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| C:\Users\ponder\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.Word\BDT-25th_anniversary_2017-Logo_411959-3_transparent.png | **World Telecommunication Development Conference 2017 (WTDC-17)**  **Buenos Aires, Argentina, 9-20 October 2017** | C:\Users\ponder\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.Word\BDT-25th_anniversary_2017-Logo_411959-1_transparent.png |
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| PLENARY MEETING | | **Addendum 10 to Document WTDC-17/21-E** |
|  | | **8 September 2017** |
|  | | **Original: Arabic** |
| Arab States | | |
| Proposals for the work of the conference | | |
|  | | |
|  | | |
| **Priority area:**  – Resolutions and Recommendations  **Summary:**  –  **Expected results:**  –  **References:**  – | | |

**MOD** ARB/21A10/1

RESOLUTION 23 (Rev. buenos aires, 2017)

Internet access and availability for developing countries[[1]](#footnote-1)1 and   
charging principles for international Internet connection

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

recalling

*a)* Resolution 64 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on non-discriminatory access to modern telecommunication/information and communication technology (ICT) facilities, services and applications, including applied research and transfer of technology, on mutually agreed terms;

*b)* Resolution 101 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on Internet Protocol (IP)-based networks;

*c)* 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;

*d)* Resolution 69 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA), on non-discriminatory access and use of Internet resources, inviting Member States to refrain from taking any unilateral and/or discriminatory actions that could impede another Member State from accessing public Internet sites and using the resources, within the spirit of Article 1 of the ITU Constitution and the principles of the World Summit on the Information Society;

*e)* the provisions of § 50 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, recognizing the particular concerns among developing countries that charges for international Internet connectivity should be better balanced to enhance access, and calling for the development of strategies for increasing affordable global connectivity, thereby facilitating improved and equitable access for all, by the means described in the said paragraph, especially items a), b), c), d), e), f) and g) thereof;

*f)* the four targets set by the Broadband Commission for Digital Development for making broadband universal and boosting affordability and uptake thereof, namely: making broadband policy universal; making broadband affordable; connecting homes to broadband; and getting people online;

*g)* Opinion 1 (Geneva, 2013) of the World Telecommunication/ICT Policy Forum (WTPF), which expresses the view that enabling the interconnection of international, national and regional networks through Internet exchange points (IXPs) may be an effective way to improve international Internet connectivity and to reduce the costs of such connectivity, with regulation only when necessary to promote competition, and invites Member States and Sector Members to work in a collaborative manner to do a number of things, including to promote public policies aimed at permitting the local, regional and international Internet network operators to interconnect through IXPs,

noting

*a)* that Recommendation ITU‑T D.50, on international Internet connection, recommends that administrations take appropriate measures nationally to ensure that parties (including operating agencies authorized by Member States) involved in the provision of international Internet connections negotiate and agree to bilateral commercial arrangements, or other arrangements as agreed between administrations, enabling direct international Internet connections that take into account the possible need for compensation between them for the value of elements such as traffic flow, number of routes, geographical coverage and cost of international transmission, and the possible application of network externalities, among others;

*b)* that the rapid growth of the Internet and IP-based international services, in addition to the rise in high-speed mobile telecommunications access in all parts of the world and general availability of connected devices, has allowed users access to a wider range of non-traditional services provided via the Internet;

*c)* that the provision of non-traditional communication services via the Internet on local networks poses a number of problems for investors in the deployment of these networks;

*d)* that non-traditional services provided via the Internet have reshaped the entire ecosystem of telecommunications and that their economic impact upon telecommunications infrastructure investment has become more and more serious;

*e)* that international Internet connections remain subject to commercial agreements between the parties concerned and that today, with the cost of international Internet communications remaining high in many developing countries, especially landlocked countries, Internet service provider (ISP) operators from developing countries have expressed concerns that such agreements have not achieved the required balance in regard to charges between developed and developing countries;

*f)* that the composition of costs for operators, whether regional or local, is, in part, significantly dependent on the type of connection (transit or peering) and the availability and cost of backhaul and long-haul infrastructure;

*g)* that the cost of transit is an obstacle for development of the Internet in developing countries;

*h)* that the use of the communication network and the international frequency bandwidth by non-traditional services without any contribution to their funding will reduce the deployment of new connections and/or the expansion of existing connections at the expense of countries which need them;

*i)* that Opinion 1 (Geneva, 2013) considered that the establishment of IXPs is a priority to address connectivity issues, improve quality of service and reduce interconnection costs; and that IXPs and telecommunication traffic exchange points may play a relevant role in the deployment of Internet infrastructure and reaching the overall goals of improving quality, increasing the connectivity and resilience of networks, fostering competition and reducing the costs of interconnection;

*j)* that access to information and sharing and creation of knowledge contribute significantly to strengthening economic, social and cultural development, thus helping countries to reach the internationally agreed development goals and objectives, a process which can be enhanced by removing barriers to universal, ubiquitous, equitable and affordable access to information;

*k)* that continuing technical and economic development require ongoing studies in this area by the relevant ITU Sectors, in particular best practices for reducing the cost of international Internet connectivity (transit and peering);

*l)* that efficient networks and costs enable increased traffic volumes, economies of scale and a shift from transit connections to peering arrangements where appropriate;

*m)* that a rise in the costs of international connectivity will result in delayed access to and benefit from the Internet;

*n)* that the disparities in ICT development between countries remain substantial, ICT Development Index (IDI) values being on average twice as high in developed compared to developing countries,

recognizing

*a)* that commercial initiatives by service providers have the potential to deliver cost savings for Internet access, for example through the development of more local content and the optimization of Internet traffic routing patterns in a manner that provides for a greater proportion of traffic to be routed locally;

*b)* that the development of an information society requires not only the deployment of appropriate technical infrastructure but also measures to promote availability of local content, applications and services, in a range of languages and at affordable prices, while providing access to remotely available content regardless of location,

taking into account

that, as part of the work of Study Group 3 of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU‑T), on tariff and accounting principles including related telecommunication economic and policy issues, a rapporteur group has been set up for the purpose of drafting a supplement to Recommendation ITU‑T D.50 to facilitate the adoption of specific measures to reduce international Internet connection costs, especially for developing countries,

resolves to invite Member States

1 to support the work of ITU‑T in monitoring the application of Recommendation ITU‑T D.50, bearing in mind the importance of this issue of international Internet connection costs in the developing countries;

2 to make progress in the coordination of regional policies in order to reduce international Internet connection costs, by agreeing on specific measures that will lead to an improvement in conditions for developing countries, including the deployment of regional IXPs;

3 to create policy conditions for effective competition in the international Internet backbone network access market as well as in the domestic Internet access service market, as an important factor for lowering the cost of Internet access for users and service providers;

4 to implement the Tunis Agenda in this respect, particularly § 50 thereof;

5 to refrain from taking any unilateral and/or discriminatory actions that could impede another Member State from accessing public Internet and using its resources;

6 to support the action being taken by ITU-T Study Group 3 to facilitate the adoption of specific measures to reduce the cost of global Internet connectivity, particularly for developing countries,

reaffirms

its resolution in the quest to continue to ensure that everyone can benefit from the opportunities that information and communication technologies (ICTs) can offer, by recalling that governments, as well as the private sector, civil society and the United Nations and other international organizations, should work together to: improve access to information and communication infrastructure and technologies as well as to information and knowledge; build capacity; increase confidence and security in the use of ICTs; create an enabling environment at all levels; develop and widen ICT applications; foster and respect cultural diversity; recognize the role of the media; address the ethical dimensions of the information society; and encourage international and regional cooperation,

urges regulators

to promote such measures as may be considered appropriate to foster an improvement in conditions for service providers, including small and medium-sized ISPs and incumbent network access service providers, with a focus on reducing connectivity costs as referred to in *noting e), f), i)* and*l)* above, taking into account the impact of Internet-based non-traditional services on the costs borne by companies investing in infrastructure and taking the necessary corrective measures concerning the consequences,

urges service providers

to negotiate and agree to bilateral commercial arrangements enabling direct international Internet connections that take into account the possible need for compensation between them for the value of elements such as, *inter alia*, traffic flow, number of routes, geographical coverage and the cost of international transmission,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to organize and coordinate activities that promote information sharing among regulators on the relationship between charging arrangements for international Internet connection and the affordability of international Internet infrastructure development in developing and least developed countries, through cooperation with ITU‑T in this matter, by giving the necessary priority to the relevant study Questions in the work under the programme concerned;

2 to support current work by cooperating with ITU-T and helping to update the relevant recommendations on Internet-provided non-traditional services, including Recommendation ITU‑T 50, in a manner that takes into account the impact of these services on telecommunications network infrastructure investment in developing countries;

3to undertake studies on the structure of international Internet connection costs for developing countries, with emphasis on the influence and effects of the connection mode (transit and peering), secure cross-border connectivity and the availability and cost of backhaul and long-haul physical infrastructure;

4to coordinate actions to provide training and technical assistance in order to encourage and promote the creation and development of regional interconnection infrastructure as a platform for exchanging Internet traffic between developing countries.

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1. 1 These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)