**MOD** ACP/22A10/1

RESOLUTION 17 (REV. BUENOS AIRES, 2017)

Implementation of and cooperation on regionally approved initiatives at the national, regional, interregional and global levels[[1]](#footnote-1)1

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Buenos Aires, 2017),

recalling

*a)* Resolution 32 (Rev. Hyderabad, 2010) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC) on international and regional cooperation on regional initiatives;

*b)* Resolution 34 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference (PP), on assistance to countries in special need;

*c)* Resolution 135 (Rev. Busan 2014) of the PP on ITU’s role in the development of telecommunications/information and communication technologies, in providing technical assistance and advice to developing countries[[2]](#footnote-2)2 and in implementing relevant national, regional and interregional projects;

*d)* Resolution 157 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the PP on Strengthening of the project execution function in ITU;

*e)* the mechanism for cooperation at regional and international level to implement the outputs of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) as set out in §§ 101 a), b) and c), 102 a), b) and c), 103, 107 and 108 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society,

considering

*a)* that telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICTs) continue to be one of the most vital elements for the growth of national economies and protection of the environment;

*b)* that telecommunication networks and services for sustainable development is an essential element for national development and improving the social, economic, financial and cultural situation of Member States;

*c)* that, in order to achieve the objectives of the developing countries, new policy approaches may be required to meet the challenges of growth, in both qualitative and quantitative terms;

*d)* that developing countries are increasingly experiencing the need for knowledge of fast-developing technologies and the associated policy and strategic issues;

*e)* that the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) is an appropriate platform for the exchange of experiences and best practices on development of the telecommunication/ICT sector;

*f)* the vital importance of cooperation among Member States, ITU-D Sector Members and Associates for the implementation of regional initiatives;

*g)* the need to coordinate and harmonize efforts to develop telecommunication infrastructure at the national, regional, interregional and global levels;

*h)* that the leadership of the ITU Member States is needed to outline a unified national vision of a connected society that is comprehensive of all stakeholders;

*i)* the commitment of the ITU Member States to promote access to ICTs at affordable prices, paying special attention to the least favoured segments,

recognizing

*a)* that developing countries and countries participating in regional initiatives are at different stages of development;

*b)* that, given the resources at the disposal of developing countries, it is an important task for the ITU, as the United Nations specialised agency on telecommunications, to help these countries meet the requirements cited in *considering d)* above;

*c)* the need, therefore, to exchange experiences on telecommunication development at a regional, interregional and global level in order to support these countries;

*d)* that there is a continued need for ITU to cooperate more closely with regional organizations, including regional organizations of regulators, in order to support these countries,

taking into account

*a)* the vital importance of telecommunication development initiatives endorsed by all regional development conferences, and by the preparatory meetings preceding this conference;

*b)* that there is a lack of funding from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and other international financial institutions, impeding the implementation of such initiatives;

*c)* the achievements of the Connect the World initiatives promoted by the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU‑D);

*d)* the satisfactory and encouraging results achieved by activities of this kind, which have helped cooperation in the creation of telecommunication networks,

noting

*a)* that the ITU‑D Centres of Excellence (CoE) training significantly assists the developing countries with knowledge-based requirements;

*b)* the existence of regional and subregional organizations of regulators, examples of which are the regional telecommunication regulators network in some regions;

*c)* that the relevant regional organizations play a prominent and important role, in supporting the developing countries, in areas such as regional cooperation and technical assistance activities,

resolves

1 that the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) should continue cooperation with the ITU regional offices to identify possible ways and means of implementing the regionally approved initiatives at the national, regional, interregional and global levels, making the utmost use of available BDT resources, its annual budget and surplus income from ITU-TELECOM events, in particular by means of equitable budget allotments for each region;

2 that BDT continue to actively assist the developing countries in elaborating and implementing these regional initiatives, which are specified in section 3 of the Buenos Aires Action Plan;

3 that Member States should consider contributing in kind and/or in cash to the budget foreseen for implementation of these initiatives and the realization of other projects foreseen within the framework of these initiatives at the national, regional, interregional and global levels;

4 that BDT continue to actively conclude partnerships with Member States, ITU‑D Sector Members, financial institutions and international organizations in order to sponsor implementation activities for these initiatives;

5 that BDT should assist in the implementation of these initiatives at the national, regional, interregional and global levels, integrating as far as possible those initiatives that have the same content or objectives, taking into consideration the Buenos Aires Action Plan;

6 that BDT, through the ITU regional offices, shall compile all the experiences accumulated during the implementation of regional initiatives in each region, and make them available to other regions in order to identify synergies and similarities that will make it possible to make better use of available resources, using the portal for project implementation, in the six official languages of the Union;

7 that BDT make information available on initiatives successfully implemented by each of the regions, so as to capitalize on the experience and leverage the outcomes, which might be replicated in order to save time and resources when setting up and designing projects in the other regions;

8 that BDT should strengthen its relations with regional and subregional regulatory organisations in different networks, through ongoing cooperation to stimulate the mutual exchange of experience and assistance with the implementation of these regional initiatives;

9 that BDT also channel the accumulated experience on regional initiatives through the regional offices, and make information available to Member States on implementation, outcomes, stakeholders, financial resources used and so forth,

appeals

to international financial organizations/agencies, equipment suppliers and operators/service providers to contribute, fully or partially, to financing these regionally approved initiatives,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to take all necessary measures for promoting and implementing these regionally approved initiatives at the national, regional, interregional and global levels, and in particular the similar initiatives agreed at international level;

2 to ensure that ITU-D actively coordinates, collaborates and organises joint activities in areas of common interest with regional organizations and training institutions, and takes into consideration their activities, as well as providing them with direct technical assistance;

3 to put forward a request at the annual Global Symposium Regulators meeting, for the meeting to support the implementation of these regional and international initiatives;

4 to ensure that the ITU regional offices have a role in monitoring the implementation of the initiatives approved in their regions, and to submit an annual report to the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group on the implementation of this resolution;

5 that an annual meeting be held for each region in order to discuss the regional initiatives and projects for each region and mechanisms for implementation of the initiatives adopted and to make known the needs of the different regions, and that a regional development forum (RDF) may be held in conjunction with the annual meeting for each region;

6 to take all measures needed to promote consultation with the Member States in each region before implementing and executing approved initiatives in a timely fashion, in order to agree on priorities, suggest strategic partners, means of financing and other issues, thereby promoting a participatory, inclusive process of meeting the goals;

7 in consultation and coordination with the Directors of the Radiocommunication and Telecommunication Standardization Bureaux, to promote the joint work of the three Sectors in order to provide suitable, efficient, agreed assistance for Member States to implement the regional initiatives,

 requests the Secretary-General

1 to continue special measures and programmes to develop and promote activities and regional initiatives, in close cooperation with regional and subregional telecommunication organizations, including regulators, and other related institutions;

2 to make every possible effort to encourage the private sector to take actions to facilitate cooperation with member countries in these regional initiatives, including countries with special needs;

3 to continue to work closely with the coordination mechanism established in the United Nations family and the five United Nations Regional Commissions.

1. 1 An initiative shall take the form of an all-embracing heading under which a number of projects can be included, leaving it to each region to define these. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. 2 These includes the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)