



INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION TELECOMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT BUREAU

**WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT
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PLENARY MEETING

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE A TO THE PLENARY

Introduction

Committee A held its first meeting on Wednesday 25 March 1998. In accordance with the **suggestion** of the Steering Committee, it was decided to split the Committee into Sub-Committee A/1 and Sub-Committee A/2. The terms of reference for Sub-Committee A/1 were to examine all questions concerning policies and strategies of telecommunications development, specifically related to national structures and sector reform. Sub-Committee A/2 was to examine all questions concerning policies and strategies of telecommunications development, specifically related to financing, economics and partnerships.

This report contains the conclusions and decisions of Committee A and both Sub-Committee A/1 and A/2.

Report of the Chairman of Study Group 1 and approval of Study Group recommendations

Mr. Horvath, Vice-Chairman of Study Group 1, presented the report (Document 31). Recommendations 1/2, 1/3, 1/4, and 1/5, which are contained in this report were adopted without modification.

Proposals from administrations

Several documents were submitted to the Committee. Distinction was made between documents "for action" and documents "for information". Information documents were presented by the members. Documents "for action" were considered in informal working parties, chaired by the Vice-Chairman, Mr. E. Behdad (Islamic Republic of Iran). The conclusions of the informal working party for A/1 are found in Document 182. The conclusions of the informal working party for A/2 are contained in Document 191.

Working Party A/1 produced a consolidated recommendation "Liberalization and Competitive Business Environment" (Annex to Document 182). Working Party A/2 produced a consolidated resolution "Resource Mobilization and Partnership for Accelerating Telecommunication Development" (Annex to Document 191). The resolution and recommendation were amended by Committee A and transmitted to Plenary for final approval.

In addition, the Kyrgyz Republic presented a draft Resolution in Document 165, following the presentation of an information document. This resolution was amended and approved.

BDT contributions

The BDT secretariat presented several information documents. Document 32 "General trends in Telecommunications Restructuring, Chapter 1" were submitted for comments before final publication. The other chapters are available at the Documents Distribution Desk. Comments are expected before 14 April 1998.

Document 49 on "Financial Institutions offering Resources for Telecommunication Projects and Technical Assistance in Developing Countries", 67 "Report on the Telecommunications Trade and Finance Colloquia", 78 "Report on the second World Telecommunication Policy Forum", the result of which we will comment on later, and 108 "Resources Mobilization: Financing an Investment in Telecommunications Worldwide" were submitted for reference.

New Study Group questions

Documents 72, and 73 containing proposals for new questions to Study Group 1 as reviewed and adopted by TDAB were presented. Questions 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, and 11 as numbered in Document 72 were adopted.

In addition, two new questions were adopted:

- 1) Promotion of Infrastructure and Use of the Internet in developing countries. Two documents dealing with this topic were presented: Document 111 from Telefonica de España and Add.1 to Document 72 from the United States. Both proposals were approved and the two countries were requested to draft a consolidated document. As a result, Document 209 was presented at the last moment in our final meeting without objection.
- 2) The role of telecommunications in social and cultural development, including the promotion protection and of indigenous culture and identity. The text of this question is contained in Document 174 presented by New Zealand.

For the latter question, the Committee decided to underscore the importance of this question, by adopting the recommendation contained in Document 174.

Report on the second World Telecommunication Policy Forum

Documents 78 and 82, both regarding the World Telecommunication Policy Forum and its follow-up were presented by the Director of the BDT and the Director of the TSB. Additionally, delegations from France, Senegal and Colombia presented their comments and countries' Case Studies and thanked the BDT for engaging them. It was noted that the process for the validation of the studies and provision of any additional data would be undertaken. Furthermore, other Case Studies might be undertaken, depending on the approved Action Plan. A working party chaired by Mr. Rouxville has made efforts to get consensus on a final redaction of the Annex 4 of Document 82. Finally, Document 200(Corr.1) was presented. This document was discussed but not approved. The Chairman proposed informal meetings to present to this Plenary a final version.

Draft Action Plan

Following the presentation of Document 58 presented by Canada, a draft Resolution, Document 185(Rev.1), "Collection and Dissemination of Information", sponsored by several countries, was presented to the Committee and thereafter adopted.