



INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION
TELECOMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT BUREAU

**WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT
CONFERENCE (WTDC-98)**

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COMMITTEE B

**DRAFT REPORT OF COMMITTEE B
TO THE PLENARY**

Following Committee B's two days of meetings on 26 and 27 March 1998, and based on the discussions held and decisions taken during those meetings, please find attached the relevant documents for consideration and approval by Committee B.

COMMITTEE B

Results of the work following the first and second meetings

- 1 Draft resolution on: Non-discriminatory access to modern telecommunication facilities and services (see Annex 1).
- 2 Draft resolution on: The role of telecommunication and information technologies in the protection of the environment (see Annex 2).
- 3 Draft resolution on: Telecommunications in rural, isolated and poorly served areas (see Annex 3).
- 4 Draft resolution on: Telecommunication resources for disaster mitigation and relief operations (see Annex 4).
- 5 Draft recommendation on: Telemedicine (see Annex 5).
- 6 Allocation of the following issues in **Programme VAP 2** of the Valletta Action Plan:
 - 6.1 **Spectrum management:** Establishment and implementation of an advanced spectrum management system (ASMS); Complete software/manuals of basic automated management system (BASMS), in different languages.
 - 6.2 **Problem of the year 2000:** This issue is already treated by ITU-T and ITU-D Study Group 2. In particular, this VAP programme will:
 - 1) follow the problem of the year 2000, and investigate ways of addressing it on a worldwide basis through individual or collective efforts within the framework of the studies conducted by ITU and its members;
 - 2) inform the Members of the Union of all related results;
 - 3) provide the developing countries with the necessary support, through measures such as:
 - provision of advice and consultations;
 - provision of experts, and
 - organization of workshops.
 - 6.3 **Internet:** This issue will be also dealt by VAP 2. In this context:
 - ITU-T will evaluate the implications of Internet services, and specifically voice services, on the policies of the operators/carriers, in view of the effects that these may have on member countries.
 - 6.4 **PLANITU:** This programme will be included in VAP 2. In particular:
 - ITU-T will continue the necessary coordination and validation of the efforts performed by all the countries in the development and modernization of the Computerized Network Planning System - PLANITU - enabling other countries to share the benefits of such developments. Countries will be encouraged to host regional workshops and meetings to exchange views and share experiences in the implementation of the PLANITU system in their network.

ANNEX 1

DRAFT RESOLUTION

**NON-DISCRIMINATORY ACCESS TO MODERN TELECOMMUNICATION
FACILITIES AND SERVICES**

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Valletta, 1998),

taking into account

the importance of telecommunications for political, economic, social and cultural progress,

taking into account also

- a) that the International Telecommunication Union plays an important role in the promotion of global telecommunication standardization and development;
- b) that, to this end, the Union coordinates efforts aimed at securing harmonious development of telecommunication facilities in all countries Member of the Union,

taking into account further

that the Conference is required to formulate a viewpoint and draw up proposals on issues determining a worldwide telecommunication development strategy, and facilitate the mobilization of the necessary resources to that end,

noting

- a) that modern telecommunication facilities and services are established, in the main, on the basis of ITU-R and ITU-T recommendations;
- b) that ITU-R and ITU-T recommendations are the result of the collective efforts of all those taking part in the standardization process within ITU and are adopted by consensus by the Members of the Union;
- c) that limitations on the access to telecommunication facilities and services on which national telecommunication development depends and which are established on the basis of ITU-R and ITU-T recommendations constitute an obstacle to the harmonious development and compatibility of telecommunications worldwide,

recognizing

that full harmonization of telecommunication networks is impossible unless all countries participating in the work of the Union without exception have non-discriminatory access to new telecommunication technologies and modern telecommunication facilities and services without prejudice to national regulations, and international commitments within the competence of other international organizations,

resolves

that there should be non-discriminatory access to telecommunication technologies, facilities and services established on the basis of ITU-R and ITU-T recommendations,

instructs the Secretary-General

to transmit this resolution to the Plenipotentiary Conference (Minneapolis, 1998), for consideration,

requests the Plenipotentiary Conference

to consider this resolution with a view to taking measures to foster global access to modern telecommunication, technologies, facilities and services,

invites administrations

pending the Plenipotentiary Conference's decision, to help telecommunication equipment manufacturers and service providers in ensuring that, telecommunication technologies, facilities and services established on the basis of ITU-R and ITU-T recommendations, be made available to the public without any discrimination.

ANNEX 2

DRAFT RESOLUTION

**THE ROLE OF TELECOMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGIES IN THE PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT**

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Valletta, 1998),

recalling

- a) Resolution 8 of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC) in Buenos Aires, March 1994, which focused on telecommunication support for the protection of the environment;
- b) Resolution 35 of the Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Kyoto, September-October 1994), focused on the same matter;
- c) Resolution 8 of the African Regional Telecommunication Development Conference (AF-RTDC-96), Abidjan, 6-10 May 1996, focused on the role of telecommunication and information technologies in the protection of the environment;
- d) Resolution 11 of the Regional Telecommunication Development Conference for the Arab States (AR-RTDC-96), Beirut, 11-15 November 1996, focused on the same matter,

taking into account

the results of the study undertaken by ITU-D Study Group 2 with regard to the terms of reference of Question 7/2 assigned by the first World Telecommunication Development Conference and in collaboration with the competent international and regional organizations, as well as the results of the international Symposium on the role of telecommunication and information technologies in the protection of the environment (Tunis, 17-19 April 1996),

recommends

- 1 that an initiative role be taken up by the respective telecommunication authorities to provide all the possible support directly or indirectly, in collaboration with the respective environmental authorities, in promoting applications devoted to the protection of their respective environment;
- 2 that space technologies be considered for use in environmental protection activities such as monitoring air, river, harbour and sea pollution, remote sensing, wildlife studies, forestry development, monitoring locust invasion, land loss, etc.;
- 3 that the need for existence of national environmental protection policies be taken into account with due emphasis on the role which telecommunications can play in providing such assistance;
- 4 that special awareness among the policy/decision makers be created to gain a better understanding of the issue of telecommunications and environment;
- 5 that the importance of an integrated network for collecting, processing and disseminating environmental information at national, regional and international levels be recognized and all necessary steps be taken towards implementing such networks;

6 that the basic telecommunication needs of small communities be satisfied in order to help them establish industries thereby minimizing migration of communities into urban areas causing urban congestion;

7 that telecommunication networks and services be utilized in situations where reduction of energy consumption could be achieved such as substituting telecommunications for travel, teleconferencing and reduction of paperwork, thereby ultimately saving the environmental resources,

requests the Director of the BDT

1 to implement the plan of action of a global operational telecommunication-environment project on the development and use of telecommunication and information technologies for the protection of the environment and sustainable development, which will be an inter-regional project with regional and/or subregional components and will take account of the specific characteristics and needs of the different regions/subregions concerned;

2 to organize seminars, regional workshops, training and research programmes, exhibitions and other activities in order to study the matter in greater depth and heighten awareness among all those concerned of the value of implementing multilateral and bilateral projects within the framework of international cooperation and consider, if necessary, holding an international conference with the aim, *inter alia*, of identifying and carrying out pilot projects in this area at regional, subregional and national level, in cooperation with international organizations and with the support of international telecommunication operators;

3 to envisage the establishment of a framework for international cooperation which will enable all those concerned (governments of developed and developing countries, manufacturers and consumers of technology, private sector, international organizations, United Nations specialized agencies, etc.) to carry out, promote and develop projects to ensure optimum use of the most appropriate telecommunication and information technologies for the protection of the environment and sustainable development;

4 to develop and disseminate appropriate course material for conducting training programmes on the subject and disseminate information on telecommunication and information technology applications for the protection of the environment and sustainable development;

5 to provide ITU-D Study Group 2 on Question 7/2 with updated information relating to the activities carried out by BDT in this field.

ANNEX 3

DRAFT RESOLUTION

TELECOMMUNICATIONS IN RURAL, ISOLATED AND POORLY SERVED AREAS

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Valletta, 1998),

considering

that the World Telecommunication Development Conference (Buenos Aires, 1994), reaffirming the important and urgent need to provide access to basic telecommunication services for everyone, adopted Programmes 9 (Integrated rural development) and 12 (Telematics and computer networks) of the Buenos Aires Action Plan, as well as the Special Programme for the least developed countries (LDCs),

noting

that the clear correlation between the availability of telecommunication services and economic and social development has been firmly established,

recognizing

- a) that spectacular progress has been made in some developing countries through universal access to telecommunication services in rural, isolated and poorly served areas countrywide, thereby demonstrating the economic and technical feasibility of projects to provide this type of service;
- b) that, in some areas and some developing countries, there is convincing evidence of the overall profitability of telecommunication services in rural, isolated and poorly served areas,

recognizing further

- a) that there are several state-of-the-art technologies which may help to make the provision of telecommunication services to rural, isolated and poorly served areas;
- b) that access to telecommunication services in rural, isolated and poorly served areas can only be achieved through judicious choice of technological options allowing access to and maintenance of good quality and economical services,

resolves

that ITU-D continues its good work and looks at the needs and priorities of rural, isolated and poorly served areas.

ANNEX 4

PROPOSED WTDC-98 RESOLUTION

**TELECOMMUNICATION RESOURCES FOR DISASTER MITIGATION
AND RELIEF OPERATIONS**

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Valletta, 1998),

considering

- a) that the World Telecommunication Development Conference (Buenos Aires, 1994), adopted Resolution 7 on telecommunications for disaster mitigation and disaster relief operations, thereby reactivating a process initiated by the Conference on Disaster Communications, Tampere, Finland, 1991;
- b) that the Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Kyoto, 1994), endorsed this resolution in its Resolution 36 on telecommunications for disaster mitigation and disaster relief operations;
- c) the report of the Secretary-General on the progress made in the implementation of Resolution 7 of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (Buenos Aires, 1994);
- d) that the World Radiocommunication Conference (Geneva, 1997) in its Resolution 644 urged administrations to give their full support to the adoption and national implementation of a Convention on the Provision of Telecommunication Resources for Disaster Mitigation and Relief Operations,

recognizing

- a) the potential of modern telecommunication technologies as an essential tool for disaster mitigation and relief operations and the vital role of telecommunications for the safety and security of relief workers in the field;
- b) the particular needs of developing countries and the special requirements of the inhabitants of remote areas,

noting

with appreciation, the invitation by the Government of Finland to the Intergovernmental Conference on Emergency Telecommunications (ICET-98) from 16 to 18 June 1998 in Tampere, Finland, which is expected to adopt the Convention referred to in *considering* d) above,

resolves

to invite the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector to ensure that proper consideration be given to emergency telecommunications as an element of telecommunications development, including, in close coordination and collaboration with the ITU Radiocommunication Sector, the facilitation and encouragement of the use of decentralized means of communications that are appropriate and generally available, including those provided by the amateur radio service and GMPCS services,

instructs the Director of BDT

- a) to support administrations in their work towards the implementation of this resolution and of the Convention;
- b) to report to the next world telecommunication development conference on the status of implementation of the Convention,

requests the Secretary-General

to work closely with the United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator with a view to further increasing the Union's involvement in, and support to, disaster communications, and to report on the outcome of the Tampere Conference (ICET-98) to the 1998 Plenipotentiary Conference so that Conference or the ITU Council may take any action that it deems necessary,

invites

the United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator and the [UN] Working Group on Emergency Telecommunications to collaborate closely with ITU in the work towards the implementation of this resolution, the adoption of the Convention on the Provision of Telecommunication Resources for Disaster Mitigation and Relief Operations, and the support to administrations and international and regional telecommunication organizations in the implementation and application of the Convention,

urges administrations

to consider giving their full support to the adoption of the Convention.

ANNEX 5

DRAFT RECOMMENDATION

TELEMEDICINE

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Valletta, 1998),

recalling

- a) that the WTDC in Buenos Aires in March 1994 recommended that ITU study the potential of telemedicine to meet some of the needs of developing countries and adopted Question 6/2 "Health care in developing countries" as a result;
- b) that the ITU Development Sector has produced a report on "Telemedicine and Developing Countries" which was adopted by ITU-D Study Group 2 in October 1997;
- c) that Resolution 7 from the African Regional Telecommunication Development Conference (AF-RTDC-96) (Abidjan, 6-10 May 1996) calls upon African countries to support any initiatives which will help them gain practical experience in telemedicine and telehealth and that African telecom organizations should discuss the utility, logistics and feasibility of telemedicine delivery especially in remote and rural areas of their country;
- d) that Recommendation COM2-A from the Regional Telecommunication Development Conference for the Arab States (AR-RTDC-96) (Beirut, 11-15 November 1996) invites all Arab countries to promote collaboration between health care officials and telecom operators in order to identify solutions to meet health care needs, especially in remote and rural areas and for those on the move and for those who might not otherwise have access to the quality of care available in urban hospitals and to consider initiating one or more telemedicine pilot projects in remote and rural areas;
- e) that the first World Telemedicine Symposium for developing countries convened by the Telecommunication Development Bureau in Portugal, 30 June - 4 July 1997, recommended that ITU/BDT set aside a specific budgetary allocation from ITU TELECOM surpluses for supporting telemedicine pilot projects, including missions by telemedicine experts to assist developing countries in the formulation of proposals and that ITU-D should continue its studies of telemedicine and, in particular, to identify pilot projects, provide an analysis of project results and help countries to define a policy and strategy towards telemedicine implementation,

considering

- a) the potential benefits identified in the report on "Telemedicine and Developing Countries" as well as the recommendations in the report;
- b) the new Question on fostering the application of telecommunications in health care in developing countries,

recognizing

- a) that the deployment of telemedicine applications requires the bringing together of multidisciplinary expertise from both the telecommunications and health care communities;
- b) that some telemedicine applications may not be sustainable in the short term without some sponsorship but that sustainability is an important objective in the medium term;

c) that the possibility of undertaking telemedicine applications will be enhanced if regulatory barriers are reduced or removed on the equipment and services used,

recommends

1 that ministries of communications should cooperate with ministries of health and telecommunication operators should collaborate with health care institutions, through one or more pilot projects, with a view to gaining some experience of how telemedicine applications may help meet their health care needs, and that they continue to cooperate in considering the need for a telemedicine policy and strategy;

2 that developing countries seek the advice of the international agencies such as ITU and WHO if they are interested in the participation in telemedicine projects of foreign partners;

3 that Study Group 2 provide an analysis of pilot projects in order to identify solutions to the sustainability of the application of telecommunication to health care, especially in remote and rural areas of developing countries, and

invites

the international financial institutions and donor agencies to assist in developing telemedicine applications, projects and programmes in developing countries.
