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| **Regional Preparatory Meeting for WTDC-17 for Americas (RPM-AMS)**  | P:\SUP\Logos\Post-150th Anniv\ITU-logo-UNblue.jpg |
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| DRAFT MERGER OF RESOLUTION 50 (Optimal integration of information and communication technologies and their applications) AND RESOLUTION 54 |

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| **Priority area:**Streamlining WTDC Resolutions**Summary:**Draft merger of Resolution 50 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) "Optimal integration of information and communication technologies and their applications” and Resolution 54 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) “Information and communication technology applications".**Expected results:**This document is submitted to RPM-AMS for consideration.**References:**Resolutions 50 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) and 54 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) |

RESOLUTION 50 (Rev. buenos aires, 2017)

**Optimal integration of information and communication technologies**

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

*recalling*

a) Resolution 50 (Rev Dubai, 2014) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC),

b) Action Line C7 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, covering the following ICT applications:

• e-government

• e-business

• e-learning

• e-health

• e-employment

• e-environment

• e-agriculture

• e-science,

c) Resolution 175 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on Telecommunication/information and communication technology accessibility for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs,

d) Resolution 58 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC), on Telecommunication/information and communication technology accessibility for persons with disabilities, including persons with age-related disabilities

c) [Resolution 70 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA), on Telecommunication/information and communication technology accessibility for persons with disabilities](http://www.itu.int/pub/publications.aspx?lang=en&parent=T-RES-T.70-2016)

*considering*

*a)* the role of ITU, in particular the specific functions of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU‑D);

*b)* the continuing disparity between those who have and those who do not have access to information and communication technologies (ICT) and people with disabilities, (including disability due to age and people with special needs), referred to as the "digital divide";

*c)* the many stakeholders in the public, private, academic, non-governmental organization and multilateral sectors who are seeking to bridge this divide;

*d)* the progress accomplished in the implementation of the outcomes of Phases 1 and 2 of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS),

*e)* that the goal of using and disseminating information and communication technology (ICT) is to bring benefits in all aspects of our daily life, and that ICTs are enormously important in facilitating citizens' access to these applications;

f) that the sharing of infrastructure, as part of the process of optimal integration of ICT, when employed to support these applications, will lead to considerable savings in the cost of provision;

g) that the dissemination of these applications must give due regard to local needs in terms of language, culture and sustainable development;

h) that one of the principal advantages of satellite is access to remote, local communities without increased connection costs due to distance or to the geographical features of the areas in which the societies are located;

i) that the security, accessibility for people with disabilities (including disability due to age and people with special needs) and privacy of these applications require the building of confidence in the use of ICT for this purpose;

j) that as ICT is being continuously integrated into all sectors of society, the applications referred to in Action Line C7 of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) are triggering profound changes in social productivity and hastening a major leap forward in industrial productivity, thus creating a good opportunity for developing countries to raise their level of industrial development and improve social and economic growth;

k) that sharing of experiences and best practices among ITU members will help to facilitate deployment and a optimal integration of these applications,

*bearing in mind*

*a)* that this continuing difference in access to ICTs leads to an extreme escalation of social disparities, with negative impacts on the social and economic environment in the various regions excluded from use of ICTs;

*b)* that countries and communities have limited education budgets which have to be apportioned among many different needs, and so studies on the relative benefits of ICTs in educational systems will help countries and communities make informed decisions,

*c)* the interest shown by WSIS in ICT integration and the role of the three ITU Sectors in this regard;

*d*) the "Call to Action" of the Broadband Commission for Digital Development, to include ICT networks, services and applications as enablers of sustainable development,

*recognizing*

*a)* ITU's role as a catalyst, and in particular that of ITU‑D as coordinator and promoter of the rational use of resources in the context of the various projects intended to narrow the digital divide;

*b)* that numerous studies endorse the conclusion that investments in broadband infrastructure, applications and services contribute to sustainable and inclusive economic growth for peoples;

*c)* that most ITU Member States have adopted integrated connectivity policies with a view to making affordable ICT services more accessible to citizens, as an indispensable tool in reducing the digital divide;

d) that digital literacy is a requirement for closing the digital divide

e) that developing countries benefit from integrating ICTs into educational systems, by providing a more effective education experience and ensuring that all students obtain the skills necessary to succeed in a knowledge-based economy and society;

f) that the benefits extend beyond the students:

– to their families, who may benefit from access to ICTs;

– to the local community, by leveraging schools transformed into the digital literacy training centres for all citizens; and

– to the broader community, by significantly increasing broadband and ICT penetration;

g) that such a transformation will improve education, assist in connecting all citizens globally, and facilitate the effective use of national resources for the future of children and society;

*h)* that it is necessary to coordinate the efforts of both the public and private sectors to ensure that opportunities arising from the information society yield benefits, especially for the most disadvantaged;

*i)* that the integration models supported by the ITU Member States are an element that integrates, facilitates and does not exclude, one which takes into account the individual characteristics of all existing projects, respecting their autonomy and independence;

*j)* that the integration models propose ways to increase the profitability of existing infrastructure, to lower the cost of developing and implementing ICT projects and platforms, to provide for the sharing of expertise and skills, and to foster intraregional and extraregional technology transfers,

*resolves to instruct the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT)*

1 to continue to adopt the necessary measures to implement regional projects derived from the non-exclusive integration models which it has acquired, to link all stakeholders, organizations and institutions of the various sectors in an ongoing relationship of cooperation in which information is disseminated over networks, so as to narrow the digital divide in line with the outputs of Phases 1 and 2 of WSIS;

2 that BDT collaborate closely, through the ITU regional offices, with ITU Member States in order to implement these regional projects, in addition to maintaining an active communication channel between the strategic stakeholders,

3 to continue to conduct detailed studies on ICT applications, focusing on the eight areas referred to in Action Line C7 of the WSIS Geneva Action Plan, and ICT applications for industry, as well as studies on the requirements for sustainable management and investment in telecommunications that enable access to these applications and services, relying upon the expertise acquired in the implementation of that action line, and taking into consideration the means available for implementation (whether wireline, wireless, terrestrial, satellite, fixed, mobile, narrowband or broadband);

4 to facilitate discussion and exchange of best practices regarding the challenges and benefits of implementing projects or activities relating to e-applications referred to in WSIS Action Line C7 through strategic partnerships;

5 to take into consideration the importance of the security, accessibility for people with disabilities (including disability due to age and people with special needs) and confidentiality of the ICT applications highlighted in WSIS Action Line C7 and of protection of privacy, in order to facilitate discussions regarding guidelines, tools, strategies and mechanisms; improve collaboration between government authorities; implement user-friendly government services, potentially including integration and personalization of services; improve the quality of e-government services; and increase awareness of such services;

6 to promote the sharing of Member States' strategies, best practices and technological platforms, increased technical support and training for these various WSIS Action Line C7 applications considering people with some type of disability, and the sharing of guidelines and best practices for these applications with the developing countries, inter alia through a regional and/or global collaborative network based on the creation and/or strengthening of ICT applications referred to in WSIS Action Line C7;

7 to work with respective sectors and other partners related to their ICT applications referred to in WSIS Action Line C7, with emphasis on services for remote and rural areas of developing countries, using all available means as indicated in resolves;

8 to continue to promote the development of telecommunication standards for e-health network solutions and interconnection with medical devices in the developing-country environment of, in conjunction with the ITU Radiocommunication Sector and the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector in particular;

9 to continue to make these applications a major strand for the activities of the relevant BDT programme, focusing on its key role for the implementation of study Questions related to ICT applications for the previous and forthcoming study periods;

10 to circulate the outputs of these activities on applications to all Member States on a regular basis;

11 to continue to inform forthcoming WTDCs of the lessons learned and of any amendments the Director may propose with a view to updating this resolution;

12 to ensure that the necessary resources within the budgetary limits are allocated to the above actions,

13 that BDT use the funds at its disposal to attain that objective;

14 that BDT continue to play a central role in this initiative;

*Invites Member States and Sector Members*1 when implementing Resolution 17 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) of this conference, on implementation of regionally approved initiatives at the national, regional, interregional and global levels, to select a project among those proposed for the regions that reflects optimal integration of ICTs and to the implementation of applications with the aim of bridging the digital divide ;

2 to incorporate, in their e-government strategies and programmes, actions to encourage the use of ICTs to improve collaboration between government authorities, actions to encourage the implementation of userfriendly services, potentially including integration and personalization of services to improve the quality of e-government services, and actions toincrease awareness of such services;

3 to provide the Telecommunication Development Bureau with details of work relating to monitoring and evaluation of the status, usage, quality and impact of e-government;

4 to participate actively in regional and global collaborative fórums dealing with experiences and best practices in the implementation of e-government strategies and programmes,

*encourages Member States and Sector Members*

1 to participate in the study of the role of ICTs in educational systems, by contributing their own experiences regarding the implementation of ICTs for achieving universal education worldwide;

2 to support the collection and analysis of data and statistics on e-applications services, such as ICT applications in industry, e-government and e-health and ICT in education, that will contribute to public policy design and implementation as well as enabling cross-country comparisons.

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