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| DRAFT NEW RESOLUTION [ARB-DRM] - USE OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS/INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES FOR EMERGENCY AND DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT AND PREPAREDNESS, FOR EARLY WARNING, RISK REDUCTION, MITIGATION AND RELIEF | | | |
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| **Abstract:** | The contribution proposes a new WTSA resolution on use of telecommunications/information and communication technologies for emergency and disaster risk management and preparedness, for early warning, risk reduction, mitigation and relief. | |
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ADD ARB/36A33/1

DRAFT NEW RESOLUTION [ARB-DRM] (New Delhi, 2024)

Use of telecommunications/information and communication technologies for emergency and disaster risk management and preparedness, for early warning, risk reduction, mitigation and relief

(New Delhi, 2024)

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

recalling

*a)* Resolution 136 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the use of telecommunications/information and communication technologies for humanitarian assistance and for monitoring and management in emergency and disaster situations, including health-related emergencies, for early warning, prevention, mitigation and relief;

*b)* Resolution 130 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the role of ITU in building confidence and security in the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs);

*c)* Resolution 182 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the role of telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICTs) in regard to climate change and the protection of the environment;

*d)* Article 5 of the International Telecommunication Regulations, on safety of life and priority of telecommunications,

recognizing

*a)* the recent tragic events in the world that clearly demonstrate the need to be able to count on robust and resilient telecommunications/ICT infrastructures, smart digital applications and services that can reduce disaster risk and address emergency situations, including the availability of trustworthy information in near real-time to assist public safety, health and disaster-relief agencies;

*b)* the interconnected nature of global disasters and crises, including climate related incidents, disease outbreaks, unplanned urbanization, and their impact on global telecommunications/ICT, global trade, and global financial systems;

*c)* the role that telecommunications/ICT and artificial intelligence (AI) systems, applications, and services can play to address the risks associated with small- and large-scale, frequent and infrequent, sudden- and slow-onset disasters caused by natural and human-made hazards, as well as related environmental, technological and biological hazards and risks;

*d)* the important role of ITU-D and ITU-R in using ICTs for disaster risk reduction management and early warning systems,

taking into account

*a)* Resolution 60/125, on international cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from relief to development, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in March 2006;

*b)* Resolution 69/283, on the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in June 2015 and its implementation and its seven global targets by 2030,

noting

*a)* the Global Initiative on Resilience to Natural Hazards through AI Solutions, a collaborative effort led by various UN agencies, including the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Universal Postal Union (UPU), and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO);

*b)* section 51 of the Geneva Declaration of Principles adopted by the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), on the use of ICT applications for disaster prevention;

*c)* section 20(c) of the Geneva Plan of Action adopted by WSIS, on e‑environment, which calls for the establishment of monitoring systems, using ICTs, to forecast and monitor the impact of natural and man-made disasters, particularly in developing countries, least developed countries and small economies;

*d)* section 30 of the Tunis Commitment adopted by WSIS, on disaster mitigation;

*e)* section 91 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society adopted by WSIS, on disaster reduction;

*f)* the work of the relevant ITU‑T study groups in developing and adopting recommendations for priority/preferential emergency telecommunications and emergency telecommunication services, including consideration of use of both terrestrial and wireless telecommunication systems during emergencies;

*g)* Sustainable Development Goals 9 (Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation) and 11 (Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable), adopted by UNGA,

considering

*a)* the devastation suffered from disasters, including, but not limited to, earthquakes, floods, tsunamis, plagues, landslides, avalanches, wildfires, volcanic eruptions, windstorms and hail, biological hazards, around the world, particularly in developing countries, which may suffer disproportionately due to a lack of infrastructure and/or adequate telecommunications/ICT and relevant smart systems to manage disaster risk situations including preparedness, and management, for early warning, risk reduction, mitigation and relief;

*b)* that AI based telecommunications/ICTs can play an effective role in addressing all phases of emergencies, including natural and human-made, and that aspects of emergency communications associated with emergencies include, *inter alia*, disaster prediction, detection and alert and enabling the flow of information to keep individuals informed as to actions they can take to preserve life and assets;

*c)* that telecommunications/ICTs play an important role in disseminating information in case of disasters and facilitate disaster early warning, prevention, mitigation, relief and recovery efforts;

*d)* the ongoing cooperation between ITU study groups and other standards-development organizations dealing with emergency telecommunications, alert and warning systems,

considering further

*a)* the work being undertaken by the relevant ITU-T groups to establish internationally agreed norms for the development of telecommunications/ICT address to manage risks associated with emergencies and disasters, needs an overarching coordination, especially with the proliferation of AI and its inherent associated risks, including AI native approaches, which call for a coordinated and an overarching standards development approach;

*b)* there continues to be an urgent need for the understanding of the implications of new and emerging technologies including AI, on telecommunications/ICT to increase its robustness, resilience and overall capabilities in addressing, mitigating, and relieving emergency and disaster situations and its aftermaths;

*c)* the importance of developing standards to integrate, and embed monitoring and early‑warning systems, based on telecommunications/ICTs, in different urban systems, applications, and services, to allow for interoperability and interworking, facilitating emergency disaster response all over the world, particularly in high-risk regions,

resolves

1 that all relevant ITU-T study groups, in particular study groups 2, 5, 13, 20, and 17, continue to develop standards to strengthen the role of telecommunications/ICT, empowered by new and emerging technologies including AI, to address emergency and disaster risk management and preparedness, for early warning, risk reduction, mitigation and relief, according to their mandates in Resolution 2 (Rev. New Delhi, 2024) of this assembly;

2 that all relevant ITU-T study groups, in particular study groups 2, 5, 13, 20, and 17, continue to develop standards to enhance robustness, resilience, confidence, and trustworthiness in the use of ICTs at the national, regional and international level, according to their mandates in Resolution 2 (Rev. New Delhi, 2024) of this assembly;

3 that ITU-T continue to raise awareness, within its mandate and competencies, of the need to align global standards development efforts to mitigate disasters caused by natural and human-made hazards, including related environmental, technological and biological hazards and risks;

4 that ITU-T study groups continue to liaise with standards organizations and other bodies active in this field and encourage the engagement of experts in ITU's activities in the area of using telecommunications/ICT and new and emerging technologies including AI, to address emergency and disaster risk management and preparedness, for early warning, risk reduction, mitigation and relief,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau in collaboration with the Director of the Development Bureau

to provide all necessary assistance with a view to expediting such efforts pertinent to the execution of this resolution, including the development of workshops, webinars, and training, especially to developing countries,

invites Member States, Sector Members, Associates and Academia, as appropriate

1 to cooperate and participate actively in the implementation of this resolution and the associated actions;

2 to participate in relevant ITU-T study group activities.