RESOLUTION 46 (Rev. Kigali, 2022)

Assistance to indigenous peoples and communities through information and communication technologies

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Kigali, 2022),

recalling

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

b)   Resolution 200 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the Connect 2030 Agenda for global telecommunication/ICT development,

recognizing

a)   the need to achieve the goal of digital inclusion, enabling universal, sustainable, ubiquitous and affordable access to ICTs for all, including indigenous peoples, and to facilitate accessibility of ICTs for all, in the framework of access to information and knowledge;

b)   the need to ensure the inclusion of indigenous peoples in the information society, as outlined in the Geneva Declaration of Principles and the Tunis Commitment of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), and to contribute to the development of their communities using ICTs, based on tradition and self-sustainability,

considering

a)   that the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) provides assistance to indigenous peoples through all of its programmes in general;

b)   that the multistakeholder report delivered by the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) and the International Indigenous Steering Committee to the Tunis WSIS plenary (November 2005) highlighted the size of the population of indigenous peoples around the world and the fact that public-private partnerships and multistakeholder cooperation are essential to meet the needs of indigenous peoples more effectively towards their integration in the information society,

taking into account

a)   that the WSIS Geneva Plan of Action and the Tunis Commitment established that the attainment of their objectives with regard to indigenous peoples and communities is a priority;

b)   that Article 16 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples states the following: "Indigenous peoples have the right to establish their own media in their own languages and to have access to all forms of non-indigenous media without discrimination";

c)   that Article 41 of the aforementioned Declaration states that: "The organs and specialized agencies of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations shall contribute to the full realization of the provisions of this Declaration through the mobilization, *inter alia*, of financial cooperation and technical assistance";

d)   that according to the WSIS+10 statement on implementation of the WSIS outcomes, digital integration remains an overall priority, beyond affordability and access to ICT networks, services and applications, particularly in rural and remote areas;

e)   the linkage between WSIS Action Lines C2, C5 and C6 and the targets of Goal 9 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which include significantly increasing access to ICTs and striving to facilitate universal and affordable Internet access in the least developed countries by 2020 at the latest,

recognizing further

a)   that the public policy recommendations and best practices developed through the Connect a School, Connect a Community initiative, in accordance with the principles established by WSIS, indicate that there are minimum conditions in the sphere of technology, capacity building, regulatory framework, self-sustainability and participation, and content development, which must be ensured to achieve ICT development in indigenous regions;

b)   that the Declaration of the Second Summit on Indigenous Communication of Abya Yala, held in Mexico in 2013, decided to move ahead on consultation processes with international organizations in the interests of operationalizing the rights of indigenous peoples to communication laid down in the above-mentioned United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;

c)   the necessity of continuing to foster the training of indigenous technicians on the basis of their cultural practices and technological innovation solutions, while at the same time ensuring the availability of resources and spectrum to support the development and sustainability of telecommunication/ICT networks operated by indigenous peoples;

d)   that telecommunication networks operated by indigenous peoples themselves have been developed and that, in order to ensure their development and sustainability, it is necessary to continue fostering the training of indigenous technicians on the basis of their cultural practices and technological innovation solutions, while at the same time ensuring the availability of resources and spectrum for implementing those networks;

e)   that it is important to monitor closely the evolving communication experiences of the peoples in question and add to the public policy recommendations and best practices developed by ITU, taking into account the underlying technological innovations and organizational approaches that have stimulated their growth,

resolves

1   to reinforce assistance to indigenous peoples in all BDT programmes;

2   to support digital inclusion of indigenous peoples in general, and in particular their participation in workshops, seminars, forums and training on ICT for social and economic development, considering the generation of information in linguistic variations;

3   to support, through the ITU Academy[1], human-resource training programmes in the design and management of public policies aimed at the development of ICTs for indigenous peoples and communities, within available BDT funds and human resources;

4   to support, through the ITU Academy, capacity-building programmes for indigenous peoples in the installation, operation, maintenance and development of ICTs and networks in indigenous communities;

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[1] The ITU Academy initiative encompasses the ITU Academy training centres (ATCs) and Internet training centres initiatives.

5   to incorporate, in these training programmes, best practices, experience and knowledge that the indigenous peoples have developed on the matter and, where appropriate, include the participation of indigenous experts and mechanisms for exchange and internships among their members, in accordance with applicable ITU rules and regulations governing recruitment;

6   to update the research on best practices and public policy recommendations for the development of ICTs in indigenous communities and foster the study of mechanisms that ensure the availability of spectrum for network deployment;

7   to promote training and innovative solutions through pilot projects that enable the implementation of local communication networks administered and operated by indigenous peoples,

8   in line with the above, the ITU mandate, the WSIS outcomes and the SDGs, to recognize the global initiative of assistance to indigenous peoples worldwide as an integral part of the activities of BDT,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1   to carry out the necessary actions to reinforce the implementation of the Kigali Action Plan as it relates to indigenous peoples, establishing collaboration mechanisms with the Member States, other relevant regional and international organizations and cooperation agencies;

2   to invite Study Group 1 of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) to continue its studies under Question 5/1 (Telecommunications/ICTs for rural and remote areas), on the best means for providing access to telecommunication/ICT services in rural, isolated and poorly served areas and indigenous communities;

3   to promote further the use of all appropriate means of telecommunication/ICT in order to facilitate effective development and implementation of telecommunication/ICT services to indigenous communities through the relevant programmes;

4   that, within the allocated resources in the financial plan and biennial budget as approved by the ITU Council, as well as partnerships to be implemented, the necessary financial and human resources be allocated within BDT to respond to the existing global initiative for indigenous peoples;

5	to recognize the importance of issues of concern to indigenous peoples worldwide in the determination of priority activities for ITU-D;

6	in line with the above, the ITU mandate, the WSIS outcomes and the SDGs, to recognize the global initiative of the assistance to indigenous peoples worldwide as an integral part of the activities of BDT;

7	to coordinate efforts on supporting governments for the development of telecommunication/ICT services in indigenous communities,

requests the Secretary-General

1	to bring the continuous assistance provided by BDT to indigenous peoples through its activities to the attention of the next plenipotentiary conference, with a view to providing appropriate financial and human resources for the relevant actions and projects to be implemented in the telecommunication sector;

2	to submit a report on the BDT outcomes and activities in implementing this resolution to the Plenipotentiary Conference (Dubai, 2018), with a view to providing appropriate financial and human resources for the relevant actions and projects to be implemented in the telecommunication sector,

invites Member States

to provide the necessary facilities and information to allow the participation of members of indigenous peoples and communities in the activities provided for in this resolution.