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| Note by the Secretary-General  RESOLUTIONS OF THE WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE (WTDC-22) BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE | |

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-22), which took place from 6 to 16 June 2022 in Kigali, Rwanda, adopted a number of revised resolutions, some of which are to be brought to the attention of the Plenipotentiary Conference. The text of these resolutions is attached.

Houlin Zhao  
Secretary-General

***Annex: 1***

ANNEX

Resolutions of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-22)

brought to the attention of the Plenipotentiary Conference

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| [Resolution 5 (Rev. Kigali, 2022)](#Res5) | Enhanced participation by developing countries in the activities of the Union |
| [Resolution 17 (Rev. Kigali, 2022)](#Res17) | Implementation of and cooperation on approved regional initiatives at the national, regional, interregional and global levels |
| [Resolution 18 (Rev. Kigali, 2022)](#Res18) | Special technical assistance to Palestine |
| [Resolution 30 (Rev. Kigali, 2022)](#Res30) | Role of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector  in implementing the outcomes of the World Summit  on the Information Society and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development |
| [Resolution 34 (Rev. Kigali, 2022)](#Res34) | The role of telecommunications/information and communication technology in disaster preparedness, early warning, rescue, mitigation, relief and response |
| [Resolution 36 (Rev. Kigali, 2022)](#Res36) | Support for the African Telecommunications Union |
| [Resolution 45 (Rev. Kigali, 2022)](#Res45) | Mechanisms for enhancing cooperation on cybersecurity,  including countering and combating spam |
| [Resolution 46 (Rev. Kigali, 2022)](#Res46) | Assistance to indigenous peoples and communities through information and communication technologies |
| [Resolution 48 (Rev. Kigali, 2022)](#Res48) | Strengthening cooperation among telecommunication regulators |
| [Resolution 51 (Rev. Kigali, 2022)](#Res51) | Provision of assistance and support to Iraq to continue rebuilding and re-equipping its telecommunication/ICT systems |
| [Resolution 55 (Rev. Kigali, 2022)](#Res55) | Mainstreaming a gender perspective in ITU to enhance women's empowerment through telecommunications/ICTs |
| [Resolution 58 (Rev. Kigali, 2022)](#Res58) | Telecommunication/information and communication technology accessibility for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs |
| [Resolution 76 (Rev. Kigali, 2022)](#Res76) | Promoting information and communication technologies  among young women and men for social and economic empowerment |
| [Resolution 82 (Rev. Kigali, 2022)](#Res82) | Preserving and promoting multilingualism on the Internet  for an inclusive information society |

RESOLUTION 5 (Rev. Kigali, 2022)

Enhanced participation by developing countries  
in the activities of the Union

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Kigali, 2022),

considering

*a)* Resolutions 25 and 123 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on strengthening the ITU regional presence and bridging the standardization gap between developing[[1]](#footnote-1)1 and developed countries;

*b)* Resolution 30 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) 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 (Rev. Busan, 2014), 167 (Rev. Dubai, 2018), 169 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) and 170 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, which encourage and facilitate the participation of developing countries and their Sector Members and Academia in the activities of the Union;

*d)* Resolution 135 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on ITU's role in the durable and sustainable 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 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on empowerment of youth through telecommunications/ICTs;

*f)* Resolution ITU‑R 7-4 (Rev. Sharm El-Sheikh, 2019) of the Radiocommunication Assembly, on telecommunication development including liaison and collaboration with the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D);

*g)* Resolutions 54 and 74 (Rev. Geneva, 2022) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly, 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 attendees from developing countries remain a challenge for enhancing their effective participation in ITU activities;

*f)* the encouraging results attained through online/virtual meetings held during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) period, when physical meetings were not possible, including the sixth World Telecommunication/ICT Policy Forum,

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 encourage virtual meetings and physical meetings with remote participation whenever possible, consistent with the General Rules of conferences, assemblies and meetings of the Union;

3 to ensure that ITU‑D, including the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group, 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;

4 to encourage the elaboration of specific studies on the adoption of new technologies by developing countries, taking into account the context of each region,

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 continue conducting studies on how to increase the participation of developing countries and of Sector Members and other telecommunication players from developing countries not only in the work of ITU‑D, but also in the work of ITU-T and the ITU Radiocommunication Sector;

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 and interregional 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 the preparatory process, meeting leadership skills, meeting structures, formalities and how to improve participation and contribute to the meetings;

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

6 to provide the necessary assistance to developing countries in offering remote participation facilities in case they host ITU-D study group meetings and forums/seminars/  
workshops;

7 to further promote the activities and publications of ITU-D using electronic means;

8 to provide reports related to the participation of Sector Members from developing countries in the work of ITU-D;

9 to consider, whenever possible, holding forums/seminars/workshops concurrently with the meetings of ITU-T regional groups in developing countries,

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 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) 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 host ITU-D study group meetings and forums/seminars/workshops, in particular in developing countries;

4 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 the Telecommunication Development Bureau in order to facilitate the wider attendance and participation of developing countries in the activities of ITU‑D,

invites the ITU Council

to consider the exemption from payment of the first year of membership fees for new Academia from developing countries in order to encourage them to get involved in ITU activities.

RESOLUTION 17 (Rev. Kigali, 2022)

Implementation of and cooperation on approved regional initiatives at the national, regional, interregional and global levels[[2]](#footnote-2)1

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Kigali, 2022),

recalling

*a)* Resolution 34 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on assistance and support to countries in special need for rebuilding their telecommunication sector;

*b)* Resolution 135 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on ITU's role in the durable and sustainable development of telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICTs), in providing technical assistance and advice to developing countries[[3]](#footnote-3)2 and in implementing relevant national, regional and interregional projects;

*c)* Resolution 157 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on strengthening of the project execution and project monitoring functions in ITU;

*d)* Resolution 21 (Rev. Kigali, 2022) 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)* Resolution 52 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) of WTDC, on strengthening the executing agency role of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU‑D), which emphasized the importance of establishing partnerships between the public and private sectors as an efficient way of implementing sustainable ITU projects, and of utilizing locally available expertise in executing ITU projects at regional or country level;

*g)* the mechanism for cooperation at regional and international level to implement the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

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 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,

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 the 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, using its regional and area offices, to cooperate more closely with regional and subregional organizations, including regional organizations of regulators, in order to support these countries;

*f)* the important role of ITU's regional and area offices in achieving effective cooperation with regional organizations,

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 and other international financial institutions, impeding the implementation of such initiatives;

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

*d)* that some Member States' national policies and regulations may pose constraints on the implementation of such initiatives;

*e)* the important role of the Partner2Connect (P2C) digital coalition for developing global and regional activities/projects related to digital transformation,

noting

*a)* Resolution 73 (Rev. Kigali, 2022) of this conference, on the ITU Academy training centres, which aims to assist the membership with capacity building and development;

*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, including through the ITU regional offices, should strengthen its relations with regional and subregional organizations, through ongoing cooperation to stimulate the mutual exchange of experience and assistance with the implementation of the regional initiatives, making the utmost use of available BDT resources, its annual budget and surplus income from ITU Telecom events;

2 that BDT continue to actively assist the developing countries in elaborating and implementing the regional initiatives which are specified in the Kigali Action Plan;

3 that BDT provide an estimate breakdown for cash and/or in-kind contribution items for the implementation of projects under the regional initiatives, and their value in the proposed budget for the projects, taking into consideration *recognizing a)* above;

4 that the budget allocation for the implementation of the regional initiatives shall 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;

5 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;

6 that BDT should 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;

7 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 Kigali Action Plan;

8 that BDT, through the ITU regional offices, should provide information accumulated during the implementation of regional initiatives in each region (outcomes, stakeholders, financial resources used, and so on) to the Member States and regional telecommunication organizations, 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 present progress reports to the regional development forums (RDFs) on the implementation of the regional initiatives, including, *inter alia*, outcomes, stakeholders and financial resources used,

appeals to international financial organizations/agencies, equipment suppliers and operators/service providers

to contribute, fully or partially, to financing these approved regional initiatives,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to take all necessary measures for promoting and implementing these approved regional initiatives at the national, regional, interregional and global levels, and in particular the similar initiatives agreed at international level;

2 to ensure that BDT actively coordinates, collaborates in and organizes joint activities in areas of common interest with regional telecommunication organizations and training institutions, and takes into consideration their activities, as well as providing them with direct technical assistance;

3 to issue an appeal at the annual Global Symposium for Regulators and in the RDFs for worldwide and regional support for the implementation of these regional initiatives;

4 to support ITU regional offices with the required human and financial resources for them to 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 the national level, in collaboration with countries served by these regional initiatives, and submit an annual report to the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group and the ITU Council 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 in each region, dedicated to discussing the regional initiatives and projects for each region and mechanisms for implementation of the initiatives adopted and to making known the needs of the different regions, and that an RDF may be held in conjunction with the annual meeting for each region;

7 to promote, by possible means, the holding of consultations 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 in kind and/or in cash 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;

9 to ensure that BDT facilitates the active involvement of regional and subregional telecommunication organizations in the different phases of project management established by ITU, as well as in forging partnerships and resource mobilization, with a view to effectively advancing the implementation of 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 approved regional initiatives.

RESOLUTION 18 (Rev. Kigali, 2022)

Special technical assistance to Palestine

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Kigali, 2022),

recalling

*a)* Resolution 32 (Kyoto, 1994) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on technical assistance to Palestine for the development of telecommunications, Resolution 125 (Rev. Busan, 2014) and Resolution 125 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on assistance and support to Palestine for rebuilding its telecommunication networks;

*b)* Resolution 99 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the status of Palestine in ITU;

*c)* the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

*d)* Resolution 18 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) and Resolution 18 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC), on special technical assistance to Palestine;

*e)* United Nations General Assembly Resolution 68/235, which recognizes the Palestinian people's right to permanent sovereignty over their natural resources, specifically land, water, energy and other natural resources, in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem;

*f)* the provisions of § 16 of the Declaration of Principles of the first phase (Geneva, 2003) of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and the outcomes of the second phase of WSIS, particularly § 96 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, relating to ITU's role in taking steps to ensure rational, efficient and economic use of, and equitable access to, the radio-frequency spectrum by all countries, based on relevant international agreements,

considering

*a)* that the ITU Constitution and Convention are designed to strengthen peace and security in the world for the development of international cooperation and better understanding among the peoples concerned;

*b)* ITU's policy of assistance to Palestine for the development of its telecommunication/information and communication technology (ICT) sector, which is efficient but has not yet achieved its goals;

*c)* Resolution 9 (Rev. Kigali, 2022) of this conference, to the effect that it is the sovereign right of every State to manage spectrum use within its territories, the provisions in Resolution 99 (Rev. Dubai, 2018), and Resolution 12 (Rev.WRC-19) of the World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC),

considering further

*a)* that establishment of a reliable and modern telecommunication network is an essential part of economic and social development and is of the utmost importance to the future of the Palestinian people;

*b)* the importance of the international community in assisting Palestine to develop a modern and reliable telecommunication network,

mindful

of the fundamental principles contained in the Constitution,

having regard to

*a)* the continuing challenges faced by Palestine and ITU in executing the five projects agreed with the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) under the implementation of Resolution 18 (Rev. Istanbul, 2002), Resolution 18 (Rev. Doha, 2006), Resolution 18 (Rev. Hyderabad, 2010), Resolution 18 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) and Resolution 18 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of WTDC, which must be a matter of anxiety and concern for the entire international community, especially ITU;

*b)* the decisions of the Connect Arab summit;

*c)* the key outcomes of the Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Arab region (RPM-ARB), held in Sudan in 2017, particularly issues relating to Palestine,

noting

the long-term technical assistance from BDT to Palestine for the development of its telecommunications/ICTs pursuant to Resolution 32 (Kyoto, 1994) and the urgent need for forms of assistance to be provided in the various fields of information, informatics and communication, and the increasing difficulties that have accompanied the provision of this assistance continuously since that resolution was adopted,

noting with grave concern

the restrictions and difficulties related to the current situation in Palestine that are preventing access to telecommunication/ICT means, services and applications and which constitute a continuing obstacle to telecommunication/ICT development in Palestine,

resolves to continue to instruct the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to continue and enhance the technical assistance provided to Palestine for the development of its telecommunications/ICTs, taking into consideration the need to overcome the increasing and escalating difficulties encountered in the provision of this assistance during the previous cycles since 2002;

2 to take appropriate measures within the mandate of BDT aimed at facilitating the establishment of international access networks, including terrestrial and satellite stations, submarine cables, optical fibre and microwave systems;

3 to instruct BDT, in coordination with the Radiocommunication Bureau, to enable Palestine in acquiring and managing frequencies required in the band 470-694 MHz for the operation of single- and multi-frequency digital terrestrial television, and identify mechanisms for ensuring that Palestine can exploit the 694-862 MHz frequency band resulting from the digital transition for broadband mobile service uses and applications to be used after WRC-19;

4 to provide a technical periodic report on various experiences in liberalization and privatization of telecommunications/ICTs and the challenges of the Palestinians in the sector, the development of the infrastructure, and to assess their impact on the development of the sector in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank;

5 to implement e‑health, e‑education, e‑government, spectrum planning and management pursuant to the previous agreements in ITU, and human resources development projects and all other forms of assistance;

6 to provide urgent assistance to Palestine in acquiring and managing the required radio-frequency spectrum resource for the operation of 4G and 5G networks, according to the needs identified in a study carried out by an international specialized advisory firm, in furtherance of ongoing efforts to address technical issues and overcoming the challenges of introducing new technologies, consistent with the Interim Agreement;

7 to report to the ITU Council with an annual report on the progress made in implementing this resolution (and similar resolutions) and the mechanisms employed to deal with the increasing difficulties arising,

calls upon ITU members

1 to provide all forms of support and assistance to Palestine bilaterally or through executive actions taken by ITU in this regard;

2 to assist Palestine in rebuilding and restoring the Palestinian telecommunication network;

3 to assist Palestine in recovering its entitlements accruing from incoming and outgoing international traffic;

4 to provide Palestine with assistance in support of the implementation of BDT projects, including human resources capacity building,

requests the Secretary-General

to report to the Plenipotentiary Conference (Bucharest, 2022) on the progress achieved in implementing this resolution.

RESOLUTION 30 (Rev. Kigali, 2022)

Role of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector   
in implementing the outcomes of the World Summit   
on the Information Society and  
the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Kigali, 2022),

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)* UNGA Resolution 76/189, on information and communication technologies (ICTs) for sustainable development;

*e)* 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;

*f)* Resolution 37 (Rev. Kigali, 2022) of this conference, on bridging the digital divide;

*g)* Resolution 71 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the strategic plan for the Union for 2020-2023;

*h)* Resolution 77 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference, on broadband technology and applications for greater growth and development of telecommunication/information and communication services and broadband connectivity;

*i)* Resolution 130 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on strengthening the role of ITU in building confidence and security in the use of ICTs;

*j)* Resolution 131 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on measuring ICTs to build an integrating and inclusive information society;

*k)* Resolution 139 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the use of telecommunications/ICTs to bridge the digital divide and build an inclusive information society;

*l)* Resolution 140 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on ITU's role in implementing the outcomes of WSIS and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as in their follow-up and review processes;

*m)* Resolution 200 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the Connect 2030 Agenda for global telecommunication/ICT, including broadband, for sustainable development;

*n)* the opinions of the sixth World Telecommunication/ICT Policy Forum relevant to ITU's activities on WSIS and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),

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 WSIS 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;

*b)* that it was agreed among the parties to follow-up of the Summit outcomes to appoint ITU as moderator/facilitator for the implementation of WSIS Action Lines C4 and 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 possible partnerships; the nature of its four existing objectives, 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 WSIS Action Lines C2, C4, 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, 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 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), capacity building (WSIS Action Line C4), confidence and security in the use of ICTs (WSIS Action Line C5), enabling environment (WSIS Action Line C6) and e-applications (WSIS Action Line C7),

taking into account

*a)* Resolution 75 (Rev. Geneva, 2022) 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 61-2 (Rev. Sharm el-Sheikh, 2019) of the Radiocommunication Assembly, on the ITU Radiocommunication Sector's contribution in implementing the WSIS outcomes and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

*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 ITU Council, including the annual reports on the activities of the Council Working Group on WSIS & SDGs (CWG-WSIS&SDG) and the Council Working Group on international Internet-related public policy issues (CWG-Internet);

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

*f)* Council Resolution 1336, on CWG-Internet,

noting

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[[4]](#footnote-4)1, including in the field of building the telecommunication/ICT infrastructure and building confidence and security in the use of telecommunications/ICTs, to support and accelerate the implementation of the other WSIS goals that can help achieve the 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;

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 for the Information Society, and partnerships);

7 to continue to assist developing countries in advancing their legal and regulatory frameworks in order to further the goal of building 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 WSIS 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 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) WSIS Action Lines C2, C4, C5 and C6, in which ITU is now identified as the sole facilitator;

ii) WSIS Action Lines C1, C3, 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&SDG with a comprehensive summary of ITU‑D activities on implementation of the WSIS outcomes and 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. Dubai, 2018) and with the objectives that will be set for ITU‑D by the Plenipotentiary Conference in 2022 with regard to the implementation by ITU of the WSIS+10 outcomes and achievement of the SDGs;

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 the 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, especially those related to WSIS and the SDGs, 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 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;

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 United Nations regional economic commissions and United Nations Regional Development Group, as well as all United Nations agencies (in particular those acting as facilitator for WSIS action lines), and other relevant regional organizations, especially in the field of telecommunications/ICTs, 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 relevant United Nations initiatives and resolutions;

iii) incorporating ICTs in the United Nations 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,

encourages the ITU-D study groups

to continue their active contribution to activities related to WSIS and SDGs,

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 (TDAG), where appropriate, and contribute to CWG-WSIS&SDGs on implementing WSIS outcomes and achieving the SDGs within ITU's mandate;

4 to continue to support and collaborate with the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) 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 vision for WSIS beyond 2015 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

requests the Secretary-General

to bring this resolution to the attention of the Plenipotentiary Conference (Bucharest, 2022) for consideration and required action, as appropriate, when reviewing Resolution 140 (Rev. Dubai, 2018),

invites Member States, Sector Members, Associates and Academia

1 to submit contributions to relevant ITU‑D study groups and to TDAG, where appropriate, and contribute to CWG‑WSIS&SDG on implementing WSIS outcomes and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, within ITU's mandate;

2 to support and collaborate with the Director of BDT in implementing relevant WSIS outcomes, taking into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in ITU‑D;

3 to submit contributions to CWG‑WSIS&SDG.

RESOLUTION 34 (Rev. Kigali, 2022)

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

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Kigali, 2022),

recognizing

*a)* that there is a growing general awareness at the global level of the potentially serious negative consequences of climate change, especially if global emissions are not cut in accordance with relevant agreements;

*b)* that the number of natural and man-made disasters, as well as the tragic consequences associated with them, are steadily increasing;

*c)* that telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICTs) play a crucial role in disaster preparedness, early warning, rescue, mitigation, relief and response, and also constitute a decision tool for rescue services and entities involved as well as for communication with and among citizens;

*d)* that such disasters can damage not only telecommunication/ICT infrastructures but also electricity supplies that power telecommunication/ICT systems and devices, thereby making services inoperable, such that considerations of redundancy and resilience of both infrastructure and power supply become important when planning for disasters;

*e)* that frequent tragic events in the world and the experience of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) and the ITU Member States in this area clearly demonstrate the need for enhanced disaster preparedness, and for plans that incorporate consideration of resilient communications equipment and services, as well as reliable telecommunication infrastructure, in order to ensure public safety, to assist disaster-relief agencies in mitigating risk to human life, to provide the necessary general public information, including in local languages and for the benefit of indigenous peoples, and to meet communication needs in such situations;

*f)* that the concept of SMART (scientific monitoring and reliable telecommunication) cable includes scientific sensors mounted in the repeaters of submarine cables to measure ocean-bottom temperature, pressure and seismic acceleration,

recalling

*a)* Resolution 136 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the use of telecommunications/ICTs for humanitarian assistance, and for monitoring and management in emergency and disaster situations, including health-related emergencies, for early warning, prevention, mitigation and relief;

*b)* 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;

*c)* Resolution 646 (Rev.WRC‑19) of the World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC), on public protection and disaster relief (PPDR);

*d)* Resolution 647 (Rev.WRC‑19) 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)* Resolution ITU‑R 55-3 (Rev. Sharm el-Sheikh, 2019) of the Radiocommunication Assembly (RA), on ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R) studies of disaster prediction, detection, mitigation and relief;

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

*g)* Article 40 of the ITU Constitution, on priority of telecommunications concerning safety of life;

*h)* Article 46 of the Constitution, on distress calls and messages;

*i)* that §5.1 of the International Telecommunication Regulations stipulates that safety-of-life telecommunications, such as distress telecommunications, have absolute priority, where technically practicable, and in accordance with the relevant articles of the Constitution and the ITU Convention and taking due account of the relevant Recommendations of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T), in particular Recommendation ITU-T E.161.1, on guidelines to select emergency number for public telecommunication networks;

*j*) emergency telecommunication/ICT coordination mechanisms established by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA);

*k)* Recommendation ITU-T X.1303 on the common alerting protocol (CAP 1.1),

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 the Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) Workshop held during the third Global Forum on Emergency Telecommunications (Mauritius, 2019) (GET-19) highlighted the benefits of CAP, and shared best practices and lessons learned on how to create an enabling environment for leveraging CAP;

*c)* that the disaster connectivity map launched at GET-19 is a mapping platform to help first responders determine the status of telecommunication network infrastructure, coverage and performance before and after a disaster;

*d)* 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;

*e)* that Resolution 646 (Rev. WRC-19) addresses the broader category of PPDR, as well as the harmonization of frequency bands/ranges for PPDR solutions, and 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;

*f)* that Resolution 646 (Rev.WRC‑19) likewise resolves to encourage administrations to consider Recommendation ITU-R M.2015, and to use agreed frequency bands for PPDR to the maximum extent possible when undertaking their national planning for their PPDR applications, particularly broadband, in order to achieve harmonization;

*g)* that Resolution 646 (Rev. WRC-19) further encourages administrations to consider also parts of the regionally harmonized frequency ranges for their PPDR applications;

*h)* that Resolution 647 (Rev.WRC-19) 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 55-3 (Rev. Sharm el-Sheikh, 2019);

*i)* that Resolution 647 (Rev.WRC‑19) 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;

*j)* that Resolution 647 (Rev.WRC‑19) likewise invites the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau and the Director of 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;

*k)* the work of the ITU-R and ITU-T study groups 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;

*l)* 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;

*m)* that RA updated Resolution ITU‑R 55-3 (Rev. Sharm el-Sheikh, 2019), on ITU-R studies of disaster prediction, detection, mitigation and relief;

*n)* that modern telecommunications/ICTs are basic tools for disaster preparedness, 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)* outcomes and activities of the ITU Global Forum on Emergency Telecommunications;

*q)* the importance of utilizing both existing and new technologies and solutions (satellite and terrestrial) to satisfy a range of interoperability requirements and for furthering the goals of PPDR, including through innovative SMART submarine cables;

*r)* the terrible disasters from which many countries suffer, and the disproportionate impact of disasters and of climate change on developing countries[[5]](#footnote-5)1;

*s)* the particular vulnerability of least developed countries (LDCs), landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) and small island developing states (SIDS) to the impact that disasters can have on their economies and infrastructures, and that these countries lack the capacity to respond to disasters;

*t)* the need to take into account the requirements of persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs with respect to disaster warning, response planning and recovery efforts;

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

*v)* the opportunity to significantly facilitate all phases of disaster operations offered by national emergency communication plans that enable the pre‑positioning, rapid deployment and effective utilization of telecommunication/ICT equipment;

*w)* the potential of including the use of telecommunication/ICT tools in infrastructure development planning to avert the risk of disasters and mitigate their effects;

*x)* the need for international and regional cooperation among States, as well as between organizations, on preparedness, early warning, rescue, mitigation, relief and response, including through the establishment of a network of experts in disaster management;

*y)* that frontier technologies, as new, innovative and disruptive technologies, including oceanographic sensors on undersea telecommunications cables, have vast potential to help assess, mitigate and adapt to climate change;

*z)* 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);

*aa)* 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;

*ab)* that coordination between international, regional and national organizations specializing 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, such that collaborative work and networking among disaster-management experts is thus essential;

*ac)* 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;

*ad)* the role of the ITU/World Meteorological Organization (WMO)/United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC-UNESCO) Joint Task Force on SMART cable systems (JTF SMART Cable Systems) in developing a strategy and roadmap that could lead to enabling the availability of submarine repeaters equipped with scientific sensors for ocean and climate monitoring and disaster risk reduction (tsunamis), so that a global network could be established providing real-time data for ocean and climate monitoring and disaster mitigation;

*ae)* the need to investigate the use of submarine telecommunication cables for ocean and climate monitoring and disaster warning;

*af)* that oceanographic sensors on undersea telecommunication cables constitute a promising solution for obtaining the extensive, longitudinal, real-time data that are critical for understanding and managing urgent environmental issues such as climate change and tsunami hazard mitigation;

*ag)* the United Nations Secretary-General's Roadmap for digital cooperation, which highlights the importance of accelerating discussions on connectivity as part of emergency preparedness, response and aid,

noting

*a)* 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 PPDR on a harmonized and coordinated basis, and the successful role of BDT through its programme activities in this area;

*b)* the successful role of BDT, in partnership with the ITU membership, and in coordination with the Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC), with respect to rapid intervention in enabling and facilitating telecommunications/ICTs for countries which have suffered disasters;

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

*d)* 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, as well as the reports on disruptive technologies and their use in disaster risk reduction and management and to protect the environment and tackle climate change;

*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 Guidelines for conducting national-level ICT drills and exercises, 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,

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 which provide for harmonized models for PPDR networks, as well as those aspects of telecommunications/ICTs that are relevant to early warning, disaster prediction, detection, mitigation and relief operations, as resolved by Resolution ITU-R 55-3 (Rev. Sharm el-Sheikh, 2019) and Resolutions 646 and 647 (Rev. WRC-19);

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 United Nations and international organizations that coordinate and/or provide emergency communications;

4 to facilitate and encourage the use by members of telecommunications/ICTs that are appropriate and commonly available for early warning, disaster response, mitigation and relief operations, including those provided by amateur radio services, satellite and terrestrial network services/facilities as well as undersea sensing technologies;

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., and the use of the CAP, taking into account persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs;

6 to support administrations in their work towards the implementation of this resolution as well as 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, national emergency telecommunication 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 IFCE, 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 communication/ICT equipment and services, especially during the initial phases of disasters;

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

13 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;

14 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 United Nations and other international organizations;

15 for 2022-2025, 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;

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

17 to promote the implementation of decisions of the ITU Global Forum on Emergency Telecommunications, within existing budgetary resources;

18 to strengthen the ability of Member States to make digital infrastructure more resilient to disasters, including those caused by climate change, and to promote more effective communication and response efforts;

19 to continue to give high priority to studies/investigations related to frontier technologies and disruptive technologies, including oceanographic sensors on undersea telecommunication cables, in order to help Member States assess, mitigate and adapt to climate change, as well as their use in disaster risk reduction and management;

20 to support the ITU study groups in examining the benefits of undersea sensing technologies and in studying the technical, financial, legal and regulatory issues, including the standardization and specification of sensors and cables undertaken in ITU-T that could foster their adoption, in particular in relation to near-to-far field tsunami and earthquake early warning and seismic monitoring;

21 to continue collaboration with relevant stakeholders in order to increase ITU members' awareness and knowledge of undersea sensing technologies,

requests the Secretary-General

to continue to work closely with the office of the United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator, the ETC 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 (Bucharest, 2022) may take any action that it deems necessary,

invites Member States

1 to continue to deploy all necessary efforts to integrate disaster risk reduction, disaster mitigation, disaster relief and resilience into telecommunication/ICT development plans, as well as to incorporate ICTs into national regulations, national or regional disaster-management plans and frameworks, so that they provide the necessary telecommunication/ICT services, considering the specific needs of persons with disabilities, children, older persons, displaced persons and the illiterate, and the importance of collaborating with all stakeholders in all disaster phases;

2 to develop preparedness and disaster recovery and to assist businesses in creating plans that provide a resilient environment for essential government information systems;

3 to consider the appropriate and effective mechanisms to facilitate disaster communications preparedness and response efforts;

4 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‑19);

5 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;

6 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;

7 to foster the training and updating of knowledge of the actors involved in the implementation, maintenance and updating of the telecommunication/ICT systems intended to be used in situations of emergency;

8 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;

9 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,

invites also

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

2 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/ICTs concerning safety of life in the affected areas, and providing contingency plans for such purpose;

3 BDT to consider how space-based technologies, submarine telecommunication cable networks and associated sensor 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;

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 ITU‑D, within its studies on the role of telecommunications/ICTs in disaster preparedness, early warning, rescue, mitigation, relief and response, to take account of the work of other ITU Sectors 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;

6 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/ICT organizations in the implementation of that Convention.

RESOLUTION 36 (Rev. Kigali, 2022)

Support for the African Telecommunications Union

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Kigali, 2022),

recalling

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

*b)* UNGA Resolution 73/291, on the Buenos Aires outcome document of the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation;

*c)* Resolution 25 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on strengthening the regional presence;

*d)* Resolution 58 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, particularly its *resolves*;

*e)* Resolution 21 (Rev. Kigali, 2022) of this conference, on strengthening coordination and collaboration with regional and subregional organizations,

recalling further

*a)* UNGA Resolution 68/198, on information and communication technologies (ICTs) for development;

*b)* Resolution 135 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on ITU's role in the durable and sustainable development of telecommunications/ICTs, in providing technical assistance and advice to developing countries and in implementing relevant national, regional and interregional projects;

*c)* the first United Nations System-wide Strategy on South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Sustainable Development, which points the way towards even greater use of this invaluable vehicle,

considering

*a)* the key role of the African Telecommunications Union (ATU) in continental coordination and as a driver for implementation of the outcomes of ITU conferences and assemblies;

*b)* ATU's continuous and urgent need for assistance, support and cooperation;

*c)* the rapid development of the telecommunication/ICT environment, obliging ATU to adapt to these changes in order to serve its membership, while considering its current human and financial resources;

*d)* that in the context of digital transformation, telecommunications/ICTs become a major catalyst for economic growth in developing countries[[6]](#footnote-6)1;

*e)* the need for an African convening platform to coordinate, harmonize and combine efforts to accelerate the development of telecommunications/ICTs at the regional, interregional and global levels with a view to achieving the objectives and targets adopted in the ITU strategic plan, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the African Union's Agenda 2063;

*f)* that the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector should provide adequate support to regional and subregional telecommunication organizations in order to facilitate their active involvement in the different phases of the project management model established by ITU, as well as in forging partnerships and resource mobilization, to support implementation of regional initiatives,

recognizing

*a)* that the regional organizations are better acquainted with the real issues and challenges facing Member States of the region, and can better envision how to efficiently and effectively overcome those challenges;

*b)* that ITU and regional organizations share a common belief that close cooperation can promote regional telecommunications/ICTs in order to support Member States of the region;

*c)* that there is a continuing need for ITU to cooperate more closely with regional organizations in order to support Member States of the region;

*d)* that the regional organizations play an effective role in identifying common priorities and interests, while ensuring better coordination among Member States as well as their involvement in all telecommunication/ICT activities, plans, projects, events, etc.,

noting

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

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

1 to take all necessary steps to associate ATU in the implementation of the Kigali Action Plan 2022, in respect of support to the African telecommunication/ICT sector;

2 to mobilize and provide the necessary support to ATU for it to assume the leading and coordination role among relevant entities involved in ICT activities at the regional level;

3 to strengthen relations with regional and subregional telecommunication organizations in order to identify synergies with their activities that may support the implementation of the regional initiatives;

4 to continue to deploy, and enhance the availability of, the necessary human and financial resources in the ITU regional presence, in support of ATU,

requests the Secretary-General and instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to take all necessary steps to identify new areas of cooperation on an annual basis and provide ATU with all required support and assistance, including administrative, financial, logistical and information technology/technical support, in particular by stepping up, fostering and enhancing cooperation between ATU and the ITU Regional Office for Africa, and by making experts available to that organization;

2 to coordinate and cooperate with relevant United Nations system organizations, such as the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, in telecommunication/ICT matters, including the related financing mechanisms, in support of ATU;

3 to develop an ATU-ITU partnership framework, based on an annual work plan, that could better contribute to the implementation of the regional initiatives and all identified joint activities;

4 to bring this resolution to the attention of the Plenipotentiary Conference for consideration and required action.

RESOLUTION 45 (Rev. Kigali, 2022)

Mechanisms for enhancing cooperation on cybersecurity,   
including countering and combating spam

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Kigali, 2022),

recalling

*a)* Resolution 130 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on strengthening the role of ITU in building confidence and security in the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs);

*b)* Resolution 174 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on ITU's role with regard to international public policy issues relating to the risk of illicit use of ICTs;

*c)* Resolution 179 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on ITU's role in child online protection;

*d)* Resolution 181 (Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on definitions and terminology relating to building confidence and security in the use of ICTs;

*e)* Resolution 45 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC);

*f)* Resolution 50 (Rev. Geneva, 2022) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA), on cybersecurity;

*g)* Resolution 52 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016) of WTSA, on countering and combating spam;

*h)* Resolution 58 (Rev. Geneva, 2022) of WTSA, on encouraging the creation of national computer incident response teams (CIRTs), particularly for developing countries[[7]](#footnote-7)1;

*i)* Resolution 69 (Rev. Kigali, 2022) of this conference, on facilitating the creation of CIRTs, particularly for developing countries, and cooperation among them;

*j)* Resolution 67 (Rev. Kigali, 2022) of this conference, on the role of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU‑D) in child online protection;

*k)* the relevant opinions of the sixth World Telecommunication Policy Forum (WTPF-21) that fall under the mandate of ITU-D;

*l)* the noble principles, aims and objectives embodied in the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

*m)* that ITU is the lead facilitator for Action Line C5 in the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society (Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs) of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS);

*n)* the cybersecurity-related provisions of the WSIS Tunis Commitment and the Tunis Agenda;

*o)* the goals set out in the strategic plan for the Union in force;

*p)* ITU-D study Question on “Securing information and communication networks: Best practices for developing a culture of cybersecurity, under which in the previous cycle many members collaborated to produce reports, including course materials for use in developing countries, such as a compendium of national experiences, best practices for public-private partnerships (PPPs), best practices for building a CIRT with accompanying course material, and best practices for a CIRT management framework;

*q)* the report of the Chairman of the High-Level Group of Experts of the Global Cybersecurity Agenda (GCA), established by the ITU Secretary-General pursuant to the requirements of Action Line C5 on building confidence and security in the use of ICTs and in accordance with Resolution 140 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the role of ITU as sole facilitator for WSIS Action Line C5, and Resolution 58 (Rev. Geneva, 2022), on encouraging the creation of national CIRTs, particularly for developing countries;

*r)* that the ITU Council approved, at its 2022 session, guidelines for the utilization of the GCA by ITU in its work;

*s)* that ITU and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) in order to strengthen security in the use of ICTs,

considering

*a)* the role of telecommunications/ICTs as effective tools to promote peace, economic development, security and stability and to enhance democracy, social cohesion, good governance and the rule of law, and the need to confront the escalating challenges and threats resulting from the abuse of this technology, including for criminal and terrorist purposes, while respecting human rights (see also § 15 of the Tunis Commitment);

*b)* the need to build confidence and security in the use of telecommunications/ICTs by strengthening the trust framework (§ 39 of the Tunis Agenda), and the need for governments, in cooperation with other stakeholders within their respective roles, to develop necessary legislation for the investigation and prosecution of cybercrime at national levels, and cooperate at regional and international levels having regard to existing frameworks;

*c)* that United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Resolution 64/211 invites Member States to use, if and when they deem appropriate, the voluntary self-assessment tool that is annexed to the resolution for national efforts;

*d)* the need for Member States to develop national cybersecurity programmes centred around a national plan, PPPs, a sound legal foundation, an incident management, watch, warning, response and recovery capability, and a culture of awareness, using as a guide the reports on best practices for a national approach to cybersecurity: building blocks for organizing national cybersecurity efforts;

*e)* that the considerable and increasing losses which users of telecommunication/ICT systems have incurred from the growing problem of cybercrime and deliberate sabotage worldwide alarm all developed and developing nations of the world without exception;

*f)* the reasons behind the adoption of Resolution 37 (Rev. Kigali, 2022) of this conference, on bridging the digital divide, having regard to the importance of multistakeholder implementation at the international level and to the action lines referenced in § 108 of the Tunis Agenda, including building confidence and security in the use of ICTs;

*g)* the outcomes of several ITU activities related to cybersecurity, especially, but not limited to, the ones coordinated by the Telecommunication Development Bureau, in order to fulfil ITU's mandate as facilitator for the implementation of Action Line C5 (Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs);

*h)* that various organizations from all sectors of society work in collaboration to enhance cybersecurity of telecommunications/ICTs;

*i)* that the fact, among others, that critical telecommunication/ICT infrastructures are interconnected at global level means that low infrastructure security in one country could result in greater vulnerability and risks in others;

*j)* that various information, materials, best practices and financial resources, as appropriate, are available to Member States from national, regional and other relevant international organizations, according to their respective roles;

*k)* that the ITU GCA encourages international cooperation aimed at proposing strategies for solutions to enhance confidence and security in the use of telecommunications/ICTs;

*l)* that cybersecurity has become a very important issue at the international level for sustainable development, and that ITU-D, within its mandate, can continue to contribute to these efforts towards building confidence and security in the use of ICTs,

recognizing

*a)* that measures undertaken to ensure the stability and security of telecommunication/ICT networks, to protect against cyberthreats/cybercrime and to counter spam must protect and respect the provisions for privacy and freedom of expression as contained in the relevant parts of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (see also § 42 of the Tunis Agenda) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

*b)* that UNGA Resolution 68/167, on the right to privacy in the digital age, affirms, *inter alia*,that ''the same rights that people have offline must also be protected on line, including the right to privacy'';

*c)* the need to take appropriate actions and preventive measures, as determined by law, against abusive uses of telecommunications/ICTs, as mentioned in connection with "Ethical dimensions of the information society" in the WSIS Geneva Declaration of Principles and Plan of Action (§ 43 of the Tunis Agenda), the need to counter terrorism in all its forms and manifestations on telecommunication/ICT networks, while respecting human rights and complying with other obligations under international law, as outlined in operative paragraph 81 of UNGA Resolution 60/1 on the 2005 world summit outcome, the importance of the security, continuity and stability of telecommunication/ICT networks and the need to protect telecommunication/ICT networks from threats and vulnerabilities (§ 45 of the Tunis Agenda), while ensuring respect for privacy and the protection of personal information and data, whether via adoption of legislation, the implementation of collaborative frameworks, best practices and self-regulatory and technological measures by business and users (§ 46 of the Tunis Agenda);

*d)* the need to effectively confront challenges and threats resulting from the use of telecommunications/ICTs such as for purposes that are inconsistent with objectives of maintaining international stability and security and may adversely affect the integrity of the infrastructure within States to the detriment of their security, and to work cooperatively to prevent the abuse of information resources and technologies for criminal and terrorist purposes, while respecting human rights;

*e)* the role of telecommunications/ICTs in the protection of children and in enhancing their development, and the need to strengthen action to protect children and youth from abuse and defend their rights in the context of telecommunications/ICTs, emphasizing that the best interests of the child are a key consideration;

*f)* the desire and commitment of all concerned to build a people‑centred, inclusive and secure development-oriented information society, premised on the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, international law and multilateralism, and respecting fully and upholding the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, so that people everywhere can create, access, utilize and share information and knowledge in complete security, in order to achieve their full potential and to attain the internationally agreed development goals and objectives, including the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);

*g)* the provisions of §§ 4, 5 and 55 of the Geneva Declaration of Principles, and that freedom of expression and the free flow of information, ideas and knowledge are beneficial to development;

*h)* that the Tunis phase of WSIS represented a unique opportunity to raise awareness of the benefits that telecommunications/ICTs can bring to humanity and the manner in which they can transform people's activities, interaction and lives, and thus increase confidence in the future, conditional upon the secure use of telecommunications/ICTs, as the implementation of the Summit outcomes has demonstrated;

*i)* that spam is a global problem, with different characteristics in different regions, and a multistakeholder cooperative approach is necessary to counter it;

*j)* the need to deal effectively with the significant problem posed by spam, as called for in § 41 of the Tunis Agenda, as well as, *inter alia*, spam, cybercrime, viruses, worms and denial-of-service attacks;

*k)* the need for effective coordination within ITU-D,

noting

*a)* the continuing work of ITU‑T Study Group 17 (Security) and other standards-development organizations on various aspects of security of telecommunications/ICTs;

*b)* that spam is a significant problem and continues to pose a threat for users, networks and the Internet as a whole, and that the issue of cybersecurity should be addressed at appropriate national, regional and international levels;

*c)* that cooperation and collaboration among Member States, Sector Members and relevant stakeholders contributes to building and maintaining a culture of cybersecurity,

resolves

1 to continue to recognize cybersecurity as one of ITU's priority activities, taking into account new and emerging telecommunication/ICT services and technologies, and to continue to address, within its area of core competence, the issue of building confidence and security in the use of telecommunications/ICTs, by raising awareness, identifying best practices, providing assistance in implementing technical measures, and developing appropriate tools and training materials in order to promote a culture of cybersecurity;

2 to enhance collaboration and cooperation with, and share information among, all relevant international and regional organizations on cybersecurity, including cyberresilience-related initiatives, within ITU's areas of competence, taking into account the need to assist developing countries,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to promote a culture in which security is seen as a continuous and iterative process, built into products from the beginning and continuing throughout their lifetime, and is accessible and understandable for users;

2 to continue to organize, in collaboration with relevant organizations, as appropriate, taking into account member contributions, and in cooperation with the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau (TSB), meetings of Member States, Sector Members and other relevant stakeholders to discuss ways and means to enhance cybersecurity;

3 to continue, in collaboration with relevant organizations and stakeholders, to carry out studies on strengthening the cybersecurity of developing countries at the regional and international level, based on a clear identification of their needs, particularly those relating to telecommunication/ICT use, including countering and combating spam, and new and emerging telecommunication/ICT services and technologies as well as the online protection of children and youth and any vulnerable persons;

4 to consider the results of the Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI) to guide BDT cybersecurity-related initiatives, especially taking into account the gaps identified through the GCI process;

5 to change how the results of the GCI are presented so that countries are represented in tiers rather than by individual ranking in order to more accurately reflect the development of cybersecurity in Member States;

6 to identify and document practical steps to support developing countries in building capacity and skills in cybersecurity, taking into account the specific challenges they face;

7 to support Member States' initiatives, especially in developing countries, regarding mechanisms for enhancing cooperation on cybersecurity, including countering and combating spam;

8 to disseminate to the developing countries information on guidelines, recommendations, technical reports and best practices related to cybersecurity which have been developed by the ITU-T study groups, in collaboration with the Director of TSB;

9 to assist Member States, particularly developing countries, by providing guidance and best practices to overcome challenges in terms of cybersecurity and spam arising from new and emerging technologies;

10 to assist the developing countries in enhancing their states of preparedness in order to ensure a high and effective level of cybersecurity, including cyberresilience, for their critical telecommunication/ICT infrastructures, including through the holding of workshops and training to promote cyberhygiene;

11 to assist Member States in the establishment of an appropriate framework between developing countries allowing rapid response to major incidents, including promoting voluntary information-sharing between interested administrations, and propose an action plan to increase their protection and strengthen cyberresilience, taking into account mechanisms and partnerships, as appropriate;

12 to collect from Member States and share, in conjunction with the work under Question 3/2 of ITU-D Study Group 2, information regarding regulations, policies and other approaches for building confidence and security in the use of telecommunications/ICTs developed and/or implemented by national telecommunication regulatory authorities and other stakeholder organizations;

13 to facilitate the consideration by relevant ITU-D study groups of cybersecurity-related research, in collaboration with different stakeholders;

14 to encourage all relevant stakeholders to participate in the activities of the ITU Academy training centres to train, educate and raise awareness in relation to cybersecurity issues, within the framework of the GCA;

15 to assist Member States by enhancing sharing of up-to-date information on cybersecurity issues and best practices for consideration by Member States;

16 to assist developing countries with improving their capacity development by holding workshops, seminars or events, within the framework of the GCA pillars, on organizational and technical measures, in collaboration with the Director of TSB;

17 to report the results of the implementation of this resolution to the next WTDC;

18 to continue to consult with the membership on improving the GCI process, including discussion on the methodology, structure, weightage and questions, using the GCI Expert Group, as appropriate, taking into account the financial implications,

invites the Secretary-General, in coordination with the Directors of the Radiocommunication Bureau, the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau and the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to report on MoUs between countries, as well as existing forms of cooperation, providing analysis of their status and scope and the application of these cooperative mechanisms to strengthen cybersecurity and combat cyberthreats, with a view to enabling Member States to identify whether additional memoranda or mechanisms are required;

2 to support regional and global cybersecurity initiatives and to invite all countries, particularly developing ones, to take part in these activities;

3 to continue to mobilize ITU's development expertise with a view to strengthening national, regional and international cybersecurity in support of the SDGs, working with other relevant bodies/agencies within the United Nations and other relevant international bodies, taking into account the specific mandates and areas of expertise of the different agencies, while remaining mindful of the need to avoid duplicating work between organizations and among the Bureaux and the General Secretariat,

requests the Secretary-General

1 to bring this resolution to the attention of the next plenipotentiary conference for consideration and required action, as appropriate;

2 to report the results of these activities to subsequent Council meetings and to plenipotentiary conferences, as appropriate,

invites Member States, Sector Members, Associates and Academia

1 to provide the necessary support for and engage actively in the implementation of this resolution;

2 to recognize cybersecurity and countering and combating spam as high-priority items, and to take appropriate action and contribute to building confidence and security in the use of telecommunications/ICTs at the national, regional and international level;

3 to encourage service providers to protect themselves from the risks identified, endeavour to ensure the continuity of services provided and notify security infringements;

4 to collaborate at the national level in order to enhance solutions to protect the cybersecurity and resilience of networks;

5 to inform ITU about existing cooperation frameworks between members and with other entities and agencies, regional or international, at the bilateral level,

invites Member States

1 to collaborate closely in order to strengthen regional and international cooperation aimed at addressing current and future issues related to cybersecurity and spam;

2 to establish an appropriate framework allowing rapid response to major incidents, and propose an action plan to prevent, mitigate and recover from such incidents;

3 to establish strategies and capabilities at the national level to ensure protection of national critical infrastructures, including enhancing the resilience of telecommunication/ICT infrastructures;

4 to foster information-sharing on cybersecurity at the national, regional and international levels.

RESOLUTION 46 (Rev. Kigali, 2022)

Assistance to indigenous peoples and communities through information and communication technologies

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Kigali, 2022),

recalling

*a)* Resolution 139 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) 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 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the Connect 2030 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;

*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, considering the generation of information in linguistic variations;

3 to support, through the ITU Academy[[8]](#footnote-8)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 installation, operation, 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,

8 in line with the above, the ITU mandate, the WSIS outcomes and the SDGs, to recognize the global initiative of 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 Kigali Action Plan as it relates to indigenous peoples, establishing collaboration mechanisms with the Member States, other relevant regional and international organizations and cooperation agencies;

2 to invite Study Group 1 of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) to continue its studies under Question 5/1 (Telecommunications/ICTs for rural and remote areas), on the best means for providing access to telecommunication/ICT services in rural, isolated and poorly served areas and indigenous communities;

3 to promote further the use of all appropriate means of telecommunication/ICT in order to facilitate effective development and implementation of telecommunication/ICT services to indigenous communities through the relevant programmes;

4that,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;

5to recognize the importance of issues of concern to indigenous peoples worldwide in the determination of priority activities for ITU-D;

6 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;

7 to coordinate efforts on supporting governments for the development of telecommunication/ICT services in indigenous communities,

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. Kigali, 2022)

Strengthening cooperation among telecommunication regulators

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Kigali, 2022),

recalling

*a)* Resolution 48 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) 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. Dubai, 2018) 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[[9]](#footnote-9)1 and in implementing relevant national, regional and interregional projects;

*d)* Resolution 2 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) 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 between 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 Kigali 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 information and experience electronically on matters concerning regulatory issues;

2 that ITU, and in particular ITU-D, should continue to support regulatory reform and help members address regulatory challenges 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, and reflect balanced regional representation of participants, speakers and relevant stakeholders, to the extent possible;

2 to consult Member States and relevant stakeholders in advance on topics for the annual GSR and the thematic priorities for the best-practice guidelines issued by GSR every year, in order to ensure that the outputs of the GSR reflect the interests of all stakeholders and fully attract the participation of all countries;

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

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

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

6 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 forthcoming plenipotentiary conference 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 51 (Rev. Kigali, 2022)

Provision of assistance and support to Iraq  
to continue rebuilding and re‑equipping its telecommunication/ICT systems

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Kigali, 2022),

recalling

*a)* Resolution 51 (Doha, 2006) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC);

*b)* Resolution 193 (Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference;

*c)* the efforts of the United Nations to implement the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

*d)* the noble principles, intentions and goals embodied in the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

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

conscious

*a)* thata secure telecommunication network infrastructure and related services and applications, as appropriate, are indispensable to support the social and economic development of nations, particularly those that have suffered natural disasters or wars;

*b)* that the damage caused to Iraq's telecommunication infrastructure and the illicit use of information and communication technology (ICT) services is a matter of concern for the entire international community and relevant international bodies/agencies;

*c)* that telecommunication systems are fundamental for rebuilding and rehabilitation and for enhancing the social and economic development of nations, particularly those that have suffered the effects of war;

*d)* that Iraq continues to build and develop its telecommunication/ICT systems to an acceptable level, which requires assistance from the international community, provided bilaterally or through international organizations;

*e)* that similar resolutions have been adopted in relation to countries experiencing similar circumstances to those which Iraq is experiencing,

having regard to

the difficulties that were faced in the implementation of Resolution 51 (Rev. Hyderabad, 2010) of WTDC,

noting

*a)* that ITU had provided assistance to Iraq, yet the work of rebuilding and developing the telecommunication/ICT systems in Iraq still requires focused attention and support;

*b)* that the provision of suitable assistance to Iraq by the Union will contribute to the development of its telecommunication/ICT systems to meet the country's economic, service and information needs in the telecommunication field;

*c)* the efforts which have been and are being deployed by the Secretary-General and the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau to provide assistance to other countries that have recently emerged from the conditions of war they endured,

resolves

1 that special measures need to be taken, within the framework and available budgetary resources of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector, to provide the appropriate assistance to Iraq;

2 to support Iraq in rebuilding and overhauling its telecommunication infrastructure, establishing institutions, establishing tariffs, developing human resources and setting up training operations outside Iraqi territory if necessary, and to provide other forms of assistance, including technical assistance,

calls upon Member States

to offer all possible assistance and support to the Administration of Iraq in:

– contributing to the development of its ICT sector;

– supporting Iraq in the field of cybersecurity to enhance confidence and security in the use of ICTs, in order to mitigate telecommunication/ICT risks;

– achieving the most effective use of ICTs for economic and social benefits,

encourages Sector Members

1 to provide all forms of support and assistance to Iraq in order to increase investment in the telecommunication/ICT sector;

2 to contribute in the form of assistance to Iraq in order to build human capacities and to enhance confidence and security in the use of ICTs, in addition to technical assistance,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to continue taking immediate measures to assist Iraq to the extent possible within available resources;

2 to take all possible measures to mobilize additional resources to this aim;

3 to submit an annual report to the ITU Council on the progress achieved in implementing this resolution and the mechanisms employed to tackle difficulties as they arise,

requests the Secretary-General

to bring to the attention of the Plenipotentiary Conference (Bucharest, 2022) the need to allocate a specific budget for Iraq as from the beginning of 2023.

RESOLUTION 55 (Rev. Kigali, 2022)

Mainstreaming a gender perspective in ITU to enhance women's empowerment through telecommunications/ICTs

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Kigali, 2022),

recalling

*a)* that Resolution 70/1 of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) identifies the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls as a crucial contribution to progress across all the goals and targets and contains Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5 (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls),which recognizes that gender equality is necessary to contribute to achieving a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable world, and specifically SDG 5 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. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on mainstreaming a gender perspective[[10]](#footnote-10)1 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. Geneva, 2022) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly, on promoting gender equality in ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU‑T) activities, which ensures gender mainstreaming in ITU‑T activities,

noting

*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, known as "UN Women", with the mandate to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls;

*b)* the United Nations Secretary-General's commitment to achieve full gender parity across the United Nations system through the launch of a strategy in 2017 as the start of a system-wide campaign to advance this priority, referenced in UNGA Resolution 72/234;

*c)* 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);

*d)* 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;

*e)* the United Nations HeForShe initiative (2014) to involve men and boys in the promotion of gender equality;

*f)* the EQUALS Global Partnership, of which ITU is a founding member, which is made up of other United Nations agencies, governments, the private sector, academia and civil-society organizations, and which aims to reduce the gender digital divide in the world;

*g)* the United Nations International Gender Champion initiative and the ITU Secretary-General's commitment to promote the Panel Parity Pledge;

*h)* ITU's role as co-leader of the Technology and Innovation Action Coalition part of the Generation Equality Forum, a global five-year action journey and roadmap for gender equality to achieve the SDGs;

*i)* the Network of Women (NoW) in the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D), launched as a way to improve the number of women taking up leadership roles in the structures that make up ITU-D, such as chairing committees and working groups, and other key management roles related to the preparation of the next world telecommunication development conference (WTDC), and beyond,

noting further

*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 Sector (ITU-R), ITU-T, ITU-D 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 integrating a gender perspective throughout the Union and leveraging 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. Dubai, 2018), 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

that telecommunications/ICTs can help to create a world in which societies are free of 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,

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. Dubai, 2018);

*b)* 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 ITU-D, taking into account the above considerations, shall continue to support the development of activities, projects and events aimed at closing the gender digital divide;

2 that BDT should maintain close links and collaborate, as appropriate, with the Gender Task Force set up by the Secretary-General, to support gender mainstreaming in the Union's activities, with the aim of eliminating inequalities in access to and use of telecommunications/ICTs;

3 that BDT should continue to work to promote gender equality in the field of telecommunications/ICTs, recommending and supporting the implementation of actions 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[[11]](#footnote-11)2, taking into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

4 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;

5 that high priority be accorded to the incorporation of gender equality-related goals, policies, and relevant guidelines in the management, staffing and operation of ITU‑D, while taking into account geographical representation;

6 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;

7 that telecommunications/ICTs may contribute to preventing and eliminating violence against women and girls in both public and private spaces, while also exposing women and girls to new risks that should be taken into account in initiatives dedicated to addressing the gender digital divide, including in enhancing digital literacy and skills;

8 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;

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

10 to encourage Member States to have gender parity in their delegations to ITU-D activities to solve the issue of underrepresentation of women,

further resolves

to endorse the following measures:

1 design, implement and support projects and programmes in developing countries, including 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 and skills, training in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields, affordability, trust and confidence, at the international, regional and national levels, taking into account SDG 5 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. Kigali, 2022) 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 in daily personal and professional activities, 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 in line with ITU's mandate, with the aim of encouraging women and girls to connect to the Internet, increasing training for women and girls, and monitoring the telecommunication/ICT gender divide, including actively participating in and promoting EQUALS – The Global Partnership for Gender Equality in the Digital Age;

8 promote educational programmes to protect women and girls from online forms of abuse and harassment and to address their safety needs;

9 support International Girls in ICT Day and efforts of the ITU membership to undertake all-year-round activities to make girls aware of STEM studies and careers and job opportunities in the ICT sector and develop their ICT skills;

10 promote efforts to enhance educational opportunities for women and girls in STEM and telecommunication/ICT skills and careers across their lifespan, with particular attention to women and girls in rural and underserved areas;

11 continue to assist developing countries to close the gender digital divide, including enhancing women's and girls' access to reliable connectivity, digital literacy and digital skills;

12 support the continuation of the NoW advisory group, working on a voluntary basis, composed of two women representative coordinators per region designated in collaboration with the regional groups,

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 give high priority to gender mainstreaming in the management, financial assistance, staffing and operation of ITU-D;

3 to conduct an annual review on progress made in the Sector in advancing gender mainstreaming, including by circulating questionnaires and collecting and reviewing statistics on ITU-D development activities by gender and region, in order to identify challenges to women's participation, and subsequent solutions; and to share findings with TDAG and the next WTDC;

4 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 and the United Nations Secretary-General's strategy on gender parity,

invites the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

to assist members:

1 to encourage the mainstreaming of a gender perspective through appropriate administrative and policy mechanisms and processes within regulatory agencies and ministries and to promote inter-organizational cooperation on this issue within the telecommunication sector, including with non-governmental stakeholders, 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 assist Member States to review existing national ICT policies and regulations, assess their gender responsiveness and share best practices on how to fully integrate women's participation in the development of relevant policies, strategies, regulations and other plans related to the development of telecommunications/ICTs to support the digital economy;

5 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, including countries with economies in transition;

6 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 5 target 5.b;

7 to support active involvement of women delegates 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 5 target 5.b,

*invites Member States and Sector Members*

1 to submit candidatures for chairman/vice-chairman posts in order to support the active involvement of women as well as men in development groups and activities and in their own administrations and delegations;

2 to actively support and participate in the work of BDT, and to nominate experts for the ITU‑D NoW group;

3 to designate, in liaison with the regional coordinators of NoW, national representatives in order to encourage in each part of the world the participation of women and girls in ITU-D activities;

4 to encourage and actively support ICT education that promotes girls' and women's participation, and to support all measures that will help prepare them for a professional career in ICT;

5 to encourage greater participation of women in ICT development as delegates and foster their expertise;

6 to encourage the adoption of proven measures to increase globally the number of women pursuing academic degrees at all levels in STEM fields.

RESOLUTION 58 (Rev. Kigali, 2022)

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

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Kigali, 2022),

recognizing

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

*b)* Resolution 175 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on telecommunication/information and communication technology (ICT) accessibility for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs;

*c)* Resolution 70 (Rev. Geneva 2022) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly, on telecommunication/ICT accessibility for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs;

*d)* 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);

*e)* the United Nations flagship report ''Disability and Development Report, 2018'', which sees telecommunication/ICT accessibility as a critical element for ensuring inclusion and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs, and UNGA Resolution 73/142, which encourages Member States to promote access to information and communication, including information and communication technologies and systems, to ensure that accessibility is promoted as a means of achieving inclusive societies and development;

*f)* the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU‑D) Digital Inclusion initiative, which promotes telecommunication/ICT accessibility and use for the economic and social development of persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs;

*g)* the formation of the Global Initiative for Inclusive Information Communication Technologies (G3ict), an ITU‑D Sector Member and flagship partnership initiative of the United Nations Global Alliance for ICT and Development (UN-GAID), and its activities;

*h)* the Model ICT Accessibility Policy Report for policy-makers, regulators and service providers, produced by the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) in partnership with G3ict and available 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;

*i)* the related issues being examined in the work of ITU‑T and the ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU‑R) in relation to telecommunication/ICT accessibility;

*j)* the formation by the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) of the Dynamic Coalition on Accessibility and Disability (DCAD), sponsored by the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau and in partnership with ITU‑T, as well as involving the participation of ITU‑D, in order to promote equal access to the information society by addressing issues of accessibility in relation to Internet governance;

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

*l)* 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);

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, cognitive and sensorial disabilities), each requiring special considerations when designing telecommunication/ICT public policy;

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

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 the outcome document of the UNGA high-level meeting on the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities: the way forward, a disability-inclusive development agenda towards 2015 and beyond, considers, *inter alia*, that the universal design approach should be followed in ensuring accessibility of information, assistive devices and other ICTs, including in remote or rural areas, as a means of achieving such goals, so that persons with disabilities can achieve their fullest potential throughout their lives;

*f)* 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";

*g)* 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";

*h)* General comment No. 2 (2014) of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in relation to Article 9: Accessibility, on the need to promote access for persons with disabilities to new information and communication technologies and systems, including the Internet;

*i)* that maximizing access to telecommunication/ICT services, equipment, software and applications for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs will help to increase digital literacy and support equal access to education, healthcare and employment;

*j)* 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";

taking into account

*a)* that the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) acknowledged that special attention should be given to the needs of older persons, persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs: i) when elaborating national cyberstrategies, including educational, administrative and legislative measures; ii) for using ICTs 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) for promoting telework and increasing employment opportunities for persons with disabilities; v) for creating content that is pertinent to persons with disabilities; and vii) for creating the required abilities for the use of ICTs by persons with disabilities;[[12]](#footnote-12)1

*b)* that the implementation of the relevant WSIS action lines will contribute to the achievement SDG 9 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);

*c)* the need to apply accessibility principles and features in relation to telecommunication/ICT services, equipment, software and applications in order to be accessible, namely: universal design, equal access, functional equivalence and affordability;

*d)* that telecommunication/ICT accessibility for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs should be achieved through the formulation of coherent policy and cooperation between government bodies, the private sector, non‑governmental organizations, civil society and persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs themselves;

*e)* the importance of coordination and exchange of information on issues concerning persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs by and between United Nations bodies concerned in order to establish a comprehensive approach to issues of accessibility;

*f)* the prevailing difference in telecommunication/ICT accessibility for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs in the regions, in countries, and within each country, emphasizing that 80 per cent of persons with disabilities live in developing countries[[13]](#footnote-13)2, according to the United Nations Development Programme;

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

resolves to instruct the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to ensure that ITU‑D programmes, projects or activities take into account, where possible, telecommunication/ICT accessibility issues and/or are adaptable for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs;

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

3 to provide assistance to Member States, as appropriate, in the establishment of their national strategies, including funding strategies, aimed at addressing the needs of persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs in terms of access to telecommunication/ICT services;

4 to continue to work closely with Member States for the sharing and dissemination of best practices, and to encourage them to submit contributions on ensuring accessibility of telecommunication/ICT services, equipment, software and applications;

5 to support the holding of seminars, symposia or forums on telecommunication/ICT accessibility, involving a wide range of stakeholders, and also support the preparation of outcome documents that address telecommunication/ICT accessibility for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs;

6 to collaborate and cooperate with relevant United Nations entities with a mandate to address accessibility issues and with international and regional organizations for persons with disabilities in order to support the social and economic inclusion of persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs through the use of telecommunications/ICTs;

7 to collaborate with ITU‑R and ITU‑T on issues of telecommunication/ICT accessibility, to take into account the outcomes of their work in preparing toolkits, guidelines and programmes for Member States on telecommunication/ICT accessibility issues and, where necessary, to report to the ITU Council on the outcomes of this collaboration;

8 to consider the development of an internship programme for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs who have expertise in the field of telecommunications/ICTs, so as to build capacity in the development of public policy to meet accessibility requirements;

9 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;

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

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. Geneva, 2022) and Resolution 175 (Rev. Dubai, 2018);

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 and persons with specific needs, under Resolution 17 (Rev. Kigali, 2022) of this conference on regional initiatives, where 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 and persons with specific needs 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 telecommunication/ICT accessibility for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs, in line with the principles of universal design, equal access, functional equivalence and affordability, and fully harnessing the available tools, guidelines and standards, to eliminate obstacles and discrimination,

instructs Study Group 1 of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector

1 to assist in identifying the needs of persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs in relation to telecommunication/ICT accessible services, equipment, software and applications;

2 to assist in identifying best practices in relation to telecommunication/ICT accessible services, equipment, software and applications, on the basis of contributions from Member States, Sector Members and other stakeholders and in collaboration with ITU‑T and ITU‑R;

3 to promote the exchange of experiences and best practices in terms of accessibility of telecommunication/ICT services, equipment, software and applications for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs, in order to reduce digital inequality and achieve the SDGs,

invites Member States

1 to ratify the UNCPRD and to consider the interests of persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs in the development of legal frameworks, including laws, regulations, policies and guidelines, on telecommunications/ICTs at the national and local levels, in order to support the social and economic inclusion of all members of society, taking into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

2 to mainstream telecommunication/ICT accessibility for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs and to emphasize adopting a comprehensive approach to addressing the matter, which involves taking into consideration accessibility principles in a cross-cutting manner;

3 to take the relevant measures to ensure that telecommunication/ICT services, equipment, software and applications contribute to the development of telecommunication/ICT accessibility and are effectively accessible to persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs;

4 to develop national legal frameworks, including laws, regulations, policies, guidelines or other national and local mechanisms for telecommunication/ICT accessibility for persons with disabilities, taking into account the principles of equal access, functional equivalence, affordability and universal design, in order to ensure accessibility of telecommunication/ICT services, equipment, software and applications;

5 to encourage and enable active participation by persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs, both as individuals and as organizations, in the policy-making process for telecommunications/ICTs and related areas where ICTs have an impact, by ensuring the accessibility of the consultation process, meetings and/or surveys;

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

7 to raise awareness of activities and decisions of government bodies, the private sector and non-governmental organizations in relation to ensuring telecommunication/ICT accessibility so that persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs are timeously and fully informed of new opportunities;

8 to continue strengthening the collection and analysis of data and statistics on disability related to telecommunication/ICT accessibility for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs and similarly relevant indicators that will contribute to the public policy design, planning and implementation process in the area of telecommunication/ICT accessibility;

9 to facilitate the introduction and mainstreaming of telecommunication/ICT relay services[[14]](#footnote-14)3, captioning and audiodescription for persons with hearing, speech or vision impairments, or any combination thereof, to ensure accessibility of television programmes and digital television content;

10 to consider financial incentives on ICT devices and assistive equipment for persons with disabilities, in accordance with the national regulations on this matter;

11 to promote the development of accessible websites, in particular those of high social significance for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs, such as websites for e‑government services;

12 to support the establishment of educational institutions, in particular at the primary level, other institutions and community centres with accessible equipment and to promote the accessibility of public phones;

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

14 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 persons with specific needs;

15 to participate actively in telecommunication/ICT accessibility-related studies in ITU‑D, ITU‑T and ITU‑R, and to encourage and promote self-representation by persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs 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;

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

17 to create dissemination and awareness-raising mechanisms that enable persons with disabilities to learn about the rights that can help them and how to require their enforceability, as well as policies for their benefit, current assistance technologies, and accessible equipment available on the market,

invites Sector Members

1 to consider accessibility issues, including adoption of a self-regulation approach in their activities, in the field of telecommunications/ICTs;

2 to adopt a universal design principle from an early stage when designing, producing and creating telecommunication/ICT equipment, services, software and applications, so as to avoid costly measures to adapt them for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs;

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

4 to collaborate with Member States for the sharing of experiences and best practices in relation to telecommunication/ICT accessibility;

5 to collaborate with Member States on dissemination and awareness-raising to enable persons with disabilities to learn about current assistance technologies, tools and accessible and affordable equipment available on the market.

RESOLUTION 76 (Rev. Kigali, 2022)

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

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Kigali, 2022),

noting

*a)* Resolution 70 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) 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 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, which calls for empowerment of young women and men through telecommunications/ICT;

*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 young women and men have set priorities for the post-2015 development agenda in their "Costa Rica Declaration", as an outcome of the BYND 2015 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 "listen to and work with youth" as one of the 12 commitments in his report entitled ''Our Common Agenda'' towards the acceleration of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);

*f)* that the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) advances national, regional and international events that promote ICTs that can be used by young women and men for social and economic empowerment, such as Global Youth Summits;

*g)* UNGA Resolution 70/1, on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular 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 young women and men are digital natives, the best promoters of ICTs and a world force for progress;

*b)* that in 2020, 71 per cent of the world's youth (aged between 15 and 24 years) were using the Internet, compared with 57 per cent of the other age groups and that, on the global scale, young people are therefore more likely to connect than the rest of the population, despite the numerous barriers to connectivity across the world;[[15]](#footnote-15)1

*c)* that some young women and men have had their education disrupted during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic;

*d)* that the ITU Youth Strategy, in line with the United Nations Youth Strategy: Youth 2030, on working with and for young women and men, promotes youth engagement in digital development and has supported the empowerment of young women and men, bringing young women and men together to engage with ITU and its members, and is fostering dialogue of young women and men and their participation in ITU activities and decision-making processes;

*e)* that the United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development Statement on COVID-19 and Youth highlights the unequal impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on marginalized or vulnerable communities of young women and men, including, but not limited to, young women and men living in rural/remote communities, young migrants and refugees, young women, indigenous young women and men, and young persons with disabilities,

considering

*a)* the progress made by the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) in promoting gender equality, in the development and implementation of projects that target young women and men 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. Dubai, 2018), through which, since 2011, by promoting more than 11 700 celebrations of International Girls in ICT Day, over 377 000 girls and young women in over 171 countries have been made aware of the job opportunities in the ICT sector with the support of BDT;[[16]](#footnote-16)2

*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 empowerment and engagement of young women and men and their involvement in the decision-making processes related to ICTs for development-related issues,

resolves

1 that 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, and thereby contribute to the educational, social and economic development and empowerment of young women and men, taking into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

2 that ITU-D continue leading the implementation of the ITU Youth Strategy and promoting young women and men initiatives, such as Generation Connect, and continue coordinating the work for young women and men with the rest of ITU;

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

4 to empower young women and men in the use of telecommunications/ICT, particularly in developing countries, by promoting a greater number of regular dialogues and consultations with young women and men, incorporating their opinions into the implementation of ITU-D activities;

5 that ITU-D continues to mainstream engagement and participation of young women and men in the work of ITU to support the achievement of the overall goals of the Union; encourage the participation of young women and men in ITU programmes, events and activities; and contribute to promoting ICT policies related to young women and men within ITU Member States;

6 to encourage innovation and engagement of young women and men to foster sustainable development and address current and future challenges such as poverty alleviation, job creation, gender inequality and cybersecurity,

resolves further

1 to establish partnerships with academia concerned with development programmes for young women and men;

2 to add a dimension related to young women and men to study Questions, wherever possible, and encourage young women and men to contribute to ITU-D study groups,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to seek appropriate means to integrate issues related to young women and men into the activities of BDT and to actively pursue diversity through the ongoing implementation of the ITU Youth Strategy;

2 to continue to engage with all ITU Sectors in order to coordinate the ongoing implementation of the Youth Strategy throughout the Union;

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

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

5 to provide guidance on measuring the extent of the empowerment of young women and men at national and international levels;

6 to provide guidance on digital citizenship among young women and men, including digital government services;

7 to amplify the representation and participation of young women and men in BDT activities and initiatives,

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 and science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) careers 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 for the implementation of the ITU Youth Strategy that target young women and men in developing countries, including countries with economies in transition, taking into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

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

5 to promote ICT-friendly frameworks in education and careers for young women and men 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 increasing access to and use of ICTs as a tool for the educational, social and economic development of young women and men;

3 to promote ICTs for the engagement and empowerment of young women and men and their 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, through the ongoing implementation of the ITU Youth Strategy;

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 young women and men, particularly in innovative sectors and new technology, for adding social and economic value and helping to create skilled jobs by promoting the use of ICTs among young women and men;

7 to aim to have an impact on the lives of young women and men around the world and to ensure meaningful participation of young women and men in ITU as key stakeholders in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

encourages Member States, Sector Members and Academia

1 to coordinate global and regional forums and other initiatives dedicated to young women and men, considering available resources, taking into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

2 to provide access to telecommunications/ICTs and provide up-to-date digital-skills training and opportunities for young women and men;

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

4 to promote participation of young women and men in work related to ITU-D, including in the composition of delegations to ITU-D meetings,

invites Academia

1 to equip young women and men 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;

2 to promote ICT-related research by university students;

3 to encourage young women and men to use the opportunity of the ITU internship programme to gain their first work experiences,

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 (Rev. Kigali, 2022)

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

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Kigali, 2022),

considering

*a)* the provisions of Resolutions 101 and 102 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on Internet Protocol-based networks and 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. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the role of administrations of Member States in the management of internationalized (multilingual) domain names;

*c)* Resolution 154 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the use of the six official languages of the Union on an equal footing;

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

*e)* Resolution 37 (Rev. Kigali, 2022) of this conference, on bridging the digital divide;

*f)* 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. Buenos Aires, 2017) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference, 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 Co-ordination (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 indicates 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,

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 Geneva 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 internationalized Internet domain names (IDNs), and more generally ICTs, must be widely accessible to all citizens without regard to gender, age, location, ability or language;

*f)* that the Geneva 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";

*g)* 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;

*h)* 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";

*i)* 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);

*j)* 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 telecommunication 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 Plan of Action; 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, all of which becomes especially relevant during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and possible future pandemics,

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 currently have limited coverage on 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, promoting digital skills and prompting calls for action within the framework of ITU so as to ensure that the importance of preserving linguistic and cultural diversity and the autonomy of traditional communities, such as indigenous people, is recognized, within the framework and available budgetary resources of ITU‑D,

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, including the rural digital divide;

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, the preservation of their languages is promoted, 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 to foster linguistic diversity and multilingualism on the Internet and to bring connectivity to minorities and traditional communities, such as indigenous people;

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. Kigali, 2022) 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 capacity building and digital skills which foster the development of local digital content or informative resources in rural contexts and within vulnerable groups of the population, in order to preserve multiculturalism and multilingualism and promote their regional, national and local integration;

4 to promote initiatives that allow underserved communities, peoples and minority groups and persons with specific needs to become relevant actors in the development of a multiculturalism and multilingualism in the digital ecosystem of the Internet and associated services;

5 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 and availability of international Internet connectivity, and thereby overcome language barriers and increase use of the Internet;

6 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;

7 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;

8 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;

9 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;

10 to promote universal acceptance regarding IDNs and to collaborate and coordinate in enabling their usage in the Internet;

11 to urge all stakeholders to ensure the development and deployment of IDNs in all possible language scripts using their specific character sets;

12 to promote the concept of universal acceptance,

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.

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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. 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-2)
3. 2 These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. 1 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 These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. 1 The ITU Academy initiative encompasses the ITU Academy training centres (ATCs) and Internet training centres initiatives. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. 1 These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. 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-10)
11. 2 These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition. [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. 1 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. 2 These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition. [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. 3 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-14)
15. 1 Source: ITU Measuring digital development: Facts and figures 2021 [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. 2 Source: <https://www.itu.int/women-and-girls/girls-in-ict/home/history/> [↑](#footnote-ref-16)