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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 18 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 66  on information and communication technology and climate change | | |
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| **Priority area:** - Resolutions and Recommendations  **Summary:**  The CITEL Member States propose to modify WTDC Resolution 66 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) on information and communication technology and climate change. Taking into consideration the need for streamlining, the proposed modified text includes the removal of the preambular text that is already covered in PP Resolution 182 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference on the role of telecommunications/information and communication technologies in regard to climate change and the protection of the environment.  The proposal also removes actions that are duplicates within the operative clauses.  **Expected results:**  WTDC-22 is invited to examine and approve the proposal in this document.  **References:**  WTDC Resolution 66 | | |

**MOD** IAP/24A18/1

RESOLUTION 66 (Rev. Kigali, 2022)

Information and communication technology, environment, climate change and circular economy

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Kigali, 2022),

recalling

*a)* Resolution 182 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the role of telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICTs) in regard to climate change and the protection of the environment;

*b)* Resolution 1353 adopted by the 2012 session of the ITU Council, which recognizes that telecommunications and ICTs are essential components for developed and developing countries[[1]](#footnote-1)1 in achieving sustainable development, and instructs the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the Directors of the Bureaux, to identify new activities to be undertaken by ITU to support developing countries in achieving sustainable development through telecommunications and ICTs;

*c)* Resolution A/C.2/73/L.10/Rev.1 (2018) of the United Nations General Assembly, which recognizes the potential benefits for countries to transform their economies to promote sustainable consumption and production patterns, by engaging with partners to integrate or implement concepts such as circular economy and Industry 4.0 for more sustainable industrial activity and manufacturing systems, according to national plans and priorities;

*d)* Resolution 34 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of this conference, on the role of telecommunications/ICT in disaster preparedness, early warning, rescue, mitigation, relief and response;

*e)* Resolution 73 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA), on ICTs, environment and climate change, instructing the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU‑T) in this area;

*f)* Recommendation ITU‑D 21 (Dubai, 2014), on ICT and climate change;

*g)* the outcomes of the United Nations Climate Change Conferences; the main outcomes of the twelfth Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Environmentally Sound Management of E-waste;

*h)* Resolution 79 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016) of WTSA, on the role of telecommunications/ICTs in handling and controlling e‑waste from telecommunication and information technology equipment and methods of treating it;

*i)* the outcomes of ITU-T Study Group 5 on the environment, climate change and circular economy, which is responsible for studies on methodologies for evaluating the ICT effects on climate change and also for studying design methodologies to reduce environmental effects, for example recycling of ICT facilities and equipment;

*j)* Resolution 70/1 of the United Nations General Assembly, on transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

taking into consideration

*a)* the need to face the emergency derived from climate change through effective actions, and the role that ITU can play in achieving sustainable use of ICTs, the importance of promoting sustainable development and the ways in which ICTs can enable clean development;

*b)* that the consequences of developing countries' lack of preparation in the past have recently come to light, and that without preparation they risk significant adverse impact, including those relating to rising sea levels for many coastal areas in developing countries;

*c)* that, in processes for extracting raw materials from recycled products, caution must be exercised over the procedures used in order to ensure low environmental pollution levels;

*d)* the results of ITU-D Study Group 2 on ICT and Climate Change,

taking into consideration further

the outcome document adopted by the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), entitled "The Future we want", reflecting the renewed commitment to advancing sustainable development and achieving environmental sustainability, including recognizing the important role of ICTs,

noting

*a)* current and future work on ICTs and climate change, including the work in relevant ITU study groups such as ITU‑T Study Group 5 and ITU‑D Study Group 2, which focus on the study of climate change, e-waste, and human exposure to electromagnetic fields;

*b)* that it is important to facilitate an environment in which ITU Member States, Sector Members and other stakeholders may cooperate to obtain and effectively use remote‑sensing data for the purposes of research in climate change, disaster management and public administration,[[2]](#footnote-3)3

resolves

1 to give priority to ITU‑D activities in this area and to providing the necessary support, while ensuring appropriate coordination among the three ITU Sectors on a full range of issues, including, for example, studies on the impact of non-ionizing radiation;

2 to continue and further develop ITU‑D activities on ICTs, environment, climate change and circular economy in order to contribute to the wider global efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change;

3 to include, as a priority, assistance to developing countries in strengthening their human and institutional capacity in tackling ICTs and climate change, as well as in areas such as climate‑change adaptation, as a key element of disaster-management planning;

4 to increase awareness and promote information-sharing on the role of ICTs in enhancing environmental sustainability, in particular by promoting the use of more energy-efficient[[3]](#footnote-4)4 devices and networks and more efficient working methods, as well as ICTs that can be used to replace or displace higher energy consuming technologies/uses;

5 to promote the development and application of renewable energy systems where appropriate, to support ICT operations and in particular continuity and resilience during disasters;

6 to set up e‑learning programmes related to ICT, the environment, climate change and the circular economy, including on relevant ITU Recommendations, within available resources,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau, in collaboration with the Directors of the other Bureaux

1 to formulate a plan of action for the role of ITU‑D in this regard, taking into account the role of the other two Sectors;

2 to ensure that the plan of action is implemented under the relevant objective of the Kigali Action Plan dealing with ICTs, the environment, climate change and the circular economy, taking into account the needs of developing countries, and cooperating closely with the study groups of the other two Sectors and with ITU‑D Study Group 2 in its implementation of the relevant Questions;

3 to promote liaison with other relevant organizations in order to avoid duplication of work and optimize the use of resources;

4 to organize, in close collaboration with the Directors of the Radiocommunication Bureau and the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau and with other competent bodies, workshops, seminars and training courses in developing countries at the regional level for the purpose of raising awareness and identifying key issues;

5 to report on progress on the implementation of this resolution annually at the meeting of the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG);

6 to ensure, within the available budget of the Union, in implementing the Buenos Aires Action Plan, that appropriate resources are allocated for initiatives related to ICTs and climate change;

7 to develop pilot projects aimed at bridging the standardization gap on environmental sustainability issues, in particular in developing countries, and gauge the needs of the developing countries in the field of ICTs, the environment, climate change and circular economy, within available resources;

8 to assist developing countries in undertaking proper assessment of the magnitude of e‑waste and pilot projects, to achieve environmentally sound management of e‑waste through e‑waste collection, dismantling, refurbishment and recycling, as well as a lifecycle approach to electronic products, considering the work carried out by ITU-T Study Group 5;

9 to assist developing countries in initiating projects that achieve the sustainable and smart management of water resources through the use of ICTs;

10 to assist developing countries in initiating projects on disaster prediction, detection, monitoring, response and relief;

11 to collaborate with Member States and relevant stakeholders in the development of strategies that allow the reuse and repair of telecommunication/ICT equipment for a sustainable use of ICTs,

invites Member States, Sector Members and Associates

1 to continue to contribute actively to the ITU‑D work programme on ICTs, environment, climate change and the circular economy;

2 to continue or initiate public and private programmes that include ICTs and climate change, giving due consideration to relevant ITU initiatives;

3 to take necessary measures to reduce the effects of climate change by developing and using more energy-efficient ICT devices, applications and networks;

4 to continue supporting the work of the ITU Radiocommunication Sector in remote sensing (active and passive) for environmental observation[[4]](#footnote-5)5 in accordance with relevant resolutions adopted by radiocommunication assemblies and world radiocommunication conferences;

5 to integrate the use of ICTs as an enabling tool to address and combat the effects of climate change into national adaptation and mitigation plans;

6 to incorporate environmental indicators, conditions and standards in their national ICT plans;

7 to liaise with their relevant national entities responsible for environmental issues in order to support and contribute to the wider United Nations process on climate change, by providing information and developing common proposals related to the role of telecommunications/ICTs in mitigating and adapting to the effects of climate change, so that they can be taken into consideration within UNFCCC.

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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)
2. 3 This includes areas such as water management, air quality, agriculture, fishing, health, energy, environment, ecosystems and pollution control. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. 4 With respect to efficiency, promotion of efficient use of materials used in ICT devices and network elements should also be a consideration in ITU‑D activity. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. 5 Environmental observation can be used to forecast weather and warn the public in the case of natural disasters, and to gather information on dynamic environmental processes and systems. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)