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| **Logo, company name  Description automatically generated** | A close up of a sign  Description automatically generated**World Telecommunication DevelopmentConference (WTDC-22)****Kigali, Rwanda, 6-16 June 2022** |
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| PLENARY MEETING | **Addendum 9 toDocument WTDC-22/24-E** |
|  | **2 May 2022** |
|  | **Original: English** |
| Member States of the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL) |
| Proposal to modify WTDC Resolution 11 on telecommunication/information and communication technology services in rural, isolated and poorly served areas and indigenous coummunities |
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| **Priority area:** - Resolutions and Recommendations**Summary:**The CITEL Member States aim to update WTDC Resolution 11 to encourage Member States to adopt policies to identify rural and remote areas that still need access to ICTs in accordance with streamlining guidance from the 2018 Plenipotentiary Conference.**Expected results:**WTDC-22 is invited to examine and approve the proposal in this document.**References:**WTDC Resolution 11 |

**MOD** IAP/24A9/1

RESOLUTION 11 (Rev.Kigali, 2022))

Telecommunication/information and communication technology
services in rural, isolated and poorly served areas
and indigenous communities

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Kigali, 2022),

recalling

*a)* Resolution 20 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of this conference, on non-discriminatory access to modern telecommunication/information and communication technology (ICT) facilities, services and related applications;

*b)* Resolution 46 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of this conference, on assistance to indigenous peoples and communities through ICT;

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

*d)* Resolution 135 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on ITU's role in the development of telecommunications/ICTs, in providing technical assistance and advice to developing countries[[1]](#footnote-1)1 and in implementing relevant national, regional and interregional projects;

*e)* Resolution 137 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on next-generation network deployment in developing countries;

*f)* Recommendation ITU-D 20 (Dubai, 2014), recommending that the world’s governments and regulators take policy and regulatory measures to accelerate the development of telecommunications/ICTs/broadband in their rural and remote areas through specific policy and regulatory interventions/initiatives;

*g)* Recommendation ITU-D 19 (Dubai, 2014), recommending that, in planning infrastructure development in rural and remote areas, it is important to assess all available technologies in the market, taking into consideration the regulatory environment, geographical conditions, climate, costs (capital expenditure and operational expenditure), maintainability, operability, sustainability, etc., based on the results of the site survey and community needs,

considering

*a)* that all world telecommunication development conferences have reaffirmed the important and urgent need to provide access to basic telecommunication/ICT services for everyone, and particularly for developing countries, in order to provide coverage in rural and isolated areas which lack this service, and in indigenous communities;

*b)* the outputs of the first and second phases of the World Summit on the Information Society in relation to the importance of ensuring telecommunication/ICT services in those areas and communities;

*c)* that broadband-satellite communication and terrestrial radio services in turn offer fast, reliable and cost-effective communication options characterized by high connection density both in urban areas and in rural and remote areas,

noting

*a)* that a clear correlation between the availability of universal telecommunication/ICT services and environmental, cultural, economic and social development has been firmly established;

*b)* the importance of achieving telecommunication/ICT infrastructure development in developing countries, which helps to enhance access to services, particularly in rural, isolated or unserved and underserved areas, and in indigenous communities,

taking into account

the fact that future networks are potential tools for resolving the new and complex issues facing the telecommunication sector, and that deployment of future networks and standardization activities are of great importance for developing countries, especially for their rural regions in which the greater part of their populations live,

recognizing

*a)* that spectacular progress has been made in many developing countries through universal access to telecommunication/ICT services in rural, isolated and poorly served areas countrywide and in indigenous communities, thereby demonstrating the economic and technical feasibility of projects to provide this type of service;

*b)* that, in many areas and some developing countries, there is convincing evidence of the overall profitability of telecommunication/ICT services in rural, isolated and poorly served areas, and in indigenous communities,

recognizing further

*a)* that there are several state‑of-the‑art technologies which may help to facilitate the provision of telecommunication/ICT services, in particular broadband technologies, to rural, isolated and poorly served areas and indigenous communities;

*b)* that access to telecommunication/ICT services in rural, isolated and poorly served areas and indigenous communities can only be achieved through judicious choice of appropriate technological options (terrestrial and satellite) allowing access to and maintenance of good quality and economical services;

*c)* that Study Group 2 of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU‑D), in the course of its study of Question 10‑3/2 in previous study periods, collected numerous case studies relating to rural projects and projects serving isolated areas and indigenous communities, that these case studies include the preparation, design and implementation of such projects, and that they represent an important reference to be used as lessons for successful projects covering many situations;

*d)* that, under Question 5/1 (Telecommunications/ICTs for rural and remote areas) of ITU-D Study Group 1, existing challenges for the development of telecommunications/ICTs in rural and remote areas were examined, among which the most noteworthy are the high costs of installation and operation, the lack of energy supply, the absence of technical staff, geographic characteristics, and ICT literacy, among others, and the various methods that can help solve these challenges were also identified and examined,

resolves

1 to invite ITU-D Study Group 1 to continue its studies under Question 5/1 (Telecommunications/ICTs for remote and rural areas), on the best means for providing access to telecommunication/ICT services in rural, isolated and poorly served areas and indigenous communities, in terms of universal access, rural telecommunication programmes, regulatory framework, financial resources and commercial approach, taking into account the aims of this resolution,

2 to instruct the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) to submit reports to ITU-D Study Group 1 on BDT’s experience in this area and, in particular, the lessons learned from the projects it has implemented and the seminars and training programmes it is conducting to meet the needs of rural areas and indigenous communities,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau, in collaboration with the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau and the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau

1 to continue supporting the studies undertaken in response to this resolution;

2 to promote further the use of all appropriate means of telecommunication/ICT to facilitate effective development and implementation of telecommunication/ICT services in rural, isolated and poorly served areas and indigenous communities of the world through the relevant programmes;

3 to continue efforts to promote the optimum use by developing countries of all available new telecommunication/ICT services provided by satellite and terrestrial systems to serve these areas and communities;

4 to coordinate efforts on supporting governments for the development of telecommunication/ICT services in rural, isolated and poorly served areas and indigenous communities;

5 to provide assistance to Member States so they can identify and develop policies, mechanisms and regulatory initiatives to reduce the digital divide by promoting the deployment and adoption of broadband;

6 to consolidate and disseminate information through seminars, workshops and online spaces such as webinars to exchange national experiences on the roll-out and operation of broadband networks in rural, isolated and poorly served areas and indigenous communities, with special emphasis on landlocked developing countries and small island developing states.

7 to promote initiatives in order to diagnose the unserved and underserved rural and isolated areas, enabling the governments, in consultation with stakeholders, to plan concrete policies for the implementation of telecommunication/ICT services in these areas.

1. 1 These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)