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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 21 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) | | |
| Revision to WTDC Resolution 48 - Strengthening cooperation among telecommunication regulators | | |
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| **Priority area:**  Resolutions and Recommendations  **Summary:**  The rapid development of telecommunications/ICTs in recent years, the introduction of new technologies and systems (broadband mobile communications, Internet of Things, Big Data, artificial intelligence, OTT, and so on), and the digital transformation and transition to the digital economy, have all brought about major changes in the world overall, and this calls for new approaches to regulation.  One of the most important ITU forums striving to improve telecommunication/ICT regulation is the Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR). The tasks of GSR and of seminars and workshops on this topic need to be clarified in the light of the global changes in telecommunications/ICTs.  **Expected results:**  WTDC-17 is invited to consider the proposed text and take the appropriate decisions.  **References:**  [Collection of GSR Best Practice Guidelines 2003−2013](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regulatory-Market/Documents/GSR14/Collection_en.pdf), [GSR 2014 Best Practice Guidelines](http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Conferences/GSR/Documents/GSR14_BPG_final_en.pdf), [GSR 2015 Best Practice Guidelines](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Conferences/GSR/Documents/GSR2015/Consultation/BPG_2015_E.pdf), [GSR 2016 Best Practice Guidelines](http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regulatory-Market/Pages/bestpractices.aspx), [Draft GSR 2017 Best Practice Guidelines](https://www.google.com/url?q=https://staging.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Conferences/GSR/Documents/GSR2017/GSR17_Best-Practice_Guidelines_v3_E.pdf&sa=U&ved=0ahUKEwiEz-v75p_VAhXF7BQKHQUjBgAQFggOMAU&client=internal-uds-cse&usg=AFQjCNHYq9JJxi6KIrX3xyA_0pKHUOX0gQ) | | |

# I Introduction

Key factors in creating an enabling environment for bridging the digital divide include the creation of transparent, predictable, independent and non-discriminatory regulatory and legal systems, the introduction of proportional taxes and licence fees, measures to ensure access to financial resources, measures to promote public-private partnership, collaboration between multiple stakeholders, implementation of national and regional strategies in the field of broadband connectivity, efficient allocation of spectrum, and the introduction of infrastructure sharing models.

On that basis, it is of great importance to have effective sharing of best practice in developing standards documents, regulatory mechanisms and the corresponding legislation concerning the development, adoption and use of telecommunication/ICT systems and applications, taking account of the achievements of recent years. Serious attention must also be paid to regulatory issues focusing on existing problems and averting potential threats.

# II Proposal

The RCC administrations propose a revision of Resolution 48 (Rev. Hyderabad, 2014), on strengthening cooperation among telecommunication regulators.

**MOD** RCC/23A21/1

RESOLUTION 48 (Rev. BUENOS AIRES, 2017)

Strengthening cooperation among telecommunication regulators

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

recalling

*a)* Resolution 48 (Rev. Hyderabad, 2010) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference;

*b)* Resolution 138 (Antalya, 2006) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the Global Symposium for Regulators;

*c)* Resolution 2 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the World telecommunication/information and communication technology policy forum;

*d)* Resolution 102 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on ITU's role with regard to international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet and the management of Internet resources, including domain names and addresses;

*e)* Resolution 200 (Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the Connect 2020 Agenda on global telecommunication/information and communication technology (ICT) development;

*f)* Resolution A70/125 of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), "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";

*g)* Resolution A/70/1 of the UNGA, "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development",

considering

*a)* that ITU plays a fundamental role in providing global perspectives on the development of the information society, and one of the main tasks of the Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) under the terms of No. 127 of the Constitution is to "offer advice, carry out or sponsor studies, as necessary, on technical, economic, financial, managerial, regulatory and policy issues, including studies of specific projects in the field of telecommunications";

*b)* that the rapid development of telecommunications/ICTs in recent years, the introduction of new technologies and systems (mobile broadband, Internet of Things, Big Data, artificial intelligence, OTT, and so on), and the digital transformation and transition to a digital economy, have brought about considerable changes in the world as a whole, which calls for new approaches in the field of regulation;

*c)* that there is no single correct approach to telecommunication/ICT regulation in all countries, and the particular characteristics of each country must be taken into account; in an increasingly dynamic digital ecosystem, however, it is essential to seek harmonization of general principles;

*d)* that in parallel with achievements in the field of telecommunications/ICTs, a range of new threats has emerged concerning protection of users and the various organizations operating in different areas of the economy and society as a whole, infrastructure, and so on;

*e)* that in the light of the considerable changes in telecommunications/ICTs, and the development of markets and society, telecommunication/ICT reforms have globally been implemented in most countries of the world, both developed and developing [[1]](#footnote-1)1, including reforms of telecommunication/ICT regulation;

*f)* that key factors in creating an enabling environment for bridging the digital divide include the creation of transparent, predictable, independent and non-discriminatory regulatory and legal systems, the introduction of proportional taxation and licence fees, measures to ensure access to finance, measures to promote public-private partnership, collaboration between multiple stakeholders, implementation of national and regional strategies in the field of broadband connectivity, efficient allocation of spectrum, and the introduction of infrastructure sharing models;

*g)* that the reform of telecommunication/ICT regulation is characterized by new laws and policies and the establishment of regulatory agencies to implement reform in a new dynamic telecommunication/ICT infrastructure and international environment;

*h)* that the success of telecommunication/ICT reform will mostly depend on the establishment and implementation of an effective regulatory framework, regulatory mechanisms and laws;

*i)* that the regulators are called upon to maintain an effective balance of interest among all stakeholders by promoting fair competition and ensuring an equal-opportunity environment for all players, taking into account the interests of society as a whole,

recognizing

*a)* that telecommunication regulators have been increasing and have a significant influence on the development and use of telecommunications/ICTs;

*b)* the importance of information sharing among regulators, particularly among regulators in developed and developing countries;

*c)* the importance and necessity of cooperation among these entities at the regional level,

recalling further

*a)* the relevant programme under the Action Plan adopted by WTDC‑17 in Buenos Aires, especially telecommunication/ICT regulatory symposia, forums, seminars and workshops;

*b)* the recommendations of past global symposia for regulators (GSR) on the creation of a global exchange programme for regulators;

*c)* the success of the global exchange programme for regulators,

noting

that the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) has continued the global regulatory exchange,

resolves

1 to continue the specific platform for telecommunication regulators to share and exchange matters concerning regulatory issues electronically (G-REX);

2 that ITU, and in particular ITU-D, should continue to support regulatory reform by sharing information and experiences, paying attention to all the aspects indicated in *considering* above;

3 that BDT should continue to coordinate and facilitate joint activities relating to telecommunication/ICT policy and regulatory issues with regional and subregional regulatory organizations and associations;

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

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to continue to rotate GSR in different regions, to the extent possible;

2 to promote the formal meetings of regulators and regulatory associations at GSR and encourage the participation of other stakeholders;

3 to continue to have a specific platform for regulators and regulatory associations;

4 to organize, coordinate and facilitate activities that promote information sharing among regulators and regulatory associations on key issues pertaining to the development of a standards base, mechanisms and legislative framework for regulation at the international and regional level;

5 to organize seminars, regional workshops and training programmes and other activities to help strengthen regulators, above all regulators in developing countries,

invites the ITU-D study groups

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

calls upon Member States

to offer to the governments of countries in special need all possible assistance and support for regulatory reform, whether bilaterally, multilaterally or through the special action of the Union,

requests the Secretary-General

to transmit this resolution to the Plenipotentiary Conference (Dubai, 2018) in order to ensure that appropriate attention is given to these activities, in particular within the framework of the implementation of the World Summit on the Information Society outcomes, and in regard to the role of regulators in the implementation of the strategic plan for the Union.

**Reasons:** The need to take account of recent changes in telecommunications/ICTs and to further strengthen collaboration among telecommunication/ICT regulators, taking into account the interests of all interested parties and society as a whole.

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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)