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| DRAFT NEW RESOLUTION [ARB-DPI] - ENHANCING THE STANDARDIzATION ACTIVITIES ON DIGITAL PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE (DPI) TO SUPPORT DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION | | | |
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| **Abstract:** | This contribution proposes a new WTSA resolution on Enhancing the standardization activities on Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) to support digital transformation. | |
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DRAFT NEW RESOLUTION [ARB-DPI] (New Delhi, 2024)

Enhancing the standardization activities on Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) to support digital transformation

(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;

*e)* the Kigali declaration of the world telecommunication development conference (WTDC) which commits to accelerating the expansion of digital infrastructure,

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;

*b)* that ITU-T Study Group 20 also has been involved in activities related to digital public infrastructure,

considering

*a)* that accelerating progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) requires inclusive digital transformation; DPI is a catalyst for the digital transformation and it will 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; 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, inclusive, reliable and scalable technologies, along with the technical expertise required for design, deployment, and evolution of DPI; 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)* the immense benefits of application and development of standards related to the DPI;

*b)* the work of GovStack initiative in the Development Bureau, 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, safe 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 and WSIS Outcomes,

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

1) 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;

2) to organize workshops for the ITU membership in collaboration with other relevant Standardization Development Organizations (SDOs), academia and institutions with primary responsibility for DPI implementation, in order to raise awareness and identify needs and challenges and suggested solutions in deploying DPI for all countries and in particular developing countries;

3) to report on the progress of this Resolution at TSAG and WTSA,

instructs ITU-T study groups each within its mandate

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

2) 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;

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

instructs the Directors of the Telecommunications Standardization Bureau in close collaboration with the Telecommunications Development Bureau

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

invites Member States

to develop policies and needed measures for digital connectivity 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,

invites Member States, Sector Members, and Academia

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

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

3) to provide long-term capacity building programs on areas related to DPI aiming at enhancing digital skills for all.