

RESOLUTION 21 (Rev. Baku, 2025)

Strengthening coordination and collaboration with regional and subregional organizations

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Baku, 2025),

considering

- a) Resolution 37 (Rev. Baku, 2025) of this conference, on bridging the digital divide;
- b) Resolution 25 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on strengthening the regional presence;
- c) Resolution 58 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on strengthening of relations between ITU and regional telecommunication organizations and regional preparations for the Plenipotentiary Conference;
- d) Resolution 123 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on bridging the standardization gap between developing¹ and developed countries;
- e) Resolution 139 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on use of telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICTs) to bridge the digital divide and build an inclusive information society;
- f) Resolution 44 (Rev. New Delhi, 2024) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA), on bridging the standardization gap between developing and developed countries;
- g) Resolution 54 (Rev. New Delhi, 2024) of WTSA, on regional groups of study groups of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T);
- h) Recommendation ITU-D 22 (Dubai, 2014) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference, on bridging the standardization gap in association with regional groups of study groups;

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

- i)* Resolution 72 (Rev.WRC-19) of the World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC), on world and regional preparations for WRCs;
- j)* the provisions of §§ 26 and 27 of the Geneva Plan of Action of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS);
- k)* the key principles of the WSIS Geneva Declaration of Principles in §§ 60, 61, 62, 63 and 64;
- l)* the provisions of §§ 23 c), 27 c), 80, 87, 89, 96, 97 and 101 of the WSIS Tunis Agenda for the Information Society;
- m)* Resolution 70/1 of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), on transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- n)* UNGA Resolution 70/125, on the outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the overall review of the implementation of the WSIS outcomes,

conscious

- a)* that the regional and subregional organizations play an increasingly vital role in promoting coordinated telecommunication/ICT development to achieve sustainable digital transformation;
- b)* that enhancing collaboration among ITU regional offices, regional telecommunication and standardization organizations, academia, civil society and the private sector is essential in the implementation of regional projects;
- c)* that the relationship between ITU regional and area offices and regional telecommunication organizations has proved to be of great benefit;
- d)* that physical meetings with remote participation improve participation and knowledge sharing across regions;
- e)* that the activities of regional groups have become more important, and encompass a growing number of issues of particular importance for developing countries;

f) that it is necessary to adopt ways and means of enhancing the role of ITU in general, and the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) in particular, in implementing the WSIS goals and in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in relation to the development of telecommunications/ICTs globally, regionally and nationally, in close cooperation with other international and regional organizations and relevant civil-society bodies;

g) that it is necessary to seize every opportunity to give experts from developing countries additional opportunities to gain experience by participating in regional and subregional meetings relating to the work of ITU-D Study Groups 1 and 2,

recognizing

a) the different stages of development among Member States and the need for tailored regional approaches;

b) that the benefits of coordinated and cost-effective regional rapporteur groups facilitating participation supports meaningful exchange of opinions on telecommunication development at regional and interregional levels;

c) the difficulty for some countries in some regions to participate in the activities of ITU-D, ITU-T and the ITU Radiocommunication Sector;

d) that a common and coordinated approach within ITU to the study of matters relating to the development and standardization of telecommunications/ICTs could serve to foster the promotion of standardization activities in developing countries;

e) the necessity for continuous knowledge exchange, capacity building, and sustainable funding mechanisms;

f) the call for holding future virtual or physical meetings with remote participation for ITU regional groups and subgroups, organized in coordination with the ITU regional and area offices;

g) the increasing involvement of the regional and area offices in match-making efforts across the United Nations system based on developing countries' telecommunication/ICT needs;

h) Article 43 (No. 194) of the ITU Constitution, which states that "Member States reserve the right to convene regional conferences, to make regional arrangements and to form regional organizations, for the purpose of settling telecommunication questions which are susceptible of being treated on a regional basis. Such arrangements shall not be in conflict with either this Constitution or the Convention",

recalling

a) the possibility of creating regional groups to study questions or difficulties which, because of their specific nature, it is desirable to study within the framework of one or more of ITU's regions;

b) regional initiatives with a view to:

i) implementation of technical cooperation projects and direct assistance to other regions;

ii) cooperation in regional initiatives with regional and international organizations involved in telecommunication/ICT development;

c) the need to create an appropriate mechanism to unify efforts with the bodies referred to in Resolutions 44 and 54 (Rev. New Delhi, 2024);

d) the budgetary constraints of the regional and area offices and the need to support them with financial and human resources,

resolves

1 to continue to encourage the creation of regional groups to study questions or difficulties that concern a specific region;

2 to encourage cooperation of ITU regional and area offices with relevant regional groups, ITU Sector Members, Associates and Academia as well as with regional telecommunication organizations and regional standardization organizations, on issues of mutual interest;

3 that ITU-D continue to coordinate, collaborate in and organize joint activities in areas of common interest with regional and subregional organizations and training institutions and take into consideration their activities;

4 that the results of the activities of regional groups be sent for use, as appropriate, in ITU-D,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

- 1 to take necessary measures to coordinate and strengthen the partnership frameworks across regional and subregional telecommunication organizations and stakeholders;
- 2 to implement the necessary procedures to ensure effective liaison between regional groups set up under Resolutions 44 and 54 (Rev. New Delhi, 2024) and the ITU-T and ITU-D study groups, especially on complementary study Questions;
- 3 to study means to increase resources in regional and area offices for the implementation of regional initiatives in the study period to the extent practicable, within the limits of budgetary resources;
- 4 to make the utmost effort for the regional and area offices to support and facilitate the implementation of national initiatives of Member States;
- 5 to ensure transparent monitoring and reporting on implementation progress through accessible digital platforms on the ITU website, in particular within the review of the ITU regional presence, as instructed in Resolution 25 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022),

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

within the allocated or contributed resources that are available,

- 1 to provide necessary support for the smooth functioning of regional groups and coordination of collaborative activities across ITU sectors;
- 2 to consider, whenever possible, holding joint conferences and workshops concurrently with meetings of the regional groups of ITU-T study groups, to optimize resource use and broaden stakeholder engagement;
- 3 to take all necessary measures to facilitate the organization of meetings and conferences/workshops of the regional groups;
- 4 to actively seek to improve the human and financial resources in regional offices for implementation of initiatives, within available budgets,

invites Member States

to actively support the implementation of this resolution by contributing in-kind and financially, and to propose innovative ideas for revenue generation to sustain implementation of the regional initiatives.