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| **Regional Preparatory Meeting  for WTDC-17 for Americas (RPM-AMS)** | P:\SUP\Logos\Post-150th Anniv\ITU-logo-UNblue.jpg | |
| **Asuncion, Paraguay, 22-24 February 2017** | | |
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|  | **Document** **RPM-AMS17/****28-E** | |
| **8 February 2017** | |
| **Original:** **English/Spanish** | |
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| **Republic of Paraguay** | | |
| DRAFT MERGER OF RESOLUTION 46 (Assistance and promotion for indigenous communities in the world: Information society  through information and communication technology)  AND RESOLUTION 68 | | |

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| **Priority area:**  Streamlining WTDC Resolutions  **Summary:**  Draft merger of Resolution 46 (Rev. Doha, 2006) "Assistance and promotion for indigenous communities in the world: Information society through information and communication technology" with Resolution 68 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) “Assistance to indigenous peoples within the activities of the Telecommunication Development Bureau in its related programmes”.  **Expected results:**  This document is submitted to RPM-AMS for consideration.  **References:**  Resolutions 46 to (Rev. Doha, 2006) and 68 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) |

RESOLUTION 46 (BUENOS AIRES, 2017)

**Assistance and promotion for indigenous communities in the world:   
Information society through information and   
communication technology**

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

*recognizing*

*a)* the need to achieve the goal of digital inclusion, enabling universal, sustainable, ubiquitous and affordable access to information and communication technologies (ICTs) for all, including disadvantaged, marginalized and vulnerable groups and indigenous peoples, and to facilitate accessibility of ICTs for all, in the framework of access to information and knowledge;

*b)* the need to ensure the inclusion of indigenous peoples in the information society, as outlined in the Geneva Declaration of Principles and the Tunis Commitment, and to contribute to the development of their communities using ICTs, based on tradition and self-sustainability,

*recognizing further [moved from below]*

a) that the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) and the International Indigenous Steering Committee (IISC) delivered a multistakeholder report to the Tunis WSIS plenary in November 2005, highlighting, among other things, that:

– there are more than 370 million indigenous people around the world;

– the development of indigenous-specific needs through ICTs must be affirmed by all stakeholders if the digital divide is to be truly bridged;

– public-private partnerships and multistakeholder cooperation are essential to meet the needs of indigenous groups more effectively toward their integration in the information society;

– that the indigenous issue represents by itself a complex activity of BDT,

b) that the public policy recommendations and best practices developed through the "Connect a School, Connect a Community" initiative, in accordance with the principles established by WSIS, indicate that there are minimum conditions in the sphere of technology, capacity building, regulatory framework, self-sustainability and participation, and content development, which must be ensured to achieve ICT development in indigenous regions;

c) that the Declaration of the Second Summit on Indigenous Communication of Abya Yala, held in Mexico in 2013, decided to move ahead on consultation processes with international organizations in the interests of operationalizing the rights of indigenous peoples to communication laid down in the above-mentioned United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;

d) that telecommunication networks operated by indigenous peoples themselves have been developed and that, in order to ensure their development and sustainability, it is necessary to continue fostering the training of indigenous technicians on the basis of their cultural practices and technological innovation solutions, while at the same time ensuring the availability of resources and spectrum for implementing those networks;

e) that it is important to monitor closely the evolving communication experiences of the peoples in question and add to the public policy recommendations and best practices developed by ITU, taking into account the underlying technological innovations and organizational approaches that have stimulated their growth,

*considering*

*a)* that the World Telecommunication Development Conference (Istanbul, 2002) decided to include relevant provisions in the work programmes of the Istanbul Action Plan, with a view to supporting Member States in addressing the specific needs of indigenous peoples, to create dedicated actions and projects with respect to equitable access, use and knowledge of ICT, based on the preservation of their heritage and cultural legacy;

*b)* that, as proof of the special attention which ITU in general and the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) in particular give to assistance to indigenous peoples' initiatives, during the second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) in November 2005, ITU signed with the Navajo Nation and the Observatory for Cultural and Audiovisual Communication (OCCAM) a memorandum of understanding (MoU) targeting the development of projects for indigenous peoples worldwide, as well as the provision of ICTs to their communities, while respecting their traditions and cultural patrimony,

c) that Article 16 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples states the following: "Indigenous peoples have the right to establish their own media in their own languages and to have access to all forms of non-indigenous media without discrimination".

recalling

a) that Article 41 of the aforementioned Declaration states that: "The organs and specialized agencies of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations shall contribute to the full realization of the provisions of this Declaration through the mobilization, inter alia, of financial cooperation and technical assistance";

b) that the WSIS phase 1 and 2 statements, the Geneva Plan of Action, the Tunis Commitment and the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society have expressly reinforced several activities related to indigenous peoples,

*resolves*

1) to reinforce assistance to indigenous peoples in all BDT programmes;

2) to support digital inclusion of indigenous peoples in general, and in particular their participation in workshops, seminars, forums and training on ICT for social and economic development;

4) to support, through the ITU Academy[[1]](#footnote-1), human-resource training programmes in the design and management of public policies aimed at the development of ICTs in remote and isolated areas, for groups with specific needs and for indigenous peoples, within available BDT funds and human resources;

5) to support, through the ITU Academy, capacity building for indigenous peoples in the maintenance and development of ICTs;

6) to incorporate, in this training, best practices, experience and knowledge that the indigenous peoples have developed on the matter and, where appropriate, include the participation of indigenous experts, in accordance with applicable ITU rules and regulations governing recruitment;

7) to update the research on best practices and public policy recommendations for the development of ICTs in indigenous communities and foster the study of mechanisms that ensure the availability of spectrum for the networks in question;

8) to ensure access to training and innovation solutions through pilot projects that enable the implementation of local communication networks administered and operated by indigenous peoples themselves.

*[moved above]invites the World Telecommunication Development Conference and the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau*

1to ensure, within the available resources and partnerships to be implemented, that the necessary financial and human resources are allocated within BDT to respond to the existing global initiative for indigenous peoples;

2to recognize the importance of issues of concern to indigenous peoples worldwide in the determination of priority activities for the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector;

3to encourage Sector Members to promote the integration of indigenous peoples in the information society worldwide and to promote ICT projects that respond to their specific needs;

4 in line with the above, the ITU mandate, the WSIS outcomes and the Millennium Development Goals, to recognize the global initiative of the assistance to indigenous peoples worldwide as an integral part of the activities of BDT,

invites

1) Member States to provide the necessary facilities and information to allow the participation of members of indigenous peoples and communities in the activities provided for in this resolution;

2) Sector Members to support the implementation of the activities provided for in this resolution.

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

to carry out the necessary actions to reinforce the implementation of Output 4.3 of the Dubai Action Plan as it relates to indigenous peoples, establishing collaboration mechanisms with the Member States, other relevant regional and international organizations and cooperation agencies,

*requests the Secretary-General*

to bring the assistance provided by BDT through its activities to indigenous peoples to the attention of the Plenipotentiary Conference (Antalya, 2006), with a view to providing appropriate financial and human resources for the relevant actions and projects to be implemented in the framework of the telecommunication sector.

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1. The ITU Academy initiative encompasses the centres of excellence and Internet training centres initiatives. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)