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| DRAFT NEW RESOLUTION [ATU- DPI] - ENHANCING THE STANDARDIZATION ACTIVITIES ON DIGITAL PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE TO SUPPORT DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES |
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| **Abstract:** | This draft resolution is responding to the ITU’s Strategic Plan for 2024-2027, which establishes Sustainable Digital Transformation as a strategic goal of the Union in facilitating progress towards the implementation of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) action lines and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. |
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Introduction

Public and private sector service delivery can be transformed through digitalization and technological advancements. However, public digital solutions developed in silos can lead to a sub‑optimal use of resources and opportunity costs. More recently, the Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) approach that has been deployed by a number of countries instead provides for a shared technology infrastructure which is interoperable and built on open standards. This approach allows for greater competition, innovation and inclusion in the development of digital solutions for public services. It ensures that data can be interoperable, with the necessary consent. Critically, DPIs should be designed to prioritize rights-based, inclusive approaches for users, including personal data protection and privacy. The application of the DPI approach can benefit public services across a number of areas, such as Digital Identity, Consent-based data-sharing systems, Digital Payment Systems, Health records, Driver and Vehicle licensing, Education, Justice records, Agriculture and more. Impacting across all these key sectors, digital identity in particular can have a huge impact on the speed of transactions. Digital Wallets can also assist people to transact on-line, while giving them control over what information they share and with who.

Proposal

This draft resolution is responding to the ITU’s Strategic Plan for 2024-2027, which establishes Sustainable Digital Transformation as a strategic goal of the Union in facilitating progress towards the implementation of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) action lines and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

ADD ATU/35A33/1

DRAFT NEW RESOLUTION [ATU-DPI] (New Delhi, 2024)

Enhancing the standardization activities on Digital Public Infrastructure to support digital transformation in developing countries

(New Delhi, 2024)

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

Recalling

*a)* No. 13 of Article 1 of the ITU Constitution, which establishes that the Union shall in particular facilitate the worldwide standardization of telecommunications, with a satisfactory quality of service;

*b)* that, in Article 17, the Constitution indicates that the functions of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) shall be, bearing in mind the particular concerns of the developing countries, to fulfil the purposes of the Union;

*c)* that the ITU strategic plan for 2024-2027, approved by means of Resolution 71 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, establishes that Sustainable Digital Transformation is a strategic goal of the Union in facilitating progress towards the implementation of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) action lines and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

*d)* Resolution 1353 (Geneva, 2012) of the ITU Council, which recognizes that telecommunications and ICTs are essential components for developed and developing countries in achieving sustainable development, and instructs the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the Directors of the Bureaux, to identify new activities to be undertaken by ITU to support developing countries in achieving sustainable development through telecommunications and ICTs,

recognizing

*a)* that ITU-T Study Group 17 has been involved in the study of some of the building blocks for digital public infrastructure through the Rapporteur Group Identity Management;

considering

*a)* that accelerating progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) requires inclusive digital transformation, and that Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) can maximize the opportunities for digitalization to support the SDGs;

*b)* that DPI through the emergence of key technologies, enabling new services and applications, and promoting the building of the information society is a key enabler for making progress towards digital transformation, which shall be taken into account in the work of ITU‑T;

*c)* that instead of a siloed approach to designing and implementing digital solutions, DPI emphasizes people-centred and interoperable digital building blocks at a societal scale, this approach allows local digital ecosystem players to innovate on top of these blocks, fostering new services for people, and with rights-based and people-centric DPI approaches, countries can advance a range of developmental objectives and respond better during crises;

*d)* that to realize the benefits of DPI, countries must have access to affordable, safe, and scalable technologies, along with the technical expertise required for design, deployment, and evolution of DPI, and that in the current ecosystem set up, countries cannot make use of low-cost, reusable solutions due to lack of local digital expertise;

*e)* that there is also a need to extend and facilitate international collaboration on standards for digital public infrastructure for sustainable digital transformation among international and regional standardization bodies, with a view to avoiding duplication of work and achieving efficient use of resources,

taking into account

*a)* that developing countries could benefit immensely from the application and development of standards for the DPI;

*b)* the work of GovStack in the Development Sector, towards development of technical specifications for the core components of the digital public infrastructure, namely, digital ID, digital payments and trusted data exchange, which would greatly benefit developing countries;

*c)* that technical standards would be essential to the development of an open and interoperable digital public infrastructure and prevent vendor lock-in to sustain innovative digital transformation and the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

noting

that DPI can be leveraged to establish digital ecosystems that enhance transparency, interoperability, data sharing and innovative applications that can help create scalable solutions that empower nations, communities, and individuals,

resolves to instruct the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau

*a)* to conduct relevant studies on the technical requirements of the basic building blocks for DPI such as digital ID, digital payments, digital wallets, consent based data exchange and other reusable digital building blocks for the DPI stack to enhance interoperability, transparency and trusted data sharing to promote the development and deployment of DPI;

*b)* to compile a repository of technical standards and use cases related to DPI which can be made available to developing countries to be adopted in their DPI implementation;

*c)* to report on the progress of this Resolution at TSAG and WTSA;

*d)* to organize workshops for the ITU membership in collaboration with other relevant SDOs, academia and institutions with primary responsibility for DPI implementation, in order to raise awareness and identify developing countries particular needs and challenges in deploying DPI,

instructs the Directors of the Telecommunications Standardization Bureau and the Telecommunications Development Bureau

to cooperate with other UN and other international and regional multi-stakeholder and intergovernmental organizations that are assisting countries to implement DPI, and with countries that have learnings to share in this regard,

instructs ITU-T study groups

*a)* to organize the necessary work and studies in order to expand and accelerate the work on DPI;

*b)* to facilitate the development of ITU-T Recommendations that can lead to the sustainable, inclusive and efficient adoption of DPI across different sectors and technologies, promoting interoperability, open standards and innovation, with consent-based data sharing, and incorporating security by design;

*c)* to coordinate and collaborate with other relevant SDOs and institutions involved in standards development, implementation and capacity building in the area of DPI, and with other groups within ITU;

*d)* to develop technical standards and guidelines that will help developing countries to establish their digital public infrastructure,

invites Member States, Sector Members, and Academia

*a)* to provide contributions and actively participate in sharing lessons learned on implementation of DPI;

*b)* to encourage the use of innovative digital tools and open standards, as appropriate, to advance DPI deployment;

*c)* to implement policy measures for digital connectivity and enhancing digital skills to ensure that DPI is made accessible for all people, including those living in remote regions and those with disabilities that limit access by conventional means.