



# INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION TELECOMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT BUREAU

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

Valletta, Malta, 23 March - 1 April 1998

**Document 16-E  
15 December 1997  
Original: English**

*For information*

**Agenda item: 3.3**

**PLENARY MEETING**

## **Assistance and support to the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina in rebuilding its telecommunication network - Resolution 33 (PP-94)**

### **1 Introduction**

In complying with Kyoto Resolution 33, concerning the assistance to the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BIH), the ITU has established a Telecommunication Plan of Action to assist the country in rebuilding its, severely damaged by the war, telecommunication network, including frequency spectrum issues and broadcasting. It is important to note that the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) - responsible for the financing of telecommunications activities in BIH - has decided to work in the framework of the ITU Plan of Action.

### **2 Plan of Action**

The report on the implementation of this plan (now in its sixth update) reflects the planned and undertaken activities as well as the responsible parties/persons.

During the last two years, the ITU has implemented the following activities:

- An assessment study, undertaken by SWEDTEL contracted by EBRD, was prepared and delivered by the end of 1996.
- An emergency rehabilitation short-term plan was delivered on April 1996 and sent to BIH Administration for comments.
- Elaboration of a questionnaire, completed by the BIH telecommunication authorities, to form the basis of a sectoral study.
- A project document prepared by the ITU has been accepted and signed by the UNDP. The ITU is cost financing this project with 60% from its own funds.
- An ITU expert on radio and TV broadcasting has undertaken a mission to Sarajevo to assess the situation, identify problems and propose solutions in this field.
- Several BDT fellowships have been granted to delegates from BIH to attend BR seminars on frequency management.

- For reasons of economy, this document is printed in a limited number of copies. Participants are therefore kindly asked •  
to bring their copies to the meeting since no others can be made available.

- Information and communication system equipment including personal computers, modems, fax machines, printers, copiers, etc., were delivered to Sarajevo on March 1996.

### **3 Specific assistance**

An ITU mission was fielded to Sarajevo in September 1997 to provide specific assistance in the following fields:

- Meetings and discussions with the two State Ministries responsible for the Telecommunication Sector, on the need to establish a legal framework for the Telecommunication Sector at the State level. This law is ready and will be coordinated with the EBRD which has developed a similar project.
- Meetings with the Office of the High Representative (OHR), the local office of the European Commission and that of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD). In those meetings it has been highlighted that the ITU, through Resolution 33, has been instructed to provide assistance to Bosnia and Herzegovina in the Telecommunication Sector. It has also been pointed out that the ITU policy in the issue of the basic Telecommunication Law, is mainly based on strengthening the authority at the State level to be followed by cooperation with the entities and operators recognized in the Dayton Agreement.
- Assistance to the State Ministry responsible for the management of the frequency spectrum in the field of the spectrum management, and discussions with representatives of the "Stabilization Force (SFOR)" on the necessity to coordinate with the State the use of the frequency spectrum during the transitional period.
- The ITU assumed the responsibility of equipping the two Project Implementation Units (PIU) to be established for/in the two entities.

### **4 Swisscom (Swiss Telecom) Project**

The ITU has played the fundamental role of intermediate between the relevant parties, in the case of the donation by Swisscom of 100 000 telephone lines to the State of BIH.

### **5 WorldTel proposal**

The ITU is at present studying the modalities of collaboration with WorldTel in the framework of the assistance the latter is proposing for BIH. Part of the proposed assistance is the funding of up to 500 000 additional lines of telecom network and associated infrastructure in Bosnia over the period of the next three to five years.

### **6 Legal framework**

It is to be noted that the ITU policy is to follow the Dayton Agreement guidelines in providing assistance to improve and develop the telecommunications environment of the entire country and to this end is working in close cooperation with the EBRD.