

RESOLUTION PLEN/1 (Marrakesh, 2002)

Community connectivity indicators¹

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Marrakesh, 2002),

aware

a) that technological innovation, digitization and information technologies have significantly modified the ways in which people access knowledge and communicate with one another;

b) that there is a need to promote knowledge and the development of skills in all populations in order to achieve greater economic, social and cultural development and to raise the standard of living of the world's citizens,

c) that each Member State is seeking to establish its own policies and regulations in order to narrow as effectively as possible the digital divide between those who have access to communication and information and those who do not,

recognizing

a) that the World Summit on the Information Society represents an opportunity to establish a global strategy for narrowing the digital divide from the development standpoint;

b) that the basic indicator traditionally used in the telecommunication field was the number of fixed telephone lines per hundred inhabitants, but that that indicator no longer reflects the actual penetration of telecommunication services in those countries where community access programmes have been implemented,

recognizing further

a) that fixed telephony is no longer the only means of communication between individuals, towns and countries;

b) that, with a view to providing their populations with faster access to telecommunication services, many countries have implemented public community connectivity policies in those communities that are poorly served with telecommunication facilities;

c) that a radically new trend is emerging in the provision of universal service, tending to favour community connectivity and broadband access instead of seeking in the short term to ensure that all households have a telephone line,

bearing in mind

a) that in order to keep each country's public policy-makers properly informed, ITU gathers and periodically publishes a variety of statistics which provide some indication of the degree of progress in and penetration of telecommunication services in the different regions of the world;

¹ Community connectivity is taken here to refer to the possibility to access telecommunication services from a terminal facility put at the disposal of a community, to facilitate ease of use.

b) that current indicators cannot serve to measure the real impact of the introduction of community connectivity;

c) that new indicators are needed to analyse the development of communities where community connectivity is introduced, thereby enabling the true impact and effectiveness of each country's public policies to be measured;

d) that, according to the guidelines of the plenipotentiary conference, it is necessary to ensure as far as possible that the policies and strategies of the Union are fully in tune with the constantly changing telecommunication environment,

noting

a) that the ITU World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Meeting is to be held in 2003 to analyse telecommunication indicators;

b) that regional and world preparatory meetings will also be held to put forward proposals for the plan of action of the World Summit on the Information Society,

resolves to instruct the Secretary-General

to promote the adoption of measures necessary to ensure that community connectivity indicators are taken into account in regional and world meetings convened for the purpose of developing the plan of action of the World Summit on the Information Society,

resolves to instruct the Directors of the Telecommunication Development Bureau and the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau

1 to promote the activities required in their respective Sectors to define and adopt new indicators for the purpose of measuring the real impact of community connectivity on the development of communities;

2 to include on the agenda of the ITU World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Meeting, to be held in January 2003, an item on the study of this new community connectivity indicator,

invites Member States

to participate actively in the work to be carried out at the regional and world levels to prepare these new community connectivity indicators.