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| **Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-22) Bucharest, 26 September – 14 October 2022** |  |
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| PLENARY MEETING | **Addendum 23 to Document 44-E** |
|  | **9 August 2022** |
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| Member States of the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT) | |
| ECP 26 - REVISION TO RESOLUTION 205: | |
| ITU'S ROLE IN FOSTERING TELECOMMUNICATION/INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY-CENTRIC INNOVATION TO SUPPORT THE DIGITAL ECONOMY AND SOCIETY | |
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MOD EUR/44A23/1

RESOLUTION 205 (Rev. bucharest, 2022)

ITU's role in fostering telecommunication/information and communication technology-centric innovation to support the digital economy and society

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Bucharest, 2022),

recalling

*a)* Resolution 198 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of this conference, on empowerment of youth through telecommunication/information and communication technology (ICT);

*b)* United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Resolution 70/1, on transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

*c)* UNGA Resolution 70/125, on the outcome document of the UNGA high-level meeting on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS);

*d)* UNGA Resolution 68/220, on science, technology and innovation for development,

considering

*a)* that the ongoing digital transformation of the economy and society enables innovation and promotes sustainable and inclusive economic development;

*b)* that ITU's role in increasing access to and promoting development of telecommunications/ICTs contributes to the development of the digitalization of the economy, and that the benefits generated by digitalization contribute greatly to the overall economy;

*c)* the Buenos Aires Declaration and the Buenos Aires Action Plan adopted at the 2017 world telecommunication development conference (WTDC);

*d)* relevant WTDC and Plenipotentiary Conference resolutions, in particular Resolution 17 (Rev. Kigali, 2022) of WTDC, on implementation of and cooperation on regionally approved regional initiatives at the national, regional, interregional and global levels;

*e)* that the Union, among others, plays a fundamental role in providing global perspectives on the development of the information society as regards telecommunications/ICTs;

*f)* that the strategic plan for the Union for 2020-2023 set out in Resolution 71 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of this conference identifies enabling innovation in telecommunications/ICTs in support of the digital transformation of society as one of the strategic goals of the Union,

noting

*a)* Goal 9 in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: "Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and foster innovation", and specifically target 9.c: "Significantly increase access to information and communications technology and strive to provide universal and affordable access to the Internet in least developed countries by 2020";

*b)* ITU's role in the organization of dedicated annual events addressing innovation dynamics at the regional and international level,

bearing in mind

*a)* that the benefits brought about by the digitalization of the economy have not been experienced equally by developing countries[[1]](#footnote-1)1 and developed countries;

*b)* that both phases of WSIS made commitments to bridge the digital divide and create digital opportunities;

*c)* that a fundamental aspect of a pro-innovation national policy landscape, and the ensuing economic development and accompanying increase in tax revenues, is ensuring that access to modern telecommunications/ICTs products and services are widely available and affordable;

*d)* that tariffs on telecommunications/ICTs related hardware can constrain access to these products due to increased costs[[2]](#footnote-2)2,

resolves

1 that the Union, within its mandate, should seek to foster telecommunication/ICT-centric innovation in the development and deployment of telecommunication/ICT infrastructure that contributes to the development of the digitalization of the economy, the benefits of which contribute greatly to the overall economy;

2 that the Union, within its mandate and existing mechanisms, should support Member States, upon request, in promoting an enabling environment for telecommunication/ICT-centric innovation by small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), start-ups, incubation centres and young entrepreneurs, supporting relevant activities with other international agencies;

3 that the Union should continue to collaborate with other related United Nations agencies and other international organizations to assist Member States in providing capacity building related to digital skills, which are considered a core foundation for digital transformation;

4 that the Union should continue supporting WSIS action lines, consistent with its role as specified in Resolution 140 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of this conference, through responding to the global need to foster telecommunication/ICT-centric innovation that accelerates the digital transformation of society and the economy,

instructs the Secretary-General

1 to coordinate cross-sectoral activities in the Union and collaborate with other relevant United Nations agencies and stakeholders in implementing this resolution;

2 to ensure implementation of this resolution within the allocated resources in the financial plan and biennial budget as approved by the ITU Council;

3 in implementing this resolution, to take into account Resolution 11 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of this conference, on ITU Telecom events;

4 to provide annually to the Council a comprehensive report detailing the activities, actions and engagements that the Union is undertaking in response to this resolution;

5 to prepare and submit a progress report on ITU activities related to this resolution to the next plenipotentiary conference in 2022;

6 to invite the relevant international organisations to provide information for dissemination to the Union on the impact of tariffs on ICT hardware and the costs and benefits associated with tariff reduction as part of a pro-innovation policy environment at the national level,

instructs the Directors of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau and Radiocommunication Bureau

1 to take this resolution into account when carrying out activities in their respective Sectors;

2 to encourage the participation of SMEs in study groups and relevant ITU activities,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to provide technical assistance and capacity-building support to developing countries upon request in facilitating/strengthening their respective telecommunication/ICT-centric innovation ecosystems and developing telecommunication/ICT infrastructures;

2 to cooperate with other related international and regional organizations on enhancing the Digital Skills Toolkit to support Member States in designing national digital skills development strategies;

3 in close collaboration with the Directors of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau and the Radiocommunication Bureau, to consolidate all guidelines, recommendations, technical reports and best practices developed by all the Sectors that facilitate telecommunication/ICT-centric innovation and its contribution to the digitalization of the economy, and make them effectively accessible to developing countries to accelerate the sharing of information and transfer of knowledge to narrow the development gap;

4 to cooperate with other relevant organizations and to contribute to efforts to measure how telecommunications/ICTs contribute to development of the digitalization of the economy, by sharing information from ongoing Telecommunication Development Bureau measurements of telecommunication/ICT infrastructure, access and use by households and individuals,

invites Member States

1 to promote widespread affordable access to telecommunication/ICT services by supporting telecommunication/ICT-centric innovation ecosystems through encouraging competition, innovation, private investment and public-private partnerships;

2 to promote awareness and involvement of the public in telecommunication/ICT-centric innovation through the promotion of national initiatives with the assistance of ITU, and enhance digital skills development;

3 to participate actively, in collaboration with other stakeholders, in the innovation-related activities of the Union, while facilitating the participation of telecommunication/ICT-related entrepreneurs, SMEs, start-ups and incubation and acceleration centres;

4 to consider establishing policies/strategies that foster telecommunication/ICT-centric innovation;

5 to consider the impact of import and export tariffs on telecommunications/ICT hardware and software on affordability of access by innovators to these technologies,

invites Member States, Sector Members, Associates and Academia

1 to contribute by sharing their experiences and expertise on fostering innovation and supporting the development and deployment of telecommunications/ICTs as described in this resolution;

2 within the framework of this resolution, to encourage the participation of telecommunication/ICT-related entrepreneurs, SMEs, start-ups and incubation and acceleration centres in the ITU Telecom World and other relevant events.

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1. 1 These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. 2 “Despite a reduction in prices, the cost of ICT goods continues to represent a barrier to accessing technology. In economies that are not participants to the WTO Information Technology Agreement, tariffs are as high as 45 per cent on some ICT imports. For products which are now covered by the Information Technology Agreement’s expansion, tariffs can go up to 87 per cent.” 20 years of the Information Technology Agreement, WTO.org, at <https://www.wto.org/english/res_e/publications_e/ita20years2017_e.htm> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)