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# 1 Introduction

The world’s countries have been making substantial efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and those of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS). Thus, in many countries, the deployment of a network infrastructure and information and communication technology applications that, if possible, use broadband and other innovative technologies more widely, has become a priority on their development agendas.

Governments have understood the need for public policy-making and the importance of telecommunication regulation that would make it possible to speed up the economic and social progress of their countries, as well as the well-being of all persons, communities and peoples.

The role of governments includes introducing a clear, consistent and predictable legal framework to foster an environment conducive to making global networks, including Internet networks, widely accessible to all citizens without any discrimination, and guaranteeing adequate protection of public interests in the management of Internet resources.

# 2 Background

Various studies such as the one carried out by BDT on International Internet Connectivity for Latin America and the Caribbean and for Africa, as presented in Geneva, Switzerland, (<http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/finance/work-cost-tariffs/events/tariff-seminars/Geneva-IIC/Agenda.htm>) in January 2012 at the ITU Workshop on Apportionment of Revenues and International Internet Connectivity, refer *inter alia* to the difficulty of international connectivity, the influence of international connectivity on national connectivity, the costs of international connectivity as a constraint for sectors with scarce resources and, in particular, the concentration of few operators in the international connectivity and broadband services.

At present - and for some time now - most international traffic is routed through Internet connections (networks of networks), and is exchanged in accordance with market-based arrangements, between operators functioning in competitive environments or at least according to the play of competition, under different scenarios depending on the existence or non-existence of multiple operators of the service, and outside the scope of the International Telecommunication Regulations in force today. From all viewpoints, it is obviously desirable to avoid recourse to regulations in order to develop the market and consequently the infrastructure required to satisfy the ever-increasing traffic in the different services. However, it is equally true that faced with scenarios in which there are no multiple operators of international connections, or in which there is more than one operator but an inefficient market, as is the case in many countries, a regulatory framework is called for in the quest for a global solution, in the form of new provisions on international Internet connectivity in the International Telecommunication Regulations.

# 3 Proposal

The Member States of CITEL propose to include in the future International Telecommunication Regulations (ITRs) a new provision on international Internet connectivity, as an Article 3.X comprising the following text:

*Administrations[[1]](#footnote-1)\* shall take appropriate measures nationally to ensure that all parties (including recognized operating agencies) involved in the provision of international Internet connections negotiate and agree to bilateral commercial arrangements, or an alternative type of arrangement between administrations[[2]](#footnote-2)\*\*, enabling direct international Internet connections that take into account the possible need for compensation between the said administrations[[3]](#footnote-3)\*\*\* for the value of elements such as traffic flow, number of routes, geographical coverage and cost of international transmission, and the possible application of network externalities, amongst others.*

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1. \* Member States [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. *\*\** Member States/recognized operating agencies [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. *\*\*\**Recognized operating agencies [↑](#footnote-ref-3)