



NACIONES UNIDAS



SESENTA AÑOS CON AMÉRICA LATINA Y EL CARIBE

EX OFF 11634

Ref DM-08/1016

Santiago, 15 October 2008

Secretary General,

Thank you for informing the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UN-ECLAC) of the upcoming Fourth World Telecommunication Policy Forum (WTPF) to be held 22-24 April 2009 in Lisbon, Portugal. UN-ECLAC appreciates the efforts undertaken by the ITU in preparing the second draft report of the Secretary General for this forum, and apologizes for the delay in our response.

Please find below the requested comments for your consideration:

- 1) The report covers various relevant aspects regarding the challenges faced by the telecommunications sector and issues related to the Information Society. In this sense, it fulfills the role of providing a basis for the discussions at the WTPF; nevertheless, its length and the wide range of relevant topics covered in the report may be cause for concern, as there may not be enough time to debate them all in depth.
- 2) In some of the issues most related to the objectives of the forum, there is insufficient treatment of some topics such as universal access policies in an environment of technological convergence. As opposed to what happens in developed countries with high levels of penetration for Internet, fixed and mobile telephony, in developing countries the expansion of networks continues to be an even greater challenge in a highly volatile environment, such as the existing one. As such, when debating public policies and regulatory issues, we consider it fundamental to analyze the following:
 - how a scenario of convergence would favor a reduction of the digital divide;
 - the regulatory and public policy alternatives needed to confront this situation, considering that investment must be encouraged in order to increase network coverage.
 - how universal access policies should be redefined in a scenario with new players besides the incumbents operators.

While these issues are mentioned in the report, we suggest there be greater detail and analysis provided for them, rather than simply mentioning the need for reforms to exist.

Dr. Hamadou Touré
Secretary General
International Telecommunication Union
Place de Nations
Geneva 20
CH-1211

...//...

Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe (CEPAL)

Avda. Dag Hammarskjöld 3477, 7630412 Vitacura, Santiago, Chile • Teléfono: (56-2) 210-2000 • Fax: (56-2) 208-0252 • www.cepal.org

- 3) More balance in the treatment of the issues is needed, given that in some aspects the document only describes the situation, and in others it goes further by identifying objectives to be achieved during the WTPF (ex. Security issues 5.3.4). We recommend following the same line for the treatment of all issues.
- 4) In terms of ICT and the environment, positive aspects of these technologies are listed in terms of energy consumption, reduction of transportation costs and thus contaminating emissions; nevertheless, the issue of technological waste and recycling is not covered. This is an issue that must be discussed in this forum, given that this is an aspect that should be addressed from a political perspective, while involving telecommunications operators.

For future documentation on those subjects, we would like to designate Valeria Jordán as the person in charge of follow-up for this process. Any further information regarding WTPF can be communicated by email valeria.jordan@eclac.org or phone +56 2 2102289.

Finally, for your information we enclose the San Salvador Declaration which includes the Regional Plan of Action eLAC2010 that was approved at the 2nd Ministerial Conference on the Information Society for Latin America and the Caribbean, in El Salvador on 6-8 February 2008.

Best regards,



Alicia Barcena
Executive Secretary

He