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|  | **Second Inter-Regional Meeting (IRM-2) to prepare for the WTDC-21 Virtual, 13-14 December 2021** | | A close up of a sign  Description automatically generated | |
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|  | | **Document** **IRM21-2/55(Rev.1)-E** | | |
| **8 December 2021** | | |
| **Original: Russian and English** | | |
| **Regional Commonwealth in the field of Communications (RCC)** | | | | |
| Draft revision of Resolution 17 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) “Implementation and cooperation on regionally approved regional initiatives at the national,  regional interregional and global levers” | | | | |
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| **Agenda item:**  Agenda item 5  **Summary:**  This contribution proposes to revise Resolution 17 to improve cooperation between Regional telecommunication organizations and BDT, including through ITU Regional offices.  **Expected outputs:**  This document is submitted for information and discussion.  **References:**  Resolution 52 (Rev. Dubai, 2014);  Resolution 21 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) | | | |

**MOD**  RESOLUTION 17 (Rev. Addis Ababa , 2021)

Implementation of and cooperation on regionally approved regional initiatives at the national, regional, interregional and global levels[[1]](#footnote-1)1

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Addis Ababa, 2021),

recalling

*a)* Resolution 34 of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on assistance and support to countries in special need for rebuilding their telecommunication sector;

*b)* Resolution 135 of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on ITU’s role in the durable and sustainable development of telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICTs), in providing technical assistance and advice to developing countries[[2]](#footnote-2)2 and in implementing relevant national, regional and interregional projects;

*c)* Resolution 157 of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on strengthening of the project execution and project monitoring functions in ITU;

*d)* Resolution 21 ( of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC) , on coordination and collaboration with regional and sub-regional organizations;

*e)* Resolution 32 of the Conference WTDC, on international and regional cooperation on regional initiatives;

*f)* Resolution 52 of the WTDC, on strengthening the executing agency role of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU‑D), which emphasized the importance of establishing partnerships between the public and private sectors as an efficient means of implementing sustainable ITU projects, and of utilizing locally available expertise in executing ITU projects on a regional or country-wide basis;*g)* the mechanism for cooperation at regional and international level to implement the outputs of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

considering

*a)* that telecommunications/ICTs are one of the most vital elements for the growth of national economies and protection of the environment;

*b)* that, in order to achieve the objectives of the developing countries, new policy approaches may be required to meet the challenges of growth, in both qualitative and quantitative terms;

*c)* that developing countries are increasingly experiencing the need for knowledge of fast-developing technologies and the associated policy and strategic issues;

*d)* that the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) is an appropriate platform for the exchange of experiences and best practices on development of the telecommunication/ICT sector;

*e)* the vital importance of cooperation among Member States, ITU-D Sector Members and Associates for the implementation of regional initiatives;

*f)* the satisfactory and encouraging results achieved by projects which have received international cooperation support under an initiative of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT);

*g)* that telecommunication networks and services for sustainable development are an essential element for national development and improving the social, economic, financial and cultural situation of Member States;

*h)* the need to coordinate and harmonize efforts to develop telecommunication infrastructure at the national, regional, interregional and global levels;

*i)* that the leadership of the ITU Member States is needed to outline a unified national vision of a connected society that is comprehensive of all stakeholders;

*j)* the commitment of the ITU Member States to promote access to ICTs at affordable prices, paying special attention to the least favoured segments;

*k)* the importance of the telecommunication/ICT sector and its contribution to the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),

recognizing

*a)* that developing countries and countries participating in regional initiatives are at different stages of development;

*b)* that, given the resources at the disposal of developing countries, it is an important task for ITU, as the United Nations specialized agency on telecommunications/ICT, to help these countries meet the requirements cited in *considering c)* above;

*c)* the need, therefore, to exchange experiences on telecommunication development at regional, interregional and global level in order to support these countries;

*d)* that ITU and regional organizations share common beliefs that close cooperation can promote regional telecommunications/ICTs in order to support these countries;

*e)* that there is a continued need for ITU to cooperate more closely with regional organizations, including regional organizations of regulators, in order to support these countries,

taking into account

*a)* the vital importance of telecommunication development initiatives endorsed by all regional development conferences, and by the preparatory meetings preceding this conference;

*b)* that there is a lack of funding from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and other international financial institutions, impeding the implementation of such initiatives;

*c)* the achievements of the Connect the World initiatives promoted by ITU‑D;

*d)* the satisfactory and encouraging results achieved by activities of this kind, which have helped cooperation in the creation of telecommunication networks,

noting

*a)* that the ITU‑D centres of excellence (CoE) training significantly assists the developing countries with knowledge-based requirements;

*b)* that the relevant regional organizations play a prominent and important role in supporting the developing countries in areas such as regional cooperation and technical assistance activities;

*c)* the development of cooperation and technical assistance activities among regional and subregional organizations of regulators,

resolves

1 that BDT should strengthen cooperation with regional and sub-regional telecommunication organisations, including through the ITU regional offices, to identify possible ways and means of implementing the regionally approved initiatives at the national, regional, interregional and global levels, making the utmost use of available BDT resources, its annual budget and surplus income from ITU-TELECOM events, in particular by means of equitable budget allotments for each region;

2 that BDT continue to actively assist the developing countries in elaborating and implementing these regional initiatives, which are specified in the Addis Ababa Action Plan, including a preliminary estimate of financial contributions in kind and/or in cash for the implementation of projects;

3 that the budget allocation for the implementation of the regional initiatives be individualized in the budget of the Sector to be executed by BDT, discriminating between funds for ongoing projects and funds for new projects, divided by region;

4 that Member States should consider contributing in kind and/or in cash to the budget foreseen for implementation of these initiatives and the realization of other projects foreseen within the framework of these initiatives at the national, regional, interregional and global levels;

5 that BDT should continue to actively conclude partnerships with Member States, ITU‑D Sector Members, financial institutions and international organizations in order to sponsor implementation activities for these initiatives;

6 that BDT should assist in the implementation of these initiatives at the national, regional, interregional and global levels, integrating as far as possible those initiatives that have the same content or objectives, taking into consideration the Addis Ababa Action Plan;

7 that BDT, through the ITU regional offices,

shouldprovide information accumulating during implementation of regional initiatives of each of the regions (outcomes, stakeholders, financial resources used, and so on) to the Member States and regional telecommunication organisations, so as to capitalize on the experience and leverage the outcomes, which might be replicated in order to save time and resources when setting up and designing projects in the other regions, using the portal for the execution of projects in the six official languages of the Union;

8 that BDT should strengthen its relations with regional and subregional regulatory organizations in the field of telecommunications/ICT, through ongoing cooperation to stimulate the mutual exchange of experience and assistance with the implementation of these regional initiatives;

9 that BDT should regularly make information available to regional organisations and Member States on the progress in implementation of the regional initiatives, outcomes, stakeholders, financial resources used and so forth;

appeals

to international financial organizations/agencies, equipment suppliers and operators/service providers to contribute, fully or partially, to financing these regionally adopted initiatives approved by the WTDC,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to take all necessary measures for promoting and implementing these regionally adopted initiatives at the national, regional, interregional and global levels, and in particular the similar initiatives agreed at international level;

2 to ensure that BDT actively coordinates, collaborates in and organizes joint activities in areas of common interest with regional telecommunication organizations and training institutions, and takes into consideration their activities, as well as providing the direct technical assistance;

3 to advocate at the annual Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR) meeting to call for the conduct of GSR to support the implementation of these regional and international initiatives;

4 to ensure that the ITU regional offices have a role in monitoring the implementation of the initiatives approved in their regions, identify the impact of these regional initiatives, considering the possible benefits at national level, in collaboration with countries served by these regional initiatives, and submit an annual report to the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group as well as advisory groups of other Sectors on the implementation of this resolution;

5 to promote the dissemination to other regions including trough the ITU-D Study Groups, of the progress in implementation and the results of projects implemented under regional initiatives;

6 that an annual meeting be held for each region in order to discuss the regional initiatives and projects for each region and mechanisms for implementation of the initiatives adopted and to make known the needs of the different regions, and that a regional development forum (RDF) may be held in conjunction with the annual meeting for each region;

7 to promote in every possible way consultation with the Member States in each region before implementing and executing approved initiatives in a timely fashion, in order to agree on priorities, suggest strategic partners, means of financing in kind and/or in cash and other issues, thereby promoting a participatory, inclusive process of meeting the goals;

8 in consultation and coordination with the Directors of the Radiocommunication and Telecommunication Standardization Bureaux, to promote the joint work of the three Sectors in order to provide suitable, efficient, agreed assistance for Member States to implement the regional initiatives,

requests the Secretary-General

1 to continue special measures and programmes to develop and promote activities and regional initiatives, in close cooperation with regional and subregional telecommunication organizations, including regulators, and other related institutions;

2 to make every possible effort to encourage the private sector to take actions to facilitate cooperation with Member States in these regional initiatives, including countries with special needs;

3 to continue to work closely with the coordination mechanism established in the United Nations family and the five United Nations regional commissions;

4 to bring this resolution to the attention of the Plenipotentiary Conference with a view to securing adequate financial resources in the budget to fulfil the approved regional initiatives

1. 1 An initiative shall take the form of an all-embracing heading under which a number of projects can be included, leaving it to each region to define these. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. 2 These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)