

RECOMMENDATION ITU-D 8-1

**Promotion of the application of telecommunication facilities  
for developing various sectors in rural and remote areas**

*(January, 2002)*

Question 10/2: *Communications for rural and remote areas*

The ITU-D,

*considering*

- a) that the main demand for telecommunication services in rural and remote areas is for communication and exchange of information between small local communities and elsewhere;
- b) that the provision of services to individual residences in remote and underserved communities is relatively costly;
- c) that there is a need for supporting facilities, such as power and security, and for human resource development for users;
- d) that the provision of a point of access of a small number of connections for (satellite and wireless land-line technologies) at a centrally located public call office (PCO), multi-purpose community telecentre (MCT) or other community access centre is both effective and efficient;
- e) that establishing the PCO, MCT or other community access centre, provides a valuable opportunity to provide much needed connectivity to the community, to provide for emergency services, and serves to involve the local community in development and promote entrepreneurial possibilities;
- f) that the PCO, MCT or community access centre can add functions, features and capability as the community needs them, including emergency services,

*noting*

- a) that the general recognition that universal access to telecommunication services in rural and remote areas is appropriate and adequate;
- b) that authorities' support of social and cultural development can be facilitated and provided more effectively at much lower cost through telecommunications and its applications,

*recommends*

that recognized operating agencies (ROAs)<sup>1</sup> servicing rural and remote areas:

- 1 establish their objective to provide universal access to telecommunication services at an affordable price to the entire population of a country, with uniform availability of services and quality standards across the entire country;
- 2 provide “universal access to telecommunication service” in rural and remote communities through the provision of several lines through appropriate technologies, which are made available at a convenient central location, with appropriate commercial management and training, and with lines and connectivity made available on cost-based terms to public service and public sector institutions, to business enterprises and to private subscribers;
- 3 establish, as a policy objective, that the PCOs, MCTs or community access centres should be encouraged and should be assisted to evolve over time, as local needs and wants dictate;
- 4 establish the PCO, MCT or other community access centre as the focal point to make available, distribute and promote the many social and cultural development opportunities that rural telecommunications makes possible;
- 5 cooperate with public institutions in order to make emergency services available at all PCOs, MCTs or other community access centres, preferably with a free call and a unique call number; and
- 6 establish the MCT, PCO or other community access centre as a focal point for training, assistance and resource development as local needs dictate.

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<sup>1</sup> Recognized Operating Agency (ROA): Any operating agency which operates a public correspondence or broadcasting service and upon which the obligations provided for in Article 6 of this Constitution are imposed by the Member State in whose territory the head office of the agency is situated, or by the Member State which has authorized this operating agency to establish and operate a telecommunication service on its territory. (CS/AN. 1008, PP-98). Operating Agency: Any individual, company, corporation or governmental agency which operates a telecommunication installation intended for an international telecommunication service or capable of causing harmful interference with such a service. (CS/AN. 1007).