

## RESOLUTION 11 (Rev. Kigali, 2022)

### **Telecommunication/information and communication technology services in rural, isolated and poorly served areas**

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Kigali, 2022),

*recalling*

- a)* Resolution 20 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC), on non-discriminatory access to modern telecommunication/information and communication technology (ICT) facilities, services and related applications;
- b)* Resolution 46 (Rev. Kigali, 2022) of this conference, on assistance to indigenous peoples and communities through ICTs;
- c)* Resolution 69 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA), on non-discriminatory access and use of Internet resources and telecommunications/ICTs;
- d)* Resolution 77 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016) of WTSA, on enhancing standardization work in the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) for software-defined networking;
- e)* Resolution 90 (Hammamet, 2016) of WTSA, on open source in ITU-T;
- f)* Resolution 135 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on ITU's role in the durable and sustainable development of telecommunications/ICTs, in providing technical assistance and advice to developing countries<sup>1</sup> and in implementing relevant national, regional and interregional projects;
- g)* Resolution 137 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on deployment of future networks in developing countries;

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<sup>1</sup> These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

*h)* 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;

*i)* 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 WTDCs 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;

*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,

*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, 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,

*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;

b) that access to telecommunication/ICT services in rural, isolated and poorly served areas 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, 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 in terms of universal access, rural telecommunication programmes, regulatory framework, financial resources and commercial approach, taking into account the aims of this resolution, including open and interoperable network technologies, such as software-defined and open-source network technologies;

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,

*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 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;

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, with special emphasis on landlocked developing countries and small island developing states;

7 to promote initiatives in order to identify unserved and underserved rural and isolated areas, enabling governments to plan concrete participatory policies for the implementation of telecommunication/ICT services, and to implement capacity-building programmes to support the expansion and maintenance of telecommunication networks in these areas.