Question 19/1: Implementation of IP telephony in developing countries

1. Statement of situation

In view of:

1. The important role that national telecom policy can play in stimulating innovation and investment in new technologies,
2. The sovereignty of each country in establishing its national telecom priorities and policies,
3. The potential for a broader range of communications applications that technologies such as IP/based networks offer to Member state and their citizens,
4. The lack of both broadband and basic telephony access within many developing countries, and
5. The importance of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) infrastructure to economic development.

Considering that:

1. The Group of Experts in IP Telephony met three times and created a checklist of factors and three reports: technical aspects, policy aspects and economic aspects,
2. Individuals within the Group of Experts also submitted a list of Questions and Issues for further consideration as a part of its Preliminary Report to WTDC-02,
3. Opinion D from Policy Forum on "IP Telephony"
4. Continued discussion of the evolution to IP-based networks including IP telephony and broadband access will allow Member States and Sector Members to exchange information, share experiences and discuss issues that emerge as developing countries plan and implement IP- based infrastructure development such as the programs that were recommended at the Regional Workshop on "IP Telephony" for the Arab Region, Damascus (Syria), 7-10 January 2002.

2. Question or issue proposed for study

1. How can a nation and its citizens, current telephone operators, ISPs and new entrants benefit from the introduction of IP telephony and broadband access? How can national telecom policy increase the benefits of the introduction of IP-based technologies?
2. What are the potential challenges that developing countries experience in attempting to evolve to or implement IP-based networks including IP Telephony and broadband access capabilities, and what are possible approaches for overcoming these challenges?

3. Description of expected output

5. Annual progress report(s) indicating status of the study of questions and issues being addressed.
6. At completion of study, detailed final report with issues raised by each question as well as lessons learned/success story/findings/conclusions.

4. Required timing of expected output

Annual progress reports. This study is expected to last two years.

7. Proposers/Sponsors of the Question

United States of America, developing countries.

8. Source of input required for carrying out the study

1. Contributions from the Member States and Sector Members,
2. Report by the Group of Experts on Internet Protocol (IP) Telephony (WTDC Doc 42 and Addendum to Doc 42).
3. Discussion in the relevant ITU-D study group, relevant ITU-T study groups
4. Other sources, as appropriate.

9. Target audience for the output

All national telecom policy makers and service providers, especially those in developing countries as well as manufacturers of IP-based technologies.

10. Coordination requirements of the study

The **ITU-D study group** dealing with this Question will need to coordinate with coordinators of relevant project activities in BDT and relevant ITU-T study groups.