



INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION
TELECOMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT BUREAU

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

**Document 178-E
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Valletta, Malta, 23 March - 1 April 1998

For action

PLENARY MEETING

**Barbados, Canada, CTU, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent
and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago**

BRB/CAN/CTU/LCA/VCT/TRD/178/1

DRAFT RESOLUTION [BRB/CAN/CTU/LCA/VCT/TRD-1]

**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.
