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| PLENARY MEETING | **Revision 1 toDocument WTDC-17/22(Add.18)-E** |
|  | **29 August 2017** |
|  | **Original: English** |
| Asia-Pacific Telecommunity Member Administrations |
| Streamlining of WTDC Resolution 71 (Strengthening cooperation between Member States, Sector Members, Associates and Academia of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector, including the private sector) and resolution 48 (Strengthening cooperation among telecommunication regulators) |
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| **Priority area:** - Resolutions and recommendations**Summary:**Considering the rapid development in the telecommunications/ICT sector, and the need for regulatory policies to be kept abreast with these global developments, it is important for regulators to continue to work closely with one another, and to share information and best practices. Moreover, newly established regulators and regulators in developing countries would require the strengthening of their capabilities and competencies to cope with the increasing complexity of regulatory work, particularly with regard to the design and implementation of new laws and regulations. Besides enhancing cooperation between regulators, there is also a need to further strengthen collaboration between Member States, Sector Members, Associates and Academia of the ITU-D. Considering the above, and with due regard to the importance in reducing the number of WTDC Resolutions for the purpose of optimizing budgetary resources within the ITU-D, APT Member Administrations have reviewed and identified WTDC Resolution 48 on “*Strengthening cooperation among telecommunication regulators*” and Resolution 71 on “*Strengthening cooperation between Member States, Sector Members, Associates and Academia of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector, including the private sector*” to have the potential of being streamlined, considering their common aim of facilitating cooperation among the stakeholders in the ITU-D.APT Member Administrations would thus like to propose merge and update Resolutions 48 and 71, with the former to be suppressed, to strengthen cooperation among all relevant stakeholders.**Expected results:** * A merged and streamlined WTDC Resolution 71, with WTDC Resolution 48 to be abrogated in accordance to the Draft Guiding Principles for streamlining WTDC resolutions.
* Continued and strengthened collaboration between Member States, Sector Members, Associates and Academia of the ITU-D;
* Continued and enhanced cooperation between national telecommunications regulators and further facilitate exchange of information, experience and best practices on policy and regulatory issues to help regulators, in particular newly established regulators and regulators from developing countries, to strengthen their competences to cope with the increasing complexity of regulatory work.

**References:** WTDC Resolution 48, WTDC Resolution 71, PP Resolution 138, PP Resolution 135, PP Resolution 169  |

**PROPOSAL**

APT Member Administrations propose to merge the Resolution 48 and Resolution 71, with the former resolution to be suppressed, to reflect the importance for regulators to continue working closely with one another, to share information and best practices as well as to strengthen collaboration between Member States, Sector Members, Associates and Academia of the ITU-D.

**MOD** ACP/22A18/1

RESOLUTION 71 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017)

Strengthening cooperation between Member States, Sector Members,
Associates and Academia of the ITU Telecommunication
Development Sector, including the private sector

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

 *recalling*

*a)*  Resolution 48 (Rev. Hyderabad, 2010) of the World Telecommunication Conference (WTDC), on Strengthening cooperation among telecommunication regulators;

*b)* Resolution 135 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference (PP), on the ITU’s role in the development of telecommunications/ICTs, in providing technical assistance and advice to developing countries[[1]](#footnote-1) and in implement relevant national, regional and interregional projects;

*c)* Resolution 169 (Rev, Busan, 2014) of the PP, on admission of Academia[[2]](#footnote-2) to participate in the work of the Union,

considering

*a)* that market liberalization, technological development and service convergence have resulted in new challenges, demanding new regulatory competencies among telecommunication regulators;

*b)* that an effective regulatory framework requires a balance of interest among all stakeholders by promoting fair competition and ensuring an equal-opportunity environment for all players;

*c)* No. 126 of the ITU Constitution, which encourages participation by industry in telecommunication development in developing countries ;

*d)* the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU‑D) provisions of the strategic plan for the Union relating to the promotion of partnership arrangements between the public and private sectors in developed countries;

*e)* the importance placed, in the outcome documents of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), including the Geneva Plan of Action and the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, on private-sector participation in meeting the objectives of WSIS, including public-private partnerships;

*f)* that Sector Members, in addition to their financial contributions to the three Sectors of ITU, also provide professional expertise and support to the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) and, conversely, can benefit from participation in ITU‑D activities,

considering also

*a)* that ITU‑D, during the period 2018-2021, should undertake actions in order to be responsive to the needs of all its Members;

*b)* that it is in the interest of ITU to increase the number of Sector Members, Associates and Academia and promote their participation in the activities of ITU‑D;

*c)* that partnerships between and among the public and private sectors, including ITU and other entities such as national, regional, international and intergovernmental organizations, as appropriate, continue to be key to promoting sustainable telecommunication/information and communication technology (ICT) development;

*d)* that such partnerships prove to be an excellent tool for maximizing resources for, and the benefits of, development projects and initiatives,

recognizing

*a)* that newly established regulators and regulators in developing countries would require a strengthening of their competencies to cope with increasing complexity of regulatory work with regard to the design and implementation of new laws and policies as part of the telecommunications reform, and especially in the rapidly changing telecommunication environment;

*b)* the importance and need to exchange information and experiences, as well as cooperation among Member States, Sector Members, Associates and Academia on telecommunication development and reform at a regional, interregional and global levels;

*c)* the important contribution that relevant stakeholders, not limiting to Sector Members, make toward the increased provision of telecommunications/ICTs in all countries;

*d)* the progress achieved, through BDT special initiatives such as partnership meetings colloquiums and symposia, in strengthening cooperation among ITU-D’s Members with the private sector and increased support at the regional level;

*e)* the continued need to strengthen cooperation among Member States and ensure increased participation of Sector Members, Associates and Academia,

recognizing further

*a)* that telecommunications/ICTs are of critical importance to overall economic, social and cultural development;

*b)* the important role played by Sector Members, Associates and Academia in suggesting and implementing ITU‑D projects and programmes;

*c)* that a large number of ITU‑D programmes and activities are of interest to Sector Members, Associates and Academia;

*d)* the importance of the principles of transparency and non-exclusivity for partnership opportunities and projects;

*e)* the need to promote increased Sector, Associate and Academia membership and their active participation in ITU‑D activities;

*f)* that these actions should strengthen the participation of Sector Members, Associates and Academia in all ITU‑D programmes and activities,

noting

*a)* the success and continuation of the annual Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR), which provides a platform for Member States, Sector Members, Associates and Academia to share and exchange views on regulatory issues;

*b)* that the role of the private sector in a very competitive environment is increasing in all countries;

*c)* that economic development relies, among others, on the resources and capacity of ITU‑D Sector Members;

*d)* that ITU‑D Sector Members are engaged in the work accomplished within ITU‑D and can provide ongoing support and expertise to facilitate the work of ITU‑D;

*e)* that ITU‑D Associates and Academia are engaged in the work accomplished within ITU‑D and can provide scientific and knowledge background to support ITU‑D's work;

*f)* that ITU‑D Sector Members, Associates and Academia have a key role in addressing ways by which private-sector issues can be incorporated into ITU‑D strategy development, programme design and project delivery, with the overall goal of increasing mutual responsiveness to the requirements of telecommunication/ICT development;

*g)* that ITU‑D Sector Members, Associates and Academia could also advise on ways and means of enhancing partnerships with the private sector and of reaching out to the private sector of developing countries and the many companies that are not knowledgeable of ITU‑D activities;

*h)* the excellent results achieved through the high-level discussions that took place between Member States and Sector Members during the Global Industry Leaders Forum (GILF),

resolves

1 that the ITU‑D operational plans should continue to coordinate and facilitate joint activities on issues relevant to Member States, Sector Members, Associates and Academia; and by strengthening the communication channels between BDT, Member States and ITU‑D Sector Members, Associates and Academia at both the global and regional levels;

2 that ITU‑D, and the ITU regional offices in particular, should employ the necessary means to encourage the private sector to become Sector Members and to take a more active part through partnerships with telecommunication/ICT entities in developing countries, and especially with those in the least developed countries, in order to help close the gap in universal and information access;

3 that ITU‑D should take the interests and requirements of its Member States, Sector Members, Associates and Academia into account in its programmes so as to enable them to participate effectively in achieving the objectives of the Buenos Aires Action Plan and the objectives set forth in the Geneva Plan of Action and the Tunis Agenda;

4 that ITU, and in particular the ITU-D, should continue to support regulatory reform by facilitating information and experiences sharing among Member States, Sector Members, Associates and Academia;

5 that ITU-D should continue to further technical cooperation, regulatory exchange, capacity building and expert advice with the support of its regional offices;

6 that a permanent agenda item dedicated to private-sector issues will be included in the plenary agenda of the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG), dealing with relevant inputs concerning the private sector;

7 that the Director of BDT, when implementing the ITU‑D operational plan, should consider the following actions:

i) to improve regional cooperation between Member States, Sector Members, Associates and Academia and other relevant entities, through the continuation of regional meetings addressing issues of common interest, in particular for Sector Members, Associates and Academia;

ii) to facilitate the development of public-private sector partnerships for the implementation of global, regional and flagship initiatives;

iii) to promote through its various programmes an enabling environment for investment and ICT development,

resolves further

that appropriate steps should continue to be taken for the creation of an enabling environment at the national, regional, and international levels to encourage development and investment in the ICT sector by Sector Members,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to continue working closely with ITU‑D Member States, Sector Members, Associates and Academia for their participation in successful implementation of the Buenos Aires Action Plan;

2 to address, as appropriate, in the programmes, activities and projects, issues of interest to Member States, Sector Members, Associates and Academia;

3 to facilitate communications between Member States, and Sector Members on issues which contribute to an enabling environment for investment, particularly in developing countries;

4 to organize, coordinate and facilitate activities such as seminars, regional workshops, and training programmes that help strengthen newly established regulators and regulators in developing countries and promote information sharing among Member States, Sector Members, Associates and Academia on key regulatory issues at the regional, interregional and global levels;

5 to continue to organize the GSR and other relevant meetings for high-level industry executives, e.g. chief regulatory officers (CRO) meetings, possibly back-to-back with GSR, in order to foster exchange of information and assist in identifying and coordinating development priorities;

6 to ensure that the ITU regional offices facilitate and promote collaborative actions among Member States, Sector Members, Associates and Academia that would serve the needs of their region;

7 to provide resources and assistance in consolidating all work relating to key policy and regulatory issues within the ITU-D, into an e-library for easier access and strengthened transfer of knowledge, information and experience sharing among the regulators,

Invites the ITU-D Study Groups

each within its mandate, to adopt the guidelines and best practices issued annually by the GSR and to take them into account in their studies on relevant Questions,

encourages Member States, Sector Members, Associates and Academia of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector

1 subject to the relevant provisions of the Constitution and the Convention, to participate together and actively in the work of TDAG, to submit contributions, in particular regarding private-sector issues to be discussed, and to provide relevant guidance for the Director of BDT;

2 to participate actively at the appropriate level in all initiatives of ITU‑D;

3 to identify means of enhancing cooperation and arrangements between the private and public sectors in all countries, working closely with BDT;

4 to share knowledge, skills and experiences in designing and implementing new laws and policies as part of the telecommunication reform.

**Reasons:**

WTDC Resolutions 48 and 71 focus on the need to enhance cooperation among the various stakeholders of the telecommunications/ICT community. In view of the importance in reducing the number of WTDC Resolutions for the purpose of optimizing budgetary resources within the ITU-D, APT is of the view that both Resolutions 48 and 71 have the potential of being streamlined, in view of the common aim of facilitating cooperation among the stakeholders. APT Member Administrations note that under the guidance of Resolution 48, many countries have had significant achievements in implementing telecommunications reform through the collaboration among national regulators, in which these activities could be covered under the cooperation between Member States, which is one of the main focuses of Resolution 71. It is therefore reasonable to merge the two resolutions, with the abrogation of the Resolution 48.

Moreover, considering the fast-changing digital environment where telecommunications/ICT are widely used to improve work in other sectors, there is an increased need for regulators to cooperate more closely with other stakeholders within the telecommunications/ICT community. Considering this, it is proposed that closer collaboration among Member States (which include national regulators), Sector Members, Associates and Academia should be further encouraged.

APT Member Administrations propose merge and update Resolutions 48 and 71, with the former to be suppressed.

**SUP** ACP/22A18/2

RESOLUTION 48 (Rev. Hyderabad, 2010)

Strengthening cooperation among telecommunication regulators

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Hyderabad, 2010),

**Reasons:** In order for streamlining WTDC Resolutions, APT Member Administrations propose merge and update Resolutions 48 and 71, with the former to be suppressed.

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1. These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. This includes colleges, institutes, universities and their associated research establishments concerned with the development of telecommunications/ICT. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)