

I n t e r n a t i o n a l T e l e c o m m u n i c a t i o n U n i o n

ITU-T

TELECOMMUNICATION
STANDARDIZATION SECTOR
OF ITU

WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION STANDARDIZATION
ASSEMBLY
Johannesburg, 21-30 October 2008

Resolution 62 – Dispute settlement

FOREWORD

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is the United Nations specialized agency in the field of telecommunications, information and communication technologies (ICTs). The ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) is a permanent organ of ITU. ITU-T is responsible for studying technical, operating and tariff questions and issuing Recommendations on them with a view to standardizing telecommunications on a worldwide basis.

The World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA), which meets every four years, establishes the topics for study by the ITU-T study groups which, in turn, produce Recommendations on these topics.

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RESOLUTION 62

Dispute settlement

(Johannesburg, 2008)

The World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (Johannesburg, 2008),

considering

- a) that Internet penetration rates remain low in developing countries¹, in particular in comparison with the penetration rates of mobile telephony, and that the growth rates of Internet penetration in developing countries are also very low when compared with the growth rates of mobile telephony;
- b) the increasing imbalance under the current circumstances between developed and developing countries, in terms of economic growth and technological progress;
- c) that numerous explanations have been put forward to explain the phenomena mentioned above,

recognizing

- a) that the continuing social and economic underdevelopment of a large part of the world is one of the most serious problems affecting not only the countries concerned, but also the international community as a whole;
- b) that the development of telecommunication/information and communication technologies infrastructure and services is a precondition for social and economic development;
- c) that the uneven access to telecommunication facilities globally results in a widening of the gap between the developed and the developing world in terms of economic growth and technological progress;
- d) that many countries have agreed to the dispute settlement clause for interconnection in the World Trade Organization reference paper on the principles and definitions on the regulatory framework for the basic telecommunication services,

noting

the contribution from Study Group 3 to the second meeting of the Internet Governance Forum;

resolves to instruct Study Group 3

- 1 to expedite its work on international connectivity, in order to facilitate the implementation of relevant resolutions;
- 2 to collect data with respect to the implementation and practical effects of the implementation of relevant resolutions and D-series Recommendations of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T),

invites Member States

- 1 to encourage each party to include in a negotiation or agreement related to, or arising out of, international connectivity matters a dispute settlement clause in such agreements;

¹ These include the least developed countries, small island developing states and countries with economies in transition.

- 2 to encourage all operating agencies domiciled within their territories to implement relevant ITU-T Recommendations;
- 3 to contribute to ITU-T's further work in the areas mentioned in this resolution,
- instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau*
- 1 to report annually to the ITU Council with respect to the implementation of this resolution;
- 2 to provide all necessary support, within the existing budget, to Study Group 3 for its further work on this matter.