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**Contribution by the Republic of Paraguay**

CHALLENGES IN LANDLOCKED COUNTRIES TO ENSURE AFFORDABLE ACCESS TO THE INTERNET

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| **Summary**  This document contains comments on the activities carried out by Paraguay in relation to international Internet connectivity.  **required action**  ITU is encouraged to continue discussing this issue and to contribute as a specialized agency of the UN to the Vienna Program of Action  **References**  Vienna Program of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries[[1]](#footnote-1)  Resolution 74/306 of the United Nations General Assembly [[2]](#footnote-2) |

**Introduction**

Internet connectivity for landlocked countries suffers from cost overruns, due to the fact that in order to reach the main Internet traffic exchange points, they must go through other countries where additional costs must be paid for simple transport.

Concerns about these cost overruns were deepened due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The 2020 ITU-D Publication, Measuring Digital Development **facts & Figures** report on the growth of International bandwidth in landlocked countries, in the times of Covid -19, indicates the need for Telecommunications / Tics to overcome the restrictions imposed by health precautions

Resolution 74/306 of the United Nations General Assembly “Comprehensive and coordinated response to the coronavirus disease pandemic (COVID-19), where the difficult situation of the most vulnerable countries such as the PDSL is recognized

**Measure implemented**

Paraguay, like other LLDCs, has implemented actions such as promoting the generation of local content, as well as bringing the operators closer to sharing infrastructure. Similarly, with the support of ISOC and ITU, it has promoted the creation of the Internet Exchange Point.

At the international level, Paraguay, as a believer in cooperation and multilateralism, has played an active role in the WCIT-12, promoting from the preparatory work a proposal that was adopted as Resolution 1 on “Special measures in favor of developing countries without littoral (LLDC) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) for access to international fiber optic networks”.

Similarly, it promoted the inclusion of a Priority on ICT Infrastructure within the Vienna Program of Action for landlocked developing countries for the decade 2014-2024.

In collaboration with the ITU, in 2014 we have held the 1st Forum on Connectivity for the Americas, which had four more editions, which sought to improve access to broadband networks and the need to reduce associated costs, in particular, for Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States of the region. These calls for attention have allowed us to sign Memorandum of Understanding with our neighbors to seek bilaterally to strengthen the connectivity of our countries.

**Next steps**

Paraguay thanks the ITU membership for spaces for discussion such as the one provided in the recent Public Consultation, and recognizes that although progress has been made on this issue, there is still a gap that must be reduced so nobody its left behind.

Therefore, we invite the ITU and the entire membership to continue with the measures taken to date and to, as far as possible, increase their support in other instances within the UN system, such as the Vienna Program of Action.

1. <http://unohrlls.org/about-lldcs/programme-of-action/>

   2 https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/74/306 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. + [↑](#footnote-ref-2)