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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 12 to Document WTDC-17/23-E** |
|  | | **4 September 2017** |
|  | | **Original: Russian** |
| ITU Member States, members of the Regional Commonwealth  in the field of Communications (RCC) | | |
| DRAFT Revision to WTDC Resolution 21 – Coordination and  collaboration with regional organizations | | |
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| **Priority area:**  Resolutions and Recommendations  **Summary:**  These proposals are aimed at increasing the involvement of experts from developing countries in standardization work at both regional and international levels; they also promote enhanced liaison between the regions and the ITU regional offices and, overall, between ITU-D and ITU-T and ITU-R on matters relating to standardization.  **Expected results:**  WTDC-17 is invited to examine and approve the revision to Resolution 21 (Rev. Hyderabad, 2010), as set forth in the annex to this document.  **References:**  Resolution 21 (Rev. Hyderabad, 2010); Recommendation ITU-D 22 "Bridging the standardization gap in association with regional groups of the study groups" WTDC (Dubai, 2014) | | |

**MOD** RCC/23A12/1

RESOLUTION 21 (Rev. BUENOS AIRES, 2017)

Coordination and collaboration with regional organizations

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

considering

*a)* Resolution 37 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC), on bridging the digital divide;

*b)* Resolution 58 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference (PP), on strengthening of relations between ITU and regional telecommunication organizations and regional preparations for the Plenipotentiary Conference;

*c)* Resolution 123 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of PP, on bridging the standardization gap between developing[[1]](#footnote-1)1 and developed countries;

*d)* Resolution 139 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of PP, on use of telecommunications/information and communication technologies to bridge the digital divide and build an inclusive information society;

*e)* Resolution 44 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA), on bridging the standardization gap between developingand developed countries;

*f)* Resolution 54 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016) of WTSA, on creation of, and assistance to, regional groups;

*g)* Recommendation ITU-D 22 (Dubai, 2014) of WTDC, on bridging the standardization gap in association with regional groups of the study groups;

*h)* Resolution 72 (Rev.WRC-07) of the World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC), on world and regional preparations for world radiocommunication conferences;

*i)* the provisions of §§ 26 and 27 of the Geneva Action Plan;

*j)* the key principles of the Geneva Declaration of Principles in §§ 60, 61, 62, 63 and 64;

*k)* the provisions of §§ 23 c), 27 c), 80, 87, 89, 96, 97 and 101 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society;

*l)* Resolution A/70/1 "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development";

*m)* Resolution A/70/125 "Outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society",

noting

*a)* that Article 43 of the Constitution (No. 194) states that "Member States reserve the right to convene regional conferences, to make regional arrangements and to form regional organizations, for the purpose of settling telecommunication questions which are susceptible of being treated on a regional basis ...";

*b)* that the six principal regional telecommunication organizations[[2]](#footnote-2)2, namely the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT), the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT), the Inter-American Telecommunications Commission (CITEL), the African Telecommunications Union (ATU), the Council of Arab Ministers of Telecommunication and Information represented by the Secretariat-General of the League of Arab States (LAS) and the Regional Commonwealth in the field of Communications (RCC), seek close cooperation with the Union,

conscious

*a)* that the role of regional organizations continues to grow with the changes that have taken place in the last four years;

*b)* that regional organizations are important bodies, and coordination with them should be carried out in order to support coordination and collaboration on the implementation of regional projects;

*c)* that the relationship between ITU regional and area offices and regional telecommunication organizations has proved to be of great benefit;

*d)* that meetings of the regional groups of ITU study groups are held by ITU and can be supported by regional organizations and/or regional standardization bodies;

*e)* that the activities of most of these regional groups have become increasingly important, and encompass a growing number of issues of particular importance for developing countries;

*f)* that it is necessary to adopt ways and means of enhancing the role of ITU in general, and the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) in particular, in implementing the goals of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in relation to the development of telecommunication/information and communication technology (ICT) globally, regionally and nationally, in close cooperation with other international and regional organizations and relevant civil-society bodies;

*g)* that it is necessary to seize every opportunity to give experts from developing countries additional opportunities to gain experience by participating in regional and subregional meetings relating to the work of ITU-D Study Groups 1 and 2,

recognizing

*a)* that developing countries are at different stages of development;

*b)* that there is the need, therefore, to exchange opinions on telecommunication development at a regional level;

*c)* the difficulty for some countries in some regions to participate in ITU-D, ITU-T and ITU-R study group activities;

*d)* that a common and coordinated approach to the study of matters relating to the development and standardization of telecommunications/ICT could serve to foster the promotion of standardization activities in developing countries;

*e)* that, pursuant to the aforementioned Resolutions 44 and 54 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016), regional rapporteur groups might permit wider participation by some countries, at lower cost, to address certain questions;

*f)* that many of these countries make effective use of regional organizations;

*g)* that regional and subregional meetings are a valuable opportunity for exchanging information and generating managerial and technical experience and knowledge;

*h)* that it is necessary to collaborate with the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) in this respect in implementing Resolutions 44 and 54 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016),

recalling

*a)* the possibility of creating regional groups to study questions or difficulties which, because of their specific nature, it is desirable to study within the framework of one or more of ITU's regions;

*b)* regional initiatives with a view to:

i) implementation of technical cooperation projects and direct assistance to other regions;

ii) cooperation in regional initiatives with regional and international organizations involved with telecommunication/ICT development;

*c)* the need to create an appropriate mechanism to unify efforts with the bodies referred to in Resolutions 44 and 54 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016),

resolves

1 to continue the practice of creating regional groups to study questions or difficulties that concern a specific region;

2 to encourage cooperation and collaboration of regional groups with regional standardization entities (regional organizations, regional standardization bodies, and so forth), regional organizations and ITU regional and area offices;

3 that a functional structure for ITU regional offices be implemented to support the activities of the regional groups;

4 that there be a budget allocation to ITU regional offices to support the activities of the regional groups and their leaderships;

5 that ITU-D continue to coordinate, collaborate and organize joint activities in areas of common interest with regional and subregional organizations and training institutions and take into consideration their activities;

6 that the results of the activities of regional groups be sent for use, as appropriate, in the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to take the necessary measures to coordinate with regional and subregional telecommunication organizations, and regional and national standardization organizations, as required;

2 to implement the necessary procedures to ensure effective liaison between regional groups set up under WTSA Resolutions 44 and 54 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016) and the ITU-T and ITU‑D study groups, especially on complementary Questions under study, and between these groups and regional telecommunication organizations, regional and national standardization organizations, and ITU regional and area offices,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau, in collaboration with the Directors of the Radiocommunication Bureau and the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau

within the allocated or contributed resources that are available,

1 to provide all necessary support for creating and ensuring the smooth functioning of the regional groups;

2 to implement a functional structure for the ITU regional and area offices to support the activities of the regional groups;

3 to facilitate and support chairmen and vice-chairmen of ITU-T study groups from developing countries in promoting standardization activities and mobilizing members in subregional groups through workshops, seminars and forums;

4 to consider, whenever possible, holding conferences and workshops concurrently with meetings of the ITU‑T regional groups, in the relevant regions, and vice versa;

5 to take all necessary measures to facilitate the organization of meetings and conferences/workshops of the regional groups.

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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)
2. 2 There are eleven regional telecommunication organizations as referred to in Article 43 of the Constitution. The list can be found in Council Resolution 925. The five regional organizations other than the six principal ones may choose to participate in regional preparatory meetings and other activities of the Union. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)