

WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION STANDARDIZATION
ASSEMBLY

Hammamet, 25 October – 3 November 2016

**Resolution 69 – Non-discriminatory access
and use of Internet resources and
telecommunications/information and
communication technologies**

FOREWORD

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is the United Nations specialized agency in the field of telecommunications, and information and communication technologies (ICTs). The ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) is a permanent organ of ITU. ITU-T is responsible for studying technical, operating and tariff questions and issuing Recommendations on them with a view to standardizing telecommunications on a worldwide basis.

The World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA), which meets every four years, establishes the topics for study by the ITU-T study groups which, in turn, produce Recommendations on these topics.

The approval of ITU-T Recommendations is covered by the procedure laid down in WTSA Resolution 1.

In some areas of information technology which fall within ITU-T's purview, the necessary standards are prepared on a collaborative basis with ISO and IEC.

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RESOLUTION 69 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016)

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

(Johannesburg, 2008; Dubai, 2012; Hammamet, 2016)

The World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (Hammamet, 2016),

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. Hyderabad, 2010) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference;
- d)* Resolution 102 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference;
- e)* Resolution 64 (Rev. Busan, 2014) 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,

noting

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",

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. Busan, 2014), 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. Busan, 2014), 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. Hyderabad, 2010), 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 countries¹;
- 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 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;

¹ These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

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

to submit contributions to the ITU-T study groups that contribute to the prevention and avoidance of such practices.