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| **Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-22) Bucharest, 26 September – 14 October 2022** |  |
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| PLENARY MEETING | **Addendum 13 to Document 44-E** |
|  | **9 August 2022** |
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| Member States of the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT) | |
| ECP 15 - REVISION TO RESOLUTION 137: | |
| DEPLOYMENT OF FUTURE NETWORKS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES | |
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MOD EUR/44A13/1

RESOLUTION 137 (Rev. bucharest, 2022)

Deployment of future networks in developing countries[[1]](#footnote-1)1

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Bucharest, 2022),

recalling

*a)* Resolution 139 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of this conference, on the use of telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICTs) to bridge the digital divide and build an inclusive information society;

*b)* Resolution 92 (Rev. Geneva, 2022) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA), on enhancing the standardization activities in the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU‑T) related to non-radio aspects of international mobile telecommunications (IMT);

*c)* Resolution 93 (Hammamet, 2016) of WTSA, on interconnection of 4G, IMT-2020 networks and beyond;

*d)* Resolution 43 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC), on assistance in implementing international IMT and future networks;

*e)* Resolution 23 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of WTDC, on Internet access and its availability in developing countries and rate-setting principles for international connection to the Internet,

considering

*a)* that, as stated in § 22 of the Geneva Declaration of Principles adopted by the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), a well-developed information and communication network infrastructure and applications, adapted to regional, national and local conditions, easily accessible and affordable, and making greater use of broadband and other innovative technologies, where possible, can accelerate the social and economic progress of countries, and the well-being of all individuals, communities and peoples, and that this is covered by WSIS Action Line C2, expanded to include Action Line C6;

*b)* that the existence, at the national, regional, interregional and global levels, of coherent telecommunication networks and services for the development of national, regional and international economies is a very important element in the improvement of the social, economic and financial situation of Member States;

*c)* Resolution 44 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016) of WTSA, on bridging the standardization gap between developing and developed countries;

*d)* Resolution 17 (Rev. Kigali, 2022) of WTDC, on implementation of and cooperation on approved regional initiatives at the national, regional, interregional and global levels;

*e)* that many countries have begun to implement national, regional and international strategies for realizing the vision of a digitalized economy, for which future networks should form the basis,

noting

*a)* that developing countries are still being challenged by rapid change of technologies and service convergence trends;

*b)* the ongoing shortages of resources, experience and capacity building within developing countries in planning, deploying and operating networks, especially future networks;

*c)* that future networks drive substantial transformation in many development-related sectors, including health, education, financial inclusion and food security, making them a key accelerator towards achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);

*d)* that promoting investment in broadband connectivity from a broad range of sectors can help achieve the full potential of these technologies and bring the world closer to the goal of an inclusive digital society accessible by all;

*e)* that fixed and mobile services are becoming progressively affordable in a large number of countries; however, the cost of transit or access to backhaul bandwidth remains a challenge for developing countries, particularly landlocked countries,

recalling further

*a)* the efforts and collaboration of the three Bureaux to continue enhancing work aimed at providing information and advice on subjects of importance to developing countries for the planning, organization, development and operation of their telecommunication systems;

*b)* that technical knowledge and experience of great value to the developing countries is also obtainable from the work of the ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU‑R), ITU‑T and the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU‑D);

*c)* that, in accordance with Resolution 143 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, the provisions in all ITU documents relating to developing countries shall be extended to apply adequately to the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition,

recognizing

*a)* that the developing countries have limited human and financial resources to cope with the ever-increasing digital divide and standardization gap;

*b)* that the existing digital divide at various levels (including the digital divide between regions, countries and parts of countries, and between urban and rural areas) is likely to be aggravated further with the emergence of new technologies if developing countries are not able to introduce them cost-effectively and in a timely manner;

*c)* that the implementation of future networks can have a positive impact on the environment, in particular by helping to reduce the environmental effects of other sectors, such as transport, agriculture, etc.;

*d)* that one of the most important expected outcomes of the timely introduction of future networks for developing countries is the reduction of operating costs associated with network infrastructure,

taking into account

*a)* that it is imperative for countries, especially developing countries and many developed countries, that have already invested heavily in their existing telecommunication networks, to facilitate a smooth transition from existing networks to future networks;

*b)* that future networks are potential tools to meet the new challenges facing the telecommunication industry, and that future networks deployment and standards development activities are essential for developing countries, especially for ensuring equal access to modern telecommunication services for urban populations and populations in rural and remote areas;

*c)* that many developing countries that have invested significantly in the deployment of their existing telecommunication networks to provide advanced services are still seeking to recover their investment, making it difficult for them to effect a timely transition to future networks;

*d)* that the migration of existing telecommunication networks to future networks may affect points of interconnection, quality of service and other operational aspects, which may also have an effect on costs to the end user;

*e)* that countries can benefit from future networks, which can facilitate the delivery of a wide range of advanced ICT-based services and applications for building the information society and leveraging telecommunications/ICTs to develop the digitalization of the economy, resolving difficult issues such as the development and implementation of systems for public protection and disaster relief, especially telecommunications for early warning and the dissemination of emergency information;

*f)* that the challenge, as perceived by WSIS, is to harness the potential of ICTs and ICT applications for promoting the development goals of the Millennium Declaration, namely the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger, achieving universal primary education, promoting gender equality and empowerment of women, reducing child mortality, improving maternal health and combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases, and so forth;

*g*) that tariffs on the importation of ICT hardware essential to the deployment of networks, including future networks, can constrains deployment of such hardware due to higher costs thereby limiting the socioeconomic development that these networks can enable,

resolves to instruct the Directors of the three Bureaux, in line with the mandates of their respective Sectors

1 to continue and consolidate their efforts on future networks[[2]](#footnote-2)2 deployment studies, standards development, training activities and the sharing of best practices on business model evolution and operational aspects, especially for those networks designed for rural areas and for bridging the digital divide and the development divide;

2 to coordinate studies and programmes within ITU‑R on IMT-2020 and beyond and ITU‑T Study Groups 11 and 13 on 2030 networks, and also within the Global Network Planning initiatives (GNPi) of ITU‑D, and to coordinate ongoing work being carried out by study groups and the relevant programmes as defined in the Kigali Action Plan in order to assist the membership in deploying future networks effectively, especially in conducting a smooth migration from existing telecommunication infrastructures to future networks and in seeking appropriate solutions to expedite affordable deployment in rural and remote areas, taking into consideration the successes of several developing countries in migrating to and operating these networks, and benefiting from the experience of those countries,

instructs the Secretary‑General and the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to take appropriate action in order to seek support and financial provision sufficient for the implementation of this resolution, within available financial resources, including financial support through partnership agreements and through the involvement of regional and international financial organizations and institutions, equipment suppliers, operators and all partners providing complete or partial financing for the implementation of cooperation programmes to develop telecommunications/ICTs, including the regionally approved initiatives under the Kigali Action Plan and Resolution 17 (Rev. Kigali, 2022);

2 to highlight the importance and benefits of future networks development and deployment to other United Nations specialized agencies and financial institutions;

3 to invite the relevant international organisations to provide information for dissemination to the Union on the impact of import and export tariffs on Telecommunications/ICT hardware related to future networks at the national level,

instructs the ITU Council

to consider the reports and proposals made by the Secretary-General and the three Bureaux relating to the implementation of this resolution, having regard to addressing the needs of developing countries,

invites all Member-States

to consider the impact of tariffs on telecommunications/ICT hardware associated with future networks at the national level,

invites all Member States and Sector Members

1 to undertake concrete actions, to support ITU's actions and to develop their own initiatives in order to implement this resolution;

2 to strengthen cooperation between developed and developing countries, and among developing countries themselves, in improving national, regional and international capabilities in the implementation of future networks, especially in regard to future networks planning, deployment, operation and maintenance, and the development of NGN-based applications, especially for rural and remote areas, taking into consideration also development in the near future, in the interests of accelerating the digitalization of the economy,

invites regional and international financial organizations and agencies, equipment providers, operators, and all potential partners

to consider the possibility of ensuring complete or partial financing to implement cooperation programmes for developing NGN and future networks, including the regionally approved initiatives under the Kigali Action Plan and Resolution 17 (Rev. Kigali, 2022).

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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. 2 See the work of the ITU‑T Study Group 13 Focus Group on future networks. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)