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| African Telecommunication Union Administrations | | | |
| PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS TO RESOLUTION 69 | | | |
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| **Abstract:** | ATU proposes to Modify Resolution 69 to address discriminatory access and use of new/emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence. | |
| **Contact:** | Isaac Boateng African Telecommunication Union | E-mail: [i.boateng@atuuat.africa](mailto:i.boateng@atuuat.africa) |

**Introduction**

This contribution addresses discrimination concerns on access and use of new/emerging telecommunications/information and communication technologies for developing countries and hence to promote equitable access and fairness towards the goal of achieving sustainable socio-economic development regardless of the level of country development.

This is in line with the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS, Geneva 2003) and of Principles (Tunis 2005), principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

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RESOLUTION 69 (Rev. New Delhi, 2024)

Non‑discriminatory access and use of Internet resources and telecommunications/information and communication technologies

(Johannesburg, 2008; Dubai, 2012; Hammamet, 2016; New Delhi, 2024)

The World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (New Delhi, 2024),

considering

that one of the purposes of ITU laid down in Article 1 of the ITU Constitution is "to maintain and extend international cooperation among all its Member States for the improvement and rational use of telecommunications of all kinds",

considering further

*a)* the outcome documents of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), Geneva 2003 and Tunis 2005, including the WSIS Declaration of Principles, especially §§ 11, 19, 20, 21 and 49 thereof;

*b)* the United Nations Human Rights Council resolution on the promotion, protection and enjoyment of human rights on the Internet (A/HRC/20/L.13);

*c)* Resolution 20 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference on non-discriminatory access to modern telecommunication/ information and communication technology facilities, services and related applications;

*d)* Resolution 102 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference;

*e)* Resolution 64 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference;

*f)* United Nations General Assembly (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;

*g)* the WSIS+10 High-Level Event outcomes (Geneva, 2014), which were submitted as an input into the overall review of WSIS by UNGA, especially those related to transfer of know-how and technology and to non-discriminatory access, within the framework of the required activities in this regard;

*h)* Resolution 44 (Rev. Geneva, 2022) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly on Bridging the standardization gap between developing and developed countries,

noting

*a)* that § 48 of the WSIS Declaration of Principles recognized that: "The Internet has evolved into a global facility available to the public and its governance should constitute a core issue of the information society agenda. The international management of the Internet should be multilateral, transparent and democratic, with the full involvement of governments, the private sector, civil society and international organizations. It should ensure an equitable distribution of resources, facilitate access for all and ensure a stable and secure functioning of the Internet, taking into account multilingualism";

*b)* that there is a standardization gap between developing and developed countries in definition and adoption of non-discriminatory international standards related to new/emerging telecommunications/information and communication technologies,

recognizing

*a)* that the second phase of WSIS (Tunis, November 2005) identified ITU as the possible moderator/facilitator for the following WSIS action lines from the Plan of Action: C2 (Information and communication infrastructure) and C5 (Building confidence and security in use of ICTs);

*b)* that the Plenipotentiary Conference (Busan, 2014) entrusted the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU‑T) with a range of activities aimed at implementing the WSIS (Tunis, 2005) outcomes, a number of those activities having to do with Internet-related issues;

*c)* Resolution 102 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022), on ITU's role with regard to international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet and the management of Internet resources, including domain names and addresses;

*d)* that management of the registration and allocation of Internet domain names and addresses must fully reflect the geographical nature of the Internet, taking into account an equitable balance of interests of all stakeholders;

*e)* Resolution 64 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022), on non-discriminatory access to modern telecommunication/information and communication technology (ICT) facilities, services and applications, including applied research and transfer of technology, on mutually agreed terms;

*f)* Resolution 20 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017), on non-discriminatory access to telecommunication/ICT facilities, services and related applications;

*g)* Opinion 1 of the fourth World Telecommunication/ICT Policy Forum, on Internet-related public policy matters, and the Lisbon Consensus 2009 on the same matters,

taking into account

*a)* that ITU‑T is dealing with technical and policy issues related to Internet protocol (IP)-based networks, including the Internet and next-generation networks;

*b)* that a number of the resolutions of this assembly deal with Internet‑related issues;

*c)* the global and open nature of the Internet as a driving force in accelerating progress towards development in its various forms;

*d)* that discrimination in accessing the Internet could greatly affect the developing countries[[1]](#footnote-1)1;

*e)* that ITU‑T is playing a key role in bridging standardization gap between developed and developing countries,

resolves to invite Member States

1 to refrain from taking any unilateral and/or discriminatory actions that could impede another Member State from accessing public Internet sites and using resources, within the spirit of Article 1 of the Constitution and the WSIS principles;

2 to refrain from taking unilateral and/or discriminatory actions that could impede Member States especially developing countries in having equitable access and enjoyment to new/emerging technologies;

3 to report to the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau (TSB) on any incident of the kind referred to in *resolves* 1 above,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau

1 to integrate and analyse the information on incidents reported from Member States;

2 to report this information to Member States, through an appropriate mechanism;

3 to report to the Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group (TSAG) on progress on this resolution, in order for TSAG to evaluate the effectiveness of its implementation;

4 to report on progress on this resolution to the next world telecommunication standardization assembly,

instructs the Secretary-General

to report annually to the ITU Council on progress on this resolution,

invites the Directors of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau, Radiocommunication Bureau and Telecommunication Development Bureau

to contribute to the report on progress on this resolution,

invites the ITU membership

1 to submit contributions to the ITU‑T study groups that contribute to the prevention and avoidance of such practices;

2 to submit contributions that address potential risk of discrimination to the ITU-T in standardization of new/emerging telecommunication/information and technologies.

1. 1 These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)