

RESOLUTION 36 (Rev. Kigali, 2022)

Support for the African Telecommunications Union

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Kigali, 2022),

recalling

- a) Resolution 70/1 of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), on transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- b) UNGA Resolution 73/291, on the Buenos Aires outcome document of the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation;
- c) Resolution 25 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on strengthening the regional presence;
- d) Resolution 58 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, particularly its *resolves*;
- e) Resolution 21 (Rev. Kigali, 2022) of this conference, on strengthening coordination and collaboration with regional and subregional organizations,

recalling further

- a) UNGA Resolution 68/198, on information and communication technologies (ICTs) for development;
- b) 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 and in implementing relevant national, regional and interregional projects;
- c) the first United Nations System-wide Strategy on South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Sustainable Development, which points the way towards even greater use of this invaluable vehicle,

considering

- a) the key role of the African Telecommunications Union (ATU) in continental coordination and as a driver for implementation of the outcomes of ITU conferences and assemblies;
- b) ATU's continuous and urgent need for assistance, support and cooperation;
- c) the rapid development of the telecommunication/ICT environment, obliging ATU to adapt to these changes in order to serve its membership, while considering its current human and financial resources;
- d) that in the context of digital transformation, telecommunications/ICTs become a major catalyst for economic growth in developing countries¹;
- e) the need for an African convening platform to coordinate, harmonize and combine efforts to accelerate the development of telecommunications/ICTs at the regional, interregional and global levels with a view to achieving the objectives and targets adopted in the ITU strategic plan, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the African Union's Agenda 2063;
- f) that the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector should provide adequate support to regional and subregional telecommunication organizations in order to facilitate their active involvement in the different phases of the project management model established by ITU, as well as in forging partnerships and resource mobilization, to support implementation of regional initiatives,

recognizing

- a) that the regional organizations are better acquainted with the real issues and challenges facing Member States of the region, and can better envision how to efficiently and effectively overcome those challenges;
- b) that ITU and regional organizations share a common belief that close cooperation can promote regional telecommunications/ICTs in order to support Member States of the region;

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

c) that there is a continuing need for ITU to cooperate more closely with regional organizations in order to support Member States of the region;

d) that the regional organizations play an effective role in identifying common priorities and interests, while ensuring better coordination among Member States as well as their involvement in all telecommunication/ICT activities, plans, projects, events, etc.,

noting

that the relevant regional organizations play a prominent and important role in supporting developing countries in areas such as regional cooperation and technical assistance activities,

resolves to instruct 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 take all necessary steps to associate ATU in the implementation of the Kigali Action Plan 2022, in respect of support to the African telecommunication/ICT sector;

2 to mobilize and provide the necessary support to ATU for it to assume the leading and coordination role among relevant entities involved in ICT activities at the regional level;

3 to strengthen relations with regional and subregional telecommunication organizations in order to identify synergies with their activities that may support the implementation of the regional initiatives;

4 to continue to deploy, and enhance the availability of, the necessary human and financial resources in the ITU regional presence, in support of ATU,

requests the Secretary-General and instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to take all necessary steps to identify new areas of cooperation on an annual basis and provide ATU with all required support and assistance, including administrative, financial, logistical and information technology/technical support, in particular by stepping up, fostering and enhancing cooperation between ATU and the ITU Regional Office for Africa, and by making experts available to that organization;

2 to coordinate and cooperate with relevant United Nations system organizations, such as the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, in telecommunication/ICT matters, including the related financing mechanisms, in support of ATU;

3 to develop an ATU-ITU partnership framework, based on an annual work plan, that could better contribute to the implementation of the regional initiatives and all identified joint activities;

4 to bring this resolution to the attention of the Plenipotentiary Conference for consideration and required action.