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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 | | **Document WTDC-17/44-E** |
|  | | **25 September 2017** |
|  | | **Original: Spanish** |
| Paraguay (Republic of) | | |
| proposals for the work of the conference | | |
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| **Priority area:**  Resolutions and Recommendations  **Summary:**  It is proposed that Resolution 23 be amended to reflect the work carried out by the Union since 2014.  **Expected results:**  WTDC-17 is invited to review this document and approve it.  **References:**  Resolution 23 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) | | |

**MOD** PRG/44/1

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, and e-meetings, on mutually agreed terms;

*b)* Resolution 101 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on Internet Protocol (IP)-based networks;

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

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

*e)* Resolution 69 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA), on non-discriminatory access and use of Internet resources and telecommunications/information and communication technologies, 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;

*f)* 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;

*g)* 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;

*h)* 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)* the rapid growth of the Internet and IP-based international services;

*c)* that international Internet connections remain subject to commercial agreements between the parties concerned, although 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;

*d)* 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;

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

*f)* 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;

*g)* 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;

*h)* 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);

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

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

*k)* 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;

*l)* that the case could arise in which the surcharges that a Member State, especially transit countries, applies to parties operating at the national level (including recognized operating agencies) are transferred via tariffs to the parties (including recognized operating agencies) that are operating abroad under the rules of another Member State,

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 Study Group 3 of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU‑T), on tariff and accounting principles including related telecommunication economic and policy issues, adopted Recommendation ITU‑T D.52 “Establishing and connecting regional Internet Exchange Points (IXPs) to reduce costs of international Internet connectivity”, which guides regional collaboration to establish central hubs or IXPs that enable local Internet traffic to be routed locally, saving international bandwidth and reducing the costs of international Internet connectivity,

invites ITU-D Study Group 1

to take into account the content of this resolution when conducting related studies to promote international connections to the Internet and to maintain close cooperation with ITU-T Study Group 3,

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, and supporting the Recommendation ITU-T D.52 supervisory work;

3 to promote, in compliance with the policies of each country, the establishment of regional, subregional and national IXPs that represent an alternative to reduce the costs of broadband, ensuring that they in turn enable a direct flow without the need for recourse to international circuits;

4 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;

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

6 to take appropriate measures at national level to promote the provision of international connections that comply with international regulations in force;

7 to promote agreements for taking appropriate measures at national level that enable parties (including recognized operating agencies) that provide international connections to minimize the surcharges for parties (including recognized operating agencies) residing abroad that receive the aforementioned international connections,

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

1 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 c), d), f)* and*i)* above;

2 to exchange experiences and best practices regarding the establishment of regulatory measures for the operation of regional, subregional and national IXPs and implement agreements and partnerships to improve international connections,

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;

2to 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;

3to 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;

4 to organize workshops and seminars dealing with the advantages of establishing regional and national IXPs and international connectivity, covering technical, regulatory and quality-related matters as well as their impact on operators and users.

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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)