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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 9 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 16 - Special actions and measures for the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition | | |
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| **Priority area**  Resolutions and Recommendations  **Summary**  The purpose of these proposals is to clarify specific work items in accordance with the decision of the Plenipotentiary Conference 2014 (in Busan, Republic of Korea), including those focusing on:  – reviewing the state of telecommunication/ICT services in LDCs, SIDS, LLDCs and countries with economies in transition and needing special measures for the development of telecommunications/ICTs, and identifying areas of critical weakness requiring priority action;  – bringing about genuine improvements and effective assistance to these countries, from the Special Voluntary Programme for Technical Cooperation, the Union's own resources and other sources of finance;  – working towards providing the necessary administrative and operational structure for identifying the needs of these countries and for proper administration of the resources appropriated for LDCs, SIDS, LLDCs and countries with economies in transition.  **Expected results:**  WTDC-17 is invited to consider and approve the revision to Resolution 16 (Rev. Hyderabad, 2010) in in the form submitted in the annex.  **References:**  Resolution 16 (Rev. Hyderabad, 2010) | | |

**MOD** RCC/23A9/1

RESOLUTION 16 (REV. BUENOS AIRES, 2017)

Special actions and measures for the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and  
countries with economies in transition

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

recalling

*a)* United Nations resolutions concerning programmes for least developed countries (LDCs), small island developing states (SIDS), landlocked developing countries (LLDCs), and countries with economies in transition;

*b)* UN General Assembly Resolution 68/198 "Information and communications technologies for development";

*c)* UN General Assembly Resolution 68/220 "Science, Technology and innovation for development",

considering

*a)* Resolution 30 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, "Special measures for the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition";

*b)* Resolution 135 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference "ITU's role in the development of telecommunications/information and communication technologies, in providing technical assistance and advice to developing countries and in implementing relevant national, regional and interregional projects",

noting

*a)* Resolution 1 (Dubai, 2012) of the World Conference on International Telecommunications, "Special measures for landlocked developing countries and small island developing states for access to international optical fibre networks";

*b)* the striking imbalance in telecommunication/information and communication technology (ICT) development between these countries (least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition) and other countries, the persistence of which exacerbates the digital divide;

*c)* that these countries and countries in special need are vulnerable to extreme levels of devastation resulting from natural disasters and lack the capacity to respond effectively to these calamities;

*d)* the existence of countries which as a result of geographical and political conditions have limited access to terrestrial and marine international cable systems,

appreciating

the special measures taken for the benefit of these countries in the form of concentrated assistance provided under the Doha Action Plan,

still concerned

*a)* that, despite all the measures taken so far, the telecommunication networks in many of these countries remain in a very poor state of development in urban, semi-urban and rural areas;

*b)* that the geographical situation of small island developing states and landlocked developing countries is an obstacle to the establishment of international telecommunication network connectivity with these countries;

*c)* that multilateral and bilateral flows of technical assistance and investment finance to these countries are constantly declining;

*d)* that to date there are many countries in this category;

*e)* with the low level of resources allocated to the special programme for these countries,

aware

that improved telecommunication networks in these countries will constitute a major driver underpinning their social and economic recovery and their development, and an opportunity for them to establish their information societies, and will be a tool for developing the digital economy,

resolves

to endorse the new priority areas for the next four years, the associated programme of action for these countries and its implementation strategy,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to continue to review the state of telecommunication/ICT services in LDCs, SIDS, LLDCs and countries with economies in transition, so identified by the United Nations and needing special measures for the development of telecommunications/ICTs, and to identify areas of critical weakness requiring priority action;

2 to continue submitting to the ITU Council concrete measures intended to bring about genuine improvements and effective assistance to these countries, from the Special Voluntary Programme for Technical Cooperation, the Union's own resources and other sources of finance;

3 to implement fully a programme of assistance for these countries as contained in the Buenos Aires Action Plan;

4 to give priority to requests received from these countries in implementing other BDT programmes of assistance to developing countries that are intended to improve and provide effective assistance to these countries;

5 to pay special attention to suburban and rural telecommunication/ICT development in these countries, with a view to achieving universal access to telecommunication and information technology services;

6 to continue to work towards providing the necessary administrative and operational structure for identifying the needs of these countries and for proper administration of the resources appropriated for LDCs, SIDs, LLDCs and countries with economies in transition;

7 to report annually on this matter to the Council,

requests the Secretary-General

1 to request the forthcoming Plenipotentiary Conference (Dubai, 2018) to provide the necessary budget for these countries with a view to enabling BDT to undertake essential and programmed activities for them;

2 to continue enhancing the assistance provided to these countries through other resources, and in particular through unconditional voluntary contributions and appropriate partnerships, as well as any surplus income from world and regional telecommunication exhibitions and forums;

3 to propose new and innovative measures capable of generating additional funds to be used for telecommunication/ICT development in these countries, in order to benefit from the possibilities afforded by financial mechanisms in facing the challenges of utilizing ICT for development purposes, as stated in the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society,

calls upon governments of least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition

1 to continue to accord higher priority to ICT development as well as disaster response and risk reduction planning, and to adopt measures, policies and national strategies that are conducive to bringing about faster development of telecommunications/ICTs in their countries, such as sector liberalization and the introduction of new technologies;

2 in selecting technical cooperation activities financed by bilateral and multilateral sources, to continue to accord high priority to telecommunication/ICT activities and projects;

3 to accord priority to the development of ICTs in national development plans,

calls upon other Member States and Sector Members

to establish partnerships with these countries, either directly or through BDT, in order to bring increased investment into the ICT sector and to stimulate the modernization and expansion of networks in these countries in a bold attempt to reduce the digital divide and to achieve the ultimate goal of universal access in line with the Geneva Plan of Action, the Tunis Commitment and the Tunis Agenda.

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