

RESOLUTION 48 (Rev. Kigali, 2022)

Strengthening cooperation among telecommunication regulators

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Kigali, 2022),

recalling

- a) Resolution 48 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference;
- b) Resolution 138 (Antalya, 2006) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR);
- c) Resolution 135 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on ITU's role in the development of telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICTs), in providing technical assistance and advice to developing countries¹ and in implementing relevant national, regional and interregional projects;
- d) Resolution 2 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the world telecommunication/ICT policy forum;
- e) Resolution 70/125 of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), on the outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS);
- f) UNGA Resolution 70/1, on transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

considering

- a) that market liberalization, technological development and service convergence have resulted in new challenges, requiring new regulatory competencies among telecommunication regulators;

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

b) that an effective regulatory framework requires a balance of interest among all stakeholders, promoting fair competition and ensuring an equal-opportunity environment for all players, including addressing issues of consumer protection;

c) that ITU plays a fundamental role in providing global perspectives on the development of the information society, and one of the main tasks of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) under the terms of No. 127 of the ITU Constitution is to "offer advice, carry out or sponsor studies, as necessary, on technical, economic, financial, managerial, regulatory and policy issues, including studies of specific projects in the field of telecommunications";

d) that the rapid development of telecommunications/ICTs in recent years and the introduction of new technologies and systems calls for new approaches in the field of regulation;

e) that there is no single correct approach to telecommunication/ICT regulation in all countries, and the particular characteristics of each country must be taken into account; in an increasingly dynamic digital ecosystem, however, it is essential to seek harmonization of general principles;

f) that in the light of the considerable changes in telecommunications/ICTs, and the development of markets and society, telecommunication/ICT reforms have globally been implemented in most countries of the world, both developed and developing, including reforms of telecommunication/ICT regulation;

g) that the success of telecommunication/ICT reform will mostly depend on the establishment and implementation of an effective regulatory framework, regulatory mechanisms and laws,

recognizing

a) that telecommunication regulators have been increasing, and that newly established regulators and regulators in developing countries would require strengthening of their competencies to cope with the increasing complexity of regulatory work with regard to the design and implementation of new laws and policies as part of telecommunication reform, especially in the rapidly changing telecommunication environment;

b) the need to exchange information and share experiences among regulators on telecommunication development and reform, particularly between regulators and newly established ones;

c) the importance and necessity of cooperation among these entities at the regional and international level,

recalling further

a) the relevant Kigali Action Plan programmes, especially telecommunication/ICT regulatory symposia, forums, seminars and workshops;

b) the recommendations of past GSRs on the creation of a global exchange programme for regulators;

c) the success and continuation of the global exchange programme for regulators, which provides a platform for exchange of views on regulatory issues,

resolves

1 to continue the specific platform (G-REX) for telecommunication regulators to share and exchange information and experience electronically on matters concerning regulatory issues;

2 that ITU, and in particular ITU-D, should continue to support regulatory reform and help members address regulatory challenges by facilitating information- and experience-sharing among the membership;

3 that the Telecommunication Development Bureau should continue to coordinate and facilitate joint activities relating to telecommunication/ICT policy and regulatory issues with regional and subregional regulatory organizations and associations;

4 that ITU-D should continue to provide further technical cooperation, regulatory exchange, capacity building and expert advice, with the support of its regional offices,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to continue to rotate GSR in different regions, to the extent possible, and reflect balanced regional representation of participants, speakers and relevant stakeholders, to the extent possible;

2 to consult Member States and relevant stakeholders in advance on topics for the annual GSR and the thematic priorities for the best-practice guidelines issued by GSR every year, in order to ensure that the outputs of the GSR reflect the interests of all stakeholders and fully attract the participation of all countries;

3 to promote the formal meetings of regulators and regulatory associations at GSR and encourage the participation of other stakeholders;

4 to continue to have a specific platform for regulators and regulatory associations;

5 to organize, coordinate and facilitate activities that promote information-sharing among regulators and regulatory associations on key issues at the international, interregional and regional level;

6 to organize seminars, regional workshops and training programmes and other activities to help strengthen regulators, and to provide resources and assistance in consolidating all work relating to key policy and regulatory issues within ITU-D and provide easier access to and strengthened transfer of knowledge, information and experience-sharing among the regulators,

invites the study groups of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector

each within its mandate, to adopt the guidelines and best practices issued annually by GSR and to take them into account in their studies on relevant Questions,

calls upon Member States

1 to provide to the governments of countries in special need all possible assistance and support for regulatory reform, whether bilaterally, multilaterally or through the special action of the Union;

2 to share knowledge, skills and experiences in adapting, designing and implementing new laws and policies as part of telecommunication/ICT reform,

requests the Secretary-General

to transmit this resolution to the forthcoming plenipotentiary conference in order to ensure that appropriate attention is given to these activities, in particular within the framework of the implementation of the WSIS outcomes, and in regard to the role of regulators in the implementation of the strategic plan for the Union.