



INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION
TELECOMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT BUREAU

**WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT
CONFERENCE (WTDC-98)**

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PLENARY MEETING

Tunisia

MODARABTEL PROJECT

LAUNCH OF PHASE II OF THE PROJECT

Ongoing technological development and the constant pressure of demand, in both qualitative and quantitative terms, inevitably lead to efforts, in the telecommunication field, to share knowledge and experience.

It is clearly this observation, coupled with the attainment of the objectives of the first phase of the MODARABTEL Project (RAB-89-001), which underlies the resolutions adopted by the first Regional Telecommunication Development Conference for the Arab States (Cairo, 1992) and the Coordination Committee recommendations relating to the implementation of specific telecommunication development projects in the Arab Region.

During the first phase of the MODARABTEL Project it was possible in particular to:

- deal with important and topical thematic issues (GSM, applied research, data transmission, etc.) of direct relevance to the development of telecommunication networks and services in the Arab Region;
- adopt the idea of "cooperation networks", enlisting the know-how of various countries and institutions.

The above are two significant results of the first phase of the MODARABTEL Project, which should be turned to account.

The Arab Region, moreover, being extensively involved in the new worldwide networks and information services, is also faced with the need to develop specific and community-based information systems if it is not to be merely the passive recipient of external information flows.

For these two reasons, and on the basis of the resolutions and recommendations adopted at the regional coordination meetings and by the Arab States Telecommunications Finance Colloquium (Amman, 1996), the highest priority should be attached to the matter of the launch of phase II of the MODARABTEL Project.

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Accordingly, it is recommended that:

- 1 ITU-D should approve and coordinate the launch of phase II of the MODARABTEL Project;
- 2 ITU-D should endeavour to find ways of financing phase II of the MODARABTEL Project, in particular through:
 - the allocation of resources from the ITU/BDT budget, and possibly extrabudgetary resources such as surpluses from the TELECOM exhibitions;
 - contributions by Arab Member States;
 - partnership with Member States and Sector Members, on the basis of the clearly perceived interests of all the partners.
