



INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION  
TELECOMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT BUREAU

WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT  
CONFERENCE (WTDC-98)

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*For action*

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Agenda item: 3.1

COMMITTEE B

**Mozambique (Republic of), Uganda (Republic of)**

**MOZ/UGA/153/1**

DRAFT RESOLUTION [MOZ/UGA-1]

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 cooperate with ministries of health, that telecom operators collaborate with health care officials, in regard to gaining some experience in regard to the utility of telemedicine applications to help meet their health care needs via one or more pilot projects 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.

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