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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 | | **Document WTDC-22/35-E** |
|  | | **16 May 2022** |
|  | | **Original: English** |
| Rwanda (Republic of) | | |
| Proposal for a new Resolution [RRw-1] on Connecting every school to the internet  and every young person to information and communication technology services | | |
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| **Priority area:** - Resolutions and Recommendations  **Summary:**  This document is a new resolution proposed by Rwanda as guidance to the ITU-D to work on connecting every school to the Internet, as a contribution to bridging the digital divide and to ensure that young people everywhere have the means and skills to enable their fruitful participation in the global digital economy.  **Expected results:**  WTDC is invited to review this document and to approve the proposal.  **References:**  N/a | | |

**ADD** RRW/35/1

DRAFT NEW RESOLUTION [RRw-1] (Kigali, 2022)

Connecting every school to the internet and every young person to information and communication technology services

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Kigali, 2022),

recalling

*a)* the commitment by all Member States of the United Nations (UN) to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and related targets, adopted by the UN General Assembly (UNGA) in Resolution 70/1;

*b)* the commitment by all Member States of the UN to improve digital cooperation reflected in the Declaration on the commemoration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the UN in Resolution 75/1;

*c)*  the Connect 2030 Agenda for global telecommunication/ICT development adopted by Resolution 200 (Rev. Dubai 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference;

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

*e)* the Buenos Aires Declaration adopted by the 2017 World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC‑17) and the Buenos Aires Action Plan, and relevant WTDC‑17 resolutions, including Resolution 37 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) on bridging the digital divide;

*f)*  Recommendation ITU-D 19 on Telecommunications for rural and remote areas (Dubai, 2014), which notes that schools, among other public ICT facilities, can serve to connect the communities they serve, especially in rural and remote areas of developing countries,

recalling further

*a*) the set of strategic targets, providing the direction where ITU should focus its attention and materializing the ITU's vision for an interconnected world for 2020-2023, specified in the Resolution 71 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference;

*b)* the new set of global targets for "universal and meaningful digital connectivity" to be achieved by 2030, announced by the Office of the United Nations Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology, developed as part of the implementation of the UN Secretary-General's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation;

*c)* the 2025 Global Broadband Targets of the ITU/UNESCO Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development to support “connecting the other half”,

considering

*a)* the UN system-wide implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and efforts towards achieving the SDGs;

*b)* the role of ITU as a UN specialized agency to support Member States and to contribute towards the worldwide efforts to achieve the SDGs,

*c)* the relevant work already accomplished and to be carried out by ITU as part of the implementation of the WSIS outcomes considering the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

*d)* the UN Secretary-General’s Roadmap for Digital Cooperation (A/74/821), which calls for every person to have safe and affordable access to the Internet by 2030, including the meaningful use of digitally enabled services, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals;

*e)* the UN Secretary-General’s report on Our Common Agenda (A/75/982), which presents the UN Secretary-General’s vision on the future of global cooperation through an inclusive networked and effective multilateralism, as requested by Member States in the declaration on the commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the United Nations,

*recognizing*

*a)* that telecommunication/ICT can help to accelerate progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals;

*b*) that education systems need to be transformed to become more agile, more resilient, shock absorbent, crisis respondent, more innovative and more connected using appropriate telecommunication/ICT solutions that can support such transformation;

*c*) the importance of school connectivity to support meaningful learning experiences and to enable teachers to stay abreast of new content, technologies and teaching methods to reach more children and young people everywhere despite their circumstances;

*d*) that sustainable digital and hybrid learning systems should be inclusive, generating value through contextualized and open educational resources, celebrate local languages, while benefiting from global ecosystems, initiatives, value chains, resources and knowledge;

*e*) that continuous energy supply is required for connected schools,

*having noted*

*a)* that key ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) projects that focus on connecting the unconnected in diverse settings can share their findings to inform national school connectivity projects and initiatives;

*b)* that Giga, the ITU-UNICEF initiative to connect every school to the internet and every young person to information technology services, opportunity and choice;

i) connects schools and therefore connects students and teachers;

ii) is actively working with governments to create investment opportunities for blended public and private sector funding, to build the infrastructure needed to provide universal access to every school and to equip learners with high-quality, vetted, and safe content;

iii) supports (through its pillars of Map, Finance, Connect and Empower) governments and national leaders in mapping schools and their connectivity levels and with analysis of the infrastructure requirements and technologies to connect all schools, and in developing sustainable financial models for universal digital access;

c) ongoing flagship partnerships of ITU with other UN agencies like the World Bank, UNESCO, UNICEF and UNWOMEN in the area of skills and ICTs, such as the Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development, Giga and EQUALS,

resolves

to commit working towards connecting every school to the Internet, as a contribution to bridging the digital divide and to ensure that young people everywhere have the means and skills to enable their fruitful participation in the global digital economy,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to continue to carry-out its work on connecting every school and every young person to information and communication technology services;

2 to set standards for school connectivity and to provide short-mid-long term global targets to connect every school in line with the global targets of universal and meaningful connectivity, towards 2030;

3 to evaluate models for affordable and sustainable approaches and financing for connecting every young person to the ICT services, especially those in rural or remote areas, based on study of these models;

4 to continue to assist Member States and Sector Members in developing policy and regulatory and financial frameworks for connecting every school to the Internet;

5 to report annually to the ITU Council on the progress made in the implementation of this resolution;

6 to bring this resolution to the attention of all interested parties, including in particular, the UN Secretary-General, UNESCO, UNICEF and other relevant UN agencies and programmes for cooperation in implementing this resolution,

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

1 to promote whole-of-government and public-private partnership approaches for connectivity and infrastructure to bridge the digital divide and support the local development of digital education and training systems;

2 to encourage adoption a national strategy for school connectivity, digital skills development for life, work and lifelong learning including students, teachers, and educators;

3 to make all efforts to bring the costs of connectivity infrastructure, installation and operation of ICT equipment down;

4 to identify, examine and implement sustainable energy solutions and supply for connectivity solutions to and in schools, taking into consideration the geographical and topographical context;

5 to promote innovation in infrastructure and connectivity operating models to ensure inclusive and sustainable digital learning;

6 to share knowledge, expertise, skills and experiences in connecting schools and the communities around them.