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TITLE: REPORT ON THE WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT
CONFERENCE (WTDC-98)

Please find attached the Report on the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-98) for your information.

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1 Introduction

1.1 The second World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-98) held by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) since the establishment of its Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) took place in Valletta, Malta, from 23 March to 1 April 1998. It was attended by delegations from 139 Member States of ITU, headed by ministers or senior officials, 79 Sector Members and representatives of 29 organizations and agencies, as well as many private sector representatives. In total, 944 participants attended the Conference.

1.2 The purposes of the Conference were to:

- review the results of global telecommunications since the last World Telecommunication Development Conference;
- review the current major policy issues;
- examine technologies for the future;
- adopt a strategic plan for ITU-D as well as a successor action plan for 1999-2002, comprising development conferences, study groups, six programmes, a special programme for LDCs and the execution of technical cooperation projects;
- consider financing and innovative forms of cooperation;
- take decisions on ITU-D structure and working methods;
- set goals and objectives up to the year 2003 and define and establish a common vision and strategies for achieving balanced telecommunication development by and beyond the end of the century.

1.3 The Conference was inaugurated by the Hon. Dr. Alfred Sant, Prime Minister of Malta, who praised the work of the ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau in advising countries on how to meet the challenges of privatization and deregulation in attaining their national goals. The Prime Minister stressed the importance of new technologies for applications such as tele-education and telemedicine in coping more effectively with problems arising from social inequalities, demographic imbalances, prejudices, misgivings and lack of trust.

1.4 Speaking on behalf of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Dr. Vladimir Petrovsky, Under-Secretary-General, said that the delegates to the Conference represented leaders who will be shaping the telecommunication industry of the next century and opening channels of communication between regions and cultures, thereby helping to promote greater understanding and tolerance among their communities. He also said that the proposal of the ITU Secretary-General to all United Nations programmes and agencies to start promoting "the right to communicate" as a fundamental human right was an outstanding and timely strategic initiative which calls for a coordinated approach from the international community.

1.5 In his opening address, Dr. Pekka Tarjanne, Secretary-General of ITU, highlighted the real challenge to project a future which is not simply the sum of trends that have transformed telecommunications, but one which moves the work of telecommunications to an even higher level of development, a future which adds human value to these trends, a future which transforms how the world views the telecommunication industry, and how the telecommunication industry views the world.

1.6 Mr. Ahmed Laouyane, Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau, welcomed the presence of Sir Donald Maitland, as the Conference would be revisiting the concept of the "missing link", moving towards the concept of universal access. He highlighted the activities and achievements of ITU-D since WTDC-94 (Buenos Aires) and the new trends that had influenced the

evolution of the telecommunication sector, including the explosive growth of the Internet, the emergence of GMPCS, the WTO agreements and the subsequent evolution of the international accounting regime. He talked of a new form of civilization and society which the Conference was called upon to launch: that of information and communication to which developing countries can make a key contribution.

1.7 The keynote address was delivered by Sir Donald Maitland, Chairman of the former Independent Commission for World-Wide Telecommunications Development. He said that the information society raises questions about the international division of labour, about the structure of cooperation, the future of work, the nature of human society, the individual's sense of identity, systems of governance and the meaning of sovereignty in an interdependent, interconnected world. In his address, Sir Donald Maitland referred to the "TEMIC declaration" which highlighted "the need to modify the operating style or management culture of executives and managers from both the public and private sectors who must acquire the skills to manage in an entrepreneurial and competitive environment".

1.8 The Conference was chaired by the Hon. Joseph Mizzi, Minister responsible for telecommunications in the Republic of Malta. He thanked the delegates for entrusting Malta with the task of chairing the Conference, which was expected to prepare the telecommunication community for the next millennium. He also said that history will judge the success of the Conference by how much it paves the way for reducing the gap between developed and developing countries and facilitates telecommunication development in the least developed countries, including access to online information and interactive services.

1.9 The Conference elected the following Vice-Chairmen:

H.E. M. Ezan Akele	Côte d'Ivoire
Dr. Abdul Monem Youssef	Lebanon
H.E. Mr. Deqiang Zhou	China
Mr. Ralph Everett	United States
Mr. Valery Timofeev	Russia

1.10 In addition to the Steering Committee, the Conference established four Committees and three Working Groups of the Plenary and elected their Chairmen as follows:

Committee A ¹ : Policies and strategies	Chairman	Mr. Alberto Gabrielli	Argentina
	Vice-Chairmen	Mr. Emamgholi Behdad	Iran (Islamic Rep. of)
		Mr. Pape G. Touré	Senegal
Committee B: Development of networks	Chairman	Mr. Ridha Guellouz	Tunisia
	Vice-Chairmen	Mr. Wyn Lucas	BT
		Mr. Toru Arizono	Japan
Budget Control Committee	Chairman	Mr. Ulrich Mohr	Germany
	Vice-Chairman	Mr. Krastu Mirski	Bulgaria
Editorial Committee	Chairman (F)	Mr. Lucien Bourgeat	France
	Vice-Chairman (E)	Mr. Malcolm Johnson	United Kingdom
	Vice-Chairman (S)	Mr. Vicente Rubio-Carretón	Spain
Working Group on LDCs	Chairman	Mr. Tiemoko Maiga	Mali
	Rapporteur	Mr. Abdul Chowdhury	Bangladesh
Working Group on the Valletta Action Plan	Chairman	Mr. Nabil Kisrawi	Syria
	Rapporteur	Mr. Roderick Sanatan	CTU
Working Group on the private sector	Chairman	Mr. Ron Davidson	Final Analysis
	Rapporteur	Mr. Dag Norrby	Telia

1.11 The Conference was addressed by many ministers responsible for telecommunications and other senior representatives of governments, the private sector and international and regional organizations. They stressed the importance of translating the indisputable potential of telecommunications into tangible results to improve the lives of all people of the world, especially those in developing countries. They recognized that, in the prevailing environment of converging technologies and globalization, the time is ripe for restructuring the telecommunication sector in order to stimulate private sector investment and accelerate the pace of expansion and modernization of telecommunication networks in developing countries.

1.12 The Conference expressed its appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Malta for hosting the Conference and providing the conditions which contributed to its success.

1.13 The Minister of Transport and Communications of Trinidad and Tobago extended an invitation to host the next WTDC in the year 2002. This proposal was gratefully welcomed by the Conference.

1.14 The Conference was the culmination of a process including:

- a) The resolutions and recommendations of the first World Telecommunication Development Conference (Buenos Aires, 1994) and in particular the Buenos Aires Action Plan and Buenos Aires Declaration.
- b) The resolutions and recommendations of the second cycle of regional telecommunication development conferences:
 - AF-RTDC-96 (Abidjan, 1996) for Africa;
 - AR-RTDC-96 (Beirut, 1996) for the Arab States;

¹ On account of the importance of finance/economics issues, including WTO and tariff matters, Committee A was split into two subcommittees: Subcommittee A1 for sector reform and related issues, and Subcommittee A2 for finance, economics, tariffs and related issues.

the cycle of six finance colloquia (Abidjan, 1996; Amman, 1996; Brasilia, 1997; New Delhi, 1997; Geneva, 1997; and St. Petersburg, 1998);

and the regional preparatory meetings for WTDC-98 held at:

- Manila, August 1997, for Asia and the Pacific;
 - Margarita Island, September 1997, for the Americas;
 - Geneva, December 1997, for Central and Eastern Europe;
 - St. Petersburg, January/February 1998, for the Commonwealth of Independent States and Baltic States,
- c) The input provided by the Telecommunication Development Advisory Board, in particular the report on "Partners for Development: New Opportunities for the Telecommunication Development Sector".

2 The Valletta Declaration

Taking note of the above and with a view to setting goals and objectives for the future, the Conference **declares** that:

- a) Significant achievements have been accomplished since the first World Telecommunication Development Conference in 1994. The implementation of the Buenos Aires Action Plan (Chapters II and III) has been largely satisfactory thanks to the collaborative efforts of all the parties involved. It is noteworthy that the key to this success was the considerable effort made by the countries themselves and the catalytic inputs of their development partners, including public, private and intergovernmental organizations. The ITU-D study groups also made a significant contribution to the body of knowledge which has been placed at the disposal of the telecommunication community.

The successes of the past are a great encouragement to all stakeholders in the sector to sustain these efforts in the upcoming period from 1999 to 2003. These initiatives will be a key factor for the success of the Valletta Action Plan.

- b) The BDT should promote the enhanced participation of the private sector in the activities of the ITU-D and it should facilitate the creation of partnerships between governments and private enterprises and between the private enterprises in developed countries and those in developing countries.
- c) Telecommunications, including sound and television broadcasting techniques, is an essential component of political, economic, social and cultural development. It fuels the global society and economy and is rapidly transforming our lives and promoting better understanding among peoples. It also plays an important role in protecting the environment and in the mitigation of natural and other disasters. All stakeholders are urged to make their contribution to extend these benefits to all peoples.
- d) New technologies have a significant impact on the expansion of telecommunications and have the potential to close the gap not only between developing and developed countries but also between urban and rural areas within a country.

Convergence between telecommunications, computing and broadcasting, and multimedia applications, is opening up new perspectives for the sector, providing opportunities for tele-education, telemedicine, environmental protection and many other applications which are highly beneficial for social and economic development.

The emergence of innovative and entrepreneurial approaches to providing a rural service, and more cost-effective technologies, may provide the opportunity for telecommunication services in rural and remote areas to be profitable.

The global information infrastructure (GII), of which the Internet is a precursor, and the global information society (GIS) are evolving and should be responsive to the interests of all nations, especially developing countries.

The opportunities offered by modern technologies should be fully exploited through research, development and innovative technological applications for the ongoing betterment of our lives.

- e) The environment of the telecommunication sector is undergoing significant changes. The combined forces of "demand pull" and "supply push" have made telecommunications one of the leading growth sectors of the world economy. The telecommunication sector has a high profit potential in every country of the world. However, experience suggests that in developing countries retained earnings in the sector are not sufficient to finance all new projects because networks are underdeveloped and do not generate enough cash flow.
- f) Sector reforms leading to greater private sector involvement and competition are new forces shaping the development of telecommunications. These new challenges of the information society and the new trade environment heightened by the agreements reached by WTO, place even greater pressure on policy-makers, regulators and operators to acquire the necessary skills to manage the new environment.

In this respect, human resources development becomes a key success factor.

- g) Governments play a key role in the development of telecommunications, and are urged to establish appropriate policies and regulatory structures to promote reasonable and affordable access to basic telecommunication services for all.

The regulatory framework should also create a stable and transparent environment, promote fair competition while protecting network integrity and guarantee the rights of users, operators and investors. Policies and strategies for the development of telecommunications should reflect the trend towards multi-services utilizing a common infrastructure platform.

- h) Global, regional and national financing and investment agencies are urged to attach high priority to the growth of telecommunications, particularly in developing countries.
- i) ITU has a special role to play in advising policy-makers on the options available in tailoring policies and regulatory structures to fit a country's unique requirements. ITU should work in collaboration with regional telecommunication organizations and international, regional and national development and financing agencies, as well as with the private sector, to bring about appropriate sector reform.

ITU's regional presence and synergy and collaboration between the Standardization, Radiocommunication and Development Sectors of ITU will be highly beneficial in instilling dynamism and vitality in the process of transferring knowledge and technology.

ITU should be urged to promote the development, expansion and operation of telecommunication networks and services, particularly in developing countries, taking into account the activities of other relevant bodies, by reinforcing capabilities for the implementation of new services and technologies including the Internet, mobile and other wireless technologies, human resources development and management, planning, management, resource mobilization and research and development.

- j) ITU-D is urged to provide expert knowledge, information and advice to developing countries to enable them to make significant advances in the telecommunication sector. Further, ITU-D is committed to encouraging gender issues in its programmes as well as ways to reflect the needs of other aspects of global society such as youth and the needs of indigenous peoples.

WTDC-98 drew the attention of all ITU Member States and Sector Members to a number of pressing issues. These included the importance of emergency telecommunications and the need for an international convention on this subject and the need to address, as a matter of urgency, the "Year 2000" problem. It also pointed to a number of mechanisms for the Development Sector to advance the goals of telecommunication development including Opinion B of the World Telecommunication Policy Forum (Geneva, 1998) and the opportunities provided by the centres of excellence funded by the surplus funds from the ITU TELECOM exhibitions.

WTDC-98 reaffirmed the ITU-D commitment to focus its activities on the major facets of telecommunication development, including among other things sector and regulatory reform, accounting rate reform, management of technologies, finance and investment and human resources, giving special attention to the least developed countries (LDCs). ITU is urged to encourage and support universal service, global access and fair pricing.

3 The Valletta Action Plan

3.1 Chapter I: Programme of cooperation among the members in the Telecommunication Development Sector

3.1.1 Introduction

This programme is intended to incorporate all decisions of meetings of world and regional development conferences, study groups, associated working parties and those of the Telecommunication Development Advisory Board (TDAB).

3.1.2 World telecommunication development conferences

It is assumed that, in accordance with the Convention, the Council will convene a world telecommunication development conference in 2002.

3.1.3 Regional telecommunication development conferences

Taking into account the programme of meetings in the period 1998-2002 and considering the need to plan the meetings of the study groups set up by this Conference, the Director of BDT, in consultation with the Secretary-General, shall propose to the Council the regions for which such conferences should be convened.

3.1.4 Study groups

In accordance with Resolution 3, this Conference sets up two study groups and determines the Questions to be studied by them and their working methods. Each of the two study groups shall normally hold one meeting every year. Study groups may set up working parties and decide on their meetings within their budgetary limits.

The following Questions were adopted by the Conference for study by Study Groups 1 and 2 during the period 1998-2002. Council-98 may consider the order of priority².

Study Group 1

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| Question 6/1 | Interconnection |
| Question 7/1 | Universal access/service |
| Question 8/1 | Establishment of an independent regulatory body |
| Question 9/1 | Impact of the introduction and utilization of new technologies on the regulatory environment of telecommunications |
| Question 10/1 | Regulatory impact of the phenomenon of convergence within the telecommunication broadcasting, information technology and content sectors |
| Question 11/1 | Factors to create a climate favourable to investment |
| Question 12/1 | Tariff policies, tariff models and methods of determining the cost of national telecommunication services |
| Question 13/1 | Promotion of infrastructure and use of the Internet in developing countries |
| Question 14/1 | The role of telecommunications in social and cultural development, including the protection and promotion of indigenous culture and identity |
| Question 15/1 | Technology transfer and informatization |

Study Group 2

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| Question 9/2 | Identify study group Questions in ITU-T and ITU-R which are of particular interest to developing countries and systematically inform them of the progress of work on the Questions, by way of annual progress reports, to facilitate their contributions to the work on those Questions as well as, ultimately, to enable them to benefit from their outputs in a timely manner |
| Question 10/2 | Communications for rural and remote areas |
| 10a/2 | Communications for rural and remote areas |
| 10b/2 | Development of multi-purpose community telecentres |
| 10c/2 | Penetration and service targets for rural telecommunications |
| 10d/2 | Definition of a set of indicators describing the state of development of a country's rural telecommunication network and services |
| 10e/2 | Sound and television broadcasting and communication for rural and remote areas |
| 10f/2 | Measurement of the impact of information and communication technologies in rural and remote areas |
| 10g/2 | Enhancing the capacity of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to achieve development aims, through the use of telecommunications |

² Note by the Secretariat: a consecutive numbering of the Questions has been adopted. The question numbers follow the numbers of the first study period.

- Question 11/2 Examine digital broadcasting technologies and systems, including cost/benefit analyses, assessment of demands on human resources, interoperability of digital systems with existing analogue networks, and methods of migration from analogue to digital technique
- Question 12/2 Examine broadband communications over traditional copper wires in regard to aspects of technologies, systems and applications
- Question 13/2 Methods to enhance the viability of public service broadcasting, particularly focusing on developing countries
- Question 14/2 Fostering the application of telecommunications in health care. Identifying and documenting success factors for implementing telemedicine
- Question 15/2 Human resources management and development to meet successfully the challenges of sector reform and transformation, with special emphasis on employment, including consideration of gender issues
- Question 16/2 Preparation of handbooks for developing countries

3.1.5 Telecommunication Development Advisory Board

The Conference adopted Recommendation 3 recommending that the Plenipotentiary Conference convert TDAB into an open advisory group. It also adopted Resolution 6 establishing a subgroup of TDAB to deal with private sector issues.

3.1.6 Gender issues

In accordance with Resolution 7, WTDC-98 established a task force on gender issues which will facilitate, develop and engage in activities aimed at ensuring that the benefits of telecommunications and the emerging information society are made available to all women and men on a fair and equitable basis.

3.2 Chapter II: Valletta Action Plan programmes

Preamble

In building on the achievements of the Telecommunication Development Sector in a rapidly changing telecommunication environment, the Valletta Action Plan is focused on activities and programmes which are directed toward achievement of the purposes and objectives for the ITU-D set out in the Constitution and Convention. In addition to the six programmes specifically enunciated in the Action Plan, the World Telecommunication Development Conference (Valletta, 1998) emphasized the importance of establishing a special programme for the least developed countries (LDCs) and elaborated a set of issues to be included as a regular part of the BDT operational plan which will be part of the programmes either as a focus group activity or as a regular activity of ITU (see Section 3.5). The Conference also emphasized the need for gender balance in its programmes and to reflect the needs of other aspects of global society such as youth and the needs of indigenous peoples. Emergency telecommunications is another area where renewed efforts are required. Collaboration with the private sector should be more clearly defined and expanded to reflect the changing roles of public and private entities in the telecommunication sector. As a matter of urgency, the "Year 2000" problem should be addressed. ITU-D should also use the mechanisms for advancing Sector goals included in Opinion B of the World Telecommunication Policy Forum (Geneva, 1998) and the opportunities provided by the ITU TELECOM Surplus Programme. In addition, the implementation of annual operational and

financial planning within ITU-D is considered to be very important from the point of view of optimizing the efficiency of BDT in carrying out its work plan.

Electronic information exchange is useful for multilateral decision-making processes. This should be encouraged, for all developing countries, in particular LDCs, so that they may participate in electronic exchanges on a fair basis. ITU should contribute to sustainable projects supporting these objectives.

During the period 1999-2003, the strategic processes of ITU-D will incorporate all resolutions and recommendations adopted by WTDC-98, as well as all other pertinent ITU resolutions and recommendations of other relevant conferences.

3.2.1 Programme 1: Reform, legislation and regulation of telecommunications

Purpose

The purpose of this Programme would be to assist governments in the preparation and implementation of reform, keeping in view the technological convergence of telecommunications, broadcasting and informatics, having regard to the progressive globalization of the telecommunication and broadcasting sector.

This would entail, *inter alia*, the elaboration of national telecommunication and broadcasting policies, the establishment of independent or autonomous regulatory bodies, the drafting of new or modified legislations and designing optimal institutional structures.

The programme will explore various ways to assist governments in developing the structure of the regulatory body, the mechanisms to finance the regulatory bodies to ensure independence and to assist in training, licensing, staffing needs and overall management, taking into account the WTO reference paper.

Activities

1.1 Studies and reports

- Publishing, on an annual basis, the report *General Trends in Telecommunication Restructuring*, highlighting trends on a global and regional basis, and using information gathered in the annual telecommunication regulatory survey (see activity 1.3).
- Preparing and disseminating manuals and guidelines on regulation, including structural options for regulatory bodies; scope and authority of the regulator; licensing procedures; interconnection; universal service; regulation of global systems; etc.
- Conducting case studies of different models or approaches undertaken in the reform process, identifying advantages and disadvantages.

1.2 Workshops/seminars

A series of workshops/seminars for regulators and/or policy makers will be organized in order to provide a forum for the exchange of opinions, views and experiences among countries on specific areas/concerns in sector reform. These workshops/seminars will be carried out on a regional/subregional basis, and to the extent possible, in collaboration with relevant international and regional/subregional organizations. The participants will be primarily regulators, or, where no "regulator" exists, officials having responsibility for regulatory/policy-making functions. Workshops and seminars will be carried out using traditional means, as well as electronic means, through the Virtual Training Centre (see activity 1.4).

Partnership and collaboration arrangements will be pursued with existing regulatory associations (e.g. ASEAN Telecommunication Regulators' Council - ATRC). In regions/subregions where no association exists, ITU/BDT will provide the forum for discussion.

1.3 *Regulatory library*

In order to keep track of the rapid reforms under way in the sector, ITU/BDT will establish an electronic library which will include key regulatory information, as well as basic laws/legislation of all ITU Member States.

Specific tasks for this activity include:

- Documenting national communication policies and regulations through the dissemination of the ITU/BDT annual telecommunication regulatory survey.
- Enhancing the ITU/BDT regulatory database and providing online access.
- Expanding the ITU/BDT telecommunication regulation site on the World Wide Web to include: links to regulators that have websites; contact information for all regulators; basic regulatory information on all countries; access to all basic telecommunication and broadcasting laws; studies and reports on key issues of regulation. A search engine to facilitate easy use of the system will be created. Assistance will also be provided to those regulators which do not yet have World Wide Web pages.

1.4 *Training*

This activity will provide relevant training to regulators of developing countries, together with the human resources development and management programme (i.e. Programme 6). Training will be based on the manuals and guidelines elaborated under activity 1.1 and using both traditional and electronic means. Collaboration will be continued with already established training institutions.

1.5 *Direct assistance*

Under this item, direct assistance will be provided to developing countries, in particular the least developed countries (LDCs). ITU/BDT will endeavour to use its own in-house expertise, to the extent possible, subject to budgetary appropriations.

This activity will include, among others, providing short-term assistance to countries in:

- Drafting the national communication policies and strategies and setting up a national consultative mechanism.
- Introducing or modifying the relevant legislation to facilitate reform implementation.
- Establishing regulatory bodies, assisting in implementing the guidelines on the establishment of a regulatory, or making the established regulatory bodies functional, etc.
- Establishing a regulators net-line/hot-line where assistance can be provided by telephone, fax, or Internet.

3.2.2 Programme 2: Technologies and global information infrastructure (GII) development and applications, including GMPCS and Internet

Purpose

The convergence of broadcasting, telecommunications and informatics, enabled by digital technology, offers sizeable opportunities for the implementation of appropriate new technologies by developing countries.

The purpose of the programme is to assist developing countries to plan, build, operate, upgrade, manage and maintain technologies applicable in their networks and services. Particular attention should be given to resource mobilization.

Applied research and the transfer of technological knowledge should be an indispensable part of the task of expediting the access to new technologies on a non-discriminatory basis for developing countries and countries with economies in transition and should be carried out by various means, including symposia, workshops, conferences, seminars, expert advice, etc.

The issues of network reliability and quality of service will continue to be of considerable interest to developing countries. To this end, the programme should focus on management issues, marketing techniques and the introduction of new services, taking into account the recent trends in the development of telecommunications, broadcasting and informatics.

In accordance with the wishes of the regional development conferences and relevant forums, it is proposed to give priority to the following technology-related domains:

a) Spectrum management and monitoring

Strengthening of regulatory entities in administrations together with a national structure for spectrum management, supported by the necessary frequency assignment registration and monitoring facilities, is proposed. It is proposed to continue activities on implementation of the basic automated spectrum management system (BASMS) while shifting the emphasis to speedy establishment and implementation of an advanced spectrum management system (ASMS) including the elaboration of specifications, development of relevant software and accompanying documentation based on those specifications, taking into consideration the design guidelines for the development of such systems as approved in Recommendation ITU-R SM.1370.

b) Network and infrastructure planning

Optical fibre networks, terrestrial radiocommunication networks and satellite communications networks will form the future global information infrastructure (GII) of the world. Moreover, global mobile personal communication by satellite (GMPCS), cellular mobile telephone systems and data broadcasting will have a growing importance in enhancing the GII. Programme activities should focus on relevant technological developments and be accordingly documented to enable developing countries to modernize their networks. The needs of various services including sound, television and data broadcasting should be reflected. Assistance and advice on information infrastructure matters should be made available to Member States and Sector Members from the developing world.

PLANITU assistance would continue to be provided upon request.

c) Innovative technological applications

Internet, World Wide Web and multimedia applications should be closely monitored and relevant advice be made available to developing countries. Further innovative applications of new technologies should be promoted via pilot projects (such as rural telecentres, telemedicine, life-long distance learning, protection of the environment, etc.). Relevant technological solutions should be integrated into overall network planning with the aim of improving project sustainability and enabling relevant system standardization. The Buenos Aires Action Plan (BAAP) experience showed that the approach of focusing the actual planning work and operational responsibilities on a national task force was quite productive and cost-efficient and should be encouraged.

Activities

2.1 *Elaboration of technology-oriented guides, planning manuals and professional engineering training material.*

2.2 *Development of user-friendly personal computer (PC) software tools/software support and provision of training courses.*

2.3 *Regular organization of regional seminars, symposia, workshops, etc. on new technologies, with documented proceedings in print and electronic form.*

2.4 *Provision of methodological and expert assistance to national task forces in planning and implementation of innovative pilot projects and making available relevant information to interested parties. Close cooperation and partnership with Sector Members and industry should be encouraged.*

2.5 *Technical assistance to Member States and Sector Members in developing project documents, project implementation, producing feasibility studies and the provision of technical consultation and advice on technology-related matters by means of short missions or correspondence.*

2.6 *To provide consultancy support in engineering matters to the study groups, to the United Nations or relevant United Nations specialized agencies.*

3.2.3 Programme 3: Rural development and universal service/access

Purpose

The purpose of this programme is to continue to promote universal access, not only to basic telecommunications, but also to broadcasting and to value-added services and, in particular, the Internet, as tools for development. To this end, BDT will continue to work collaboratively with other development agencies and the private sector in the field of information and communication technology (ICT) development, with particular focus on rural and remote areas.

Priority will be given to continuing support to the ongoing programme of rural multi-purpose community telecentre (MCT) pilot projects, started by the BAAP Programme No. 9 and the Spacecom project. The objective of this programme is to develop and test sustainable models for provision of universal access to ICT-based services in rural and remote areas.

The pilot projects will provide answers to questions relating to choice of technology, policy and regulations, tariffs and financing strategies, partnership arrangements, capacity building, marketing of services, etc. They will explore appropriate concepts for providing broadcasting service to underserved rural populations. They will also provide a test bed for development of content and services adapted to the particular needs and conditions of developing countries. Thus, they provide ideal platforms for cross-sectional private-public sector collaboration, and the experience gained will assist decision makers in the development of appropriate information and communication policies and infrastructure plans.

Activities

3.1 Implementation and evaluation of multi-purpose community telecentre (MCT) pilot projects

BDT will continue to support the rural MCT pilot projects already started or planned. Funding has in many cases been pledged by ITU and its international partners. Some additional pilot projects may be justified to ensure the development of a wide range of alternative models adapted to different socio-cultural and geographical conditions. BDT's participation and assistance is particularly essential in the impact evaluation and identification of sustainable, replicable best-practice models and appropriate technologies, with a view to promoting the implementation of MCTs on a large scale and, hence, universal access.

3.2 Awareness and capacity building activities (training)

This includes the organization of symposia and training courses for information and communication service managers, technicians, developers of services and applications, such as telemedicine, tele-education, teletrading, as well as for end users. Several such events are already planned or proposed as part of ongoing collaborative planning, e.g., regional symposium on telematics for development in the Americas, Asian and European regions, where such symposia have not yet been held and the Internet related training programme for Africa within the framework of the UN Special Initiative for Africa and the African Information Society Initiative.

When possible, such activities will be linked with the MCT pilot projects which provide "laboratories" for developmental testing of applications relevant to rural populations.

3.3 Website development

Development and maintenance of a fully-fledged BDT website, describing programmes and activities, opportunities for partners, etc., and including links to all relevant documents produced by BDT (ITU-D study groups contributions and reports, studies made, non-confidential mission reports, description of pilot projects and pipeline projects). Databases should be designed in such a way that it could be easily used to update the PICTA³ database maintained by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) for donor coordination purposes.

3.2.4 Programme 4: Finance and economics, including WTO issues, tariffs, accounting rates, etc.

Purpose

The purpose of this programme is to help the developing countries, and in particular the LDCs, to adapt to the new telecommunication environment by the putting into place the appropriate financial policies, with emphasis on the following activity areas:

- a framework to assist in the follow-up to WTPF-98;
- assistance to governments in the introduction of new financing schemes for the development of their telecommunication networks, including public service broadcasting networks;

³ PICTA = Partnership on Information and Communication Technologies for Africa is an informal forum for donor coordination. Many UN organizations, the World Bank and ITU participate in this, as well as some bilateral agencies and a number of foundations.

- assistance to governments, particular in collaboration with the WTO, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the World Bank in the negotiation process of the GATS;
- assistance to governments in dealing with the consequences of the reform of the international accounting and settlement system.

The following areas will be accorded particular attention:

Financing strategies and policies

The provision of assistance and guidance to telecommunication and public service broadcasting organizations (administration, regulators, operators, regional organizations) in order to set up financial policies and strategies, advising policy-makers on the options available in tailoring policies (expert missions to countries, participation in regional and subregional workshops, publication of annual reports).

WTO agreements on basic telecommunications and the GATS

The provision of assistance to developing countries, particularly in collaboration with WTO, UNCTAD and the World Bank, on issues related to the GATS, from a development perspective.

Tariffs, international accounting and settlement rate issue

Helping the developing countries to participate in, and make contributions to, the work of the focus group of ITU-T Study Group 3 and, more generally, helping countries to review their international settlement policy.

Activities

4.1 *To assist in developing new configurations of joint financing, management and revenue sharing.*

4.2 *To publish and update, on an annual basis, the report on financial institutions, creating a financial institution website to disseminate information.*

4.3 *To disseminate information (case studies and models) on the financing of rural telecommunications which meet the criteria of affordable cost and an acceptable rate of return.*

4.4 *To assist countries in setting up a mechanism for financing universal service and access suited to their specific conditions.*

4.5 *To enhance collaboration with, among others, the development banks and WorldTel.*

4.6 *To build national negotiation capabilities in order to be able to participate fully in negotiations with their partners.*

4.7 *To assist countries in integrating into their financial strategies the changes in the evolving international telecommunication environment, by organizing:*

- a series of workshops for countries to enable them to plan the stages of the financing restructuring process;
- subregional information seminars to describe the implications of the WTO agreements on basic telecommunications and models of commitments already undertaken by countries.

4.8 *To promote transitional arrangements in accounting rates and settlement and tariff reforms, by organizing a task force of national experts in every region under the leadership of BDT regional experts.* This task force will be charged with organizing regional group training workshops for public and/or private entities on the following themes:

- financial management of enterprises;
- price and cost calculation methods;
- methods for reducing the impact on the developing countries of the reforms in the accounting rate system and tariff rebalancing.

In addition, BDT will organize training on the introduction of cost accounting (for example, within the Centres of Excellence) and will help countries implement such practices by developing appropriate computer programs.

4.9 *To support the work of ITU-T Study Group 3 in:*

- compiling a database and Web pages to establish basic information for comparisons of macro-economic data, cost data, trends and scenarios for tariffs and international settlement rates;
- presenting, at regional or subregional level, case studies already conducted, and validating the results in ITU-T regional tariff groups or any other relevant regional working group (recognizing the need to avoid overlap with the work of the regional tariff groups). The results of the work of these groups should allow contributions to be made to the work of the focus group established under the responsibility of ITU-T Study Group 3.

4.10 *To promote, in collaboration with other relevant international organizations, the application of tariffs for the use of telecommunication networks by publicly funded services such as education, health care and public service broadcasting.*

3.2.5 Programme 5: Development partnership with the private sector

Purpose

To promote various types of partnership arrangements with the private sector in activities related to telecommunication development including, *inter alia*:

- participation in government or internationally financed pilot projects, such as telecommunication training, telemedicine and distance learning;
- establishment of joint ventures and strategic partnerships with public and private entities of all sizes and types in all countries, with particular emphasis on building private sector partnerships in developed countries and developing countries in order to strengthen the private sector in developing countries; and
- facilitating activities related to telecommunication sector development of mutual benefit to all partners;
- working for an improved understanding between the developing countries and the private sector for the mutual benefit of all ITU-D Members.

Activities

5.1 BDT cooperation

BDT will undertake:

- to encourage participation by new private sector members in ITU-D, highlighting opportunities to take part in the development of all telecommunication activities beneficial to potential customers, with emphasis on those in developing countries;

- to develop its capabilities as an important source of information for partnerships and business opportunities with telecommunication entities in the developing countries, and in particular in the least developed countries, to enhance the interest of the private sector to participate in ITU-D project activities;
- to assist in promoting transnational partnerships for the creation of industrial and service telecommunication enterprises in developing countries, through the use of knowledge-based enterprise incubators.

5.2 *Private sector collaboration*

The scope of tasks of the private sector should include, *inter alia*:

- To recommend ways by which the private sector, through ITU-D, can better participate in and advise on BDT strategy development, programme design and project delivery, with the overall goal of increasing mutual responsiveness to the requirements of telecommunication development.
- To identify means to enhance cooperation and arrangements between the private and public sectors, as well as between private sector entities in developing countries and in developed countries.
- To advise on the means by which partnerships with the private sector can be enhanced; to seek means to reach out to the private sector of developing countries and the many small companies in industrialized countries that are not knowledgeable of BDT activities; and to determine modifications to ITU-D processes, practices and projects that would facilitate and encourage private sector support, cooperation and participation.
- To advise on integrating the financial contributions of the private sector more fully into the activities of BDT while ensuring requisite financial transparency to provide understanding of functions and priorities.
- To review the essential products of ITU-D which should be developed by Sector Members and the BDT secretariat.
- To discuss means of ensuring that increased private sector participation as built into the Valletta Action Plan and the study group cycle.
- To coordinate its activities with those of Programme 2, especially the follow-up of GMPCS activities.

The subgroup of TDAB on private sector issues would be expected to advise on the details of Programme 5.

3.2.6 **Programme 6: Capacity building through human resources development and management**

Purpose

To assist developing countries in building institutional and organizational capacity through human resources management and development and organizational development activities. These activities will use and demonstrate modern techniques such as distance learning, computer-based training and teletraining so as to increase effectiveness and reduce costs, and reflect developmental objectives related to access and gender.

These activities will be carried out in six main areas:

- 6.1** *Transfer of knowledge:* through training, by strengthening national and regional centres to cope with new technologies, centres of excellence (including broadcasting), partnerships with training institutes, emphasizing areas of interest such as spectrum management, modern management techniques and the training of managers and executives in order to adapt to the changing regulatory and commercial environment. This includes training for building business cases, managing the process of sectoral reform, introducing new services and marketing.
- 6.2** *Sharing of experience and know-how:* among Members of ITU and of the Development Sector through study visits and internships, electronic round-tables and task forces to focus on common issues, through regional and interregional HRM/HRD meetings, the programme of technical cooperation between developing countries (TCDC), and other technical consultancy support to the ITU-D study groups and United Nations agencies, and any other means which are effective and efficient for the Members of ITU.
- 6.3** *Assistance* to telecommunication and broadcasting organizations in HRM/HRD, including the use of experts on short missions, the Virtual Training Centre, analyses of training needs, feasibility studies, design and preparation of project document models, guidelines and tools for practical applications, helping in financing and providing professional support for implementation.
- 6.4** *Dissemination of information:* through enhancement of the human resources development information system, including information and data on training opportunities, best practices and case studies, training materials, and directory of training centres and through the publication of the Human Resource Development Quarterly.
- 6.5** *Training and human capacity building:* through the centre of excellence concept, utilizing both strengthened subregional training institutions and a network of institutions for senior government officials and executive level managers from the private sector, focusing on areas such as telecommunication policies, restructuring, regulatory reform, spectrum management, network harmonization, business strategies, new services and technologies, corporate management, human resources development and management, and any other area of interest identified by the Members of ITU.
- 6.6** *The exchange of experiences and know-how* between ITU Members and ITU-D Sector Members, through round-table discussions and by the formation of action groups mandated to examine issues related to the human and social dimension of the restructuring of the telecommunication sector in developing countries.

3.3 Chapter III: Special programme for least developed countries: A programme to make a difference

3.3.1 Introduction

Ever since ITU started giving assistance to the least developed countries (LDCs) under Resolution 19 of the Plenipotentiary Conference (Malaga-Torremolinos, 1973), the assistance has been provided on an *ad hoc* basis to meet certain gaps at administrations' request. From 1992, the situation was partially corrected with the introduction of a programme approach to assistance, such that certain selected priority areas were addressed. The small amount of funds available meant, however, that ITU assistance had to remain catalytic and was spread rather thinly for the increasing number of LDCs.

Past actions have produced mixed results. For a few LDCs there have been noteworthy successes, but for many the situation has not improved. On the contrary, it has worsened in some cases and is likely to continue to do so for various reasons such as lack of political will, shortage of competent staff to organize the restructuring of the sector so as to engender competition, to operate and manage networks efficiently, etc. In others, civil strife has compounded the scenario. Moreover, the current telecommunication environment, characterized by, *inter alia*, the shift from voice to multimedia networks, globalization and deregulation, has to be considered a strategic issue which calls for innovative action.

3.3.2 New strategy

It is proposed to introduce a new strategy which seeks to concentrate the Union's efforts on a number of selected LDCs each year, with the support of the recipient country itself and other development partners that the Union will mobilize to help. Such assistance could be initiated through a preliminary visit by a BDT official to an LDC which has expressed an interest. This initial assessment should, in particular, take into account the existence and availability of national or subregional expertise that could be of service in subsequent stages and, where appropriate, propose initiatives, in the context of BDT's training activities, conducive to the prior emergence of such expertise.

Selection of the countries could be on the basis of their interest in these activities and their willingness to help finance the projects.

On the basis of negotiations, the countries concerned, BDT, ITU-D Sector Members, the private sector, financial institutions such as the World Bank, regional banks, etc., will participate in financing these projects. The projects will cover different areas, e.g. preparation/implementation of a master plan, restructuring of the telecommunication sector, introduction of new technologies/services and implementation of a pilot activity, etc., or a combination of areas as selected by the host country in consultation with the BDT experts. In this way, those involved (experts/consultants) would be available to the country over a given period (say, one year or more), and reasonably large funds would be spent to make an impact and a difference.

It is important that the countries selected show their interest by their participation in pilot projects or other selected activities. During the period between plenipotentiary conferences, well over half of the LDCs (the neediest) will have received this type of concentrated assistance, which is designed to produce concrete results and to make a difference.

The establishment of partnerships will be an important factor in the success of the programmes. Such partnerships may be realized through formal agreements or informal arrangements, as may be determined by the partners concerned.

3.3.3 Objectives, targets and follow-up

Objectives

- a) To reform the telecommunication sector so as to introduce new structures which are more conducive to faster and sustained telecommunication development, with well managed and modern networks.
- b) To increase the penetration of telecommunication services so as to achieve universal access to those services.

Targets

- a) To meet fully the demand for telecommunication services in urban areas. This means virtually eliminating the waiting list for services by the year 2005, which translates into an average urban main line (ML) density of 10 per 100 inhabitants.
- b) To achieve a rural ML density of 2 ML per 10 000 inhabitants. This density would not yet amount to easy access to telecommunication services as suggested in the Missing Link report, but would be a bold move in that direction.

Follow-up

BDT shall develop a mechanism for monitoring and evaluating the Special Programme for LDCs.

3.3.4 Priority areas

The regular assistance to LDCs (workshops/seminars/fellowships) would continue, but would also be limited to priority areas identified in Section 4.3 a)-d) of Document WTDC98/12, and with the addition of a fifth area as decided by the Working Group of the Plenary on LDCs, namely:

- 1) Introduction of new technologies
- 2) Sector restructuring
- 3) Rural telecommunication development
- 4) Human resources development/management
- 5) Financing and tariffs.

The suggested action under each of the above priority areas follows below.

3.3.5 Special Programme for least developed countries, 1999-2003

NB - This is not a programme as such. It is a list of actions on the new priority areas for the next cycle as contained in Section 4 of WTDC Document 12 and as modified by the Working Group of the Plenary. The activities are generic in nature, from which the focal points concerned will each year derive an annual programme of action covering national, regional and global activities/projects.

3.3.5.1 Introduction of new technologies

- a) New technologies and new services
 - Seminars/workshops on:
 - **GMPCS:** in accordance with Opinion 5 of the first World Telecommunication Policy Forum
 - Assistance on IMT-2000
 - **Internet:** to cover various aspects of a potentially complex service
 - **Wireless loop access:** for extending services easily to areas not yet covered by the local cable network. Assistance will compare the advantages of TDMA and CDMA while cost benefit studies will include spectrum pricing
 - **Technological convergence**
 - **Broadband transmission over existing copper wire loops:** to increase the capacity of existing local copper cables in order to connect more subscribers to the network
 - **Digital audio and video broadcasting:** as covered in Questions 1/2 and 8/2 of the 1994-1998 study period

- **Planning:** as covered under PLANITU and other general planning issues
- **Spectrum management:** as widely supported in responses to the questionnaire
- Telemedicine, tele-education and other services
- Dissemination of outputs of Question 1/2 of the 1994-1998 study period
- Dissemination of outputs of Questions 3/1, 5/1, 6/2, 7/2 and 8/2 of the 1994-1998 study period
- Dissemination of outputs of Question 2/2 of the 1994-1998 study period
- b) Planning
 - Continuing implementation of PLANITU at country level
 - Updating the guidelines for the preparation of business-oriented development plans
 - Dissemination of outputs of Question 2/2 of the 1994-1998 study period
- c) Spectrum management
 - Seminars/workshops on BASMS
 - Updating/upgrading software on BASMS and translation into various languages

3.3.5.2 Sector restructuring

- Assistance in sector restructuring (general)
- Assistance in legislation on telecommunication entities and regulation
- Assistance in setting up regulatory bodies and monitoring the regulatory framework
- Assistance to newly-created telecommunication private companies
- Policy choices in a new telecommunication environment
- Dissemination of outputs of Question 2/1 of the 1994-1998 study period
- Fostering partnerships

3.3.5.3 Rural telecommunication development

- Undertake pilot projects and community telecentre studies
- Implement pilot projects and community telecentres
- Seminars/workshops on new technologies for rural telecommunications
- Disseminate outputs of Question 4/2 of the 1994-1998 study period
- Application of GMPCS in rural/remote areas
- Establish policy to promote universal access

3.3.5.4 Human resources development/management

- a) Training
 - Support for and/or strengthening of regional or subregional training centres
 - Support for national training centres
 - Training in computerized subscriber management system (CSMS), telecommunication management network (TMN) techniques
 - Training managers of training centres in relevant training techniques
 - Management techniques
 - Computer-based training

- Training in the convergence of cellular and wireless local loop (WLL) technologies with existing technologies
- b) Management
 - Seminars/workshops for senior/middle-level telecommunication managers
 - Seminars/workshops on financial management and resource mobilization
 - Seminars/workshops on network management
 - Seminars on legal and regulatory aspects
 - Mandevtel
 - Dissemination of outputs of Question 5/2 of the 1994-1998 study period
- c) Maintenance
 - Seminars/workshops on CSMS and TMN techniques
 - Development of CSMS
 - Preparation of TMN based guidelines
 - Dissemination of outputs of Question 3/2 of the 1994-1998 study period

3.3.5.5 Financing and tariffs

- Fostering partnerships on investment in telecommunications and assisting LDCs in obtaining soft loans on concessional terms
- Assistance in trade in services as per relevant WTO agreements and Opinion B of the second World Telecommunication Policy Forum
- Dissemination of outputs of Question 4/1 of the 1994-1998 study period
- Assistance in tariff studies and their implementation
- Assistance to LDCs to develop a cost-based tariff policy and to modulate the effects of the reduction of the accounting rate

3.3.5.6 Other actions

Fellowships

Fellowships will be provided to promote the participation of LDC representatives in BDT activities, particularly study groups. These fellowships will cover mainly individual training and group training (workshops/seminars) and participation in certain meetings/conferences.

Equipment

Equipment (computer software and hardware) may be donated to LDCs as it becomes available. Network equipment and test gear may be provided for pilot activities. Partners are encouraged to inform BDT of the availability of equipment that could be donated to LDCs.

Projects

Technical cooperation projects and other activities executed by BDT under UNDP and other funding arrangements.

Regional activities

LDCs may benefit from any regional or subregional initiatives such as the United Nations Special Initiative on Africa: African Information Society.

3.4 Chapter IV: Projects and direct assistance

Execution of technical cooperation projects and other direct assistance under UNDP and other funding arrangements for the regions:

Africa
Americas
Arab States
Asia and the Pacific

3.5 List of topics approved by the Conference for incorporation into the BDT Operational Plan

A Topics related to focus groups

- 1) Maintenance-oriented investments - information and computer-aided tools for evaluation of expansion/maintenance needs of bids for procurement of equipment
- 2) Guidelines/procedures for improving efficiency of maintenance of software SPC switches
- 3) Computer-aided tools and error-free traffic data acquisition procedures for strengthening the traffic administration systems of SPC switches to serve the needs of competitive telecommunication markets
- 4) Using telecommunication and telematics to enhance learning environments for development
- 5) Collaboration between sectors of public interest and telecommunication operators
- 6) Year 2000 - Millennium problem
- 7) Study of various mechanisms by which to promote the development of new telecommunication technologies for rural applications

B BDT regular activities

- 1) The role of telecommunications and information technology in economic development
- 2) Economic obstacles to access to telematic services
- 3) How to enhance satellite telecommunication services in developing countries and, in particular, implementation of new satellite-based technology applications
- 4) Telecommunication support for the protection of the environment
- 5) Application issues of frequency management
- 6) Formulation of a strategy for the development of telecommunication networks in developing countries
- 7) Virtual knowledge city

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION 1 (PLEN-5)

**ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE AFRICAN
REGIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE**

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Valletta, 1998),

noting

- a) the need for African countries to coordinate the smooth development of their telecommunications;
- b) the need to establish a mechanism to monitor, evaluate and review the progress of implementation of resolutions and recommendations of regional and world telecommunication development conferences;
- c) the need to associate in this monitoring process the African States, the international and regional organizations concerned and development partners,

recalling

- a) the Memorandum by the African countries submitted to the Plenary Meetings of ITU-D Study Groups 1 and 2 held in Geneva in October 1997;
- b) the report by BDT on the African Regional Telecommunication Development Conference (AF-RTDC-96),

endorses

the resolutions and recommendations of AF-RTDC-96,

instructs the Director of BDT

to take all the necessary measures for their implementation,

invites the African administrations

to participate in the implementation process.

RESOLUTION 2 (PLEN-4)

**MECHANISMS FOR MONITORING, EVALUATION AND PROGRESS
REVIEW OF CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS**

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Valletta, 1998),

noting

- a) the need for the African States to coordinate the development of their telecommunications;
- b) the need to establish a mechanism to monitor, evaluate and review the progress of implementation of the resolutions/recommendations of African regional telecommunication development conferences;

- c) the need to associate in this monitoring process the African States, the international and regional organizations concerned and development partners;
- d) the purposes of the Union and its long-standing cooperation with world entities concerned with telecommunication issues;
- e) ITU/BDT's catalytic role, as defined by the Plenipotentiary Conference (Kyoto, 1994),

considering

the contribution by the African group to this Conference on the establishment of a coordination committee to monitor, evaluate and review progress on the implementation of relevant resolutions and recommendations adopted at world telecommunication development conferences,

endorses

the establishment of a regional African coordination committee to monitor, evaluate and review progress on the implementation of relevant resolutions and recommendations adopted at development conferences, with the following composition:

- administrations responsible for the telecommunication sector in African States;
- the Pan-African Telecommunications Union (PATU);
- national coordinators;
- subregional coordinators;
- African subregional telecommunication organizations;
- regional organizations involved with telecommunications;
- financial institutions and regional financing banks;
- development partners;
- ITU/BDT,

instructs ITU/BDT

- 1 to make arrangements and take the necessary measures to set up the coordination committee;
- 2 to assist the African countries in participating in the work of the committee.

RESOLUTION 3 (PLEN-3)

ESTABLISHMENT OF STUDY GROUPS

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Valletta, 1998),

considering

- a) Article 21, and in particular No. 127, of the Constitution (Geneva, 1992) on the specific functions of the Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D);
- b) Nos. 209, 211 and 214 of the Convention (Geneva, 1992);
- c) the provisions of Resolution 7 of the Additional Plenipotentiary Conference (Geneva, 1992),

having noted

the documents submitted to this Conference,

having considered

- a) the report by the Director of BDT on the activities of the Bureau since the World Telecommunication Development Conference (Buenos Aires, 1994);
- b) the Questions which it has been decided that ITU-D should study during the 1998-2002 study period in close coordination with the implementation of the planned activities of ITU-D;
- c) Resolutions 1 and 24 of the Plenipotentiary Conference (Kyoto, 1994),

taking into account

the economic and social environment prevailing in the different regions,

recognizing

- a) the desirability of studying at the global level a number of priority problems related to the institutional, technical, commercial, regulatory and economic evolution of the telecommunication sector, having regard to the progressive globalization of the sector and its implications for the developing countries;
- b) the need for the Director of BDT to take appropriate steps to facilitate the active participation of both developing and developed countries in the work of ITU-D,

stressing

the need to avoid duplication between studies undertaken by ITU-D and those carried out by the Radiocommunication and Telecommunication Standardization Sectors,

resolves

to create two study groups within ITU-D.

The following descriptions of areas of natural expertise and interest may be helpful in categorizing and grouping Questions and issues:

- national telecommunication policies and regulatory strategies which best enable countries to benefit from the impetus of telecommunications as an engine of economic, social and cultural development;
- finance and economics, including WTO issues, tariff policies, case studies, application of accounting principles as developed by ITU-T Study Group 3, private sector development and partnership (details to be determined);
- methods, techniques and approaches that are the most suitable and successful for service providers in planning, developing, implementing, operating, maintaining and sustaining telecommunication services which optimize their value to the users. This work will include specific emphasis on communications for rural and remote areas, and particular focus and emphasis on applications enabled by telecommunications, including, *inter alia*, telemedicine, distance education, electronic transactions, database access, and other opportunities as appropriate;
- human resources management/human resources development, including all aspects of training and development, with particular emphasis on electronic techniques, and also related supporting functions, including, *inter alia*, handbooks;

- the implementation and application of information technology, Internet and convergence, using technologies studied by the other Sectors, taking into account the special requirements of the developing countries.

APPENDIX TO RESOLUTION 3

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF ITU-D STUDY GROUPS

ITU-D study groups shall:

- 1) Organize the work, and establish work programmes, so as to make optimum progress while respecting the limits on the resources available. The schedule of the work programmes should duly consider the required timing of the expected output.
- 2) Establish appropriate groups within each study group, including, *inter alia*, rapporteur groups and focus groups, which will best facilitate the furthering of the work. This will include the establishment of regional groups when appropriate.
- 3) Prepare recommendations, opinions, guidelines, handbooks, manuals and reports within each study group's areas of competence.
- 4) Pay particular attention to the needs and concerns of the least developed countries in furthering the work.
- 5) Ensure appropriate coordination with work in progress within the BDT secretariat, including the regional and area offices.
- 6) Ensure appropriate coordination with work in progress in the other two ITU Sectors, including work both within the study groups and within the Bureaux.

RESOLUTION 4 (PLEN-2)

PROCEDURES TO BE APPLIED BY STUDY GROUPS

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Valletta, 1998),

considering

- a) that, pursuant to the provisions of Article 21 of the Constitution (Geneva, 1992), the functions of ITU-D include providing advice and carrying out or sponsoring studies, as necessary, on technical, economic, financial, managerial, regulatory and policy issues, including studies of specific projects in the field of telecommunications;
- b) that, for carrying out such studies, it may be appropriate to set up study groups, as provided for in Article 16 of the Convention (Geneva, 1992), to study specific telecommunication issues, including those aspects referred to in No. 211 of the Convention, and recommendations to help the developing countries develop their telecommunications;
- c) that the general working methods of the Development Sector are defined in Articles 16 to 18 and 19 to 22 of the Convention (Geneva, 1992);

d) that those general provisions should be supplemented by more detailed ones relating, *inter alia*, to the work of the study groups, the preparation and approval of Questions and the approval of recommendations, opinions, guidelines, handbooks and reports,

resolves

that, for ITU-D, the general provisions of the Convention referred to in *considering* c) above should be supplemented by the provisions of this Resolution and its Appendix.

APPENDIX TO RESOLUTION 4

PROCEDURES TO BE APPLIED BY STUDY GROUPS

SECTION 1

Study groups and other groups

1 Creation of study groups and other groups

1.1 In accordance with the provisions of Article 16 of the Convention (Geneva, 1992), WTDC may establish study groups for:

- a) studying a series of Questions falling within the terms of reference set by the Conference;
- b) elaborating draft recommendations, opinions or guidelines to foster telecommunication development in developing countries leading to a more balanced worldwide development of telecommunications.

1.2 To facilitate their work, the study groups may set up working parties, focus groups, rapporteur groups and project teams to deal with specific Questions or subjects. When appropriate, and within the limits of authorized budgetary and other resources, a study group may make use of a single expert, within the area of study, who will report to the study group.

1.3 Where appropriate, regional groups may be set up to study Questions or problems, the specific nature of which makes it desirable that they be studied within the framework of one or more regions of the Union.

Regional and subregional meetings offer a valuable opportunity for information exchange and the development of management and technical experience and expertise. Every opportunity should be taken to provide additional opportunities for experts from developing countries to gain experience by participating in regional and subregional meetings which deal with study group work.

The establishment of regional groups should not give rise to duplication of work being carried out at the global level by the corresponding study group or its other groups.

1.4 Following WTDC-98, study group chairmen and vice-chairmen should meet with the Director of BDT to draw up draft work plans to implement the results of the WTDC. This plan should include the structure of the study groups, a schedule of meetings and an agenda for the first meeting of each of the study groups. This information should be sent to all Member States and Sector Members at least three months before a study group meeting.

1.5 Where practical, each study group should have several vice-chairmen, from different ITU regions. TDAB is authorized to appoint study group chairmen and vice-chairmen, when the need arises during the period between world telecommunication development conferences. In principle, each Question should have one rapporteur and at least one associate rapporteur.

1.6 The structure and working methods of the ITU-D study groups should continue to be considered during the next study period, in close liaison with TDAB. TDAB is authorized to approve changes which are appropriate in the structure and working methods of the ITU-D study groups, during the period between world telecommunication development conferences.

2 Powers of the study groups

2.1 Each study group may develop draft recommendations for approval either by WTDC or pursuant to Section 4 below. Recommendations approved in accordance with either procedure shall have the same status.

2.2 Each study group may also adopt draft Questions for approval by WTDC or in accordance with the procedure described in § 3 of Section 3.

2.3 In addition to the above, each study group shall be competent to adopt:

- opinions;
- guidelines;
- handbooks;
- reports.

3 Meetings

3.1 The study groups or other groups shall normally meet at ITU headquarters.

3.2 However, some study group or other group meetings may take place outside Geneva in response to invitations by Member States or Sector Members and if holding them outside Geneva is likely to facilitate the attendance of developing countries.

Such invitations shall normally be considered only if they are submitted to a WTDC or an ITU-D study group meeting. They shall be finally accepted after consultation with the Director of BDT if they are compatible with the resources allocated to BDT by the Council.

3.3 The invitations referred to in 3.2 above shall be issued and accepted and the corresponding meetings outside Geneva organized only if the conditions laid down in Resolution 5 of the Plenipotentiary Conference (Kyoto, 1994) and ITU Council Decision No. 304 are met.

4 Participation in meetings

4.1 Member States, Sector Members and other entities duly authorized to participate in ITU-D activities shall be represented in the study groups and other groups in whose work they wish to take part, by participants registered by name and chosen by them as experts qualified to make an effective contribution to the study of the Questions entrusted to those study groups.

4.2 The Director of BDT shall keep up to date a list of the administrations and other entities participating in each study group.

5 Frequency of meetings

5.1 The study groups shall in principle meet at least once a year during the interval between two WTDCs. However, additional meetings may take place with the approval of the Director of BDT, having regard to the priorities laid down by the preceding WTDC and the physical and budgetary resources of the BDT itself.

5.2 To ensure the best possible use of the resources of ITU-D and of those participating in its work, the Director, in collaboration with the study group chairmen, shall establish and publish a timetable of meetings well in advance. The timetable shall take account of such factors as the capacity of the ITU common services, document requirements for meetings and the need for close coordination with the activities of the other Sectors and other international or regional organizations.

5.3 In the establishment of the work programme, the timetable of meetings must take into account the time required for participating bodies to prepare contributions and documentation.

5.4 In the interval between two WTDCs, the study groups shall hold their final meetings not later than five months before the opening of the next WTDC in order to enable the final reports and draft recommendations to be prepared and disseminated within the required deadlines.

5.5 The programme for the final study group meetings shall be established by the Director of BDT in collaboration with the chairman of each study group.

6 Establishment of work programmes and preparation of meetings

6.1 After each WTDC, a work programme shall be proposed by each study group chairman, with the assistance of BDT. The work programme shall take account of the programme of activities and priorities adopted by WTDC.

The implementation of the work programme will, however, depend to a large extent on the contributions received from ITU-D Member States and Sector Members and the BDT secretariat, as well as on the opinions expressed by participants in the meetings.

6.2 An administrative circular with an agenda of the meeting, a draft work plan and a list of the Questions to be studied shall be prepared by the BDT secretariat with the help of the chairman of the study group concerned.

The administrative circular must reach the bodies participating in the work of the study group concerned at least three months before the opening of the meeting.

A registration form shall be appended to the administrative circular so that the bodies concerned can announce their intention to participate in the meeting. The form must then be returned to the BDT secretariat so as to arrive at least three weeks before the meeting. It shall contain the names and addresses of intended participants or at least the number of participants expected if their names cannot be provided. This information will facilitate the registration process and the timely preparation of registration materials.

6.3 Study group management teams should maintain contact among themselves and with BDT by electronic means to the extent practicable. Appropriate liaison meetings should be arranged, as necessary, with study group chairmen from the other Sectors.

7 Preparation of reports

7.1 Reports on the work carried out at study group and other group meetings shall be prepared by BDT and shall contain a synopsis of the outcome of the work and emerging trends. They must also indicate items which require further study at the next meeting. The number of annexes to reports must be kept to a minimum.

Reports shall normally comprise two parts:

Part I - Organization of work - main results - trends - future work programme;

Part II - Draft recommendations, opinions or guidelines.

These reports of meetings shall be submitted to the chairman of the relevant group for approval.

7.2 The following format is recommended for progress reports by rapporteurs to enable a maximum transfer of information to all concerned:

- a) brief summary of contents of report;
- b) conclusions or recommendations for which endorsement is sought;
- c) status of work with reference to work plan including baseline document, if available;
- d) draft new or draft revised recommendations;
- e) draft liaison in response to or requesting action by other study groups or organizations;
- f) major issues remaining for resolution and draft agenda of approved future meetings, if any;
- g) list of attendees at all meetings held since last progress report.

Progress reports by rapporteurs shall be submitted to the relevant group for approval.

7.3 The report on the first meeting of the study group following a WTDC shall contain a list of the chairmen and vice-chairmen of any other groups that may have been created.

8 Study group reports to WTDC

8.1 Study groups shall meet at least five months before the WTDC to ensure that the Member States and Sector Members receive the reports submitted by each study group to the Conference at least two months before the Conference.

8.2 The final report of each study group to the WTDC shall be the responsibility of the chairman of the study group concerned and shall contain:

- a summary of the results achieved by the study group during the study period in question, describing the work of the study group and the outcome which resulted;
- reference to any new or revised recommendations or opinions approved by correspondence by Member States and Sector Members during the study period;
- the text of recommendations or opinions submitted to the WTDC for approval;
- a list of any new or revised Questions proposed for study during the next study period.

8.3 The preparation of recommendations should follow the general practice of the Union. Examples include the recommendations and resolutions of WTDC-94, and of the regional telecommunication development conferences. A recommendation document should stand alone. Information may be annexed to the recommendations, in order to accomplish this.

A model recommendation appears as an example below:

8.4 Model recommendation for guidance when drafting recommendations.

The ITU-D (general terminology applicable to all recommendations).

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (terminology only applicable to recommendations approved at a WTDC),

considering

This section should contain various general background references giving the reasons for the study. The references should normally refer to ITU documents and/or resolutions.

recognizing

This section should contain specific factual background statements such as "the sovereign right of each Member State" or studies which have formed a basis for the work.

taking into account

This section should detail other factors which have to be considered, such as national laws and regulations, regional policy decisions and other applicable global issues.

noting

This section should indicate generally accepted items or information that support the recommendation.

convinced

This section should contain details of factors which form the basis of the recommendation. These could include objectives of government regulatory policy, choice of financing sources, ensuring fair competition, etc.

recommends

This section should contain a general sentence, leading into detailed action points:

specific action point

specific action point

specific action point

etc.

Note that the above list of *action verbs* is not exhaustive. Other *action verbs* may be used when appropriate. Existing recommendations provide examples.

SECTION 2

Submission, processing and presentation of contributions

1 Submission of contributions

1.1 Member States and Sector Members and the chairmen and vice-chairmen of study groups or other groups should submit their contributions to current studies to the Director of BDT.

1.2 Such contributions should, *inter alia*, deal with the results of experience gained in telecommunication development, describe case studies and/or contain proposals for promoting balanced worldwide and regional telecommunication development.

1.3 To the extent possible, contributions should be submitted in a convenient electronic form and posted on the ITU Website.

1.4 In order to facilitate the study of certain Questions, the BDT secretariat may submit consolidated documents or the results of case studies. Such documents will be treated as contributions.

2 Processing of contributions

2.1 Contributions received at least two months before a meeting shall be published and distributed in time for the said meeting.

The Director shall assemble the documentation and arrange, for those contributions received before the deadline, any translation needed as well as disseminate this documentation to participants in the requested working language before the date set for the meeting of a study group or other group. When a document is large and is descriptive in nature, and after consultation with the chairman of the study group or other group involved, it may be agreed that the Director shall send out the document without having it translated.

2.2 Contributions received by the Director less than two months, but not less than ten working days before the opening of a meeting, will not be processed in accordance with the procedure outlined in 2.1 above and shall be published as "delayed contributions" in the original language only (and in any other working language into which they may have been translated by the originator). They shall be distributed at the opening of the meeting solely to the participants present.

2.3 Contributions received by the Director less than ten working days before the opening of a meeting shall not be entered on the agenda. They shall not be distributed but will be held for the next meeting.

2.4 BDT shall not reissue delayed contributions as normal contributions unless the relevant group concerned decides otherwise in cases of special interest and importance. Delayed contributions shall not be incorporated in reports as annexes.

3 Presentation of contributions

3.1 Contributions shall be relevant, clear, concise and comprehensive.

3.2 The first page shall indicate the relevant Question(s), agenda item, date, source (originating country and/or organization, address, telephone number, fax number, and possible email address of author or contact person), as well as the title of the contribution. Then follows the content as defined under 1.2. The last paragraph shall contain the proposal or conclusion.

3.3 If existing text needs to be revised, adequate indications should be given to identify the changes proposed.

Development and approval of Questions

1 Development of Questions

- 1.1 Proposed new Questions for the Development Sector shall be submitted at least four months prior to a WTDC by Member States and Sector Members authorized to participate in the activities of the Sector.
- 1.2 However, an ITU-D study group may also propose new or revised Questions at the initiative of a member of that study group if there is sufficient consensus on the subject.
- 1.3 Each proposed Question should state the reasons for the proposal, the precise objective of the tasks to be performed, the urgency of the study and any contacts to be established with the other two Sectors and/or other international or regional bodies. Originators of Questions should use the template/outline provided in Section 3A to ensure that all relevant information is included.
- 1.4 TDAB shall be informed of proposed Questions so that it can offer its opinions and recommend any changes required.

2 Approval of Questions by WTDC

- 2.1 At least two months before a WTDC, TDAB shall meet to examine proposed new Questions and, if necessary, recommend amendments to take account of the BDT's general development policy objectives and associated priorities.
- 2.2 At least one month before a WTDC, the Director of BDT shall communicate to Member States and Sector Members a list of the Questions proposed, together with any changes recommended by TDAB, **and make these available on the ITU Website.**

3 Approval of proposed Questions between two WTDCs

- 3.1 Between two WTDCs, Member States and Sector Members participating in ITU-D activities may submit proposed Questions to the study group concerned.
- 3.2 Each proposed Question shall be based on the template/outline given in 1.3.
- 3.3 If the study group concerned agrees by consensus to study the proposed Question and some Member States and Sector Members (normally at least four) have committed themselves to supporting the work (e.g. by contributions, provision of rapporteurs or editors and/or hosting of meetings), it shall address the draft text thereof to the Director of BDT with all the necessary information.
- 3.4 The Director of BDT, after consultation with TDAB, shall advise Member States and Sector Members of the new Questions by circular letter.

Template/outline for proposed Questions and issues for study and consideration by the ITU-D Sector

** Information in italics describes the information which should be provided by the originator under each heading.*

Title of Question or issue *(the title replaces this heading)*

1 Statement of the situation or problem *(the notes follow these headings)*

* *Provide an overall general description of the situation or problem which is proposed for study, with specific focus on the implications for developing countries and LDCs, and how a solution will benefit these countries. Indicate why the problem or situation warrants study at this time.*

2 Question or issue for study

* *State the Question or issue that is proposed for study, expressed as clearly as possible. The tasks should be tightly focused.*

3 Expected output

* *Provide a detailed description of the expected output of the study. This should include a general indication of the organizational level or status of those who are expected to use and to benefit from the output.*

4 Timing

* *Indicate the required timing, noting that the urgency of the output will influence both the method used to carry out the study, and the depth and breadth of the study.*

5 Proposers/sponsors

* *Identify by organization and contact point those proposing and supporting the study.*

6 Sources of input

* *Indicate what types of organizations are expected to provide contributions to further the work, e.g. Member States, Sector Members, other UN agencies, regional groups, etc.*

* *Also include any other information, including potentially useful resources, that will be helpful to those responsible for carrying out the study.*

7 Target audience

- * *Indicate expected types of target audience, by noting all relevant points on the matrix which follows:*

	Developed countries	Developing countries	LDCs
Telecom policy-makers	*	*	*
Telecom regulators	*	*	*
Service providers/operators)	*	*	*
Manufacturers	*	*	*

Where appropriate, please provide explanatory notes as to why certain matrix points were included or excluded.

a) Target audience - Who specifically will use the output

- * *Indicate as precisely as possible which individuals/groups/regions within the target organizations will use the output.*

b) Proposed methods for the implementation of the results

- * *In the originator's opinion, how should the results of this work best be distributed to and used by the target audience.*

8 Proposed methods of handling the Question or issue

a) How?

- * *Indicate the suggested handling of the proposed Question or issue*

- 1) Within a study group:
 - Question (over a multi-year study period) ☐
 - Focus group (12 months' duration maximum) ☐
- 2) Within regular BDT activity:
 - Programmes ☐
 - Projects ☐
 - Expert consultants ☐
- 3) In other ways - describe (e.g. regional, within other organizations, jointly with other organizations, etc.) ☐

b) Why?

- * *Explain why you selected the alternative under a) above*

9 Coordination

- * *Include, inter alia, the requirements for coordination of the study with all of:*
- *regular ITU-D activities;*
 - *other study group Questions or issues;*
 - *regional organizations, as appropriate;*
 - *work in progress in the other ITU Sectors.*

10 Other relevant information

* *Include any other information that will be helpful in establishing how this Question or Issue should best be studied, and on what schedule.*

SECTION 4*

Approval of new or revised Recommendations and opinions

1 General

Requests for the approval of new or revised recommendations or opinions shall normally be submitted to a WTDC. In accordance with the provisions of Article 20 of the Convention (Geneva, 1992), however, the study groups may seek the approval by Member States and Sector Members of a number of recommendations in the interval between two WTDCs with a view to meeting certain priorities. In such cases, the following rules shall apply. However, for recommendations which are of a policy or regulatory nature, following completion of the study group studies, the recommendations will be approved by Member States only, using the relevant procedures below.

2 Process

Study groups may decide that the procedure described below should be applied for seeking the approval of certain draft new or revised recommendations or opinions which meet priority objectives in the context of the BDT's work programme and have developed to a mature state.

3 Prerequisites

3.1 At the request of a study group chairman, the Director of BDT shall explicitly announce, when convening the study group meeting, that the intention is to apply the procedure for approving a recommendation or opinion. He shall state the specific purpose of the proposed text, in the form of a summary when the proposed text is voluminous. In this case, reference will be made to the document in which the complete text of the draft new or revised recommendation or opinion to be considered may be found.

The above information shall be disseminated to all Member States and Sector Members.

3.2 Invitations to the meeting and the announcement of the approval procedure shall be sent by the Director of BDT to all Member States and Sector Members so as to be received in the normal course of delivery at least three months before the meeting.

3.3 The text of draft new or revised recommendations or opinions shall be distributed in the three working languages at least two months before the meeting.

3.4 Normally, the revision of a recommendation or opinion approved during a given study period should not be subjected again to the present procedure during the same study period unless the proposed revision supplements rather than amends the previous version of the text.

* NOTE - The entitlement afforded to Sector Members is subject to decisions to be taken by the Plenipotentiary Conference on No. 247 of the ITU Convention.

4 Procedure at study group meetings

4.1 Decisions by delegations to apply the approval procedure must be taken without opposition. Exceptionally, but only during meetings, a delegation may request more time to consider its position. Unless the Director of BDT is informed of a formal opposition on the part of the Member State or Sector Member participating in the meeting within six weeks following the last day of the meeting, he shall proceed in accordance with the provisions in § 5 below.

4.2 If a delegation elects not to oppose the approval of a text but wishes to enter reservations on one or more points, its reservations must be mentioned in the report of the meeting.

5 Consultation

5.1 Within one month following the decision of a study group to seek approval, the Director of BDT shall request Member States and Sector Members to inform him within three months whether they approve or object to the draft new or revised recommendation or opinion.

This request shall contain a reference to the final complete text of the new or revised draft recommendation or opinion, in the three working languages. **This text shall also be made available on the ITU Website.**

5.2 The Director of BDT shall advise the Directors of the other two Bureaux, as well as other duly authorized bodies participating in the work of the study group concerned that, pursuant to Article 20 of the Convention (Geneva, 1992), he has asked Member States and Sector Members to respond to a consultation on a draft new or revised recommendation or opinion.

5.3 The draft recommendation or opinion shall be accepted if 70 per cent or more of the replies from Member States or Sector Members indicate approval.

5.4 If the draft recommendation or opinion is not accepted, it shall be referred back to the study group.

5.5 Any Member States or Sector Members who indicate disapproval are requested to state their reasons and indicate possible changes that would facilitate the future approval of the draft recommendation or opinion.

6 Notification

6.1 Within four weeks of the closing date for Member States or Sector Members to respond to the consultation, the Director of BDT shall indicate by administrative circular whether or not the text is approved. He shall make the necessary arrangements to ensure that this information is also included in the next available ITU Notification.

6.2 Any comments received along with responses to the consultation shall be collected by BDT secretariat and submitted to the next study group meeting for consideration.

6.3 The Secretary-General shall publish the approved new or revised recommendations or opinions in the working languages as soon as practicable, **both on paper and on the Web.**

Support to the study groups and other groups

The Director of BDT should ensure that, within the limits of existing budgetary resources, the study groups and other groups have appropriate support to conduct their work programmes as outlined in the terms of reference and as envisioned by the WTDC's work plan for the Sector. In particular, support may be provided in the following forms:

- a) Appropriate administrative and professional staff support.
- b) Contracting of outside expertise, as necessary.
- c) Coordination with regional and subregional telecommunication organizations.

RESOLUTION 5 (PLEN-6)

ENHANCED PARTICIPATION BY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Valletta, 1998),

considering

- a) Articles 11 and 14 of the Convention (Geneva, 1992) concerning study groups, and in particular Nos. 159 and 196;
- b) Article 18 of the Convention (Geneva, 1992) concerning the Telecommunication Advisory Board (TDAB), and in particular No. 227;
- c) Resolution 17 of the Plenipotentiary Conference (Kyoto, 1994) on the advisory groups of the Radiocommunication and Telecommunication Standardization Sectors;
- d) the desirability of broad-based participation of administrations, duly authorized entities and organizations in the activities and the work of ITU;
- e) Recommendation 2 of this Conference;
- f) the increasing role of the Sector advisory bodies in the light of ITU-2000 recommendation 25, Resolution 22 of the World Telecommunication Standardization Conference (WTSC-96) and Resolution ITU-R 3-1 of the ITU Radiocommunication Assembly;
- g) the need to improve participation of developing countries in the work of ITU as expressed in Resolution ITU-R 7 and WTSC-96 Resolution 17;
- h) ITU-2000 recommendation 27, and in particular paragraph 4,

convinced

of the need to enhance the participation of developing countries in the work of the three Sectors of the ITU,

instructs the Director of BDT

in close collaboration with the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau and with Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau, to consider and implement the best ways and means to assist developing countries, and in particular least developed countries, in preparing for and

participating actively in the work of the three Sectors, and notably in the Sector advisory bodies and conferences and in the study groups of particular relevance to developing countries,

instructs the Secretary-General

to transmit the present Resolution to the Plenipotentiary Conference,

invites

the Plenipotentiary Conference, in application of No. 250 of the Convention (Geneva, 1992), to give the necessary attention to implementation of the present Resolution within the ceiling for the expenditure of the Union.

RESOLUTION 6 (GTPLEN-PS-1)

SUBGROUP OF TDAB DEALING WITH PRIVATE SECTOR ISSUES

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Valletta, 1998),

considering

- a) Resolution 4 of the Additional Plenipotentiary Conference (Geneva, 1992) highlighting the need to broaden participation in the activities of the Union;
- b) the Strategic Plan for the Union 1995-1999, as reflected in Resolution 1 of the Plenipotentiary Conference (Kyoto, 1994) which reinforced the need for ITU to strengthen the foundations of the Union through enhanced private sector participation;
- c) Resolutions 14 and 15 of the Plenipotentiary Conference (Kyoto, 1994) which noted in particular the need to review and update the terms and conditions under which members participate in Union activities in light of their changing needs and ITU's changing requirements;
- d) that it is in the interest of ITU to promote the participation of Sector Members;
- e) that Sector Members provide professional and financial support to the three Sectors of ITU;
- f) the Appendix of Resolution 2 of the report of the Telecommunication Development Advisory Board (TDAB) that highlighted in its report to this Conference the importance of enhancing the role of the private sector in the work of ITU-D,

recognizing

- a) the rapidly changing telecommunication environment;
- b) the important role played by the private sector in the former Centre for Telecommunications Development, one of the two predecessor organs of BDT;
- c) the progress achieved through BDT initiatives such as partnership meetings and colloquia in strengthening cooperation with the private sector,

noting

- a) that the role of the private sector in telecommunications is increasing in developing countries as well as in the industrialized countries;
- b) the desire of the Director of BDT to integrate the private sector more fully into the planning and execution of BDT programmes;

- c) that the private sector, through its membership and participation at various ITU-D meetings, has demonstrated its willingness to cooperate and work closely with BDT;
- d) that the Valletta Action Plan includes a separate programme on development partnerships with the private sector;
- e) the evolving and increasingly important role of the private sector in the activities of ITU-D,

welcomes

the establishment at this Conference of the Working Group of the Plenary on the role of the private sector, and the decision of the Conference to open the membership of TDAB,

resolves

- 1 to establish a subgroup of TDAB to ensure that issues of particular interest and concern to the private sector, as noted in annex hereto, are addressed and to assure the role of the private sector as a development partner of BDT;
- 2 to invite BDT to work closely with the private sector to ensure the successful implementation of the Valletta Action Plan;
- 3 that every possible effort should be made by ITU to encourage the private sector to take a more active part through partnerships with telecommunication entities in developing countries, and especially with those in the least developed countries, in order to help close the gap in universal and information access.

APPENDIX 1 TO RESOLUTION 6

Scope of tasks of the TDAB subgroup dealing with private sector issues

To enhance partnership in development for developing countries, the scope of tasks of the TDAB subgroup should include, *inter alia*:

- To recommend ways by which the private sector, through ITU-D, can better participate in and advise on BDT strategy development, programme design and project delivery, with the overall goal of increasing mutual responsiveness to the requirements of telecommunication development.
- To identify means to enhance cooperation and arrangements between the private and public sectors, as well as between private sector entities in developing countries and in developed countries.
- To advise on the means by which partnership with the private sector can be enhanced; to seek means to reach out to the private sector of developing countries and the many small companies in industrialized countries that are not knowledgeable of BDT activities; and to determine modifications to ITU-D processes, practices and projects that would facilitate and encourage private sector support, cooperation and participation.
- To advise on integrating the financial contributions of the private sector more fully into the activities of BDT while ensuring requisite financial transparency to provide a clearer understanding of functions and priorities.

- To review the essential products of ITU-D which should be developed by Sector Members and the BDT secretariat.
- To discuss means to ensure that increased private sector participation is built into the Valletta Action Plan and the next study group cycle.

Working methods

The subgroup will conduct its work through the use of e-mail and other telecom-based services in order to minimize costs. The ITU Web should be used for publishing draft proposals, etc., in order to elicit comments from ITU-D.

Draft proposals and other issues will be handled in meetings convened in connection with and immediately prior to regular TDAB meetings or other meetings and conferences where the private sector would normally be in attendance.

All information is open to any ITU Member.

RESOLUTION 7 (WGLDCS-2)

GENDER AND TELECOMMUNICATION POLICY IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Valletta, 1998),

considering

- a) the purposes of the Union as set out in Article 1 of the Constitution (Geneva, 1992) include promoting "the extension of the benefits of the new telecommunication technologies to all the world's inhabitants";
- b) the responsibility of ITU-D to facilitate and enhance telecommunication development by offering, organizing and coordinating technical cooperation and assistance activities;
- c) the Beijing Declaration - United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women (1995) - which seeks to ensure that women have equal access to information and communication as a means of furthering the advancement and empowerment of women and girls,

recognizing

- a) that telecommunications play a fundamental role in promoting social, political and economic development;
- b) that women in their multiple roles make a very important contribution to both social and economic life, particularly in the struggle against poverty in developing countries, and play a key role in shaping the attitudes, welfare and development of future generations;
- c) that full participation in policy and decision-making and access to telecommunication services will enable women and other groups who have been traditionally disadvantaged to derive benefits and make more effective contributions,

further recognizing

- a) that the inadequate deployment of telecommunication infrastructure in rural areas makes it particularly difficult for women in such areas to gain access to information and telecommunication services;

- b) that, while complex processes of convergence of technologies, liberalization and restructuring produce multiple impacts on employment in the telecommunication sector, e.g. creating jobs, demand for new skills and training, they may also lead to job losses when insufficient attention is paid to those needs;
- c) that making better use of human resources and skills of women significantly adds to the pool of talent which will be needed in the new information society;
- d) that women constitute a substantial and often under-served consumer market for information and communication technologies,

conscious

- a) that because of lack of access to alternative communications facilities and high illiteracy levels, women in developing countries rely on broadcasting media as their key source of information;
- b) that women and children are frequently most vulnerable during emergencies, and would benefit from improved access to emergency telecommunication services,

noting

- a) that there has been insufficient attention to understanding the impacts of telecommunication systems and technologies on women;
- b) that there have been few ITU telecommunication projects which have incorporated the perspectives and needs of women,

resolves

- 1 to establish a task force on gender issues to facilitate, develop and take forward a range of activities aimed at:
 - a) ensuring that the benefits of telecommunications and the emerging information society are made available to all women and men in developing countries on a fair and equitable basis, (the terms of reference for the task force are attached);
 - b) encouraging the recruitment, employment, training and advancement of women throughout the telecommunication field,
- 2 to incorporate the results of the special sessions on gender issues in the Valletta Action Plan;
- 3 to integrate a gender perspective in the campaign for a universal right to communicate,

instructs the Director of BDT

- 1 to propose to the ITU Council the inclusion of a gender perspective in the ITU Strategic Plan;
- 2 to report back to the next world telecommunication development conference on the results and progress made by the task force;
- 3 transmit this Resolution to the 1998 Plenipotentiary Conference,

further resolves that ITU-D

- 1 should make a commitment to integrate a gender perspective in its policies and work programmes, including human resources development activities, study groups, seminars, conferences and workshops;
- 2 should work closely with the task force to implement its programmes expeditiously;
- 3 should extend its data collection activities, including the telecommunications indicator series, to provide gender-disaggregated statistics;
- 4 should act as an enabling force for the development of an active network between various types of organizations of women involved in the information and telecommunication fields, including non-governmental organizations (NGOs);
- 5 should support efforts to identify technical and financial resources to carry out the programmes of the task force on gender issues,

also urges Member States, Sector Members and intergovernmental organizations

- 1 to review and, as appropriate, revise their policies and practices to ensure that recruitment, employment, training and advancement of women and men are undertaken on a fair and equitable basis;
- 2 to facilitate the employment of women in the telecommunication field on an equitable basis, including at senior levels of responsibility in the telecommunication administrations, government and regulatory bodies, intergovernmental organizations and the private sector.

APPENDIX 1 TO RESOLUTION 7

Terms of reference of the task force on gender issues

- 1 The Task Force on Gender Issues (TFGI) will comprise BDT representatives, appointed by the Director of BDT, as well as representatives of Member States, Sector Members, United Nations bodies, other regional/international organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and individual experts. The TFGI will be an "open" group, welcoming all persons and organizations with relevant expertise to join and participate in its work.
- 2 The TFGI shall be responsible to and report to the Director of BDT.
- 3 Members of the TFGI shall participate in all ITU-D activities to ensure that a gender perspective is included in its policies and work programmes, including human resources development activities, study groups, seminars, conferences and workshops.
- 4 The TFGI will be responsible for:
 - a) securing financial and other resources to carry out this work, including through partnerships with the private sector, multilateral development finance bodies and other donors;
 - b) defining its specific tasks, working methods and priorities.
- 5 The scope of work of the TFGI will include, but not be limited to, priority programmes of ITU-D (i.e., sector reform, regulation and legislation, rural development and universal access, technologies and applications, finance and economics, partnerships with the private sector, human resources development and management) and other projects such as broadcasting, development of

telecentres, telemedicine, tele-education, telecommunications and trade, telecommunications as a social service, telecommunications and the environment, and telecommunications and disaster preparedness, and the universal right to communicate campaign.

6 The TFGI will serve as a source of expert advice, guidance and assistance to ITU-D in developing its policies, work programmes and projects in telecommunications. It will also keep ITU-D up to date with of progress made on gender issues by the United Nations system and Member States, and provide training for BDT staff on gender issues, as appropriate.

7 The TFGI will undertake a comprehensive range of activities to increase participation of women in policy and decision-making, operation and regulation of the telecommunication sector.

8 The TFGI shall assist ITU-D in raising awareness and disseminating information in order to sensitize all stakeholders in the telecommunication industry to the importance of these issues by working closely with existing women's communications networks, the Youth Network, the Platform for Communications and Democratization, and with specialist gender and development networks within the United Nations system, including those provided by UNIFEM and UNU-INTECH.

RESOLUTION 8 (COMA-2)

COLLECTION AND DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Valletta, 1998),

considering

- a) that a key role for ITU-D will be the sharing and dissemination of information;
- b) Recommendation 2 of the African Regional Telecommunication Development Conference (AF-RTDC-96) which requested BDT to continue to survey countries, to prepare reports on an annual basis and to establish appropriate mechanisms and modalities by which countries can access the information;
- c) Resolutions 3, 6, 7 and 8 and Recommendations 3 and 4 of the Regional Telecommunication Development Conference for the Arab States (AR-RTDC-96);
- d) the importance of the existing BDT databases, in particular the indicators database and the regulatory database;
- e) the usefulness of reports such as the World Telecommunication Development Report and the draft Report on Trends in Telecommunication Restructuring;
- f) the work done to produce the Blue Book for the Americas, the African Green Paper and the Arab Book,

considering further

- a) that the telecommunication sector is reforming at an incredible pace;
- b) that policy approaches vary and countries can benefit from the experiences of others,

recognizing

- a) that by acting as a clearing house for the exchange of information, ITU/BDT will be able to assist Member States in making informed national policy choices;

- b) that the countries must actively participate in this endeavour in order to make it successful,
recognizing further

that this kind of information is extremely useful to the work of the study groups and assisting the ITU to assess the telecommunication landscape,

instructs the Director of BDT

- 1 to support this activity by providing adequate resources;
- 2 to continue to survey countries and produce world and regional reports which highlight country lessons and experiences, in particular on:
 - trends in telecommunication sector reform;
 - world telecommunication development;
 - trends on tariff policies in collaboration with the relevant bodies of ITU-T;
 - implementation of the General Agreement on Trade in Services;
- 3 to provide indicator and regulatory information on the ITU Website and to establish appropriate mechanisms and modalities for countries which do not have electronic access to obtain this information;
- 4 to provide technical assistance to regulatory authorities for the development of national telecommunication databases containing statistical and policy and regulatory information, including support for making information available electronically and training of personnel in skills related to the process,

invites Member States and Sector Members

to participate actively in this endeavour by providing the information solicited,

encourages

donor agencies, as well as ITU non-members, to cooperate in providing relevant information on their activities.

RESOLUTION 9 (Doc. 242)

PARTICIPATION OF COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, IN FREQUENCY SPECTRUM MANAGEMENT

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Valletta, 1998),

considering

- a) that the continuing growth in demand for spectrum, from both existing and new radio-based services, places ever greater requirements on a scarce resource;
- b) that, due to the investment in equipment and infrastructures, major changes in the existing use of the spectrum are often difficult to achieve, except in the longer term;
- c) that the marketplace drives the development of new technologies to find new solutions to address development problems;
- d) that national strategies should take into account international commitments;

- e) that it is recommended that national strategies should also take into account global changes in telecommunications and developments in technology;
- f) that increased spectrum access may be facilitated through technical innovation (e.g. digitization) and greater sharing capabilities;
- g) that, based on its ongoing work, ITU-R is well placed to provide a global understanding of radiocommunication technology and spectrum utilization trends and how they relate to the needs of all countries;
- h) that ITU-D is well placed to facilitate the participation of developing countries in ITU-R activities, and, for those developing countries that so request, to distribute to them the results of particular ITU-R activities;
- i) that such information would assist spectrum managers in developing countries to develop their own national long-term strategies;
- j) that such information would enable developing countries to benefit from sharing and other technical studies in ITU-R,

recognizing

- a) that it is the sovereign right of every State to manage spectrum use within its territories;
- b) that there is a strong need for the active participation of developing countries, individually and through regional groups, in ITU-R;
- c) that this process is a voluntary one, which each administration has the right to join in, or withdraw from, at any time;
- d) that ITU-D has a Question which deals with the special concerns of developing countries in relation to the work of the Radiocommunication and Telecommunication Standardization Sectors;
- e) that Programme 2 of the Valletta Action Plan includes activities on spectrum management and the elaboration of technology-oriented guides and planning manuals;
- f) that it is important to take into consideration the ongoing work in ITU-R and ITU-D, and the need to avoid duplication of effort;
- g) that the development of new technologies has been rapid, and thus difficult to predict,

resolves to instruct the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

in close collaboration with the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau, to consider and implement an effective means to encourage and facilitate the active participation and contribution of developing countries, particularly the LDCs, in the work of ITU-R, for the production of an ITU-R report on the current and foreseen uses of the radio spectrum, based upon the ongoing work in the ITU-R study groups, including inputs from administrations, particularly developing countries, Sector Members and Programme 2 of the Valletta Action Plan. This report should be prepared in stages, where the scope of each stage will be determined by the participants, focusing on, in particular, the needs of the developing countries,

instructs the Director of BDT

to invite the Director of Radiocommunication Bureau to make the necessary arrangements for ITU-R to undertake the work necessary to prepare the report described above, so as to complete one stage of the report within the current ITU-R study period.

RESOLUTION 10 (COMA-3)

**FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR NATIONAL SPECTRUM
MANAGEMENT PROGRAMMES**

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Valletta, 1998),

considering

- a) that we are currently witnessing the accelerated implementation and globalization of different radiocommunication services, and the emergence of new efficient radio applications;
- b) that successful development of radiocommunications and implementation of these new applications call for the availability of appropriate interference-free frequency bands, at the national and international levels, in accordance with ITU Recommendations;
- c) that the provision of frequency bands and more efficient use of the spectrum, at both the national and international levels, depend on the establishment and implementation of relevant national spectrum management, including radiomonitoring, programmes;
- d) that efficient national spectrum management programmes are essential to the liberalization and privatization of radiocommunications and to promoting competition,

recognizing

- a) that government authorities do not always fully appreciate the importance of implementing spectrum management programmes in ensuring effective development of radiocommunications, and the role played by radiocommunications in developing the country's economy, with the result that such programmes are sometimes not considered to have the necessary priority;
- b) that national and international finance organizations frequently accord much more priority to supporting the implementation of telecommunication (including radiocommunication) systems than to the implementation of national spectrum management programmes,

resolves

to invite national and international finance organizations to pay more attention to giving substantial financial support, including through favourable credit arrangements, to national spectrum management, including radiomonitoring, programmes, as a prerequisite for efficient spectrum utilization, the successful development of radio services and the implementation of new and promising applications, including global ones, at both the national and the international levels,

requests BDT

to bring this Resolution to the attention of counterpart international financing and development organizations.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS IN RURAL, ISOLATED AND POORLY SERVED AREAS

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Valletta, 1998),

considering

that the World Telecommunication Development Conference (Buenos Aires, 1994), reaffirming the important and urgent need to provide access to basic telecommunication services for everyone, adopted Programmes 9 (Integrated rural development) and 12 (Development of telematics and computer networks) of the Buenos Aires Action Plan, as well as the Special Programme for the least developed countries (LDCs),

noting

that the clear correlation between the availability of telecommunication services and economic and social development has been firmly established,

recognizing

- a) that spectacular progress has been made in some developing countries through universal access to telecommunication services in rural, isolated and poorly served areas countrywide, thereby demonstrating the economic and technical feasibility of projects to provide this type of service;
- b) that, in some areas and some developing countries, there is convincing evidence of the overall profitability of telecommunication services in rural, isolated and poorly served areas,

recognizing further

- a) that there are several state-of-the-art technologies which may help to facilitate the provision of telecommunication services to rural, isolated and poorly served areas;
- b) that access to telecommunication services in rural, isolated and poorly served areas can only be achieved through judicious choice of technological options allowing access to and maintenance of good quality and economical services,

resolves

to support the following principles recommended by ITU-D Study Group 2 as a basis for providing access to telecommunication services in rural, remote and poorly served areas:

- ***Universal access***

Universal access to telecommunication services should be offered at a convenient location in each community. The type and quantity of services must fully meet the community's needs, and the scope and volume of services should increase as demand grows and new applications emerge.

- ***Rural telecommunication programme***

Rural telecommunications must be introduced through a well-structured, rigorous and ordered programme covering several years, which develops and draws on local experience and expertise.

- ***Regulatory framework***

The regulatory body must monitor the sustained provision, quality and financial viability of telecommunication services, under the terms of the obligation to provide universal service, which

requires that some attention be paid to commercial principles in the provision of telecommunication services.

- ***Financial resources***

In addition to public financial resources (with or without subsidies), the two other sources of financing are the service provider's own funds and national and international private-sector investments. In the first case, the funds are managed by the service provider for reinvestment purposes; in the second case, the provision of the rural telecommunication services has to be organized or regulated in such a way as to ensure its profitability.

- ***Commercial approach***

The operator providing rural telecommunication services must adopt a commercial approach, with the service operating on a commercial basis and with the aim of maximizing revenue and minimizing costs,

instructs the Director of BDT

- 1 to promote further the use of all appropriate means of telecommunication to facilitate effective development and implementation of telecommunication services in rural, isolated and poorly served areas of the world;
- 2 to continue efforts to promote, in particular, the optimum use of all available new space-based telecommunication technology applications by the developing countries.

RESOLUTION 12 (Doc. 200(Rev.3))

TELECOMMUNICATION FINANCING AND TRADE

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Valletta, 1998),

recalling

- a) that the purpose of the Union is to promote cooperation among its Members to ensure the harmonious development of telecommunications and to provide services at the lowest possible cost;
- b) that the functions of BDT include:
 - encouraging the development, expansion and operation of telecommunication networks and services, particularly in the developing countries;
 - providing advice, carrying out or sponsoring studies, as appropriate, on technical economic, financial, management, regulatory and general policy issues, including studies on specific projects in the field of telecommunications,

considering

- a) that the telecommunication environment is changing, in particular in its commercial aspects as a result of the World Trade Organization (WTO) basic telecommunication agreement and the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) which preceded it, and that the telecommunication industry now operates, to all intents and purposes, under a trade regime;
- b) that the basic telecommunication agreement will affect all ITU Member States and Sector Members;

c) that in the transition towards a market-oriented environment it is important that all countries should be able to benefit fully from the new opportunities that a liberalized and dynamic world telecommunication market will create, if they so wish;

d) that many developing countries currently rely upon the net settlement payments made under the accounting rate system for a share of their total telecommunication revenue and are consequently concerned that the transition to cost-orientated settlement rates might reduce these payments,

noting

a) that six colloquia on telecommunication financing and trade were held with success in every region between 1996 and 1998 for the purpose of examining with all the partners concerned the critical question of the financing of telecommunication infrastructures, and that it proved possible to reach consensus among the participants on a number of recommendations which were developed during the colloquia;

b) that the second World Telecommunication Policy Forum held in Geneva from 16 to 18 March 1998 (WTPF-98) adopted three Opinions on the following points:

Opinion A - The implications of the WTO agreement on to basic telecommunications for the ITU membership

Opinion B - The implications of the GATS with respect to basic telecommunications for developing countries and cooperative actions between ITU Member States and Sector Members to facilitate adaptation to the new telecommunication environment

Opinion C - The evolution of the international telecommunication environment, particularly the accounting and settlement system;

and in particular that Opinion B and Opinion C contain measures to be taken within the framework of development activities,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to implement the recommendations which came out of the six colloquia mentioned above, namely to:

- provide information and knowledge on WTO agreements and the GATS related to telecommunications, in order to build up national expertise;
- develop training programmes for regulatory bodies and operators on the establishment of cost-orientated tariffs and how to meet the need for the provision of universal access/service;
- assist countries in the formulation of their financial strategies and policies through missions, expert meetings, etc.;
- facilitate partnerships with and among public and private entities;
- draw up an inventory of relevant developing country lessons and experiences with private sector participation and mobilization of resources;

2 to implement the activities which the Director of BDT has been invited to undertake by Opinion B and by Opinion C of WTPF-98;

3 to incorporate these activities in the work programme of BDT (guidelines for activities to be carried out by BDT are given in Annex 1),

resolves to invite the ITU Council and the Plenipotentiary Conference (Minneapolis, 1998)

to ensure that the appropriate resources and means are available to BDT to effectively fulfil the above instructions.

APPENDIX 1 TO RESOLUTION 12

Guidelines to be taken into account by BDT for follow-up and implementation of Opinions adopted at the second World Telecommunication Policy Forum and as a result of WTDC-98 decisions

I Background

The main outputs of the second World Telecommunication Policy Forum (WTPF-98) are contained in the Opinions which it adopted. These relate primarily to: 1) the implications of the WTO Agreement for the developing countries, and 2) trends and developments in the international telecommunication environment, and in particular the accounting and settlement system.

As has already been emphasized by the Abidjan and Beirut regional development conferences in 1996 and by the six regional finance colloquia, BDT has a key role to play in implementing those Opinions and may also provide support to the Telecommunication Standardization Sector in its work (ITU-T Study Group 3) on the future of the international settlement system. BDT has a duty to help the developing countries participate in and make a constructive contribution to the work of Study Group 3, since it is they who are likely to be hardest hit by the impact of any change in the international settlement system. It is worth noting that, already in the last study period, BDT collaborated closely with the regional tariff groups (ITU-T) (organization of regional seminars on tariffs) and raised awareness in different countries by putting forward solutions to problems associated with the GATS and the new environment at the six regional colloquia on telecommunication finance, trade and tariffs.

II Activities to be considered by BDT

Three major strands of activity may be contemplated, structured in such a way as to be in step with and within the work programme to be carried out before the next meeting of ITU-T Study Group 3 to lend support to its work, its regional tariff groups, and the Focus Group referred to in Opinion C of the WTPF-98.

- 1) Compilation of a database of macroeconomic data relating to the developing countries, including also selected information on their telecommunication sectors as well as relevant data which are contained in the case studies already available.
- 2) Regional work programmes in two stages:
 - a) the first phase (April-December 1998), involving a detailed analysis of the results of the case studies conducted in close cooperation with the Focus Group and using the data contained in the database;
 - b) the second phase (1999-2003), involving measures to help developing countries adjust to the new international telecommunication environment.
- 3) In the light of the results of the work carried out under the regional work programmes mentioned above, BDT should assist the relevant regional tariff groups of ITU-T Study

Group 3 and any other relevant regional groups (provided that it does not duplicate the efforts of the regional tariff groups) in contributing to the development of proposals for solutions for transitional arrangements toward cost orientation beyond 1998 as described in Opinion C, and in identifying the conditions and procedures necessary for successful tariff rebalancing.

III Compilation of a database

Objective: To establish relatively objective bases for comparison

The data collected shall comprise essentially:

- Macroeconomic data on countries, subregions and regions.
- Detailed information provided on a voluntary basis on the telecommunication sector such as network development, investment, traffic data (national and international), financial data concerning enterprises, cost components, current average level of accounting rates and information on tariff rebalancing, calling prices, universal access, interest rate and credit rating.
- Position of the different countries with respect to the WTO agreements: accession, commitments undertaken and status of restructuring of the telecommunication sector in relation to the WTO reference paper.

The task of data collection shall be carried out in accordance with Resolution [COMA-2] (WTDC-98) and in cooperation with the countries (administrations, recognized operating agencies), regional (development or specialized telecommunication) organizations and international (development or specialized telecommunication) organizations and taking into account the existence of databases already operational within ITU.

IV Regional work programmes

Phase 1 (March - December 1998)

Within the framework of the regional tariff groups of ITU-T Study Group 3, presentation at regional or subregional level, as appropriate, of the case studies already conducted, and discussion and consideration of them with the countries concerned. The regional tariff groups comprising national experts specifically involved in tariff rebalancing and cost accounting may also initiate further case studies with a view to contributing to the necessary adjustment of the international settlement regime to the new international environment. The output of the work achieved in this field by the regional tariff groups or any similar regional groups will be communicated to the Focus Group to assist in the work of ITU-T Study Group 3.

Phase 2 (1999-2003)

The aims of the regional work programmes will be:

- to assist countries to meet the challenge of the evolving telecommunication environment, taking into account as far as is feasible the principles contained in the WTO reference paper;
- to facilitate implementation of ITU-T's recommendations and, more generally, help countries review their financial policy taking into account, among other things, the evolution of the international settlement regime.

A) Assisting developing countries to meet the challenge of the evolving telecommunication environment

- Regional workshops will be organized (two weeks) for countries that have reached the same stage in the restructuring of their telecommunication sectors and displaying a similar level of economic development, to enable them to plan the stages of the restructuring process. Follow-up by BDT regional experts will help these countries to restructure their telecommunication sectors according to the timetable and modalities they have selected (taking into account as far as feasible the principles contained in the WTO reference paper).
- Subregional information seminars (two - three days) will be held to describe the implications of the WTO agreements on basic telecommunications and models of commitments undertaken by countries.

B) Review of international settlement policies

In order to enable the developing countries to adjust to the new environment by adopting new tariff policies, BDT will organize regional group workshops for public and/or private entities on:

- financial management of enterprises;
- price and cost calculation methods;
- methods to mitigate the impact on developing countries of accounting rate reform and tariff rebalancing.

In addition, BDT will organize training on the introduction of cost accounting (for example, within the Centres of Excellence) and will help countries implement cost accounting with the support of the regional experts (BDT), to which end BDT will develop appropriate computer programs.

V Working methods

Implementation of these regional work programmes will call for a strengthening of regional expertise (in restructuring of the sector and financial and management expertise) and coordination at BDT headquarters. This coordination shall be overseen by the Director of BDT:

- ensuring linkage between the different parties involved within ITU (General Secretariat, ITU-D, ITU-T) and using all available expertise;
- facilitating the participation of Members of the Union and various regional and international organizations concerned in the regional programmes, through financing or the provision of specialized experts within the framework of joint programmes;
- ensuring that the regional experts selected are of a high standard and helping identify candidates;
- monitoring implementation of the regional programmes, ensuring consistency in the work conducted and results achieved and facilitating exchanges of experience among the regions.

VI Suggested schedule for the activities in coordination with the work of the Standardization Sector

Phase 1¹

March - June 1998:	Compilation of the database in cooperation with other Bureaux of ITU.
June 1998:²	Contribution to the discussions on the case studies at the meeting of Study Group 3 in Geneva where comprehensive and critical review of the case studies and market trends evaluation should be carried out.
Objective:	Regional tariff groups should provide contributions for the identification of trends and evaluation of possible obstacles as regards tariff rebalancing and financing policies in the countries studied.
July 1998, November 1998:	Organization of regional seminars or workshops, as appropriate. Preparation of projections for other countries of the regions concerned.
1 October 1998:	Presentation to the Focus Group of a final analysis of the case studies, where appropriate (and any additional case studies drawn up by the regional tariff groups).
Before end October 1998:	Preparation of contributions at the regional level for submission to the Focus Group.
7-11 December 1998:	ITU-T Study Group 3 meeting.

Phase 2: 1999-2003

An extended regional programme of activities on the changing international telecommunication environment, as outlined in IV above, aimed at following up on the WTPF-98 Opinions as reflected in the decisions of WTDC-98 and implementing the recommendations of ITU-T Study Group 3, and further cooperation with the WTO and other partners, on implementation of the GATS with respect to basic telecommunication services.

VII Funding

The funding requirements for this regional work programme can be split into those urgent activities to be carried out in 1998 and work for the period 1999-2003. In all cases, every effort will be made to use limited BDT funds to leverage additional financing from other development partners, such as the World Bank's InfoDev programme.

¹ This schedule might be subject to possible adjustments in accordance with the work programme to be issued by the Chairman of the Focus Group of ITU-T Study Group 3.

² It is desirable for consultants who have undertaken case studies for WTPF-98 to participate as far as possible in this meeting.

RESOLUTION 13 (COMA-1)

**RESOURCE MOBILIZATION AND PARTNERSHIP FOR ACCELERATING
TELECOMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT**

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Valletta, 1998),

considering

- a) that the development of telecommunications in many developing countries suffers from a shortage of financial resources;
- b) that traditional methods of funding have not reduced the gap between developing and developed countries,

recognizing

- a) that in some countries the telecommunication sector does not get due priority in budget allocation;
- b) that the telecommunication sector offers a high rate of return on investment and these returns are obtained more rapidly than in other sectors, yet financing from financial institutions in the telecommunication sector is relatively low;
- c) that practical and quick approaches are required for mobilizing funds for the telecommunication sector;
- d) that partnership should be mutually beneficial to narrow the gap,

resolves

- 1 that investment be encouraged and innovative partnership schemes such as BOT, BTO, BLT, etc. and joint ventures should be explored for financing telecommunication development;
- 2 that administrations should continue to take the necessary steps for making the telecommunication sector more attractive for investment;
- 3 that there should be continued dialogue among telecommunication operators and funding agencies for preparing commercially attractive projects;
- 4 that efforts should be made to reduce delays in the funding and implementation of project cycles,

invites ITU-D

- 1 to be the intermediary, facilitating development partnerships among all parties. ITU-D's involvement in specific projects amounts to a guarantee and ensures project continuity, which attracts investors;
- 2 to reflect the role of intermediary in its work, for example by:
 - encouraging regional telecommunication projects;
 - participating in the organization of training seminars;
 - signing agreements with other international organizations involved in development;
- 3 to promote transnational partnerships of knowledge-based enterprise incubators, in the telecommunication sector, involving developing countries;

- 4 to promote transnational partnerships of emerging companies, in the telecommunication sector, involving developing countries;
- 5 to promote education and training, in developing countries, over the complete industrial cycle, from the design of products and services to the establishment and operation of the corresponding companies;
- 6 to promote, in the developing countries, the conditions required for a successful knowledge-based enterprise incubator process;
- 7 to continue to assist developing countries to respond to global telecommunication restructuring, especially regarding financial issues.

RESOLUTION 14 (COMB-1)

TELECOM AFRICA

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Valletta, 1998),

considering

- a) the critical importance of telecommunication infrastructure and industrial capacity for modern development;
- b) the great strides that have been made in the globalization and liberalization of the telecommunication industry in the last few years;
- c) that globalization cannot fulfil its promise without reasonable capacity for global competitiveness on the part of all players;
- d) the absence of industrial capacity in telecommunications in Africa, for instance in manufacturing and software development, and Africa's great need to acquire such capacity, as a matter of priority, for its sustainable development;
- e) that such local capacity is crucial if Africa is to develop global competitiveness in telecommunications in the foreseeable future,

considering further

- a) that the first World Telecommunication Development Conference (Buenos Aires, 1994), in its Plan of Action, called for special efforts to be made to facilitate the development of manufacturing capacity in developing countries through international industrial cooperation for the benefit of such developing countries;
- b) that several United Nations initiatives, such as the Second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade for Africa and the United Nations Special Initiative for Africa, have called for special efforts to build an industrial base for Africa's telecommunication infrastructure needs;
- c) that the African Regional Telecommunication Development Conference (Abidjan, 1996) (AF-RTDC-96) specifically called for a concerted effort to develop industrial telecommunication capacity in Africa, and this is spelt out in detail in the African Green Paper adopted at that Conference;

d) that the African Telecommunications Applications, Manufacturing, Research and Development Project (Telecom Africa) was formally presented and discussed at AF-RTDC-96 as a comprehensive initiative to bring about the desired industrialization in Africa,

noting

- a) that many African governments and scientific, subregional and regional organizations, including the Organization of Africa Unity (OAU) and the Southern African Transport and Communications Commission (SATCC) of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), have endorsed the Telecom Africa project as being of critical significance to Africa's hopes of telecommunication industrialization;
- b) specifically, the endorsement of the Telecom Africa project by the SATCC Council of Ministers at its meeting of 3 July 1997 held in Mauritius and subsequently reaffirmed at its meeting in Maputo, Mozambique, in January 1998;
- c) SATCC's directive that the SADC region should facilitate further development of the Telecom Africa project through the provision of access to information required for feasibility and viability studies and through business-to-business contacts,

mindful

- a) of the progress made to date on the Telecom Africa project;
- b) of the dialogue that has taken place between BDT and Telecom Africa subsequent to AF-RTDC-96;
- c) of the commitment of ITU, especially BDT, to actively promote and support serious efforts for telecommunication industrialization in Africa as embodied in the Telecom Africa project;
- d) of the vast resources of ITU/BDT in expertise, information, partnerships and lessons learned;
- e) of the importance of a sound feasibility and viability study to the success of major initiatives such as Telecom Africa;
- f) of the positive impact that Telecom Africa could have on Africa's telecommunication capacity and on Africa's industrialization in general,

resolves

- a) that ITU/BDT should provide material and other support for development of the Telecom Africa master plan;
- b) that ITU should encourage telecommunication and other related industrial and scientific organizations to support the Telecom Africa project, through the promotion of global partnerships.

RESOLUTION 15 (COMB-3)

APPLIED RESEARCH AND TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Valletta, 1998),

recognizing

- a) that many countries would benefit from technology transfers in a wide range of fields, from basic telecommunication technology to new technology, such as the maintenance and operation of telecommunication networks, network management, ISDN satellite technology and optical fibre technology;
- b) that, in order to be effective, technology transfer must first be carefully assessed for its suitability with the existing telecommunication infrastructure;
- c) that joint ventures can be an effective means of technology transfer;
- d) that the transfer of management know-how and tools is an essential part of the transfer of technology;
- e) that seminars and training conducted by various countries as well as by international and regional organizations have contributed to the transfer of technology, and hence to the development of telecommunication networks in the region;
- f) that purchasing new equipment offers opportunities to include the transfer of the manufacturer's know-how in equipment procurement contracts;
- g) that the providers of telecommunication equipment and services are important partners in ensuring the flow of technology to developing countries and countries in transition to a market economy and that they are ready to enter freely into such arrangements,

resolves

- 1 that developed countries should consider transferring to developing countries and countries in transition to a market economy, on a voluntary and/or a sound commercial basis, the necessary technology in the field of telecommunications, not only conventional technology but also new technologies and services;
- 2 that developing countries and countries in transition to a market economy should cooperate with other developing countries by exchanging experts, organizing seminars and meetings, networking of telecommunication research institutions by means of e-mail, teleconferencing and computer conferencing facilities, etc.;
- 3 that recipient countries should systematically and fully utilize technology transfers in their countries,

requests BDT

in cooperation with other international, regional and subregional organizations concerned

- 1 to continue to hold seminars, workshops or training in the field of telecommunications to raise the technological level in developing countries and countries in transition to a market economy;
- 2 to promote the exchange of information among international organizations, donor countries and recipient countries on the transfer of technology, *inter alia*, by assisting them to set up

cooperative networks between telecommunication research institutes in developing countries and countries in transition to a market economy, and developed countries;

3 to coordinate the submission of regional and subregional project proposals in this field and the mobilization of resources for these projects;

4 to continue to develop handbooks in the area of transfer of technology;

5 to ensure that these handbooks are disseminated to developing countries and countries in transition to a market economy and that users are properly initiated in their use,

invites

providers of telecommunication equipment and services to make the relevant new technologies and know-how available to their customers in developing countries and countries in transition to a market economy on a voluntary basis and/or in accordance with sound commercial principles,

appeals to international organizations and donor countries

to assist the developing countries and countries in transition to a market economy in exploring ways and means of improving transfer of technology, including technical and financial assistance.

RESOLUTION 16 (WGLDCS-1)

SPECIAL ACTIONS FOR THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Valletta, 1998),

recalling

Resolution 1 of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (Buenos Aires, 1994) and Resolution 30 of the Plenipotentiary Conference (Kyoto, 1994), Resolutions 2 and 5 of the African Telecommunication Development Conference (Abidjan, 1996) and Telecommunication Development Conference for the Arab States (Beirut, 1996), respectively, and the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) statement on universal access and the right to communicate,

concerned

a) that, for a variety of reasons, the telecommunication networks in a number of least developed countries (LDCs) remain in a very poor state of development in both urban and rural areas;

b) that multilateral and bilateral flows of technical assistance and investment finance to LDCs are constantly declining,

cognizant

of the fact that improved telecommunication networks in these countries will be the major force behind their socio-economic recovery and development,

resolves

to endorse the new priority areas for the next four years and the associated programme of action for LDCs,

instructs the Director of BDT

- 1 to implement fully a programme of assistance for the LDCs as contained in the Valletta Action Plan, funding coming initially from the commitment, as in Buenos Aires, to dedicate at least 70 per cent of BDT funds to these priorities for LDCs;
- 2 to give priority to LDCs in implementing other BDT programmes of assistance to developing countries;
- 3 to pay special attention to suburban and rural telecommunication development with a view to achieving universal access to telecommunication services;
- 4 to strengthen the unit for LDCs, within existing resources, by grouping together the officials responsible for implementing actions in the priority areas selected in order to enhance coordination of assistance to LDCs,

instructs the Secretary-General

- 1 to request the Plenipotentiary Conference (Minneapolis, 1998) to allocate a specific budget for LDCs with a view to enabling BDT to undertake increased and programmed activities for the LDCs;
- 2 to continue enhancing the assistance provided to LDCs through other resources, and in particular through untied voluntary contributions as well as any surplus income from world and regional telecommunication exhibitions and forums;
- 3 to seek and propose new and innovative measures capable of generating additional funds to be used for telecommunication development in the LDCs,

calls upon governments of the LDCs

- 1 to accord higher priority to telecommunication development and to adopt measures and policies that are conducive to bringing about faster development of telecommunications in their countries;
- 2 in selecting technical cooperation activities financed by UNDP, to accord high priority to telecommunication activities/projects,

calls upon other Member States and Sector Members

to establish partnerships with LDCs, either directly or with the assistance of BDT, in order to bring increased investment into the telecommunication sector and to stimulate the modernization and expansion of networks in those countries.

RESOLUTION 17 (COMB-7)

**IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL, REGIONAL, INTER-REGIONAL
AND GLOBAL PROJECTS**

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Valletta, 1998),

considering

- a) that telecommunications is one of the most vital elements for the growth of national economies;

- b) that the existence, at the national, regional, inter-regional and global levels, of coherent telecommunication networks and services for the development of national economies is a very important element in the improvement of the social, economic and financial situation of Member States;
- c) the need to coordinate and harmonize efforts to develop telecommunication infrastructure at the national, regional, inter-regional and global levels;
- d) the vital importance of telecommunication development projects, at all levels, endorsed by all regional development conferences, as well as the preparatory meetings preceding this Conference;
- e) that there is a lack of funding from UNDP and other international financial institutions, impeding the implementation of such projects;
- f) the satisfactory and encouraging results achieved by the MODARABTEL and EUROTELDEV projects, which helped in the creation of cooperation and telecommunication networks,

resolves

- 1 that ITU/BDT should identify possible ways and means of implementing national, regional, inter-regional and global projects making the utmost use of available BDT resources;
- 2 that ITU/BDT should actively assist the countries in the establishment of national projects in both the preparatory as well as the implementation phases;
- 3 that Member States should consider contributing in kind and/or in cash to the budget foreseen for national, regional, inter-regional and global projects and to the implementation of other foreseen activities within the framework of those projects;
- 4 that ITU/BDT should explore possible partnerships with Member States, Development Sector Members, financial institutions and other international organizations in order to sponsor project activities;
- 5 that efforts should be undertaken by ITU/BDT to reactivate the MODARABTEL and EUROTELDEV projects (to include countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States) as well as PANAFTL and industrialization projects;
- 6 the ITU/BDT to assist in the implementation of new projects such as telemedicine, training and research centres, telecentres, rural development projects, restructuring, frequency management projects, the Global Telecommunication University/Global Telecommunication Training Institute (GTU/GTTI) and centres of excellence, as well as national telecommunication development projects on different subjects. Efforts should also be made to the extent possible to integrate projects with similar content/objectives,

appeals

to UNDP, international financial organizations/agencies, equipment suppliers and operators/service providers to investigate the possibility of fully or partially financing national regional, inter-regional and global projects.

SPECIAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Valletta, 1998),

recalling

- a) the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;
- b) Resolution 32 of the Plenipotentiary Conference (Kyoto, 1994) on Technical Assistance to the Palestinian Authority for the Development of Telecommunications;
- c) Resolution 6 of the Plenipotentiary Conference (Kyoto, 1994) and Resolution 741 of the ITU Council on the participation of Palestine in the work of ITU,

considering

- a) that the Constitution and Convention of the International Telecommunication Union are designed to strengthen peace and security in the world for the development of international cooperation and better understanding among the peoples concerned;
- b) the ITU's policy of assistance to the Palestinian Authority for the development of its telecommunication sector,

considering further

- a) that establishment of a reliable and modern telecommunication network is an essential part of economic and social development and is of the utmost importance to the future of the Palestinian people;
- b) the importance of the international community in assisting the Palestinians to develop a modern and reliable telecommunication network,

mindful

of the fundamental principles contained in the Preamble of the ITU Constitution,

noting

the report of the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau on the Regional Telecommunication Development Conference for the Arab States (AR-RTDC-96),

noting further

- a) the BDT's long-term technical assistance to the Palestinian Authority for the development of its telecommunications pursuant to Resolution 32 of the Plenipotentiary Conference (Kyoto, 1994) and the urgent need for assistance to be provided in the various fields of information, informatics and communication;
- b) the decision and understanding reached at the World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-97) on the basis for the assignment to Palestine in the Plan for the broadcasting-satellite service (BSS),

instructs the Director of BDT

- 1 to continue and enhance the technical assistance provided to the Palestinian Authority for the development of its telecommunications;

2 to assist the Palestinian Authority in the mobilization of resources for the implementation of BDT projects for the development of telecommunications;

3 to provide a periodic report on various experiences in liberalization and privatization of telecommunications and to assess their impact on the development of the sector in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank,

calls upon ITU Members

to cooperate with the Director of BDT in assisting the Palestinian Authority, financially and technically, for the implementation of BDT projects for improvement and development of the Palestinian telecommunication network, as well as training of the Palestinian staff,

resolves

in order to expedite the development of the telecommunication sector for the Palestinian Authority, to encourage both Parties to reach an agreement on:

- international code;
- frequency assignments;
- call signs,

prior to the 1998 Plenipotentiary Conference,

instructs the Secretary-General

to report to the next Plenipotentiary Conference on the progress achieved on these issues.

RESOLUTION 19 (COMB-8)

**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) (WTDC-94), adopted Resolution 7 on telecommunications for disaster mitigation and disaster relief operations, thereby reactivating a process initiated by the Conference on Disaster Communications, (Tampere, 1991);
- b) that the Plenipotentiary Conference (Kyoto, 1994), endorsed that 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 WTDC-94 Resolution 7;
- 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 hold 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 telecommunication development, including, in close coordination and collaboration with the ITU Radiocommunication Sector, by facilitating and encouraging 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,

instructs 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, emergency communications, and to report on the outcome of ICET-98 to the 1998 Plenipotentiary Conference so that the Plenipotentiary Conference or the ITU Council may take any action that it deems necessary,

invites

the United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator and the Working Group on Emergency Telecommunications to collaborate closely with ITU in work towards implementing this Resolution, adopting the Convention on the Provision of Telecommunication Resources for Disaster Mitigation and Relief Operations, and supporting administrations and international and regional telecommunication organizations in the implementation of the Convention,

urges administrations

to continue their examination of the draft Convention, with a view to considering giving their full support to the adoption of the said Convention,

encourages administrations

to participate in the forthcoming Intergovernmental Conference on Emergency Telecommunications (ICET-98) hosted by the Government of Finland in Tampere from 16 to 18 June 1998.

RESOLUTION 20 (COMB-5)

**NON-DISCRIMINATORY ACCESS TO MODERN TELECOMMUNICATION
FACILITIES AND SERVICES**

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Valletta, 1998),

taking into account

the importance of telecommunications for political, economic, social and cultural progress,

taking into account also

- a) that the International Telecommunication Union plays an important role in the promotion of global telecommunication standardization and development;
- b) that, to this end, the Union coordinates efforts aimed at securing harmonious development of telecommunication facilities in all its Member States,

taking into account further

that the Conference is required to formulate a viewpoint and draw up proposals on issues determining a worldwide telecommunication development strategy, and facilitate mobilization of the necessary resources to that end,

noting

- a) that modern telecommunication facilities and services are established, in the main, on the basis of ITU-R and ITU-T Recommendations;
- b) that ITU-R and ITU-T Recommendations are the result of the collective efforts of all those taking part in the standardization process within ITU and are adopted by consensus by the Members of the Union;
- c) that limitations on the access to telecommunication facilities and services on which national telecommunication development depends and which are established on the basis of ITU-R and ITU-T Recommendations constitute an obstacle to the harmonious development and compatibility of telecommunications worldwide,

recognizing

that full harmonization of telecommunication networks is impossible unless all countries participating in the work of the Union without exception enjoy non-discriminatory access to new telecommunication technologies and modern telecommunication facilities and services, without prejudice to national regulations and international commitments within the competence of other international organizations,

resolves

that there should be non-discriminatory access to telecommunication technologies, facilities and services established on the basis of ITU-R and ITU-T Recommendations,

instructs the Secretary-General

to transmit this Resolution to the Plenipotentiary Conference (Minneapolis, 1998) for consideration,

invites the Plenipotentiary Conference

to consider this Resolution with a view to taking measures to foster global access to modern telecommunication technologies, facilities and services,

invites administrations

pending the Plenipotentiary Conference's decision, to help telecommunication equipment manufacturers and service providers in ensuring that telecommunication technologies, facilities and services established on the basis of ITU-R and ITU-T Recommendations are made available to the use of the public without any discrimination, subject to the laws of individual Members States.

RESOLUTION 21 (PLEN-1)

COORDINATION AND COLLABORATION WITH REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Valletta, 1998),

considering

- a) Resolutions 64 and 65 (Kyoto, 1994);
- b) Resolution 1114 of the 1997 Council;
- c) the experience gained from the first study period 1994-1998;
- d) Resolution 6 of WTDC (Buenos Aires, 1994),

recognizing

- a) that developing countries are at different stages of development;
- b) the need, therefore, to exchange opinions on telecommunication development at a regional level;
- c) the difficulty for some countries in some regions to participate in ITU-D study group activities;
- d) that regional rapporteur groups might permit wider participation by some countries, at lower cost, to address certain questions;
- e) that many of these countries effectively use regional organizations,

resolves

- 1 that ITU-D should actively coordinate, collaborate and organize joint activities in areas of common interest with regional and subregional organizations and training institutions and take into consideration their activities, as well as providing them with direct technical assistance;
- 2 that procedures be developed for liaison between regional rapporteur groups and the study groups.

**ALTERNATIVE CALLING PROCEDURES ON INTERNATIONAL
TELECOMMUNICATION NETWORKS AND APPORTIONMENT
OF REVENUES IN PROVIDING INTERNATIONAL
TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICES**

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Valletta, 1998),

considering

- a) the sovereign right of each State to regulate its telecommunications;
- b) the purposes of the Union, which include, *inter alia*:
 - to maintain and extend international cooperation among all Members of the Union for the improvement and rational use of telecommunications of all kinds;
 - to promote the development of technical facilities and their most efficient operation with a view to improving the efficiency of telecommunication services, increasing their usefulness, and making them, so far as possible, generally available to the public;
 - to foster collaboration among its Members with a view to the establishment of rates at levels as low as possible consistent with efficient services and taking into account the necessity for maintaining independent financial administration of telecommunication on a sound basis,

recognizing

- a) that alternative calling procedures are not permitted in many countries while being permitted in others;
- b) that the use of alternative calling procedures adversely affects the economies of developing countries and may seriously hamper the efforts of these countries for the sound development of their telecommunication networks and services;
- c) that some forms of alternative calling procedures may have an impact on traffic management and network planning, and degrade the quality and performance of the public switched telephone network,

recalling

- a) Resolution 21 of the Plenipotentiary Conference (Kyoto, 1994) concerning alternative calling procedures on telecommunication networks, which:
 - urged Members to cooperate among themselves to resolve difficulties to ensure that national laws and regulations of ITU Members are respected;
 - instructed ITU-T to accelerate its studies with a view to developing appropriate solutions and recommendations;
- b) Resolution 1099 of the Council 1996 concerning alternative calling procedures on international telecommunication networks, which urged ITU-T to develop, as soon as possible, the appropriate recommendations concerning alternative calling procedures;
- c) Resolution 29 of the World Telecommunication Standardization Conference (Geneva, 1996) which:
 - noted that in order to minimize the effect of alternative calling procedures:

- recognized operating agencies (ROAs) should, within their national law, make their best efforts to establish the level of collection charges on a cost-orientated basis, taking into account Article 6.1.1 of the International Telecommunication Regulations and ITU-T Recommendation D.5;
- administrations and ROAs should vigorously pursue the implementation of Recommendation D.140 and the principle of cost-orientated accounting rates and accounting rate shares;
- resolved that:
 - administrations and ROAs should take all reasonable measures, within the constraints of their national law, to suspend alternative calling procedures which seriously degrade the quality and performance of the public switched telephone network (PSTN);
 - administrations and ROAs should take a cooperative and reasonable approach to respecting the national sovereignty of others;
 - further studies should be carried out,

further recalling

- a) Resolution 22 of the Plenipotentiary Conference (Kyoto, 1994) on the apportionment of revenues in providing international telecommunication services which:
 - instructed ITU-T to accelerate studies relating to accounting rate reform, taking account of the cost of providing service;
 - invited administrations to consider taking appropriate action in light of the findings of ITU-T studies;
 - instructed the Director of BDT, in cooperation with the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau (TSB), to assist administrations if so requested;
- b) Opinion C of the World Telecommunication Policy Forum (Geneva, 1998) which:
 - recognized that each country's level of telecommunication development and cost structure is different;
 - noted that the nine case studies carried out for the Forum showed a range of indicative costs for terminating international calls, and revealed that further analysis and verification is needed;
 - was aware that a cost-orientated accounting rate system may be asymmetric, with higher costs for terminating calls in some countries than others;
 - invited all ITU Member States and Sector Members to work on a bilateral basis, or on a multilateral basis through ITU, to achieve cost-orientated accounting rates in accordance with ITU-T Recommendation D.140, and to facilitate the achievement of this objective within a multilaterally-agreed framework, taking account of the specific needs of the developing countries and in particular the least developed countries,

noting

the decisions of this Conference with respect to the programme on finance and economics, Questions to be studied by ITU-D study groups and actions to be taken by the Director of BDT to support the activities of ITU-T Study Group 3 and assist developing countries with accounting rate reform,

resolves

- 1 to encourage all administrations and international telecommunication operators to enhance the effectiveness of ITU's role and to give effect to its Recommendations, particularly those of ITU-T Study Group 3, in order to promote a new and more effective basis for the accounting regime which would help limit the negative effects of alternative calling procedures on developing countries;
- 2 to request ITU-D and ITU-T to collaborate so as to avoid overlap and duplication of effort in studying the issue of refile in order to achieve an outcome based on the spirit of Resolution 21 of the Plenipotentiary Conference (Kyoto, 1994);
- 3 to request ITU-D to play an effective role in connection with the implementation of Resolution 22 of the Plenipotentiary Conference (Kyoto, 1994) with respect to the apportionment of revenues in favour of developing countries, particularly the least developed among them, in situations where cost-orientated accounting rates reflect asymmetric costs for terminating international traffic;
- 4 to request administrations and international operators which permit the use of alternative calling procedures in their countries in accordance with their national regulations to respect the decisions of other administrations and international operators whose regulations do not permit such services,

instructs the Director of BDT

to invite the Director of TSB to collaborate in the implementation of this Resolution.

RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDATION 1 (PLEN-A)

ROLE OF WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCES

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Valletta, 1998),

considering

- a) the role of the Development Sector as defined in Article 21 of the Constitution and Articles 16,17 and 18 of the Convention (Geneva, 1992);
- b) that, in particular, No. 137 of the Constitution states that telecommunication development conferences shall be a forum for the discussion and consideration of topics, projects and programmes relevant to telecommunication development, and No. 211 of the Convention states that they shall serve as a forum for the study of policy, organizational, operational, regulatory, technical and financial questions and related aspects;
- c) Resolution 2 of the Plenipotentiary Conference (Kyoto, 1994) on the establishment of a forum to discuss strategies and policies in the changing telecommunication environment;
- d) that, in particular, *resolves* 1 of Resolution 2 (Kyoto, 1994) states that a world telecommunication policy forum (WTPF) shall be established to discuss and exchange views and information on telecommunication policy and regulatory matters,

recognizing

- a) that the objective of the WTPF, as laid down in *resolves* 1 of Resolution 2 (Kyoto, 1994), is very similar to the text of No. 137 of the Constitution and No. 211 of the Convention;
- b) that the 1998 Plenipotentiary Conference will consider whether to formalize the Forum in the Constitution and Convention, bearing in mind experience gained during the plenipotentiary period 1995-1998,

conscious

- a) that there is some scope for combining the WTPF with the world telecommunication development conference (WTDC), particularly if the topic for the Forum is an issue of particular relevance to developing countries, or is a topic under study in the ITU-D study groups;
- b) that other topics related to the development, expansion and operation of telecommunication networks and services worldwide might be more appropriate to the conferences of the other two sectors,

recommends to the 1998 Plenipotentiary Conference

when considering whether to formalize the WTPF in the Constitution and Convention, to examine the role of the WTPF and the WTDC with a view to clarifying the relationship between them.

RECOMMENDATION 2 (TDAB-2)

**FUTURE MEMBERSHIP AND FUNCTIONS OF THE
TELECOMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD**

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Valletta, 1998),

considering

- a) Article 18 of the Convention (Geneva, 1992) concerning the Telecommunication Development Advisory Board (TDAB);
- b) the work carried out by TDAB and the report of its Chairman;
- c) the desirability of broad-based participation of administrations, duly authorized entities and organizations in the TDAB's activities;
- d) Resolution 9 of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-94);
- e) recommendation 24 of the ITU-2000 Group;
- f) recommendation 4 of the ITU-D Reflection Group,

having noted

the increased responsibilities entrusted to the Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group by the World Telecommunication Standardization Conference and to the Radiocommunication Advisory Group by the Radiocommunication Assembly,

recognizing

- a) that the role of TDAB is similar to that of the advisory groups of the other two Sectors;
- b) that the advisory groups of the other two Sectors have benefited from having open membership;
- c) that, following the Plenipotentiary Conference (Kyoto, 1994), TDAB has benefited from the participation of representatives of bilateral cooperation and development aid agencies and also multilateral development institutions;
- d) that the Director of BDT should continue to be able to invite representatives of such organizations as well as facilitating the effective participation by developing countries,

recommends to the 1998 Plenipotentiary Conference

that it amend No. 227 of the Convention (Geneva, 1992) in order to convert TDAB into an open advisory group, taking into account Resolution 5 of this Conference.

RECOMMENDATION 3 (Doc. 107(Rev.1))

**APPLICATION OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION
TECHNOLOGIES FOR DEVELOPMENT**

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Valletta, 1998),

considering

- a) that, in conformity with *considering also* c) of Resolution 24 of the Plenipotentiary Conference (Kyoto, 1994), the availability of modern telecommunications is vital to the economic, social and cultural progress of all countries;
- b) that information and communication technologies for development are being increasingly recognized as an essential element of economic growth and that telecommunications is the principal medium for access to a wide range of services based upon such technologies;
- c) that the provisions of Resolution 31 of the Plenipotentiary Conference (Kyoto, 1994) highlighted the important participatory, and not merely infrastructural, role played by telecommunications in the development of agriculture, health, education, transport, industry, human settlement, trade, transfer of information for social welfare and in the general economic and social progress of developing countries;
- d) that it will become increasingly necessary to establish partnership arrangements involving planners and decision-makers from these sectors in the formulation and implementation of telecommunication-based solutions to development-related problems,

recognizing

that, given the limited availability of human and financial resources, it will become increasingly critical for ITU-D in particular to focus its energies on activities which maximize opportunities for interaction and cooperation with other international and regional organizations including non-governmental organizations, as well as with the private sector,

recommends

- 1 that the most important activities include: the identification of options for sector reform, development of a compendium of lessons learned and best practices, establishing a framework for the development of the organizational and human resources capacities of the developing countries, and the implementation of community telecentre pilot projects demonstrating how access to information can assist in the development of other sectors such as those outlined in *considering c)* above;
- 2 that these activities, formulated within the context of the development of partnership arrangements, form an important basis for work associated with the implementation of the Valletta Action Plan.

RECOMMENDATION 4 (COMA-F)

LIBERALIZATION AND COMPETITIVE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Valletta, 1998),

considering

- a) that the telecommunication sector is characterized by rapid globalization and market-oriented developments;
- b) that these developments have opened up the possibility of offering a wide range of services to customers for meeting their demands;
- c) that appropriate policies have to be developed for promoting reform with a view to enhancing market competition, facilitating network interconnection, technological development, network applications and cost reduction in the interest of the customers and the public,

recognizing

- a) that many developing countries have not yet started preparing themselves for increased competition in the telecommunication environment;
- b) that several policy initiatives are needed to facilitate market competition;
- c) that the policy initiatives must lead to major participation of the private sector in the development of telecommunications,

recommends

- 1 that appropriate actions should be identified and implemented for achieving market reform in a phased manner at national, intraregional and interregional levels;
- 2 that all countries should be urged to create and nurture a competitive business environment for promoting the growth and utilization of telecommunication facilities in their countries;
- 3 that frequent consultations should be encouraged among the various players involved at national, regional and global levels.

RECOMMENDATION 5 (COMA-G)

**ROLE OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS IN ECONOMIC, SOCIAL
AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES**

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Valletta, 1998),

considering

- a) that telecommunications is a basic tool for the economic, social and cultural development of countries;
- b) that the cultural development of a country needs to recognize both majority and minority cultures within the population;
- c) that access to and participation in telecommunication systems by indigenous peoples has a particular set of issues associated with it,

noting

- a) that access to modern telecommunication facilities for all peoples is a basic ingredient of a successful economy;
- b) that, in order for indigenous peoples to benefit from telecommunications there is a need for:
 - education and information to ensure that the benefits of telecommunications are recognized by indigenous peoples
 - identification of any barriers to access to telecommunication systems and overcoming these barriers;
- c) that the overall success of any telecommunication development programme will be dependent on, amongst other things, identification and addressing the needs of any indigenous peoples served by the programme,

recommends

that, in its work programmes and activities, BDT pay particular attention to the role of telecommunications in meeting the needs for economic, social and cultural development of indigenous peoples.

RECOMMENDATION 6 (COMB-A2)

INFORMATION INFRASTRUCTURE

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Valletta, 1998),

considering

- a) Resolution 31 of the Plenipotentiary Conference (Kyoto, 1994), "Telecommunication Infrastructure and Socio-Economic and Cultural Development", and particularly the paragraph to the effect that "the recent spectacular progress, and particularly the convergence of telecommunication and computer technologies and services, has transformed telecommunications into an agent of change for the information age";
- b) the growing number of informatic initiatives and projects taking place in the developing countries,

recognizing

the growing strategic importance of information infrastructures and their potential for improving quality of life for every citizen of the developing countries, promoting economic integration in the developing countries and improving trade and other linkages with the global community,

urges administrations

to note the critical importance of telecommunication networks for the exchange of multimedia information and to facilitate and promote the development of electronic communications and networks such as the Internet, by adopting the appropriate regulatory, tariff and service provision policies, and by making available appropriate infrastructure,

requests ITU/BDT

- 1 in collaboration with other development partners, to make the governments of the developing countries aware of the importance of information infrastructures, and to assist in the establishment of national information infrastructure policies in the developing countries;
- 2 to establish an appropriate mechanism for coordination among the administrations and the various partners involved (UNESCO, etc.) which will draw up an inventory of service requirements and associated constraints and formulate an action plan for the development of information technology in the developing countries;
- 3 in collaboration with the parties concerned, to take the necessary steps in order to produce a thought-provoking document offering the developing countries possible approaches for the development of their information infrastructure;
- 4 to establish an environment that encourages the private sector to invest in the development of the information infrastructure;
- 5 to assist in constructing the global information highway which includes, as an essential element, service to remote and rural areas;
- 6 to build an information infrastructure that will connect all ITU Member States;
- 7 to establish partnership arrangements with public and private organizations and institutions;
- 8 to address issues associated with electronic commerce.

RECOMMENDATION 7 (COMB-A1)

**ROLE OF TELECOMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGIES IN THE PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT**

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Valletta, 1998),

recalling

- a) Resolution 8 of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (Buenos Aires, 1994) (WTDC-94), on telecommunication support for the protection of the environment;
- b) Resolution 35 of the Plenipotentiary (Kyoto, 1994) 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),

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/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;
- 6 that the basic telecommunication needs of small communities be satisfied in order to help them establish industries, thereby minimizing migration to urban areas which causes urban congestion;
- 7 that telecommunication networks and services be utilized in situations where reductions in energy consumption could be achieved, such as substituting telecommunications for travel, teleconferencing and reduction of paperwork, thereby ultimately saving environmental resources,

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 provide ITU-D Study Group 2, under Question [7/2], with updated information relating to the activities carried out by BDT in this field.

RECOMMENDATION 8 (Doc. 224(Rev.1))

**TIMELY IMPLEMENTATION OF GLOBAL MOBILE PERSONAL
COMMUNICATIONS BY SATELLITE (GMPCS)**

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Valletta, 1998),

having observed

the high level of interest among Member States, competent authorities, Sector Members and end users manifested in the work of the first World Telecommunication Policy Forum in October 1996 (WTPF-96), and the subsequent Report of the Secretary-General, including the principles and guidelines contained in the five Opinions, as well as the set of definitions contained therein,

having considered

that the Group of Experts set up under WTPF-96 Opinion 5 "Implementation of GMPCS in developing countries" prepared a checklist of factors for developing countries to take into account when introducing GMPCS, held five regional seminars to provide advice and assistance to developing countries, studied the policy, regulatory, technical, and socio-economic impacts of GMPCS services in developing countries, and prepared a report on its studies for this Conference,

having considered further

the work of the GMPCS-MoU Group, especially on the GMPCS arrangements as well as the procedures for implementation, including an agreement on a GMPCS-MoU registry mark, which will be the following text: "GMPCS-MoU ITU Registry",

recognizing

that WTPF-96 considered in its Opinion 4 that some GMPCS systems were already in operation and others were planned to be in operation soon, and that urgent action is therefore required to facilitate the transborder circulation of terminals,

recognizing further

that the specific provisions of the Arrangements on Type Approval and Marking of Terminals, Licensing, Access to Traffic Data, and Recommendations on Customs Matters represent a broad international consensus on how to address these issues,

noting

the need for global implementation of these Arrangements so that the benefits of GMPCS services can be extended to all countries in a timely fashion,

recommends

that administrations sign the GMPCS-MoU and adopt licensing procedures or national regulations, where necessary, to introduce GMPCS services as early as possible, in accordance with the principles and guidelines of the five Opinions adopted by WTPF-96, and implement the GMPCS Arrangements,

instructs the Director of BDT

to continue, as necessary, coordinating activities with regional organizations, as well as the two other Sectors and the General Secretariat, in order to foster awareness regarding the implementation of GMPCS.

RECOMMENDATION 9 (COMB-B)

TELEMEDICINE

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Valletta, 1998),

recalling

- a) that the World Telecommunication Development Conference (Buenos Aires, March 1994) recommended that ITU study the potential of telemedicine to meet some of the needs of developing countries, and as a result adopted Question 6/2 on health care in developing countries;
- 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 of the African Regional Telecommunication Development Conference (Abidjan, 1996) calls upon African countries to support any initiatives which will help them gain practical experience in telemedicine and telehealth and that African telecommunication organizations should discuss the utility, logistics and feasibility of telemedicine delivery, especially in remote and rural areas of their country;
- d) that Recommendation 5 of the Regional Telecommunication Development Conference for the Arab States (Beirut, 1996) invites all Arab countries to promote collaboration between health care officials and telecommunication operators in order to identify solutions to meet health care needs, especially in remote and rural areas and for those on the move and 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 services in developing countries,

recognizing

- a) that, in order to deploy telemedicine applications, it is necessary to bring together multidisciplinary expertise from both the telecommunication and health service 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 the ITU/BDT should take further steps to raise the awareness of decision-makers about telemedicine and how it might be able to help solve some health needs, are one useful method of raising awareness and bringing together representatives from the telecommunication and health sectors being workshops or symposia;

2 that ministries of communications should cooperate with ministries of health and telecommunication operators should collaborate with health service institutions, through one or more pilot projects, with a view to gaining some experience of how telemedicine applications may help meet their health needs, and that they continue to cooperate in considering the need for a telemedicine policy and strategy;

3 that developing countries should seek the advice of the international agencies such as ITU and the World Health Organization if they are interested in the participation in telemedicine projects of foreign partners;

4 that, ITU/BDT, should identify and involve possible partners for sponsoring and analysing the results of pilot projects, the financing mechanisms and technologies used, the services provided and the lessons learned;

5 that ITU/BDT should identify solutions to the sustainability of the application of telecommunication to health services, especially in remote and rural areas of developing countries, in order to demonstrate how telecommunications could optimize the use of limited health services in developing countries,

invites

the international financial institutions and donor agencies to assist in developing telemedicine applications, projects and programmes in developing countries.

RECOMMENDATION 10 (Doc. 241)

**THE IMPORTANCE OF PARTNERSHIPS IN SUPPORT OF
HUMAN RESOURCES INITIATIVES**

THE EXAMPLE OF THE TEMIC DECLARATION

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Valletta, 1998),

considering

a) the importance that this Conference has attached to human resources development/human resources management (HRD/HRM);

b) the challenges of a rapidly changing telecommunication environment posed by technology and financing which have highlighted the critical importance of training managers, particularly in the developing and least developed countries, to meet such challenges,

recommends

that "The TEMIC Declaration", attached in Appendix 1, which offers suggestions on how ITU-D can address various HRD/HRM issues within its programmes and activities, be recognized as a best practice example of how partnerships can meet human resources challenges in the future.

APPENDIX 1 TO RECOMMENDATION 10

"The TEMIC Declaration"

The Telecommunications Executive Management Institute of Canada (TEMIC) was established in 1986 as a response to the needs identified in *The Missing Link*, a report of the Maitland Commission. A unique partnership of the public and private sectors and its alumni, **the mandate of TEMIC is to assist telecommunication organizations from developing countries in expanding their capacity to create their future.** Since 1986, TEMIC has graduated 994 "fellows", of whom 117 are women, representing 124 countries. Many of its graduates have moved on within their countries to the most senior levels in the telecommunication sector. One conclusion that can be drawn from the TEMIC experience is the overriding importance to be accorded to the proper use of human resources in the telecommunication sector. **The challenges posed by technology and financing, two other major aspects facing the sector, can be readily addressed when managers who are properly trained and motivated are in place, and policy reform has been defined. This matter requires a response from governments, but ITU/BDT and TEMIC can, through their ongoing partnership, assist in this crucial task for sustained development.**

In the course of its programme, TEMIC has been made aware of certain preoccupations of developing countries. They are concerned, for example, with the process of sector reform; with the need to build the case for change in their country; with the broader impact of reform on employment policy, and with the need for a greater awareness of the role of telecommunications in a nation's transition to the information society. Some of these preoccupations, such as universal access, the use of new and existing technologies, can be addressed by the telecommunication sector. Others must be addressed by other sectors, such as education, health and small and medium enterprises, where cross-sectoral collaboration is required. Education is only partly a telecommunication matter. The will to undertake sector reform must come from the highest levels of government, and must come from **within** a country. Reform could well be initiated through commitments proposed to liberalize telecommunications under the WTO/GATS with respect to basic telecommunication services.

The Development Sector of ITU may wish to keep these preoccupations in mind and use its catalytic role to help address these preoccupations. For example, ITU-D can:

- emphasize, in its training programmes (both traditional and advanced), the need for executives and managers, from both the public and private sectors, to learn the skills to manage in an entrepreneurial and competitive environment;
- when assisting developing countries in the preparation of their transitional plans for reform, to continue to stress with vigour the need for these countries to follow best practices if they

are to achieve success. Similar advice should also be given to countries which choose to develop WTO/GATS commitments in telecommunications services;

- identify and promote ways in which telecommunication systems can be exploited to enhance the contribution that education can make to bring about the changes in management style, including gender issues, which are crucial if broad development is to be achieved;
- encourage ITU Members and other telecommunication entities to stimulate partnerships between the public and private sectors, and within the private sector, so that the process of reform produces the maximum positive effects while the negative effects are eliminated, or at least reduced;
- consider the creation of an advisory committee on human resources development matters, as related to new technology, new services and related matters as identified in this paper, etc.

TEMIC strongly believes that these steps will address the new gaps, and in particular assist in the modification of the operating style in both the private and public telecommunication sectors. In this way, the ITU would be addressing the human resources challenges which TEMIC perceives and which are posed in the opening paragraph of this contribution. TEMIC and its alumni look forward, as a key partner, to continue to support the ITU in this endeavour.

RECOMMENDATION 11 (Doc. 115(Rev.1))

OPERATIONAL PLANNING IN THE INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Valletta, 1998),

considering

- a) the interest of developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, in ensuring that their requirements are reflected in the programmes and activities of the three Sectors of ITU as well as the General Secretariat;
- b) the expectation of developing countries for ITU to present a range of policy and structural options that will generate resources for telecommunication development;
- c) that, in presenting such options, ITU needs to provide the membership with clearly demonstrated and measurable results in an effort to mobilize resources and advise developing countries on a range of policies and restructuring models for generating more internal funds for telecommunication development,

recognizing

- a) that the process by which progress in achieving the ITU's stated objectives can be measured could be considerably enhanced through the presentation of annual operational plans which set out the activities planned to be undertaken during any given year;
- b) that, given the symmetry between the strategic plan of the Union and the production of operational planning exercises, the introduction and use of this management tool could establish workload scenarios, measures taken to deal with such scenarios, and the resources available to

undertake various tasks, and could establish various benchmarks which could facilitate the evaluation of progress in achieving the stated objectives;

c) that annual operational plans for ITU could be effectively utilized, *inter alia*, to outline a possible range of products and services which could be subject to cost recovery, to highlight measures being contemplated or implemented to strengthen the relationship between ITU and other international and regional organizations, to monitor progress in implementation of the programmes of the Union, etc.,

invites the ITU Council

to establish an ad hoc group open to representatives of Member States and Sector Members in order to prepare proposals concerning the implementation of operational and financial planning on an ITU-wide basis for consideration by the 1998 Plenipotentiary Conference.

DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE ITU DEVELOPMENT SECTOR

G.1 The Development Sector mission

- 43 The mission of the Development Sector, as set out in the Constitution and the Convention, encompasses the Union's dual responsibility as a United Nations specialized agency and executing agency for implementing projects under the United Nations development system or other funding arrangements, so as to facilitate and enhance telecommunication development by offering, organizing and coordinating technical cooperation and assistance activities.

The work of ITU-D will reflect the various resolutions of the world telecommunication development conference. It will place emphasis on gender balance in its programmes and will reflect the needs of other aspects of global society such as youth and the needs of indigenous peoples. Emergency telecommunications is another area where renewed efforts are required. Collaboration with the private sector should be more clearly defined and expanded so as to reflect the changing roles of public and private entities in the telecommunication sector. The "Year 2000" problem should be urgently addressed. ITU-D should also use the mechanisms for advancing Sector goals included in Opinion B of the World Telecommunication Policy Forum (Geneva, 1998) and the opportunities provided by the ITU programme funded by the surplus funds from TELECOM exhibitions.

In fulfilling its mission, ITU-D will cover the five major areas of telecommunication development: *telecommunication sector reform, technologies, management, finance and human resources*. It is supported by the four main modes of action by which the Sector carries out its work: *direct assistance (including project execution), resource development and mobilization, partnerships and information sharing*, which are reflected in the organizational structure of BDT.

G.2 The Telecommunication Development Sector environment

- 44 The telecommunication development environment is characterized by the following features:
- The restructuring and liberalization of the telecommunication sector at the national and international level, and the three agreements on basic telecommunications services, financial services and information, technology products concluded through the World Trade Organization, have increasing consequences for the provision of international and national telecommunication services. Competition is rapidly becoming the rule rather than the exception.
 - The above factors are straining the accounting rate system beyond its limits, calling for a rapid revision of accounting rates and causing major changes in traditional income flows which are of critical importance to certain countries.
 - While the development gap has narrowed slightly in terms of access to basic telephone services, it is widening at a fast rate for advanced telecommunication services and access to information.

- However, the emergence of a global information society is creating new opportunities to close the gap. Political, technical and cultural factors are combining to promote these opportunities.
- The rapid development of telecommunications in some countries is associated with general economic growth, particularly where some form of restructuring, liberalization and competition is introduced; however, other countries witness modest and uneven progress.
- Many different development players, including non-governmental organizations (NGOs), are invited to play a more important role.
- Business practices, including development activities, are being revolutionized by information and communication technologies. This can be expected to have a significant impact on telecommunication development activities such as planning and training.
- Technology-based convergence of telecommunications, informatics and mass media offers new opportunities for cooperation between the formerly different parts of the telecommunication sector.
- Due to increased emphasis on policy and regulatory frameworks that create open markets and encourage private investment, both domestic and foreign, development programmes rely less on technical assistance and more on partnerships and trade agreements. Private capital flows in several countries now exceed official development aid resources, but in others concessional finance is required to meet development needs.
- Limited funds available to ITU, as compared with developing country needs, require ITU to play a catalytic development role. This envisioned catalytic role of ITU is developed further below.

G.3 The Development Sector strategy

45 The following points define a strategy for the Development Sector that is consistent with its mission and the changing telecommunication environment. ITU-D will:

- pay special attention to the requirements of the developing countries, with particular emphasis on the least developed among them, and the need for well-differentiated and tailored responses to situations arising in transition economies, countries affected by conflicts or natural disasters, etc.;
- work with governments to assist them in establishing appropriate telecommunication policies and regulatory structures. Strategies for the development of telecommunications may be fostered by liberalization, private investment and competition in appropriate circumstances. The goal of these policies and structures should be to:
 - create a stable and transparent environment to attract investment and guarantee the rights of users, operators and investors;
 - facilitate access of service providers to the telecommunication network within a framework that promotes fair competition while protecting network integrity;
 - ensure the provision of universal access and universal service, promoting innovation and the introduction of new services and technologies to unserved and under-served users;
 - promote partnerships and cooperation between telecommunication entities in developing and developed countries, and with appropriate international institutions, consistent with their respective interests;

- play a creative catalytic role in identifying and providing resource support, in the new telecommunication environment, to help meet the requirements of developing countries in close collaboration with global, regional and national organizations and agencies and the private sector;
- maintain close cooperation with ITU-R and ITU-T reflecting the significant role played by those two Sectors in telecommunication development;
- include matters pertaining to information technology and broadcasting in its activities, as key factors in promoting economic, social and cultural development;
- promote training in human resources development and human resources management in order to meet the challenges of the rapidly changing telecommunication environment;
- seek innovative ways to rationalize its internal costs, optimize its resources and improve efficiency.

G.4 Priorities of the Development Sector

The experience of four successful years has given the Development Sector a solid basis from which to forecast the following priorities for 1999-2003:

- respond effectively, rapidly and in a flexible way to requests for direct assistance from developing countries, including through the use of a significant part of TELECOM surplus funds, primarily for LDCs;
- develop and mobilize resources, including human and financial, technology, HRD/HRM tools and systems, information and expertise for telecommunication development;
- create partnership arrangements that benefit all parties, avoiding purely commercial approaches and concentrating on long-term benefits (as opposed to short-term gains) by establishing strategic alliances and cooperation agreements with other concerned international and regional organizations;
- promote partnership arrangements in and between the public and private sectors in both developed and developing countries;
- strengthen the ITU regional presence and enhance collaboration with regional and subregional telecommunication organizations, including broadcasting organizations;
- collaborate with the private sector in implementing the Valletta Action Plan, including partnerships with related entities in developing countries;
- improve the working methods of the Sector, to strive for:
 - greater use of user-friendly document exchange capabilities;
 - greater participation by Sector Members and other organizations in ITU-D activities;
 - the accelerated development of outputs and improvement of publication mechanisms, in particular through the wider use of information technology;
 - a flexible organizational structure in the Bureau, with special attention to the training and development of BDT staff.

During the period 1999-2003, the strategic processes of the Development Sector will incorporate all resolutions and recommendations adopted by WTDC-98, as well as all other relevant ITU resolutions and recommendations of ITU conferences.

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