

## RESOLUTION 17 (Rev. Kigali, 2022)

### **Implementation of and cooperation on approved regional initiatives at the national, regional, interregional and global levels<sup>1</sup>**

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Kigali, 2022),

*recalling*

- a)* Resolution 34 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on assistance and support to countries in special need for rebuilding their telecommunication sector;
- b)* Resolution 135 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on ITU's role in the durable and sustainable development of telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICTs), in providing technical assistance and advice to developing countries<sup>2</sup> and in implementing relevant national, regional and interregional projects;
- c)* Resolution 157 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on strengthening of the project execution and project monitoring functions in ITU;
- d)* Resolution 21 (Rev. Kigali, 2022) of this conference, on coordination and collaboration with regional organizations;
- e)* Resolution 32 (Rev. Hyderabad, 2010) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC), on international and regional cooperation on regional initiatives;
- f)* Resolution 52 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) of WTDC, on strengthening the executing agency role of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D), which emphasized the importance of establishing partnerships between the public and private sectors as an efficient way of implementing sustainable ITU projects, and of utilizing locally available expertise in executing ITU projects at regional or country level;

---

<sup>1</sup> An initiative shall take the form of an all-embracing heading under which a number of projects can be included, leaving it to each region to define these.

<sup>2</sup> These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

*g)* the mechanism for cooperation at regional and international level to implement the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

*considering*

*a)* that telecommunications/ICTs are one of the most vital elements for the growth of national economies and protection of the environment;

*b)* that, in order to achieve the objectives of the developing countries, new policy approaches may be required to meet the challenges of growth, in both qualitative and quantitative terms;

*c)* that developing countries are increasingly experiencing the need for knowledge of fast-developing technologies and the associated policy and strategic issues;

*d)* that ITU-D is an appropriate platform for the exchange of experiences and best practices on development of the telecommunication/ICT sector;

*e)* the vital importance of cooperation among Member States, ITU-D Sector Members and Associates for the implementation of regional initiatives;

*f)* the satisfactory and encouraging results achieved by projects which have received international cooperation support under an initiative of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT);

*g)* that telecommunication networks and services for sustainable development are an essential element for national development and improving the social, economic, financial and cultural situation of Member States;

*h)* the need to coordinate and harmonize efforts to develop telecommunication infrastructure at the national, regional, interregional and global levels;

*i)* that the leadership of the ITU Member States is needed to outline a unified national vision of a connected society that is comprehensive of all stakeholders;

*j)* the commitment of the ITU Member States to promote access to ICTs at affordable prices, paying special attention to the least favoured segments;

*k)* the importance of the telecommunication/ICT sector and its contribution to the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals,

*recognizing*

- a) that developing countries and countries participating in regional initiatives are at different stages of development;
- b) that, given the resources at the disposal of developing countries, it is an important task for ITU, as the United Nations specialized agency on telecommunications, to help these countries meet the requirements cited in *considering c)* above;
- c) the need, therefore, to exchange experiences on telecommunication development at the regional, interregional and global level in order to support these countries;
- d) that ITU and regional organizations share common beliefs that close cooperation can promote regional telecommunications/ICTs in order to support these countries;
- e) that there is a continued need for ITU, using its regional and area offices, to cooperate more closely with regional and subregional organizations, including regional organizations of regulators, in order to support these countries;
- f) the important role of ITU's regional and area offices in achieving effective cooperation with regional organizations,

*taking into account*

- a) the vital importance of telecommunication development initiatives endorsed by all regional development conferences, and by the preparatory meetings preceding this conference;
- b) that there is a lack of funding from the United Nations Development Programme and other international financial institutions, impeding the implementation of such initiatives;
- c) the satisfactory and encouraging results achieved by activities of this kind, which have helped cooperation in the creation of telecommunication networks;
- d) that some Member States' national policies and regulations may pose constraints on the implementation of such initiatives;
- e) the important role of the Partner2Connect (P2C) digital coalition for developing global and regional activities/projects related to digital transformation,

*noting*

- a) Resolution 73 (Rev. Kigali, 2022) of this conference, on the ITU Academy training centres, which aims to assist the membership with capacity building and development;
- b) that the relevant regional organizations play a prominent and important role in supporting the developing countries in areas such as regional cooperation and technical assistance activities;
- c) the development of cooperation and technical assistance activities among regional and subregional organizations of regulators,

*resolves*

- 1 that BDT, including through the ITU regional offices, should strengthen its relations with regional and subregional organizations, through ongoing cooperation to stimulate the mutual exchange of experience and assistance with the implementation of the regional initiatives, making the utmost use of available BDT resources, its annual budget and surplus income from ITU Telecom events;
- 2 that BDT continue to actively assist the developing countries in elaborating and implementing the regional initiatives which are specified in the Kigali Action Plan;
- 3 that BDT provide an estimate breakdown for cash and/or in-kind contribution items for the implementation of projects under the regional initiatives, and their value in the proposed budget for the projects, taking into consideration *recognizing a)* above;
- 4 that the budget allocation for the implementation of the regional initiatives shall be individualized in the budget of the Sector to be executed by BDT, discriminating between funds for ongoing projects and funds for new projects, divided by region;
- 5 that Member States should consider contributing in kind and/or in cash to the budget foreseen for implementation of these initiatives and the realization of other projects foreseen within the framework of these initiatives at the national, regional, interregional and global levels;
- 6 that BDT should continue to actively conclude partnerships with Member States, ITU-D Sector Members, financial institutions and international organizations in order to sponsor implementation activities for these initiatives;

7 that BDT should assist in the implementation of these initiatives at the national, regional, interregional and global levels, integrating as far as possible those initiatives that have the same content or objectives, taking into consideration the Kigali Action Plan;

8 that BDT, through the ITU regional offices, should provide information accumulated during the implementation of regional initiatives in each region (outcomes, stakeholders, financial resources used, and so on) to the Member States and regional telecommunication organizations, so as to capitalize on the experience and leverage the outcomes, which might be replicated in order to save time and resources when setting up and designing projects in the other regions, using the portal for the execution of projects in the six official languages of the Union;

9 that BDT should present progress reports to the regional development forums (RDFs) on the implementation of the regional initiatives, including, *inter alia*, outcomes, stakeholders and financial resources used,

*appeals to international financial organizations/agencies, equipment suppliers and operators/service providers*

to contribute, fully or partially, to financing these approved regional initiatives,

*instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau*

1 to take all necessary measures for promoting and implementing these approved regional initiatives at the national, regional, interregional and global levels, and in particular the similar initiatives agreed at international level;

2 to ensure that BDT actively coordinates, collaborates in and organizes joint activities in areas of common interest with regional telecommunication organizations and training institutions, and takes into consideration their activities, as well as providing them with direct technical assistance;

3 to issue an appeal at the annual Global Symposium for Regulators and in the RDFs for worldwide and regional support for the implementation of these regional initiatives;

4 to support ITU regional offices with the required human and financial resources for them to have a role in monitoring the implementation of the initiatives approved in their regions, identify the impact of these regional initiatives, considering the possible benefits at the national level, in collaboration with countries served by these regional initiatives, and submit an annual report to the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group and the ITU Council on the implementation of this resolution;

5 to continue to promote the dissemination to other regions of the results of projects implemented under regional initiatives;

6 that an annual meeting be held in each region, dedicated to discussing the regional initiatives and projects for each region and mechanisms for implementation of the initiatives adopted and to making known the needs of the different regions, and that an RDF may be held in conjunction with the annual meeting for each region;

7 to promote, by possible means, the holding of consultations with the Member States in each region before implementing and executing approved initiatives in a timely fashion, in order to agree on priorities, suggest strategic partners, means of financing in kind and/or in cash and other issues, thereby promoting a participatory, inclusive process of meeting the goals;

8 in consultation and coordination with the Directors of the Radiocommunication and Telecommunication Standardization Bureaux, to promote the joint work of the three Sectors in order to provide suitable, efficient, agreed assistance for Member States to implement the regional initiatives;

9 to ensure that BDT facilitates the active involvement of regional and subregional telecommunication organizations in the different phases of project management established by ITU, as well as in forging partnerships and resource mobilization, with a view to effectively advancing the implementation of regional initiatives,

*requests the Secretary-General*

1 to continue special measures and programmes to develop and promote activities and regional initiatives, in close cooperation with regional and subregional telecommunication organizations, including regulators, and other related institutions;

- 2 to make every possible effort to encourage the private sector to take actions to facilitate cooperation with Member States in these regional initiatives, including countries with special needs;
- 3 to continue to work closely with the coordination mechanism established in the United Nations family and the five United Nations regional commissions;
- 4 to bring this resolution to the attention of the Plenipotentiary Conference with a view to securing adequate financial resources in the budget to fulfil the approved regional initiatives.