RESOLUTION 136 (Antalya, 2006)

The use of telecommunications/information and communication technologies for monitoring and management in emergency and disaster situations for early warning, prevention, mitigation and relief

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Antalya, 2006),

recalling

a)   Resolution 36 (Rev. Antalya, 2006) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICTs) in the service of humanitarian assistance;

b)   Resolution 34 (Rev. Doha, 2006) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC), on the role of telecommunications/ICT in early warning and mitigation of disasters and humanitarian assistance;

c)   Resolution 48 (Doha, 2006) of WTDC, on strengthening cooperation among telecommunication regulators;

d)   Resolution 644 (Rev.WRC-2000) of the World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC), on telecommunication resources for disaster mitigation and relief operations;

e)   Resolution 646 (WRC-03) of WRC, on public protection and disaster relief;

f)   the emergency telecommunication/ICT coordination mechanisms established by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs,

taking into account

Resolution 60/125 on international cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from relief to development, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in March 2006,

noting

a) § 51 of the Geneva Declaration of Principles adopted by the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), on the use of ICT applications for disaster prevention;

b) § 20 (c) of the Geneva Plan of Action adopted by WSIS, on e-environment, which calls for the establishment of monitoring systems, using ICTs, to forecast and monitor the impact of natural and man-made disasters, particularly in developing countries, least developed countries and small economies;

c) § 30 of the Tunis Commitment adopted by WSIS, on disaster mitigation;

d) § 91 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society adopted by WSIS, on disaster reduction;

e) the effective coordination work of the Partnership Coordination Panel for Telecommunication for Disaster Relief and Mitigation, led by the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector,

considering

a) the devastation suffered from disasters around the world, particularly in developing countries that may suffer disproportionately due to a lack of infrastructure and, therefore, have the most to gain from information on the subject of disaster prevention, mitigation and relief efforts;

b) the potential of modern telecommunications/ICTs to facilitate disaster prevention, mitigation and relief efforts;

c) the ongoing cooperation between ITU study groups and other standards development organizations dealing with emergency telecommunications, alert and warning systems,

recognizing

a) the activities being undertaken at the international and regional levels within ITU and other relevant organizations to establish internationally agreed means for the operation of systems for public protection and disaster relief on a harmonized and coordinated basis;

b) the ongoing development by ITU, in coordination with the United Nations and other United Nations specialized agencies, of guidelines for applying the international content standard for all-media public warning in all disaster and emergency situations;

c) the contribution of the private sector in the prevention, mitigation and relief of emergency and disaster situations which is proving to be effective;

d) the need for a common understanding of the network infrastructure components required to provide rapidly installed, interoperable, robust telecommunication capabilities in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations;

e) the importance of working towards the establishment of standards-based monitoring and worldwide early-warning systems, based on telecommunications/ICTs, that are linked to national and regional networks and that facilitate emergency disaster response all over the world, particularly in high-risk regions;

f) the role that the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector can play, through such means as the Global Symposium for Regulators, in collecting and disseminating a set of national regulatory best practices for telecommunication/ICT facilities for disaster prevention, mitigation and relief,

convinced

that an international standard for communication of alert and warning information can assist in the provision of effective and appropriate humanitarian assistance and in mitigating the consequences of disasters, in particular in developing countries,

resolves to instruct the Directors of the Bureaux

1   to continue their technical studies and to develop recommendations, through the ITU study groups, concerning technical and operational implementation, as necessary, of advanced solutions to meet the needs of public protection and disaster relief telecommunications/ICTs, taking into account the capabilities, evolution and any resulting transition requirements of existing systems, particularly those of many developing countries, for national and international operations;

2   to support the development of robust, comprehensive, all-hazards emergency and disaster early-warning, mitigation and relief systems, at national, regional and international levels, including monitoring and management systems involving the use of telecommunications/ICTs (e.g. remote sensing), in collaboration with other international agencies, in order to support coordination at the global and regional level;

3   to promote implementation by appropriate alerting authorities of the international content standard for all-media public warning, in concert with ongoing development of guidelines by all ITU Sectors for application to all disaster and emergency situations;

4   to continue to collaborate with organizations that are working in the area of standards for emergency telecommunications/ICTs and for communication of alert and warning information, in order to study the appropriate inclusion of such standards in ITU's work and their dissemination, in particular in developing countries,