Telecommunication Development Sector

Regional Preparatory Meeting for WTDC-2010 for Europe

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**Telecommunication
Development Sector**

Report by the Chairman

Part I: RPM Proceedings

1. Introduction

The ITU Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Americas region (RPM-AMS) was organized by the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in Santa Marta, Colombia, from 9-11 September 2009, at the kind invitation of the Government of the Republic of Colombia.

The objective of the RPM-AMS was to identify priorities, at the regional level, for the development of telecommunications and information and communication technologies (ICTs), taking into account contributions made by Member States and Sector Members from the region. The Meeting arrived at a set of proposals on the priority issues for the region which would serve as a basis for the formulation of contributions to the World Telecommunication Development Conference to be held in 2010 (WTDC-10) which will determine the future of the ITU-D Sector activities over the next four-year period.

This report gives an account of the work and results of the Meeting.

2. Participation

The meeting was attended by 71 participants representing 20 countries, 10 Operating Agencies, Scientific/Industrial Organizations and Other Entities dealing with Telecommunications, 4 Regional and International Organizations and 1 Other Observer. The list of participants can be found here.

3. Meeting of Heads of Delegation

The meeting of Heads of Delegations met on 8 September and, following ITU's long standing practice, informally agreed that the host country, Colombia, would nominate the Chairman of the RPM-AMS. It proposed Argentina, Guatemala, Guyana and Mexico as Vice-Chairmen and endorsed the draft agenda and time management plan.

4. Opening Ceremony

Ms. Claudia Muñoz, Communications Adviser to the Minister of Information and Communication Technologies, called the opening session to order and indicated that the session was being

broadcast on Colombian national television. Participants rose to sing the national anthem while a film showing the beauty and diversity of Colombia played.

Mr Juan Díaz Granados, Mayor of Santa Marta, welcomed all participants to his home city, thanking ITU for selecting Santa Marta for the event. He explained that he is firmly convinced about the benefits of ICTs for social and economic development. The mayor noted that Santa Marta has succeeded in connecting all of its educational institutions to the Internet and launched four ICT community centres. The city partnered with UNICEF to disseminate low-cost computing devices in classrooms. The mayor suggested that Santa Marta's efforts are an excellent example of the ITU *Connect a School, Connect a Community* flagship initiative.

Mr Marcos Mejía, the representative of the Governor of Magdalena, warmly welcomed all delegates to the RPM. He noted that telecommunications and ICT are essential for countries seeking to promote social development. He noted that events like the RPM promise to ensure that companies and communities alike are strengthened through access to ICTs. Mr Mejía told participants about the *Digital Magdalena* initiative which provides access to digital content, education, online government services and connects the province of Magdalena to rest of world.

As part of the opening session television broadcast, Colombia presented a video about the work of ITU to help its citizens understand the role of the Union.

The Director of the ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT), Mr Sami Al Basheer Al Morshid, welcomed all participants to the Meeting and thanked the host country for their excellent arrangements. He emphasized the importance of the RPM for bringing to the attention of BDT the issues, priorities and needs of countries in the Americas region for ICT development. He stated that discussions held in Santa Marta would provide input for WTDC-10 which would shape the future work of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector.

The BDT Director urged delegates to use the RPM to identify clear priorities, especially on regional initiatives in light of major trends in the ICT sector, notably new technologies, convergence and an increasingly competitive sector. He noted the achievements in the region, especially in mobile penetration and praised various regional ICT development initiatives such as Colombia's Compartel programme which has connected more than 15'000 public institutions to the Internet, including almost 13'000 schools. The Director expressed concern, however, about lack of connectivity in rural areas and the need to focus on increasing broadband penetration and household access.

He identified a number of key BDT activities and projects in the Americas region, including the large number of Centres of Excellence nodes, harmonization of ICT policies and regulation in the Caribbean, the ICT indigenous portal and spectrum management training. He noted that while both the RPM for the Asia-Pacific region (RPM-ASP) and the RPM for the Africa region (RPM-AFR) generally endorsed the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG) idea to consolidate and restructure the current Doha Action Plan, each region had adopted different approaches to the current programme on Least Development Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS). The RPM-ASP favoured a specific regional initiative while the RPM-AFR preferred to keep the existing programme. The Director shared his perspective that a new global initiative, funded through both regular budget and extra-budgetary funding, could implement a well-managed set of ICT activities and projects for LDCs and SIDS which remain a top priority for BDT.

Colombia presented a video about its Compartel programme which has connected public institutions, including schools and libraries to ICTs. The video also showed special programmes to promote online government services, computers for education and assistive technologies for persons with disabilities. It also highlighted how Compartel promotes safe Internet use in addition to funding two floating Internet centres that sail on rivers and along the Pacific coast to bring ICT services to remote communities.

H.E. Dr María del Rosario Guerra, Colombia's Minister of Information and Communication Technologies welcomed participants to the RPM-AMS and stressed the importance of the

Meeting for identifying priorities for the region. She noted the importance of understanding the impact of ICT services on the quality of life and economic development, including businesses. The Minister cited major trends, including the convergence of voice, broadcasting and Internet, fixed-wireless convergence and the rise of wireless broadband services, noting that the lower-costs of wireless broadband technologies promise to bridge the digital divide. The Minister noted the key role of efficient spectrum management and legal frameworks to enable ICTs to be used for public interest. She stressed the need to create regional and global strategies for addressing cybersecurity to protect boys and girls, youth and adolescents as well as to address cyberattacks.

The full text of all speeches is available at the Meeting's website: http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/conferences/rpm/2009/index.html.

5. Agenda and Time Management Plan

Following the recommendation made by the Heads of Delegations, Dr Daniel Enrique Medina, Vice-Minister of Information and Communication Technologies, was uninamously elected as Chairman of the RPM. The Minister Information and Communication Technologies chaired the morning session at which the draft Agenda (document 01) was adopted by the Meeting.

The meeting also endorsed the recommendation of the Heads of Delegations that the Vice-Chairmen be Mr Juan Facundo Fernandez Begni (Argentina), Mr Minor Samayoa (Guatemala), Valmikki Singh (Guyana) and Reynaldo Gonzalez Bustamante (Mexico).

Mr Juan Zavattiero, Head of the ITU Regional Office for the Americas, was introduced by the Chairman as the Secretary of the Meeting.

The documents on Time Management Plan (document DT01Rev4) and Allocation of Documents (document DT02Rev4) were introduced and adopted by the meeting. All conference documents are available on the Meeting's website.

6. ICT development status in the region: challenges and opportunities

BDT made a presentation based on a report published as document 08 and entitled *Information Society Statistical Profiles 2009:Americas Region*, a hard copy of which was distributed. The report provides an overview of current ICT trends, highlights ICT and broadband status in the Americas, including the rapid growth of mobile, and benchmarks ICT developments in and outside the region. While the Americas region is second to Europe for ICT penetration, the average rates are higher due to the level of penetration in the United States and Canada. Two benchmarking tools, the new ICT Development Index (IDI) and the ICT Price Basket were also introduced.

The Meeting took note of document 08 and thanked ITU for its excellent work. In response to a comment made on the availability of updated ICT data and on the census data used, BDT said that, with the exception of price data which is based on market research, all data come from the ITU membership. Discussion also indicated the need to demonstrate the impact of ICTs, in particular linking the indicators to poverty reduction, which BDT plans to do in a forthcoming report on the relationship of the indicators and the Millennium Development Goals. It was noted that ITU is an active participant in the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development (www.itu.int/ITU-D/ict/partnership/), an international, multi-stakeholder initiative to improve the availability and quality of ICT data and indicators, particularly in developing countries.

7. Implementation of Doha Action Plan

The following documents were presented by BDT:

Document 03: The document entitled Report on Implementation of Doha Action Plan - Programmes, Study Groups, Activities and Initiatives in the Americas Region provided a status report on the implementation of the Doha Action Plan in the Americas region. It included a

summary of the various activities undertaken by BDT in implementing WTDC-06 Programmes, Study Group work programme, Activities and Special Initiatives during the last two and one half years with a particular emphasis on the Americas region.

Document 02: The document entitled Report on Implementation of Doha Action Plan (Resolution 17 - Regional Initiatives provided a review of Regional Initiatives (RIs) (Resolution 17, Rev. Doha, 2006) as well as an overview of other projects implemented within the Americas Region.

Participants congratulated ITU for the activities implemented and expressed their interest to work closely for the identification and implementation of actions in the framework of the future Action Plan. Brazil specifically manifested its support to the implementation of the activities in the framework of the Centre of Excellence for the Americas region that has recently become part of the Americas Regional Office in Brasilia.

BDT was requested to provide further information regarding the origin of the financial resources used for the implementation of Funds-in-Trust (FIT) projects and also to provide more information regarding the impact of the outputs of these projects in those countries where they have been implemented. In addition, it was noted that the source of funding, whether through the regular budget and/or funds-in-trust, needs to be clearly identified. Moreover, the limited human and financial resources of the Union as a whole and ITU-D in particular, need to be taken into account in the development of the future work plan.

Document 05: The document entitled Summary of ITU-T Action Plan for WTSA 08 Resolutions (Johannesburg, 2008) which includes reference to ITU-D/BDT, provided background on the ITU World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA-08, 21–30 October 2008, Johannesburg, South Africa) which adopted 49 Resolutions of 21 were new. A list of 17 Resolutions calling for collaboration with BDT, together with excerpts from these Resolutions requiring specific follow-up actions (i.e., "resolves", "instructs") was presented.

Document 07: The document entitled Report on Implementation of WTDC 06 Resolutions (from 1 January 2007 to 31 December 2009, which supplements documents 02 and 03, provided additional information on various activities undertaken or planned by BDT for the period of three years (January 2007 to December 2009) in implementing Doha Action Plan (DAP) with particular emphasis on WTDC-06 Resolutions relevant to Programmes, Study Groups, Activities and Special Initiatives.

8. Topics for the ITU-D Future Work

Document 06: The purpose of the document entitled A fresh look on ITU-D activities presented by BDT was to trigger discussion, especially on the programming of BDT activities and the potential for consolidation in preparation for the 2010 World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-10). BDT emphasized that the proposals in the document were given as examples and Members were invited to submit contributions as they deemed fit.

The BDT Director informed participants that the document had been prepared at TDAG's request which had also requested that it be submitted to RPMs for feedback. In the ensuing discussions, it was suggested that Study Group activities be reviewed half way between WTDCs and that participants read carefully the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) report being presented to the next session of Council, which contains several recommendations on the Regional Presence. In addition, it was noted that relevant WSIS outcomes are already fully integrated into BDT activities.

Document 09Rev2: The document entitled US Contribution to RPM Americas Region was introduced by the United States. The document recommends six priority areas for the Americas region for the 2011-2014 Action Plan including (i) increased access to broadband infrastructure, services, and applications; (ii) security of communications networks; (iii) public safety and emergency communications; (iv) an enabling policy environment; (v) a demonstrable focus on gender, the disabled, and the youth (vi) ways to use ICT to combat climate change and (viii) a focus on e-government. The document also comments on the role

of BDT and responds to the Fresh Look document regarding the proposed changes to the existing Programmes.

The meeting supported the United States observation that the Member-driven character of the Union is firm and inviolate. BDT acknowledged that Member State proposals would drive the activities of the Sector, and that, as outlined in the Fresh Look document, BDT merely suggested a change in the way activities would be carried out.

The United States maintained its position that the programme for LDCs and Emergency Communications Services should be preserved.

Document 19: The document entitled Current structure and functioning of Programmes, Activities, Special Initiatives and Regional Initiatives carried out by BDT was introduced by Brazil which invited Members, in preparation for WTDC-10, to consider and discuss: (i) the proposed downsizing of the number of Programmes to achieve greater focus and increased quality of results along with topics to be included within each Programme; (ii) improvements that could be made to the current structure of Activities and Special Initiatives; (iii) issues that should be considered for the definition of Regional Initiatives during the next cycle; and (iv) manner in which to improve the effectiveness of implementing Regional Initiatives, considering the balance between regional, sub-regional and national projects based on common priorities.

Document 25: The document entitled Development of ICTs vs ICTs for development was introduced by Colombia. The document proposes a review of the distribution of the questions of the ITU-D Study Groups and the creation of a programme to assist ITU Members in the design, implementation and follow-up of activities related to the use of technologies and ICTs services. The proposal in document 25, including the impact of telecommunications development on job creation, ethics and social responsibility of content, was adopted, taking into consideration other initiatives.

Study Groups

Document 17: The document entitled Discussion on the work and current structure of ITU-D Study Groups was introduced by Brazil to trigger discussion on the work and current structure of the ITU-D's two Study Groups. It identified a number of Questions to which there were very limited contributions, and suggested redefining the scope of certain Questions to provide focus while eliminating overlapping Questions, deleting or merging Questions when necessary. The proposal also calls criteria to measure the effectiveness of Questions, both qualitatively and quantitatively, including the use of key performance indicators analyze the satisfaction of ITU Members and measure the results obtained. There was general support for the document.

Document 09 Rev2: Sections of the document entitled US Contribution to RPM Americas Region which refer to Study Group Questions, were presented by the United States which also referred to its proposals contained in documents 12, 13 and 14. An overview of document 09Rev2 had been introduced by the United States in an earlier session.

The United States strongly recommended that Study Group Questions for the period 2011-2014 avoid duplication, and that a management plan addressing the issues raised in their contributions and reflecting the recommended consolidation as appropriate be presented to TDAG for approval by WTDC.

Document 12: The document entitled Follow on to Question 22/1: Securing information and communication networks: best practices for developing a culture of cybersecurity was presented by the United States. The document proposes follow-up to Question 22/1, including expanding the information contained in the report from the current cycle, and additional activities in respect of the mandate of Question 22/1 (Securing information and communication networks: best practices for developing a culture of cybersecurity). The document suggests that the information contained in the report for the current cycle entitled "Report on Best Practices for a National Approach to Cybersecurity" should be used to develop course materials, thereby assisting developing countries in dealing with cybersecurity issues. The study should also provide training and educational materials for use in seminars, workshops, etc.

The document was endorsed by consensus. It was indicated that it would be important to explicitly state the issue of child online protection and collaboration with regional and international law enforcement agencies. Reference was made to WTPF Opinion 4 *Collaborative strategies for creating confidence and security in the use of ICTs* which invites ITU to interact closely with concerned international, regional, and national entities and organizations such as the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the Council of Europe, the Organization of American States (OAS), the Commonwealth and many others in the framework of the proposed new Study Group Question.

Document 14Rev1: The document entitled Examination of broadband access technologies (including IMT, NGN, and satellite technologies) for developing countries was introduced by the United States. The document proposes that three existing Study Group Questions (Questions 18/2, 19/2 and 20/2) be consolidated into a single Question that would examine all broadband access technologies (including IMT, NGN and satellite technologies) for developing countries. Factors affecting the deployment of various broadband services, benefits of using broadband technologies should also be analyzed, taking into account the gender perspective.

Delegations expressed reservations about merging all three Questions, although most supported merging Questions 18/2 and 20/2.

Document 13: The document entitled New Question – Bridging the Standardization Gap: Studies to identify and assess needs and priorities of countries in human and institutional capacity building in type-approval, conformity assessment, and other related matters was introduced by the United States. The proposed new Question for ITU-D Study Group 2 would identify and assess, *inter alia*, the challenges, priorities, and problems encountered by developing countries with respect to the application of voluntary versus mandatory standards, type approval, certification, equipment procurement and related issues.

During the discussion, the importance of cooperation and collaboration within ITU (WTSA Resolution 76) and with other relevant organizations, including ETSI and ISO was highlighted. The document received general support from participants.

Document 16: The document entitled Proposal for discussion on new topics for study regarding the migration from analogue to digital in broadcasting was introduced by Brazil. The main objective of the proposal is to encourage more detailed discussions on the migration from analogue to digital broadcasting. The document suggests that Question 11-2/2 be continued with revised terms of reference in order to address the requirements of the migration from analogue to digital TV.

During the ensuing discussion, there was general support for the proposal and suggestion for inclusion of best practices based on national experiences. The issue of cooperation and collaboration, especially with ITU-R, was also mentioned, as well as the need to examine the full range of technologies and the issues of technological neutrality, so that digital TV receivers can support different types of standards.

Document 23: The document entitled New Question: Strategies for the implementation of policies/regulation on the handling of waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) was introduced by Colombia. The document proposes a new Question related to strategies for handling electrical and electronic waste in relation to information and communications

equipment, mainly in developing countries. Outputs could include reports and recommendations as well as possible actions to be taken by developing countries.

The issue of cooperation and collaboration, especially with ITU-T Study Group 5, and the need to take into account Opinion 3 (ICT and the Environment) of the World Telecommunication Policy Forum (WTPF) was also mentioned.

Document 18: The document entitled [Revision of current Resolutions](#) was introduced by Brazil. It includes a list of the Resolutions approved at the last WTDC for which action is required as well as suggested actions including whether existing resolutions should be continued, modified, suppressed or whether further discussion is required to make such a determination. Brazil presented this document as a preliminary effort to identify modifications or actions to review resolutions approved by WTDC-06 that would improve the work of the ITU-D Sector.

It was agreed that this document will be an input into the TDAG Working Group on the Revision of WTDC-06 Resolutions and Recommendations.

Intersectoral Coordination

Document 11: The document entitled [Strengthening coordination and cooperation between ITU-D and ITU-T on matters of mutual interest and concern](#) was introduced by Canada. The document takes the form of a draft resolution to be submitted to the WTDC which requests a clear definition of the work carried out by TSB and BDT in order to avoid duplication and optimize the use of resources. It instructs the Directors of the Telecommunication Development and Telecommunication Standardization Bureaux to improve the reporting of their Sector's operational plans related to human and financial resource allocations and the achievement of harmonized actions.

Although there was general support for the proposal, it was agreed that it should be submitted directly to the WTDC for its approval.

Standardization Gap

Document 09Rev2: The United States presented the section of this document referring to its proposal on bridging the standardization gap, specifically the adoption of a new Study Question which is presented in document 13.

Participants expressed the importance that activities undertaken by ITU-D be complementary to the work being carried out by ITU-T and that implementation of Resolution 76 (WTSA-08) take into account the work already developed in the field of interoperability. It was also mentioned that the Report of the TSB Director on the implementation of Resolution 76 foresees the close collaboration between the two Sectors.

BDT noted that a joint Telecommunication Standardization Bureau (TSB)–Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) document is under preparation for submission to the ITU Council which will indicate the respective roles of each Sector.

Migration to digital TV

Document 28: The document entitled [Assistance with the digital TV process in Central America](#) was introduced by COMTELCA and suggests several actions related to the transition from analogue to digital broadcasting in Central America.

Several participants expressed their support for the proposal and their interest in collaborating, suggesting that it be expanded to include the countries of the Caribbean region.

Emergency communication and Disaster Management

Document 09Rev2: The United States presented the section of this document referring to its proposal on emergency communications. As discussed in the meeting, the United States believes that emergency communications should be one of the priorities for the upcoming four-year period, and that activities related to this important topic should be elevated in future work. According to document 09Rev2, reconfiguring the way in which the subject is dealt with in the Doha Action Plan, including the possible elimination of the programme, would be inconsistent with the recommended course of action, and the United States does not support it. While there was some support for this view, there was no consensus on the position.

The BDT Director clarified that the important topic of emergency communications was at the top of ITU's and BDT's agenda and that in the proposed clustering of programmes it would be dealt with through three programmes. There is no intention to eliminate this topic from the ITU-D Action Plan, but to deal with it in a more comprehensive way. The region also identified this topic as one of its proposed regional initiatives for the coming cycle.

Document 32: The document entitled Assistance for Disaster Mitigation was introduced by COMTELCA and refers to the use of ICTs for disaster mitigation purposes. It suggests different actions that could be implemented to assist countries of the sub-region. Participants expressed their support for the proposal and requested that it be extended to cover the Caribbean countries, and also include early warning systems.

Document 36: The document entitled Emergency and contingency plan for the telecommunication sector in Colombia was presented by Colombia. The document presents Colombia's national *Plan for the Prevention and Disaster Preparedness* and the role of the Ministry of Information and Communications Technologies within that framework.

Participants supported the contributions presented on the subject of emergency communications and disaster management and considered the subject matter as one of the priority issues for the region. Reference was also made to commitment of the three ITU Sectors in Emergency communications and Disaster management.

Gender, Youth and Indigenous People

Document 09Rev2: The United States presented the section of this document related to its gender proposal. The United States noted that there is increasing recognition that empowering women economically is a key strategy for economic development. At its fifty-second session in 2008, the United Nations Economic and Social Council's Commission on the Status of Women noted the growing body of evidence which demonstrates that investing in women and girls has a multiplier effect on productivity, efficiency and sustained economic growth, and that increasing women's economic empowerment was central to achieving the Millennium Development Goals, and to eradicating poverty.[1] The United Nations General Assembly's resolution on *Women in development* adopted in 2007, recognized, among other things, the need to empower women economically, and encouraged governments, with the support of their development partners, to invest in appropriate infrastructure and other projects, as well as to create opportunities for economic empowerment, in order to alleviate for women and girls the burden of time-consuming everyday tasks.[2] The United States therefore recommend that for the 2011-2014 period, ITU-D acquire and exercise a strong and pervasive focus on gender issues. An ITU-D Action Plan that accords high priority to gender issues in all of its programmes is destined to achieve its goals.

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[1] 2009 World Survey on the Role of Women in Development "Women's control over economic resources and access to financial resources, including microfinance" Report of the Expert Consultation, United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Bangkok, Thailand, 12-14 November 2008. See also Gender equality as smart economics: A World Bank Group Gender Action Plan (Fiscal years 2007 – 2010) (World Bank, September 2006) Washington, DC.

[2] United Nations General Assembly, resolution A/RES/62/206, para. 19.

The United States indicated that Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has appointed the first Ambassador for Global Women's Issues in support of a comprehensive agenda of educational exchanges, outreach and entrepreneurial training and ventures.Participants expressed their support for this contribution.

Document 20: The document entitled Integrating assistance to indigenous peoples within the activities of BDT and its various programmes was introduced by Mexico. The document proposes that BDT activities related to assistance to indigenous peoples be integrated into other BDT activities and related programmes. The document is a draft resolution that proposes that Special Initiative Four on indigenous peoples be maintained in all programmes and that, through activities of the Centres of Excellence, support be given in the design of public policies for remote areas and for technical training on the maintenance and development of ICTs.

Although there was general support for the proposal, it was agreed that it should be submitted directly to WTDC for its approval.

Document 51: The document entitled Colombian experience in the ICT solution implementation for the access to information and communication for the blind and deaf was introduced by Colombia. The document provides information on a national initiative targeting ICT access for blind and deaf users. Colombia requested that participants in the region share information on promising assistive technologies.

Policy and Regulation

Document 09Rev2: The United States presented the section of this document referring to its proposal on the enabling policy environment.

Document 15: The document entitled Priority issues to be considered by ITU-D was introduced by Brazil as an information document. It describes Brazil's recent regulatory developments, specifically the creation of a General Plan for Modernization of Telecommunication Regulation known as the PGR (Plano Geral de Atualização da Regulamentação).

Document 26: The document entitled General principles for protection of telecommunication service users in an environment of convergence was introduced by Colombia. The document proposed that ITU-D carries out studies aimed at identifying new needs of telecom and/or ICT-related service users in an era of convergence and to propose applicable regulatory measures that could be implemented by developing countries.

Document 27: The document entitled Generation of appropriate regulatory conditions for the transition to NGNs was introduced by Colombia. The contribution suggests that ITU should provide more opportunities to discuss the issues related to the gradual transition to NGN, taking into consideration the specific characteristics of the Latin American countries.

Document 31: The document entitled Assistance for Number Portability was presented by COMTELCA and requests collaboration among Central American countries in regards to the implementation of Number Portability, taking into consideration that COMTELCA's study groups are generating the corresponding regulations as reference for the region.

Document 34: The document entitled Assistance for review of tariffs in Central America was presented by COMTELCA. The document requests assistance in the design of a strategy for structuring cost-based roaming and long-distance tariffs, including the use of COMTELCA's regional legal framework for the application of tariffs and the review of market symmetries between countries.

Document 43: The document entitled Implementation assistance in Central America was presented by COMTELCA. The main purpose of the document is to identify best practices in the development of national and regional IXPs. Several comments noted the need to avoid duplication of efforts with other ongoing initiatives, in particular, activities being carried out by

ITU-T Study Group 3, CITEL´s PCC I, Latin American and Caribbean Internet Addresses Registry (LACNIC) and the Internet Society (ISOC). Moreover, mechanisms and procedures for cost-based tariff determination and quality of service were proposed for the establishment of NGN development platforms.

Document 50: The document entitled ICTs and climate Change was introduced by Ecuador. It proposes to launch, as a global initiative, the exchange of environmental surpluses, e.g. carbon credits, for technology transfer, training of human resources and allocation of resources for telecommunication services and other appropriate forms. Several comments noted the need to coordinate with efforts in ITU-T Study Group 5 (Environment and Climate Change), the ITU-R Sector, the proposed ITU-D Study Group Question on climate change as well as other initiatives in the United Nations itself. The Director explained that while the topics in the different sectors may be the same, each sector deals with different aspects of the issues that fall within their respective mandates.

Infrastructure including Broadband networks and NGN

Document 09Rev2: The document entitled US Contribution to RPM Americas Region was introduced by the United States. The specific proposal, contained in document 14Rev1, related to this issue recommends that increasing access to broadband infrastructure, services and applications should be among the highest priorities for the Americas region, and for ITU-D going forward into the 2011-2014 period.

Document 33: The document entitled Process Assistance in the Central American Region was presented by COMTELCA. The document expresses the need for a system to handle traffic and signal switching regarding fiber optic links of the Mesoamerican Information Highway (Autopista Mesoamericana de la Información–AMI).

Document 42: The document entitled Assistance with processes in Central America was presented by COMTELCA. The document requests assistance in the development of a cost calculation tool for determining telecommunication service tariffs, a guide for defining relevant markets and identifying the dominant operator. Comments were made in order to avoid duplication of efforts considering activities being performed in ITU-T Study Group 3 and CITEL.

Document 45: The document entitled Indicators relating to Community Access to ICTs: use and Application of ICTs; inclusion of specific populations and sectors; impact and sustainability of ICT Universal Access Initiatives was presented by Colombia. The document proposes to include indicators, definitions and benchmarks for broadband, ICT community access, ICT use and appropriation, inclusion of specific populations, as well as the impact and sustainability of these initiatives. It proposes to set up, if necessary, a Study Group that will globally address these indicators and definitions as well as their inter-relations.

Universal access including rural communications

Document 24: The document entitled Development of ICTs applications in Rural Areas in Colombia based in the delivery of Computers to Educational Institutions was presented by Colombia. The document highlights Colombia's experience in the recycling ICT equipment to be delivered to schools. It includes a proposal for BDT to lead an effort to implement this activity around the world.

Document 30: The document entitled Assistance for rural networks was presented by COMTELCA. The document proposes the development of telecommunications in rural and underserved areas, the development of emergency communications and assistance for disaster relief, noting that the human capacity building aspects of these activities could also be addressed.

Document 35: The document entitled <u>Projects of the COMPARTEL Programe that contribute to Universal Access</u> was presented by Colombia. In this document Colombia provides information on national initiatives aimed at expanding access to rural and underserved areas.

Document 41: The document entitled <u>Study for technological changeover from packet radio to Wi-Fi was presented by Nicaragua</u>. The document requests the assistance of the ITU for a study on technological developments to enable more efficient communications with remote communities.

Document 49: The document entitled <u>Setting priorities for the regional initiatives</u> was introduced by Ecuador and proposes four (4) topics to be considered when establishing the regional initiatives for the Americas region for the next period. Colombia supported the document and suggested the modification of points 1 and 2 as well as the addition of a new fifth point as follows:

1. Programmes that contribute to reducing the costs of Internet access and interconnection
2. Programmes for significantly enhancing connectivity in rural and marginal urban areas, through the development of broadband in order to meet the objectives of universal access and service.
3. Programmes for large-scale ICT access for all education centres, health centres and social rehabilitation centres.
4. Training programmes, with emphasis on rural and marginal urban sectors and on persons with disabilities.
5. impact and sustainability of these initiatives

BDT offered to try to accommodate them with other Regional Initiatives (RIs) proposals calling for consolidation of existing RIs and identification of new priorities. The Director explained that RIs are different from programmes and activities which come under the ITU regular budget, since they are funded from extra-budgetary contributions, with ITU seed capital. The Brazilian proposal dto merge Regional Initiatives 1 and 3 (document 19) was therefore suggested as a possible means of consolidating the Regional Initiatives.

ICT Applications including e-Government, e-health and Network security including cybersecurity

Document 09Rev2: The United States presented the section of this document referring to its proposals on promoting network security, e-government and cybersecurity. Specifically the United States proposes modifications to Question 22/1 which is found in document 12.

Document 21: The document, entitled <u>Colombia's national ICT</u> and presented by Colombia, proposes that support be given to countries developing their national e-health plans and in achieving the objectives of eLAC2010. The proposal also calls for regional networks to share e-health services and health libraries.

Document 22: The document entitled <u>Information technology assistance: e-government, e-signature, e commerce, e-learning, e-business, e-medicine</u> was presented by COMTELCA. The document requests assistance for Central American countries with respect to e-applications. In addition, COMTELCA noted that addressing spam is very important. While recognizing the sovereignty of each country, COMTELCA suggests that it would be possible to develop an umbrella reference document to reduce information fraud. There was a request to extend this to countries in the Caribbean.

Document 40 The document entitled <u>Activating and interconnecting e-health units</u> was presented by TELCOR of Nicaragua requesting assistance to acquire equipment to support e-health centres in rural areas in the country that face communications challenges so they may provide medical care for disease prevention, accidents, etc.

Document 44: The document entitled <u>Draft Resolution (Hyderabad, 2010: Assistance for implementation of projects for bridging the digital divide</u> was presented by Costa Rica. The

document proposes a draft resolution to include support for e-government services in the ITU-D Action Plan, specifically for rural and marginalized communities. Although there was general support for the proposal it was agreed that it should be submitted directly to the WTDC for its approval.

Document 46: The document entitled E-Government Strategy atT national and territorial Level was presented by Colombia. The document explains Colombia's strategy on implementing e-government services.

Document 47: The information document entitled Strategies for digital territories within national strategies was introduced by Colombia and proposes a strategy for the implementation of digital territories in order to successfully promote the use and access of ICTs based on the Colombian experience. The strategy adopts a bottom up approach where local communities propose projects using ICTs to improve life.

Document 48: The BDT information document entitled ITU-IMPACT Initiative, which provides information on the International Multilateral Partnership Against Cyber Threats (IMPACT) Initiative was presented in order to foster more participation in the region to increase benefits for the ITU membership at large. Some participants expressed interest in joining the initiative while others pointed to the existing initiatives in the region. Participants also noted the work of the Organization of American States (OAS), in particular Inter-American Committee Against Terrorism (CICTE), the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL), the Meeting of Ministers of Justice (REMJA), and highlighted the importance of avoiding duplication of efforts in the region.

Document 52: The document entitled International alliance for a safe internet: sector commitment for a responsible use of the ICTs, for the benefit of children and youth was introduced by Colombia and requests a commitment from the ITU-D to promote the development of strategies against the irresponsible use of the Internet.

Human Capacity Building

Document 29: The document entitled Training assistance, presented by COMTELCA, requests a human capacity building programme for countries of the sub-region to prepare them to deal with new technologies and regulations arising from the evolution of the ICTs. The proposal received general endorsement and suggestions were made to extend the training throughout the region and to create mechanisms to allow for the sustainability of the initiative and the measurement of its impact.

Document 38: The document entitled Computer network and information security laboratory was presented by TELCOR (Nicaragua). The document requests assistance in implement a lab on information and network security for the country's public engineering university, using tools available in various schools to promote inter-disciplinary work and train students and public employees, for example on cybersecurity and technological and cultural development.

Document 39: The document entitled Transforming the research centre of the Electrotechnical and Computing Faculty (FEC) of the National Engineering University (UNI) into an ITU Centre of Excellence node for the Americas was presented by TELCOR (Nicaragua). The document proposes that the same public university referred to in document 38 could become a node of the ITU Centre of Excellence.

Oral proposal: Argentina made an oral presentation requesting the support of BDT for technical assistance to non-profit cooperatives that provide telecommunications services in suburban and underserved rural areas. Argentina noted cooperatives are used by several countries in the region. The proposal was generally endorsed by the participants. BDT suggested that the Argentina proposal could be included in the Regional Initiative on rural access, and this was agreed by Argentina.

WSIS Roadmap

Document 04: The document entitled Report on implementation of Doha Action Plan (WSIS Implementation) provides an overview of the activities undertaken by BDT within the context of the WSIS Action Plan. It underlines the dual roles of implementer and facilitator for a number of Action Lines. The document also provides a roadmap on ITU's follow-up to WSIS and invited inputs from the participants. BDT confirmed that the document is being coordinated with ITU-T and ITU-R and would also be submitted to Council, but was presented for further consultation with RPM participants.

Several participants noted that activities associated with the WSIS outcomes needed to reflect the limited financial resources of the Union and their consistency with the core competencies of ITU.

One participant noted that WSIS-specific activities should be coordinated with relevant international experts.

PART-II: Proposal for Future Work from the Americas Region

After considering the introduction of documents and interventions, the RPM-AMS identified the following as priority areas for programmes, regional initiatives and Study Group Questions for the future work of the ITU-D sector.

Priority Areas for Programmes

The Members' contributions to the RPM-AMS include a number of topics that require the provision of training and expertise, and involve information sharing. These topics, which are global in nature, could be operationalized through programmes supported by the following four modes of delivery: the creation of tools, development of training materials, information dissemination through workshops and seminars as well as direct assistance.

The proposed topics could be consolidated into programmes based on the linkages or similarities between them, as follows:

Programme 1
Information and communication infrastructure

Broadband access (document 09Rev2)

Fiber-optic backbone (document 33)

Internet interconnection (document 43)

Migration of analogue to digital broadcasting (document 19)

Programme 2
Cybersecurity and ICT applications

Network security (document 09Rev2)

E-government (documents 09Rev2 and 46)

Global Cybersecurity culture (document 09Rev2)

E-health, including national e-health plans (documents 21 and 40)

ICT and Climate Change, Disaster management and Emergency communications (documents 32, 36 and 50)

Child online protection (document 52)

IPv6 migration (document 19)

Persons with disabilities (document 19)

Programme 3
Enabling environment

Regulation to combat SPAM (document 22)

Regulation for Consumer protection in a converged environment (document 26)

Regulatory aspects of transition to NGN (document 27 and 43)

Number portability (document 31)

Cost-based roaming (document 34)

Costing methodologies and accounting (document 42)

Connectivity indicators (document 45)

National ICT strategies (document 47)

Enforcement and implementation of policies (document 19)

Programme 4
Capacity building and other initiatives

Assistance to Indigenous People (documents 20 and 30)

Specialized training in the technical, legal and regulatory fields (document 29)

Information Security (document 38)

Strengthening of the nodes of the Centres of Excellence (document 39)

Access to ICTs for people with disabilities (documents 19 and 51)

As outlined in the United States document 09Rev2, the United States noted that Member States which are LDC countries with special needs and SIDS are a sufficiently distinct and important constituency to warrant the dedicated programme that currently exists. This does not preclude further BDT initiatives on behalf of LDCs which may be financed in the future.

Objective: Provision of special assistance to LDCs and SIDS countries to meet their priority ICT requirements.

To achieve the above-mentioned objective, the following mechanisms will be used:

1. Special Programme for LDCs and SIDS
2. Global Initiatives for LDCs and SIDS

Americas Regional Initiatives

The Americas Regional Initiatives are intended to address the specific ICT priority areas through partnerships and resource mobilization to implement small- medium- and large-scale projects. Under each Regional Initiative, projects will be developed and implemented to meet the region's needs.

1. Emergency communications (documents 32 and 36)

Objective: To provide assistance to Member States at all phases of disaster management i.e. disaster preparedness including early warning, disaster response/relief and rehabilitation of telecommunication networks.

Expected results

1. Identification of suitable technologies to be used for emergency communication
2. Creation of common databases to share information on emergency communication
3. Design of national and sub-regional emergency communication plans and early warning systems, taking into account the impact of climate change
4. Development of appropriate policy, regulatory and legislative frameworks on emergency communication at national and regional level
5. Increased human capacity skills on Emergency communications

2. Digital broadcasting (documents 16 and 28)

Objective: To assist ITU Member States towards a smooth transition from analogue to digital broadcasting

Expected results

1. Policy and regulatory framework for digital terrestrial broadcasting including mobile television;
2. Digital broadcasting master plan for the transition from analogue to digital broadcasting including Mobile TV and IPTV
3. Appropriate mechanism for the conversion from analogue to digital archives
4. Provision of assistance in the field of interactive multimedia services to broadcasters of the Americas region
5. Enhanced human resources skills on digital broadcasting technologies
6. Comprehensive guidelines on transition from analogue to digital broadcasting

3. Broadband access and uptake in urban and rural areas (documents 24, 30, 35, 41, 47 and 49)

Objective: To assist Member States in the development of broadband access in urban and rural areas

Expected results

1. National ICT master plan in meeting the requirements of developing countries

2. Improved broadband infrastructure and access to affordable ICT services in urban and rural areas
3. Promotion of access to ICTs of public social service institutions such as educational centres, health centres and social rehabilitation centres
4. Development of ICT applications that address local needs
5. Enhanced human resources skills on broadband communication network
6. Support to non-profit cooperatives that provide services in underserved rural and suburban areas
7. Provision of used computers to educational institutions in rural areas

4.   Reduction of Internet access costs (documents 43 and 49)

Objective: To assist Member States in identifying ways and means to reduce the cost of Internet access and interconnection.

Expected results

1. Study of the policy and regulatory aspects of Internet Exchange Points (IXPs)
2. Establishment of national and regional IXPs
3. Promotion of cooperation and regulatory information sharing

5.   Human capacity building on ICTs, with emphasis on people with disabilities or living in rural and deprived urban areas (documents 30 and 49)

Objective: To provide, on a sustainable basis, training programmes on ICTs addressing the particular needs of people with disabilities or living in rural and deprived urban areas.

Expected results

1. Human capacity building programmes especially tailored for the needs of people with disabilities or living in rural/remote areas.
2. Identification of training centres to deliver the programmes at community level.
3. Promotion of technical cooperation between telecommunication/ICT training institutions on capacity and resources for sustainable delivery of the special programmes
4. Increased availability of public access to knowledge for people with special needs.

Study Groups related matters

Proposed new study Questions:

1. Securing Information and Communication networks: best practices for developing a culture of Cybersecurity (document 12)
2. Bridging the Standardization Gap: studies to identify countries' needs and priorities in capacity building in type-approval, conformity assessment, and other matters (document 13)
3. Strategies for implementation of policies/regulation on the handling of waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) in the field of information and communication technologies (document 23)

Work and structure of Study Groups: (documents 17 and 25)

1. Redefinition of the terms of reference of Questions to provide focus and eliminate overlapping
2. Deletion or merging of Questions, when necessary
3. Evaluation of criteria to measure the effectiveness of Questions both in qualitative and quantitative terms

1. Strengthening coordination and cooperation between ITU-D and ITU-T on matters of mutual interest and concern (document 11)
2. Integrating assistance to indigenous peoples within the activities of BDT and its various programmes (document 20)
3. Assistance for the implementation of projects aimed at reducing the digital divide (document 44)

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