RECOMMENDATION 7 (Rev.Istanbul, 2002)

Role of telecommunication and information technologies in the protection of the environment

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Istanbul, 2002),

recalling

a)   Resolution 8 of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (Buenos Aires, 1994), on telecommunication support for the protection of the environment;

b)   Resolution 35 (Kyoto, 1994) of the Plenipotentiary Conference on the same matter;

c)   Resolution 8 of the African Regional Telecommunication Development Conference (Abidjan, 1996) 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 (Beirut, 1996) on the same matter,

taking into account

the results of the study undertaken by ITU-D Study Group 2 under Question 7/2 assigned by WTDC-94 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, 1996),

recognizing

a)   the presentations, discussions and recommendations of the Earth Summit on the Environment, held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992;

b)   that telecommunications is an important tool for the dissemination of information about the importance of environmental protection and the promotion of activities towards sustainable development;

c)   that access to information on environmental protection can be made available through universal access to telecommunications,

recommends

1   that the respective telecommunication authorities should take the initiative in providing all possible support, directly or indirectly, in collaboration with the respective environmental authorities, to promote applications devoted to the protection of their environments;

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 national environmental protection policies be taken into account, with due emphasis on the role which telecommunications can play in providing relevant assistance;

4   that special awareness be created among policy-makers and decision-makers so that they gain a better understanding of the issue of telecommunications and the environment;

5   that the importance of an integrated network for collecting, processing and disseminating environmental information at the national, regional and international levels be recognized and all necessary steps be taken towards implementing such networks,

requests the Director of 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 interregional 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 to consider, if necessary, holding an international conference with the aim, *inter alia*, of identifying and carrying out pilot projects in this area at the 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 assist Member States in the development of e-applications on environmental protection;

6   to cooperate in the elaboration of case studies aimed at sustainable development in order to promote specific pilot projects for the Member States and Sector Members;

7   to assist United Nations agencies and other entities to disseminate information on best practices in the area of environmental protection.