

RESOLUTION 198 (BUSAN, 2014)

Empowerment of youth through telecommunication/information and communication technology

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Busan, 2014),

considering

- a) that youth under the age of 25 account for 42.5 per cent of the world's population as of 2014, and constitute the most active population in terms of use of the Internet;
- b) that youth, in many developed and developing countries¹, face disproportionate exposure to poverty and unemployment;
- c) that youth have the right to achieve full economic, social and digital inclusion;
- d) that information and communication technology (ICT) is a tool through which youth can substantively contribute to, participate in and leverage their social and economic development;
- e) that youth are digital natives and the best promoters of ICT;
- f) that ICT tools and applications can facilitate career opportunities for youth,

recalling

- a) that ICT is one of the fifteen priority areas identified under the World Programme of Action for Youth adopted by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) through Resolution 62/126;

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

- b) Resolution 169 (Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the admission of academia, universities and their associated research establishments to participate in the work of the three Sectors of the Union;
- c) Resolution 76 (Dubai, 2014) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference, on promoting ICTs among young women and men for social and economic empowerment;
- d) the Tunis Commitment of the 2005 phase of the World Summit on the Information Society, reaffirming Member States' commitment to empowering young people as key contributors to building an inclusive information society in order to actively engage youth in innovative ICT-based development programmes and widen opportunities for youth to be involved in e-strategy processes;
- e) the San José Declaration of the BYND 2015 Global Youth Summit, which highlights employment and entrepreneurship, education, political inclusion, cybersecurity, health and environmental sustainability as the areas young people feel are most impacted through increased access to ICT, and which was formally recognized by the 68th session of UNGA,

recognizing

- a) that in summer 2014 , ITU launched the #PP14Youth initiative, aiming to build on the successful experiences of the BYND 2015 Summit, held in San José, Costa Rica in September 2013;
- b) the annual "Kaleidoscope" academic essay competition organized by the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T), targeting young ICT scientists, researchers and engineers;
- c) the ITU TELECOM World "Young Innovators" competition, hosted annually since 2011;

- d) ITU's coordination of the annual "Girls in ICT Day", which encourages young women to seek careers in ICT;
- e) the progress made by ITU, and in particular the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT), in the development and implementation of actions and projects that use ICT for the economic and social empowerment of youth;
- f) the substantive work of BDT on digital inclusion related to youth, including research and analysis, especially BDT's statistical monitoring and reporting on disaggregated ICT data by age;
- g) ITU's support to the United Nations Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth, its active involvement in the United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development and its contribution to the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Youth;
- h) the Young ICT Policy Leaders initiative launched at this conference, which gives young professionals the opportunity to participate, through national delegations, in ITU events and conferences,

resolves

- 1 that ITU continue to engage with youth in outreach, through communications, capacity building and research, from the perspectives of digital inclusion;
- 2 that ITU promote innovation, entrepreneurship and skills development, in order to provide tools for self-empowerment of youth and their satisfactory participation in the digital economy and all aspects of society;
- 3 that ITU should promote partnerships with academia for the purpose of youth development;
- 4 to accord high priority to the incorporation of young professionals in the human resources and operations of ITU;

5 to continue the work being done at ITU, and particularly in BDT, to help empower youth through ICTs by promoting policies that improve socio-economic conditions for youth, particularly in developing countries;

6 to maintain a youth perspective in the implementation of the ITU strategic plan and financial plan for 2016-2019 as well as in the operational plans of the Sectors and the General Secretariat;

7 that there is a need for ITU to investigate, analyse and further understand the impact of telecommunication/ICT technologies on youth;

8 to maintain the ITU TELECOM World Young Innovators Competition on a yearly basis;

9 that all activities foreseen in this resolution should fall within the existing financial resources of the Union;

10 to note that age groups of youth shall be defined on a case-by-case basis depending on the nature of ITU activities,

instructs the ITU Council

1 to build on the initiatives carried out over the past four years and to accelerate youth empowerment in ITU as a whole, within existing budgetary resources, so as to ensure capacity building and promotion of youth;

2 to consider involving youth in the celebrations of ITU's 150th anniversary and in World Telecommunication and Information Society Day in accordance with Resolution 68 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, and launching a special recognition award for young people who make outstanding contributions in the field of ICT,

instructs the Secretary-General

1 to continue to ensure that the youth perspective is incorporated in the work programmes, management approaches and human resources development activities of ITU, and to submit an annual written report to the Council on progress made;

2 to report to the next plenipotentiary conference on the results and progress made on the inclusion of a youth perspective in the work of ITU, and on the implementation of this resolution;

3 to bring this resolution to the attention of the United Nations Secretary-General in an effort to promote increased coordination and cooperation for development policies, programmes and projects that link ICT to the promotion and empowerment of youth;

4 to ensure coordination of ITU activities so as to avoid duplication and overlap between three ITU Sectors where possible;

5 to strengthen the role of Academia within the structures of the Union, and to increase the value of engaging with ITU for Academia and youth,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to continue the work of BDT in promoting the use of ICT for the economic and social empowerment of youth;

2 to maintain regular monitoring, reporting and research on the uptake and use of ICT by youth, including the provision of disaggregated data by gender and information on behavioural aspects that may be harmful and dangerous,

instructs the Directors of the three Bureaux

to continue to explore ways and means of involving young professionals in the work of the Bureaux,

invites Member States and Sector Members

1 to actively support and participate in the work of ITU in promoting the use of ICTs for the economic and social empowerment of youth;

- 2 to promote up-to-date training for youth on ICT use;
- 3 to foster collaboration with civil society and the private sector in order to promote specialized training for young innovators;
- 4 to further develop tools and programming guidelines in the area of promotion of youth and their social and economic empowerment;
- 5 to cooperate with relevant international organizations that have experience in youth economic empowerment through projects and programmes,

encourages Member States and Sector Members

- 1 to review and revise, as appropriate, their respective policies and practices in order to ensure the recruitment, employment, training and advancement of youth through telecommunications/ICT;
- 2 to promote career opportunities in the telecommunication/ICT field, including in telecommunication/ICT administrations, government and regulatory bodies and intergovernmental organizations as well as in the private sector;
- 3 to attract more youth to study science, technology, engineering and mathematics;
- 4 to encourage youth to take advantage of ICT opportunities to advance their development and promote innovation and economic development at national and international level,

invites Member States

- 1 to share best practices on national approaches targeting the use of ICT for the social and economic development of youth;
- 2 to develop strategies for using ICT as a tool for the educational, social and economic development of youth;

- 3 to promote ICT for youth empowerment and involvement in the decision-making processes of the ICT sector;
- 4 to support ITU activities in field of ICT for the social and economic development of youth;
- 5 to consider adopting a youth delegate programme for the inclusion of young delegates, taking into account gender balance, in a country's official delegation to the major conferences of ITU, for raising awareness and knowledge and promoting interest in ICT among youth,

invites Academia

- 1 to continue providing the necessary structures for effective engagement with youth, through access to information, fellowships and recognition for participation in ITU activities;
- 2 to support youth networks so that they may act as community-based hubs and innovation centres for providing input to ITU's intellectual processes;
- 3 to involve young lecturers and researchers as well as students in relevant ITU activities and empower their effective participation therein, including through capacity building.