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| **Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-22) Bucharest, 26 September – 14 October 2022** |  |
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| PLENARY MEETING | **Addendum 2 to Document 82-E** |
|  | **5 September 2022** |
|  | **Original: English** |
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| Greece | |
| Draft new Resolution [GRC-2]: | |
| Connecting refugee shelters to the Internet | |
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**Summary:**

This document is a draft new resolution proposed by Greece as guidance to PP-22 to work on connecting refugee shelters to the Internet, as a contribution to bridging the digital divide, ensuring that a vulnerable group of people is equally treated on harnessing the benefits of ICT technologies.

**Expected results:**

PP-22 is invited to review this document and to approve the proposal.

ADD GRC/82A2/1

Draft New Resolution [GRC-2]

Connecting refugee shelters to the Internet

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

recalling

*a)* the noble principles, purpose and objectives enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

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

*c)* the commitment by all Member States of the United Nations (UN) to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and related targets, adopted by the UN General Assembly (UNGA) in Resolution 70/1

*d)* the Connect 2030 Agenda for global telecommunication/ICT development adopted by Resolution 200 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference;

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

*f)* the Kigali Declaration and Action Plan adopted by the 2022 World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC‑22), to connect the unconnected to achieve sustainable development;

*g)* Resolution 72 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, which underlines the importance of linking strategic, financial and operational plans as a basis for measuring progress in achieving the objectives and goals of ITU,

recalling further

*a)* Resolution 37 (Rev. Kyoto, 1994) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on training the refugees;

*b)* the new set of global targets for "universal and meaningful digital connectivity" to be achieved by 2030, announced by the Office of the United Nations Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology, developed as part of the implementation of the UN Secretary-General's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation;

*c)* the 2025 Global Broadband Targets of the ITU/UNESCO Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development to support “connecting the other half”,

considering

*a)* that the purposes of the Union include:

- to promote the extension of the benefits of the new telecommunication technologies to all the world’s inhabitants;

- to promote, at the international level, the adoption of a broader approach to the issues of telecommunications in the global information economy and society, by cooperating with other world and regional intergovernmental organizations and those other non-governmental organizations concerned with telecommunications;

- to promote participation of concerned entities in the activities of the Union and cooperation with regional and other organizations for the fulfilment of the purposes of the Union;

*b)* the UN system-wide implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and efforts towards achieving the SDGs;

*c)* the role of ITU as a UN specialized agency to support Member States and to contribute towards the worldwide efforts to achieve the SDGs,

recognizing

*a)* that telecommunications/ICTs can help to accelerate progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals;

*b)* that internet connectivity to refugee shelters provides inclusiveness and bridges the digital divide to a vulnerable group of people;

*c)* that refugees experience multiple forms of discrimination and in this context, there is a need to bridge the refugee digital divide that requires fostering digital skills and literacy that are essential to them, so as to advance their participation in the digital society;

*d)* that internet connectivity to refugee shelters is indispensable for integrating the refugees to the socio-economic development of the country hosting them;

*e)* that internet connectivity to refugee shelters will considerably enhance the progress of the implementation of Resolution 37 (Rev. Kyoto, 1994) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on training the refugees;

*f)* that harnessing the benefits from internet connectivity, will benefit refugees in their prosperity and well-being;

*g)* that a specific group of vulnerable people needs a strong socio-economic support from the refugee host country, that is usually a developed country;

*h)* that the refugee host country should respond to refugee needs;

*i)* that a stable energy supply is required for a 24/7 internet service at the refugee shelter;

*j)* that internet connectivity to refugee shelters provides access to telecommunications/ICTs, and in particular to new emerging technologies, allowing refugees to pursue their regular lives;

*k)* that refugees’ unequal access to ICTs harms everyone, including, but not limited to, reduced economic activity, innovation and entrepreneurship,

resolves

1 that the allocation of necessary funds to the aforesaid action, within the financial limits set by the Plenipotentiary Conference, been foreseen in order to proceed with its implementation;

2 that a special action undertaken by the Secretary-General and the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau, with specialized assistance from the ITU Radiocommunication Sector and the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector, in order to provide appropriate assistance and support to the countries that host the refuges that have abandoned their homes,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau in collaboration with the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau and Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau

1 to create a platform, as a way to collect information and case studies on response to the special needs of the refugees related to ICTs;

2 to develop a roadmap in order to facilitate the deployment of telecommunications/ICT infrastructures in refugee shelters;

3 to facilitate the exchange of best practices in order to create opportunities for cooperative efforts towards the deployment and use of telecommunications/ICTS in refugee shelters;

4 to provide all means and support to the refugee host countries on implementing this resolution;

5 to update Member States on how ITU assists in the assessment of the unconnected refugee shelters;

6 to review and facilitate consultations in response to the resolves above;

7 to carry out an assessment of the particular needs of the refugee host countries;

8 to constitute a framework to ensure the implementation of this resolution;

9 to submit a report on the progress of the implementation of this resolution to the upcoming WTDC;

10 to implement this project within the available budget and embark on resource mobilization to augment the budget,

invites Member States

1 to foster capacity building and share relevant best practices regarding internet connectivity to refugee shelters;

2 to explore options for delivering a mentoring program for digital literacy to the refugees living in their country;

3 to proactively participate in the implementation of this resolution, withing the available budget.

**Reasons:** Considering the continuous increase of refugees leaving their home country for various reasons that include war, natural disaster and climate change, this resolution will help the hosting countries to provide connectivity to refugee shelters, that will promote digital inclusion, fostering digital skills and literacy, so as to advance their participation in the digital society.

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