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| DRAFT NEW RESOLUTION [IND-DPI] - PROMOTING STANDARDIZATION WORK ON DIGITAL PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE |
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| **Abstract:** | This document contains a proposal for addition of a new ITU-T Resolution “Promoting Standardization Work on Digital Public Infrastructure”. |
| **Contact:** | Mr. Avinash Agarwal Ministry of CommunicationsMr. Rakesh Goyal Ministry of Communications | E-mail: avinash.70@gov.inE-mail: rakesh.goyal91@gov.in |

Introduction

Technology can enable rapid transformations for bridging the existing digital divides and accelerate progress for inclusive and sustainable development. Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) is a critical enabler of digital transformation and can help improve public services delivery at scale and strengthen the digitization of services to attain the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

G20 Digital Economy Ministers' Meet (DEMM) Outcome Document defines DPI as “a set of shared digital systems that should be secure and interoperable, and can be built on open standards and specifications to deliver and provide equitable access to public and/or private services at societal scale and are governed by applicable legal frameworks and enabling rules to drive development, inclusion, innovation, trust, and competition and respect human rights and fundamental freedoms”.

DPI includes components for digital identity, payments, and data exchanges and provides foundational digital platforms that can be leveraged for services and transactions across the public and private sectors, with the potential to facilitate inclusive and resilient digital economies. The interoperability, trust and equity are key for building resilient and equitable digital public infrastructure. Thus, the development of technical specifications and standards for the various components of the DPI including digital identity, digital payments, data exchanges, etc., is essential to ensure interoperability, transparency and trusted data sharing and for the development of an open and interoperable digital public infrastructure.

Proposal

Based on the background above, India proposes WTSA-24 to consider establishment of a new WTSA Resolution on “Promoting Standardization Work on Digital Public Infrastructure”.

ADD IND/48/1

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

Promoting Standardization Work on Digital Public Infrastructure

(New Delhi, 2024)

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

recalling

*a)* that ITU is co-leading High-Impact Initiative (HII): Digital Public Infrastructure (Scaling inclusive and open digital ecosystems for the SDGs) with UNDP;

*b)* Resolution 71 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, includes “Sustainable Digital Transformation: Foster equitable and inclusive use of telecommunications/ICTs to empower people and societies for sustainable development” as a strategic goal towards the implementation of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) action lines and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

*c)* G20 New Delhi Leaders’ Declaration (New Delhi, 2023) welcomed the G20 Framework for Systems of Digital Public Infrastructure, voluntary and suggested framework for the development, deployment and governance of DPI;

*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,

considering

*a)* that the availability and accessibility of high-quality digital connectivity based on high-performance, secure and resilient digital infrastructure is critical for the future;

*b)* that digital transformation necessitates Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) approaches to maximize the opportunities to accelerate the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);

*c)* that G20 Digital Economy Ministers' Meeting (DEMM) Outcome Document defines DPI as “a set of shared digital systems that should be secure and interoperable, and can be built on open standards and specifications to deliver and provide equitable access to public and/or private services at societal scale and are governed by applicable legal frameworks and enabling rules to drive development, inclusion, innovation, trust, and competition and respect human rights and fundamental freedoms”;

*d)* that DPI includes components for digital identity, payments, and data exchanges and provides foundational digital platforms that can be leveraged for services and transactions across the public and private sectors, with the potential to facilitate inclusive and resilient digital economies;

*e)* that during COVID-19, DPI systems became a crucial tool for gathering the data needed to understand disease spread, organize the logistics of response, and distribute emergency cash transfers to mitigate hunger while helping people stay safe at home;

*f)* that DPI will be a key tool for including more people in the digital economy, for enabling good governance and service delivery, and for developing new tools to respond to other urgent threats, especially climate change and its disastrous impacts,

recognizing

*a)* that development of technical specifications and standards for the DPI building blocks, including interoperability, processes and mechanisms is essential for the development of an open and interoperable digital public infrastructure;

*b)* that interoperability, trust and equity are key for building resilient and equitable digital public infrastructure;

*c)* that DPI can accelerate global economic growth, support the transition to sustainable and green economies, and grow accessibility and public trust in institutions,

taking into account

*a)* that DPI is a critical enabler of digital transformation and can help improve public services delivery at scale;

*b)* that strengthening the digitization of services is critical to attain the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);

*c)* that the ITU-T members could benefit immensely from Digital public infrastructure by developing and applying ITU-T Recommendations;

*d)* that technical standards would be essential to the development of an open and interoperable digital public infrastructure to sustain innovative digital transformation and the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

*e)* that development and implementation of ITU-T Recommendations, technical reports, and guidelines require broad participation and collaboration among all relevant stakeholders, especially from industries and societies with urgent digital transformation needs,

resolves

*a)* to develop ITU-T Recommendations, technical reports, and best practices to enhance interoperability, transparency and trusted data sharing to promote the development and deployment of DPI;

*b)* to foster cooperation and collaboration within the Union and with other relevant stakeholders to share knowledge and best practices, and explore common understandings on standardization aspects related to digital public infrastructure, including, but not limited to, use cases, interoperability, and ecosystem;

*c)* to encourage the participation of members from developing countries in ITU-T's activities on digital public infrastructure, including through, whenever possible, the holding of workshops, study groups and other meetings in the regions,

instructs the Director of Telecommunication Standardization Bureau

*a)* to drive a concerted effort across relevant study groups to initiate standardization works on the various components of the DPI including digital identity, digital payments, data exchanges, etc.;

*b)* to create, with the assistance of other relevant organizations, a repository to bridge the knowledge gap required for the design, construction, deployment, and governance of DPIs;

*c)* to organize workshop(s) for raising awareness and to collect recommendations and inputs from a wide range of stakeholders,

instructs the ITU-T Study Groups

*a)* to develop ITU-T Recommendations, including relevant terminologies and definitions, on the various components of the DPI including digital identity, digital payments, data exchanges, etc. to ensure interoperability, transparency and trusted data sharing;

*b)* to develop guidelines that help countries in adopting and implementing the DPI;

*c)* to organize the necessary work and studies to effectively contribute to 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, within their individual mandates;

*d)* to coordinate and collaborate with relevant stakeholders, in particular, those stakeholders with primary responsibility for developing, implementing and capacity building of standards in the area of digital public infrastructure, and with other groups within ITU,

invites Member States, Sector Members, and Academia

*a)* to provide information on various initiatives and activities on digital public infrastructure;

*b)* to submit contributions for developing Recommendations, Technical Reports and best practices for digital public infrastructure.