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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 23 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 76  on promoting information and communication technologies  among young women and men  for social and economic empowerment | | |
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| **Priority area:** - Resolutions and Recommendations  **Summary:**  In keeping with the mandate of the BDT with respect to promoting ICTs among young women and men, CITEL proposes modifications to the text of WTDC Resolution 76, providing valuable statistical information that supports the need for meaningful youth engagement, taking into consideration the ITU Youth Strategy and the Youth Summit Generation Connect.  The ITU has a clear mandate and lead international role among UN agencies to “Connect the Unconnected for Sustainable Development”, which is the theme of the WTDC-21. An active and on-going youth engagement in the development of national connectivity strategies and youth participation at the ITU needs to be strongly re-enforced. The modifications to Resolution 76 aim to highlight the importance of meaningful engagement as a fundamental part of the narrative in promoting ICTs among young women and men.  **Expected results:**  WTDC-22 is invited to examine and approve the proposal in this document.  **References:**  WTDC Resolution 76 | | |

**MOD** IAP/24A23/1

RESOLUTION 76 (Rev. Kigali, 2022)

Promoting information and communication technologies  
and meaningful youth engagement among young women and men for social  
and economic empowerment

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Kigali, 2022),

noting

*a)* Resolution 70 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, which calls for promoting and increasing the interest of, and opportunities for, women and girls in information and communication technology (ICT) careers during elementary, secondary and higher education so as to encourage girls to choose a career in the field of ICT and foster the use of ICTs for the social and economic empowerment of women and girls;

*b)* Resolution 198 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, which calls for empowerment of youth through telecommunications/ICTs;

*c)* the BYND 2015 Global Youth Summit, held in Costa Rica in September 2013 led by ITU, which brought together some 700 participants and over 3 000 young people around the world who logged in virtually to contribute their ideas to shape the sustainable development agenda in the post-2015 era;

*d)* that the world's youth have set priorities for the post-2015 development agenda in their "Costa Rica Declaration", as an outcome of the BYND 2015 Global Youth Summit, which have been presented for consideration to the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) at its 68th session;

*e)* the Futurecasters Global Young Visionaries Summit, held in Geneva in January 2020 hosted and co- organized by ITU and the Model UN programme of Ferney-Voltaire, France;

*f)* that the United Nations Secretary-General has put "listen to and work with youth" as one of the 12 commitments in ’Our Common Agenda’ towards the acceleration of The Sustainable Development Goals;

*g)* that the first Generation Connect Global Youth Summit, which took place in Kigali, from 3 to 5 June 2022, was able to ensure young people were heard towards the WTDC decision-making process and empowered youth in supporting the implementation of the next Kigali Action Plan ;

*g)* UNGA Resolution 70/1, on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 8 on promoting sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all, including the development and implementation of a global strategy for youth employment;

*h)* UNGA Resolution A/C.3/76/L.11/Rev.1 that generating decent work and quality employment for youth is one of the biggest challenges that needs to be tackled,

recognizing

*a)* that youth are digital natives, the best promoters of ICTs and a world force for progress;

*b)* that in 2020, 71% of the world’s youth (aged between 15 and 24 years) were using the Internet, compared with 57% of the other age groups and that on the global scale, young people are therefore more likely to connect than the rest of the population, despite the numerous barriers to connectivity across the world;

*c)* that at least 90% of youth have had their education somewhat disrupted during the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic;

*d)* that the ITU Youth Strategy, in line with the United Nations Youth Strategy: Youth 2030– working with and for young people, promotes a meaningful youth engagement in digital development, and has supported youth empowerment, bringing young people together to engage with ITU and its members, and is fostering youth dialogue and participation in ITU activities and decision-making processes;

*e)* that the Generation Connect Initiative aims to engage and empower global youth encouraging their participation as equal partners alongside the leaders of today’s digital change to advance their vision of a connected future;

*f)* that the UN IAYND Statement on Youth and Covid-19 highlights the unequal impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on marginalized or vulnerable communities of youth, including but not limited to youth living in rural/remote communities, young migrants and refugees, young women, Indigenous youth, young persons with disabilities,

considering

*a)* the progress made by the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) in promoting gender equality, in the development and implementation of projects that target youth and young women and are gender sensitive, as well as in increasing awareness on the importance of education in the ICT sector and awareness on career development for young girls in ICTs and related fields within the Union and among Member States and Sector Members;

*b)* the results achieved within the framework of Resolution 70 (Rev. Dubai, 2018), through which, since 2011, by promoting more than 11,700 International Girls in ICT Day celebrations, over 377 000 girls and young women in over 171 countries have been made aware of the job opportunities in the ICT sector with the support of BDT;[[1]](#footnote-1)1

*c)* the fact that ICTs play an important role in the promotion of education, career development and work opportunities, as well as for social and economic development of young women and men;

*d)* the fact that BDT plays a substantive role, through its activities, towards meaningful youth engagement in the decision-making processes related to ICTs for development-related issues,

resolves

1 that the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU‑D), taking into account the above considerations, shall continue to support the development of activities, projects and events aimed at promoting meaningful engagement of young women and men, in particular to continue leading the implementation of the ITU Youth Strategy and the Generation Connect Initiative, as well as continue the coordination of the work on youth with the rest of the ITU, and thereby contribute to youth educational, social and economic development and empowerment, taking into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

2 that the established ITU‑D objective on digital inclusion will continue to support the work promoting ICTs to young women and men to empower youth, particularly in developing countries; it promotes a greater number of regular dialogue and consultations with youth; and incorporate their opinions into the implementation of ITU-D activities and decision-making processes;

3 that the ITU-D continues to mainstream youth engagement and participation in the work of ITU to support the achievement of the overall goals of the Union; encourage youth participation in ITU programs, events and activities, as well as contribute, to promote ICT youth-related policies within ITU Member States,

resolves further

1 to establish partnerships with academia concerned with youth development programmes;

2 to add a youth dimension in Questions for study, wherever possible, and encourage youth to contribute to ITU-D study groups in line with rules and regulations,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to seek appropriate means to integrate youth issues into the activities of BDT through the ongoing implementation of the ITU Youth Strategy, the Generation Connect Initiative and to actively pursue inter-generational dialogues and knowledge exchanges between policy makers and youth;

2 to continue to engage with all ITU Sectors in order to coordinate the ongoing implementation of the Youth Strategy throughout the Union;

3 to ensure that the necessary resources, within budgetary limits, are allocated to these activities;

4 to promote ICTs among young women and men and their social and economic development and empowerment;

5 to provide guidance on measuring the extent of youth engagement in digital development decision-making processes at national and international level;

6 to amplify youth representation and participation in BDT initiatives across all thematic priorities,

invites the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

to assist Member States:

1 to promote enrolment in ICT-oriented education programmes, including from early education, and to promote ICTs and STEM careers for the social and economic development and empowerment of young women and men, taking into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

2 to provide concrete advice, in the form of guidelines, to integrate young women and men in the information society;

3 to establish partnerships with Sector Members, in order to develop and/or support specific ICT projects for the implementation of the ITU Youth Strategy, the Generation Connect Initiative, target young women and men in developing countries and in countries with economies in transition, taking into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

4 to include a youth component in BDT activities aimed at raising awareness of the intersecting and cross-sectoral challenges that youth are facing in the ICT area, and calling for implementation of concrete solutions;

5 to promote ICT-friendly frameworks in education and careers for youth without gender discrimination, and thus encourage young girls and women to be part of the ICT sector,

encourages Member States

1 to share best practices on national approaches targeting the use of ICTs for the social and economic development of young women and men, taking into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

2 to develop national strategies for increasing access and use of ICTs as a tool for the educational, social and economic development of young women and men;

3 to promote ICTs for meaningful youth engagement, youth empowerment and involvement in the decision-making processes of the ICT sector;

4 to support ITU‑D activities in the field of ICTs for the social and economic development of young women and men, through the ongoing implementation of the ITU Youth Strategy and the Generation Connect Initiative; if possible, with extra-budgetary funds;

5 to promote the relevance of ICTs as facilitators of new ideas for creating alternative work options;

6 to acknowledge the importance of entrepreneurship among youth, particularly in innovative sectors and new technology, for adding social and economic value and helping to create skilled jobs by promoting the use of ICTs among young women and men;

7 to aim to have a real impact on the lives of young people around the world and to ensure meaningful participation of youth in ITU as key stakeholders in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

8 to support a world where every young person is connected, benefits from the digital economy and digital transformation, and is fully empowered through access to and use of ICTs;

9 to support the implementation of the first ITU Generation Connect Young Professionals Programme,

encourages Member States, Sector Members and Academia

1 to coordinate the global and regional youth initiatives, considering available resources, taking into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

2 to provide access to telecommunications/ICTs and provide up-to-date digital skills trainings and opportunities for young people;

3 to foster collaboration with civil society and the private sector in order to provide specialized training for young innovators;

4 to promote participation of youth and young person in the works related to ITU, including composition of delegations to the ITU meetings;

5 to consider supporting to larger extent Junior Professional Officer programmes dedicated to digital affairs, including those with ITU,

invites Academia

1 to equip youth with job-ready digital skills and, thereby, foster their empowerment and ability to compete in the global labour market to improve their quality of life, including through academic exchange programmes;

2 to promote ICT related research by university students;

3 to encourage youth to use the opportunity of ITU internship programme to gain first working experiences,

requests the Secretary-General

1 to bring this resolution to the attention of the Plenipotentiary Conference with a view to releasing appropriate resources, within the budgetary limits, for the corresponding activities and functions;

2 to bring this resolution to the attention of the United Nations Secretary-General in an effort to promote increased coordination and cooperation for development policies, programmes and projects that link ICTs to the promotion and empowerment of young women and men.

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1. 1 Source: https://www.itu.int/women-and-girls/girls-in-ict/home/history/ [↑](#footnote-ref-1)