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| **Logo, company name  Description automatically generated** | A close up of a sign  Description automatically generated**World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-22)**  **Kigali, Rwanda, 6-16 June 2022** | |
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| PLENARY MEETING | | **Addendum 12 to Document WTDC-22/24-E** |
|  | | **2 May 2022** |
|  | | **Original: English** |
| Member States of the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL) | | |
| Proposal to modify WTDC Resolution 73  on centers of excellence program | | |
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| **Priority area:** - Resolutions and Recommendations  **Summary:**  The CITEL Member States aim to adapt WTDC Resolution 73 to the new proposal presented in the scope of the strategic review of the Program which recommends that the Program should be revitalized, updated and renamed, in light of the experience before and during the pandemic, to adapt to the rapidly changing context of the telecommunications/ICTs industry.  **Expected results:**  WTDC-22 is invited to examine and approve the proposal in this document.  **References:**  WTDC Resolution 73 | | |

The ICT sector is very dynamic and requires continuous adaptation in capacity building strategies to respond to the demand and needs of the ITU membership. Additionally, Covid -19 has caused an increase in online training with the emergence of many new global providers. There is a need for the BDT to systematize its many human skills development and capacity building activities, treating them in a holistic, coordinated, integrated and transparent manner in order to meet the overall strategic objectives of ITU-D and make the most efficient use of its resources.

The CITEL Member States aim to adapt WTDC Resolution 73 to the new proposal presented in the scope of the strategic review of the Program carried out at the end of this cycle. This strategic review recommends that the Program should be revitalized, updated and renamed, in light of the experience before and during the pandemic, to adapt to the rapidly changing context of the telecommunications/ICTs industry.

According to the review, the program should be renamed and relaunched, under a new name, starting in 2023. It should be more strongly associated with the ITU Academy and operate under its umbrella. The new program should be called: ITU Academy Training Centers (ATCs).

It should focus on issues that are of high priority to Member States, in particular those with limited resources for capacity development; where ITU has special responsibilities or expertise; and where there is a limited supply of equivalent high-quality training available from alternative providers at a cost affordable to members. Regional priorities and the BDT Thematic Priorities should also be considered.

**MOD** IAP/24A12/1

RESOLUTION 73 (Rev.Kigali, 2022)

ITU academy training centres

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Kigali, 2022),

recalling

*a)* Resolution 139 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on use of telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICTs) to bridge the digital divide and build an inclusive information society;

*b)* Resolution 123 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on bridging the standardization gap between developing[[1]](#footnote-1)1 and developed countries;

*c)* the terms of the Buenos Aires Declaration;

*d)* Resolution 15 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of this conference, on applied research and transfer of technology;

*e)* Resolution 37 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of this conference, on bridging the digital divide;

*f)* Resolution 40 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of this conference, on the Group on capacity-building initiatives (GCBI);

*g)* Resolution 47 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of this conference, on enhancement of knowledge and effective application of ITU Recommendations in developing countries, including conformance and interoperability testing of systems manufactured on the basis of ITU Recommendations;

*h)* Resolution 70/125 of the United Nations General Assembly, on the 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,

considering

*a)* that ITU centres of excellence have been operating successfully since 2001 in several languages including English, Arabic, Chinese, Spanish, French, Russian and Portuguese in different regions of the world;

*b)* that the Centres of Excellence (CoE) programme entered into operation as from 1 January 2015;

*c)* that, in every country, specialists in the field of telecommunications/ICTs hold great potential for development of the sector;

*d)* that there is a need for constant upgrading of the qualifications of all stakeholders, and especially telecommunication/ICT specialists;

*e)* that key ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU‑D) projects in regard to the training of telecommunication/ICT staff, including the work of the ITU centres of excellence, make a significant contribution to upgrading the qualifications of telecommunication/ICT specialists;

*f)* that a broad strategic review of the CoE Program was carried out at the end of the 2018-2021 cycle, as provided for in this Resolution 73 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017);

g) that the centres of excellence would be financially self-sustaining,

recognizing

*a)* that telecommunication/ICT staff training and capacity building, taking into account gender equality, youth and persons with disabilities, as well as the population as a whole, should be constantly developed and improved;

*b)* that ITU centres of excellence fulfil an important role in the ITU capacity-building scheme, including under the ITU Academy activities;

*c)* that partnerships and cooperation between ITU centres of excellence and with other education centres and industry contribute to effective training of specialists;

*d)* the sovereign right of each State to formulate its own policy in regard to the licensing of services for capacity building;

*e)* the need to attract, first and foremost, qualified experts from academia to the work of the ITU centres of excellence;

*f)* that activities in the field of human capacity building are being organized and held in parallel in the ITU centres of excellence and in the regional/area offices under the operational plan of ITU‑D,

resolves

1 that the ITU Centres of Excellence be renamed as ITU Academy Training Centres (ATCs);

2 that the activity of ITU ATCs should be continued and executed in accordance with the results of last strategic review;

3 that the programme's themes be agreed by each Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG) and constitute a high priority for the ITU members and other stakeholders, in accordance with a prior assessment of needs conducted at global and regional levels in consultation with regional organizations in the telecommunication/ICT sector, and in accordance with the ITU strategic plan;

4 when setting priorities for the work of the ITU ATCs, to proceed from the current needs of the region, which are to be identified based on needs assessment using, inter alia, the thematic and regional priorities, regional organizations or associations in the telecommunication/ICT sector as well as through consultations with ITU members;

5 to consider that human capacity-building efforts should be concentrated preferably in the ITU ATC, whose activities should be included in the operational plans;

6 that an annual regular assessment of the activities of the ATC shall be conducted and reported to TDAG for its evaluation, recommendations and application by the Telecommunications Development Bureau;

8 that in the establishment of the new ITU ATC an equitable geographical distribution be maintained;

9 that ITU and the ATCs actively engage in seeking programme Partners, in order to engage additional sources of support and expertise, including sponsorship for courses and students in order to extend the programme’s reach to those who would otherwise be unable to attend, while maintaining the highest quality of the training,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to provide assistance for the work of the ITU ATCs according it the necessary priority attention;

2 to implement the results of the strategic review of the ITU Centres of Excellence programme after the termination of the current cycle, starting in 2023, and to make appropriate changes to the document entitled "Operational processes and procedures for a new ITU centres of excellence strategy", including the new programme name “ITU Academy Training Centres”;

3 to make the necessary organizational arrangements for the periodic assessment of standards for ITU human capacity-building activities;

4 to facilitate the work of the ITU ATCs, providing them with the necessary support;

5 to establish mechanisms for the ITU ATCs to have contact with designated focal points in Regional Offices, so that emerging demands and new priorities in each Region can be known allowing the ITU ATC to make adjustments in their offers,

calls upon Member States, Sector Members and Academia of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector

1 to participate actively in the ITU ATC activities, including through the provision of recognized experts, training materials, promotion of training courses and also financial support;

2 to seek strategies so that the entities related to telecommunications/ICT of ITU membership, whenever possible, have the ITU ATCs as a preferred training provider.

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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)