the socio‑economic development of countries, in particular of countries in special need, which are those having suffered from domestic conflicts or war;

*b)* that the telecommunication infrastructure in Libya has been grievously affected by war;

*c)* that, under the present conditions, Libya will not be able to rebuild its war-damaged infrastructure and ensure effective operation of its telecommunication sector to meet its social and economic goals without the help of the international community, provided bilaterally or through international organizations,

noting

*a)* the efforts which have been and are being deployed by the Secretary-General and the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) to provide assistance to countries in special need which have endured armed conflict and war;

*b)* the technical assistance from BDT for the purpose of telecommunication/information and communication technology development in Member States,

resolves

to initiate special action, within the framework of ITU and within available resources, with the aim of providing assistance and support to the Government of Libya in rebuilding its telecommunication infrastructure, creating appropriate institutions, building human capacities, formulating legislation in the area of telecommunications, and developing a regulatory framework,

calls upon members

to offer all possible assistance and support to the Government of Libya, either bilaterally or through the special action of the Union referred to above,

invites the ITU Council

to allocate the necessary funds for the implementation of this resolution,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to use the necessary funds to implement activities in favour of the Government of Libya;

2 to mobilize extrabudgetary resources to assist Libya,

requests the Secretary-General

1 to coordinate the activities carried out by the three ITU Sectors in accordance with *resolves* above, in order to ensure that the ITU action in favour of the Government of Libya is as effective as possible;

2 to report on the implementation of this resolution to the Council and plenipotentiary conferences;

3 to bring to the attention of the Plenipotentiary Conference (Dubai, 2018) the need to allocate the necessary resources for Libya.

1. 1 These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. 1 These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. 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-3)
4. 2 These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. 1 These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. 1 These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. 1 The ITU Academy initiative encompasses the centres of excellence and Internet training centres initiatives. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. 1 These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. 1 "Gender perspective": Mainstreaming a gender perspective is the process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies or programmes in all areas and at all levels. It is a strategy for making women's as well as men's concerns and experiences an integral dimension of design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation so that women and men benefit equally and inequality is not perpetuated. The ultimate goal is to achieve gender equality. (Source: Report of the United Nations Inter-Agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality, third session, New York, 25‑27 February 1998). [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. 1 These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. 1 An ITU-D Sector Member and flagship advocacy initiative of the United Nations Global Alliance for ICT and Development (UN-GAID), in collaboration with the secretariat of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. 2 Geneva Declaration of Principles, §§ 13 and 30; Geneva Plan of Action, §§ 9 e) and f), 19 and 23; Tunis Commitment, §§ 18 and 20; Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, § 90 c) and e). [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. 3 Report 66/128, on strengthening efforts to ensure that persons with disabilities are included in and have access to all aspects of development, in accordance with UNGA Resolution 65/186. [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. 4 These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition. [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. 5 Telecommunication relay services enable users of different modes of communication (e.g. text, sign, speech) to interact by providing convergence between the modes of communication, usually through human operators. [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. 1 These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition. [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
17. 1 Source: [www.itu.int/girlsinict](http://www.itu.int/girlsinict) [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
18. 1 Report available at <http://www.internetsociety.org/localcontent/>. [↑](#footnote-ref-18)