



INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION  
TELECOMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT BUREAU

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CONFERENCE (WTDC-98)**

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**PLENARY MEETING**

EIGHTH SERIES OF TEXTS SUBMITTED BY THE  
EDITORIAL COMMITTEE TO THE PLENARY MEETING

The following texts are submitted to the Plenary Meeting:

<b>Source</b>	<b>Document</b>	<b>Title</b>
COMB	233	Recommendation COMB-B Telemedicine
		Resolution COMB-5 Non-Discriminatory Access to Modern Telecommunication Facilities and Services
		Resolution COMB-6 Telecommunication in Rural, Isolated and Poorly Served Areas
		Resolution COMB-7 Implementation of National, Regional, Inter- Regional and Global Projects
		Resolution COMB-8 Telecommunication Resources for Disaster Mitigation and Relief Operations

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Chairman of the Editorial Committee

**Annex:** 10 pages

RECOMMENDATION COM B-B

**TELEMEDICINE**

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Valletta, 1998),

*recalling*

- a) that the World Telecommunication Development Conference (Buenos Aires, March 1994) recommended that ITU study the potential of telemedicine to meet some of the needs of developing countries, and as a result adopted Question 6/2 on health care in developing countries;
- b) that the ITU Development Sector has produced a report on "Telemedicine and Developing Countries" which was adopted by ITU-D Study Group 2 in October 1997;
- c) that Resolution 7 of the African Regional Telecommunication Development Conference (Abidjan, 1996) calls upon African countries to support any initiatives which will help them gain practical experience in telemedicine and telehealth and that African telecommunication organizations should discuss the utility, logistics and feasibility of telemedicine delivery, especially in remote and rural areas of their country;
- d) that Recommendation 5 of the Regional Telecommunication Development Conference for the Arab States (Beirut, 1996) invites all Arab countries to promote collaboration between health care officials and telecommunication operators in order to identify solutions to meet health care needs, especially in remote and rural areas and for those on the move and those who might not otherwise have access to the quality of care available in urban hospitals and to consider initiating one or more telemedicine pilot projects in remote and rural areas;
- e) that the first World Telemedicine Symposium for developing countries convened by the Telecommunication Development Bureau in Portugal, 30 June - 4 July 1997, recommended that ITU/BDT set aside a specific budgetary allocation from ITU TELECOM surpluses for supporting telemedicine pilot projects, including missions by telemedicine experts to assist developing countries in the formulation of proposals and that ITU-D should continue its studies of telemedicine and, in particular, to identify pilot projects, provide an analysis of project results and help countries to define a policy and strategy towards telemedicine implementation,

*considering*

- a) the potential benefits identified in the report on "Telemedicine and Developing Countries" as well as the recommendations in the report;
- b) the new Question on fostering the application of telecommunications in health services in developing countries,

*recognizing*

- a) that, in order to deploy telemedicine applications, it is necessary to bring together multidisciplinary expertise from both the telecommunication and health service communities;
- b) that some telemedicine applications may not be sustainable in the short term without some sponsorship but that sustainability is an important objective in the medium term;
- c) that the possibility of undertaking telemedicine applications will be enhanced if regulatory barriers are reduced or removed on the equipment and services used,

*recommends*

- 1 that the ITU/BDT should take further steps to raise the awareness of decision-makers about telemedicine and how it might be able to help solve some health needs, are one useful method of raising awareness and bringing together representatives from the telecommunication and health sectors being workshops or symposia;
- 2 that ministries of communications should cooperate with ministries of health and telecommunication operators should collaborate with health service institutions, through one or more pilot projects, with a view to gaining some experience of how telemedicine applications may help meet their health needs, and that they continue to cooperate in considering the need for a telemedicine policy and strategy;
- 3 that developing countries should seek the advice of the international agencies such as ITU and the World Health Organization if they are interested in the participation in telemedicine projects of foreign partners;
- 4 that, ITU/BDT, should identify and involve possible partners for sponsoring and analysing the results of pilot projects, the financing mechanisms and technologies used, the services provided and the lessons learned;
- 5 that ITU/BDT should identify solutions to the sustainability of the application of telecommunication to health services, especially in remote and rural areas of developing countries, in order to demonstrate how telecommunications could optimize the use of limited health services in developing countries,

*invites*

the international financial institutions and donor agencies to assist in developing telemedicine applications, projects and programmes in developing countries.

RESOLUTION COMB-5

**NON-DISCRIMINATORY ACCESS TO MODERN TELECOMMUNICATION  
FACILITIES AND SERVICES**

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Valletta, 1998),

*taking into account*

the importance of telecommunications for political, economic, social and cultural progress,

*taking into account also*

- a) that the International Telecommunication Union plays an important role in the promotion of global telecommunication standardization and development;
- b) that, to this end, the Union coordinates efforts aimed at securing harmonious development of telecommunication facilities in all its Member States,

*taking into account further*

that the Conference is required to formulate a viewpoint and draw up proposals on issues determining a worldwide telecommunication development strategy, and facilitate mobilization of the necessary resources to that end,

*noting*

- a) that modern telecommunication facilities and services are established, in the main, on the basis of ITU-R and ITU-T Recommendations;
- b) that ITU-R and ITU-T Recommendations are the result of the collective efforts of all those taking part in the standardization process within ITU and are adopted by consensus by the Members of the Union;
- c) that limitations on the access to telecommunication facilities and services on which national telecommunication development depends and which are established on the basis of ITU-R and ITU-T Recommendations constitute an obstacle to the harmonious development and compatibility of telecommunications worldwide,

*recognizing*

that full harmonization of telecommunication networks is impossible unless all countries participating in the work of the Union without exception enjoy non-discriminatory access to new telecommunication technologies and modern telecommunication facilities and services, without prejudice to national regulations and international commitments within the competence of other international organizations,

*resolves*

that there should be non-discriminatory access to telecommunication technologies, facilities and services established on the basis of ITU-R and ITU-T Recommendations,

*instructs the Secretary-General*

to transmit this Resolution to the Plenipotentiary Conference (Minneapolis, 1998) for consideration,

*invites the Plenipotentiary Conference*

to consider this Resolution with a view to taking measures to foster global access to modern telecommunication technologies, facilities and services,

*invites administrations*

pending the Plenipotentiary Conference's decision, to help telecommunication equipment manufacturers and service providers in ensuring that telecommunication technologies, facilities and services established on the basis of ITU-R and ITU-T Recommendations are made available to the use of the public without any discrimination, subject to the laws of individual Members States.

RESOLUTION COMB-6

**TELECOMMUNICATIONS IN RURAL, ISOLATED AND POORLY SERVED AREAS**

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Valletta, 1998),

*considering*

that the World Telecommunication Development Conference (Buenos Aires, 1994), reaffirming the important and urgent need to provide access to basic telecommunication services for everyone, adopted Programmes 9 (Integrated rural development) and 12 (Development of telematics and computer networks) of the Buenos Aires Action Plan, as well as the Special Programme for the least developed countries (LDCs),

*noting*

that the clear correlation between the availability of telecommunication services and economic and social development has been firmly established,

*recognizing*

- a) that spectacular progress has been made in some developing countries through universal access to telecommunication services in rural, isolated and poorly served areas countrywide, thereby demonstrating the economic and technical feasibility of projects to provide this type of service;
- b) that, in some areas and some developing countries, there is convincing evidence of the overall profitability of telecommunication services in rural, isolated and poorly served areas,

*recognizing further*

- a) that there are several state-of-the-art technologies which may help to facilitate the provision of telecommunication services to rural, isolated and poorly served areas;
- b) that access to telecommunication services in rural, isolated and poorly served areas can only be achieved through judicious choice of technological options allowing access to and maintenance of good quality and economical services,

*resolves*

to support the following principles recommended by ITU-D Study Group 2 as a basis for providing access to telecommunication services in rural, remote and poorly served areas:

- **Universal access**

Universal access to telecommunication services should be offered at a convenient location in each community. The type and quantity of services must fully meet the community's needs, and the scope and volume of services should increase as demand grows and new applications emerge.

- **Rural telecommunication programme**

Rural telecommunications must be introduced through a well-structured, rigorous and ordered programme covering several years, which develops and draws on local experience and expertise.

- **Regulatory framework**

The regulatory body must monitor the sustained provision, quality and financial viability of telecommunication services, under the terms of the obligation to provide universal service, which requires that some attention be paid to commercial principles in the provision of telecommunication services.

- **Financial resources**

In addition to public financial resources (with or without subsidies), the two other sources of financing are the service provider's own funds and national and international private-sector investments. In the first case, the funds are managed by the service provider for reinvestment purposes; in the second case, the provision of the rural telecommunication services has to be organized or regulated in such a way as to ensure its profitability.

- **Commercial approach**

The operator providing rural telecommunication services must adopt a commercial approach, with the service operating on a commercial basis and with the aim of maximizing revenue and minimizing costs,

*instructs the Director of BDT*

1 to promote further the use of all appropriate means of telecommunication to facilitate effective development and implementation of telecommunication services in rural, isolated and poorly served areas of the world;

2 to continue efforts to promote, in particular, the optimum use of all available new space-based telecommunication technology applications by the developing countries.

RESOLUTION COMB-7

**IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL, REGIONAL, INTER-REGIONAL  
AND GLOBAL PROJECTS**

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Valletta, 1998),

*considering*

- a) that telecommunications is one of the most vital elements for the growth of national economies;
- b) that the existence, at the national, regional, inter-regional and global levels, of coherent telecommunication networks and services for the development of national economies is a very important element in the improvement of the social, economic and financial situation of Member States;
- c) the need to coordinate and harmonize efforts to develop telecommunication infrastructure at the national, regional, inter-regional and global levels;
- d) the vital importance of telecommunication development projects, at all levels, endorsed by all regional development conferences, as well as the preparatory meetings preceding this Conference;
- e) that there is a lack of funding from UNDP and other international financial institutions, impeding the implementation of such projects;
- f) the satisfactory and encouraging results achieved by the MODARABTEL and EUROTELDEV projects, which helped in the creation of cooperation and telecommunication networks,

*resolves*

- 1 that ITU/BDT should identify possible ways and means of implementing national, regional, inter-regional and global projects making the utmost use of available BDT resources;
- 2 that ITU/BDT should actively assist the countries in the establishment of national projects in both the preparatory as well as the implementation phases;
- 3 that Member States should consider contributing in kind and/or in cash to the budget foreseen for national, regional, inter-regional and global projects and to the implementation of other foreseen activities within the framework of those projects;
- 4 that ITU/BDT should explore possible partnerships with Member States, Development Sector Members, financial institutions and other international organizations in order to sponsor project activities;



5 that efforts should be undertaken by ITU/BDT to reactivate the MODARABTEL and EUROTELDEV projects (to include countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States) as well as PANAFTEL and industrialization projects;

6 the ITU/BDT to assist in the implementation of new projects such as telemedicine, training and research centres, telecentres, rural development projects, restructuring, frequency management projects, the Global Telecommunication University/Global Telecommunication Training Institute (GTU/GTTI) and centres of excellence, as well as national telecommunication development projects on different subjects. Efforts should also be made to the extent possible to integrate projects with similar content/objectives,

*appeals*

to UNDP, international financial organizations/agencies, equipment suppliers and operators/service providers to investigate the possibility of fully or partially financing national regional, inter-regional and global projects.

RESOLUTION COMB-8

**TELECOMMUNICATION RESOURCES FOR DISASTER MITIGATION  
AND RELIEF OPERATIONS**

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Valletta, 1998),

*considering*

- a) that the World Telecommunication Development Conference (Buenos Aires, 1994) (WTDC-94), adopted Resolution 7 on telecommunications for disaster mitigation and disaster relief operations, thereby reactivating a process initiated by the Conference on Disaster Communications, (Tampere, 1991);
- b) that the Plenipotentiary Conference (Kyoto, 1994), endorsed that resolution in its Resolution 36 on telecommunications for disaster mitigation and disaster relief operations;
- c) the report of the Secretary-General on the progress made in the implementation of WTDC-94 Resolution 7;
- d) that the World Radiocommunication Conference (Geneva, 1997), in its Resolution 644, urged administrations to give their full support to the adoption and national implementation of a Convention on the Provision of Telecommunication Resources for Disaster Mitigation and Relief Operations,

*recognizing*

- a) the potential of modern telecommunication technologies as an essential tool for disaster mitigation and relief operations and the vital role of telecommunications for the safety and security of relief workers in the field;
- b) the particular needs of developing countries and the special requirements of the inhabitants of remote areas,

*noting with appreciation*

the invitation by the Government of Finland to hold the Intergovernmental Conference on Emergency Telecommunications (ICET-98) from 16 to 18 June 1998 in Tampere, Finland, which is expected to adopt the Convention referred to in *considering* d) above,

*resolves*

to invite the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector to ensure that proper consideration be given to emergency telecommunications as an element of telecommunication development, including, in close coordination and collaboration with the ITU Radiocommunication Sector, by facilitating and encouraging the use of decentralized means of communications that are appropriate and generally available, including those provided by the amateur radio service and GMPCS services,

*instructs the Director of BDT*

- a) to support administrations in their work towards the implementation of this Resolution and of the Convention;
- b) to report to the next world telecommunication development conference on the status of implementation of the Convention,

*instructs the Secretary-General*

to work closely with the United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator with a view to further increasing the Union's involvement in, and support to, emergency communications, and to report on the outcome of ICET-98 to the 1998 Plenipotentiary Conference so that the Plenipotentiary Conference or the ITU Council may take any action that it deems necessary,

*invites*

the United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator and the Working Group on Emergency Telecommunications to collaborate closely with ITU in work towards implementing this Resolution, adopting the Convention on the Provision of Telecommunication Resources for Disaster Mitigation and Relief Operations, and supporting administrations and international and regional telecommunication organizations in the implementation of the Convention,

*urges administrations*

to continue their examination of the draft Convention, with a view to considering giving their full support to the adoption of the said Convention,

*encourages administrations*

to participate in the forthcoming Intergovernmental Conference on Emergency Telecommunications (ICET-98) hosted by the Government of Finland in Tampere from 16 to 18 June 1998.