**MOD** ARB/21A6/1

RESOLUTION 18 (Rev. bUENOS AIRES, 2017)

Special technical assistance to Palestine

(Valetta, 1998; Istanbul 2002; Doha, 2006; Hyderabad, 2010; Dubai, 2014; Buenos Aires, 2017)

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Buenos Aires, 2107),

recalling

*a)* Resolution 32 (Kyoto, 1994) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on technical assistance to Palestine for the development of telecommunications, and Resolution 125 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on assistance and support to Palestine for rebuilding its telecommunication networks;

*b)* Resolution 64 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference and Resolution 20 (Rev. Hyderabad, 2010) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference on non-discriminatory access to modern telecommunication/information and communication technology facilities, services and related applications, and the important role played by telecommunications/ICT in political, economic, social and cultural progress;

*c)* Resolution 69 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly on non-discriminatory access and use of Internet resources and telecommunications/information and communication technologies;

*d)* Resolution 99 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the status of Palestine in ITU;

*e)* the noble principles, purposes and goals enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Sustainable Development Plan (2016-2030) and the Sustainable Development Goals 2030;

*f)* United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/RES/70/225, which recognizes the Palestinian people's right to permanent sovereignty over all their natural resources, specifically land, water, energy and other natural resources, in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem;

*g)* the provisions of § 16 of the Declaration of Principles of the first phase (Geneva, 2003) of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and the outcomes of the second phase of WSIS (Tunis, 2005), particularly § 96 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, relating to ITU's role in taking steps to ensure rational, efficient and economic use of, and equitable access to, the radio-frequency spectrum by all countries, based on relevant international agreements;

*h)* the Tunis Commitment, recognizing the principles of universal, non-discriminatory, equitable and affordable access to telecommunications/information and communication technology (ICT) for all persons everywhere (in particular §§ 15, 18, 19, 20 and 21 thereof);

*i)* the efforts of the Secretary-General of the Union and Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau to implement Resolution 18 (Rev. Dubai, 2014),

considering

*a)* that the ITU Constitution and Convention are designed to strengthen peace and security in the world for the development of international cooperation and better understanding among the peoples concerned;

*b)* ITU's policy of assistance to Palestine for the development of its telecommunication/information and communication technology (ICT) sector, which is efficient but has not yet achieved its goals;

*c)* Resolution 9 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference, to the effect that it is the sovereign right of every State to manage spectrum use within its territories, Annex 1 to Resolution 9 (Rev. Dubai 2014), relating to the special requirements for spectrum management, and the provisions in Resolution 99 (Rev. Busan, 2014),

considering further

*a)* that establishment of a reliable and modern telecommunication network in Palestine will represent a major force to be relied upon in achieving the goals of sustainable development, the socio-economic and cultural reinvigoration of Palestine and environmental protection; it will, furthermore, represent an opportunity to establish a Palestinian information society that is of the utmost importance to the future of the Palestinian people;

*b)* the importance of the international community in assisting Palestine to develop a modern and reliable telecommunication network;

*c)* the core mission of the Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) includes fostering international cooperation for the delivery of technical assistance and the creation, development and improvement of telecommunication/ICT networks and services;

*d)* that all WTDCs have reaffirmed the important and urgent need to provide access to basic telecommunication/information and communication technology (ICT) services for everyone, and particularly for developing countries1, in order to provide coverage in rural and isolated areas which lack this service, and in indigenous communities,

mindful

of the fundamental principles contained in the Constitution,

having regard to

*a)* the continuing challenges which Palestine and ITU have faced and still face in executing its resolutions, projects and initiatives, which must be a matter of anxiety and concern for the entire international community, especially ITU;

*b)* the decisions of the Connect Arab summit (Doha 2012);

*c)* the key outcomes of the Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Arab region (RPM-ARB), held in Sudan, 2017, particularly issues relating to Palestine,

noting

the long-term technical assistance provided by BDT to Palestine, the urgent need for forms of assistance to continue to be provided for the development of its telecommunication/ICT sector, pursuant to Resolution 32 (Kyoto, 1994) and the increasing difficulties that have accompanied the provision of this assistance continuously since that resolution was adopted,

noting with grave concern

that the restrictions and difficulties related to the current situation in Palestine that are preventing access to telecommunication/ICT means, services and applications on which the development of national telecommunications depends, and which are developed on the basis of recommendations adopted by ITU-R and ITU-T, constitute a continuing obstacle to telecommunication/ICT development in Palestine,

resolves to continue to instruct the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to continue and enhance the technical assistance provided to Palestine and to take special measures within the framework of ITU-D, with specialized assistance from ITU-R and ITU-T, for the development of telecommunications/ICTs in Palestine, taking into consideration the need to overcome the increasing and escalating difficulties encountered in the provision of this assistance during the previous cycles since 2002;

2 to take appropriate and effective measures within the mandate of BDT aimed at facilitating the establishment of international access networks, including terrestrial and satellite stations, submarine cables, optical fibre and microwave systems;

3 to instruct BDT, in coordination and collaboration with the Radiocommunication Bureau to commence immediatelyto enable Palestine to exploit the 694-862 MHz frequency band resulting from the digital transition for broadband mobile service uses and applications;

4 to instruct BDT, in coordination and collaboration with the Radiocommunication Bureau and Telecommunication Standardization Bureau, to build and develop human resources and build capacities by establishing training programmes, as needed, to address the deficit in expertise in key areas and meet the demands of the Palestinian Administration for specialized experts;

5 to implement programmes, activities, projects and initiatives for Palestine, pursuant to the previous agreements of the Union and to implement the Hyderabad, Dubai and Buenos Aires action plans in full, while increasing financial allocations to assist Palestine, within BDT financial allocations assigned for this purpose, and all other forms of assistance;

6 to report to the ITU Council with an annual report on the progress made in implementing this resolution (and similar resolutions) and the mechanisms employed to deal with the increasing difficulties arising and to submit proposals as required,

calls upon ITU Member States, Sector Members and Associates

1 to provide all forms of support and assistance to Palestine and establish partnerships, either directly or with the help of BDT, with Palestine in order to increase investment in the telecommunications/ICT sector;

2 to provide all possible assistance to build, restore, modernize and develop Palestinian telecommunication networks to reduce the digital gap and achieve the ultimate objective of universal access, pursuant to the Geneva Action Plan, Tunis Commitment and Tunis Agenda;

3 to provide Palestine with assistance in support of the implementation of bilateral agreements, BDT projects, including human resources capacity building,

requests the Secretary-General

1 to take additional, effective measures, in coordination with the three Bureaux of ITU (BDT, BR and TSB), to enable Palestine to build and develop a telecommunications infrastructure along the lines of all Member States of the Union and provide non-discriminatory access to modern telecommunications/ICTs, and their modern facilities, applications and services;

2 to continue to work to provide better assistance to Palestine via other resources, especially unconditional voluntary donations and suitable partnerships;

3 to submit the resolution to the Plenipotentiary Conference (Dubai, 2018), giving it due attention when adopting the Union's financial plan by providing BDT with the necessary financial allocations to help and support Palestine, in order to enable BDT to offer Palestine an increasing number of scheduled programme activities;

4 to report regularly to the ITU Council and Plenipotentiary Conference (Dubai, 2018) on the progress made in the implementation of this resolution and all resolutions on Palestine, particularly Resolution 12 (Rev.WRC-15) of the World Radiocommunication Conference, and the mechanisms employed to deal with the increasing difficulties arising;

5 to guarantee the implementation of this resolution and all other resolutions on Palestine adopted by all ITU conferences; and to ensure that the measures taken by ITU through its three Sectors in support of Palestine are appropriate and effective.