RESOLUTION 68 (Rev. Dubai, 2014)

Assistance to indigenous peoples within the activities of the Telecommunication Development Bureau in its related programmes

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Dubai, 2014),

considering

a)   Resolution 46 (Doha, 2006) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference, on the role of information and communication technology (ICT) in promoting indigenous peoples in the information society, and the fact that the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) provides assistance to indigenous peoples through all of its programmes in general, and Output 4.3 under Objective 4 in particular;

b)   that the Geneva Plan of Action and the Tunis Commitment of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) established that the attainment of their objectives with regard to indigenous peoples and communities is a priority;

c)   that Article 16 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples states the following: "Indigenous peoples have the right to establish their own media in their own languages and to have access to all forms of non-indigenous media without discrimination",

recalling

that Article 41 of the aforementioned Declaration states that: "The organs and specialized agencies of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations shall contribute to the full realization of the provisions of this Declaration through the mobilization, *inter alia*, of financial cooperation and technical assistance",

recognizing

a)   that the public policy recommendations and best practices developed through the "Connect a School, Connect a Community" initiative, in accordance with the principles established by WSIS, indicate that there are minimum conditions in the sphere of technology, capacity building, regulatory framework, self-sustainability and participation, and content development, which must be ensured to achieve ICT development in indigenous regions;

b)   that the Declaration of the Second Summit on Indigenous Communication of Abya Yala, held in Mexico in 2013, decided to move ahead on consultation processes with international organizations in the interests of operationalizing the rights of indigenous peoples to communication laid down in the above-mentioned United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;

c)   that telecommunication networks operated by indigenous peoples themselves have been developed and that, in order to ensure their development and sustainability, it is necessary to continue fostering the training of indigenous technicians on the basis of their cultural practices and technological innovation solutions, while at the same time ensuring the availability of resources and spectrum for implementing those networks;

d)   that it is important to monitor closely the evolving communication experiences of the peoples in question and add to the public policy recommendations and best practices developed by ITU, taking

into account the underlying technological innovations and organizational approaches that have stimulated their growth,

resolves

1   to reinforce assistance to indigenous peoples in all BDT programmes;

2   to support digital inclusion of indigenous peoples in general, and in particular their participation in workshops, seminars, forums and training on ICT for social and economic development;

3   to support, through the ITU Academy[1], human-resource training programmes in the design and management of public policies aimed at the development of ICTs in remote and isolated areas, for groups with specific needs and for indigenous peoples, within available BDT funds and human resources;

4   to support, through the ITU Academy, capacity building for indigenous peoples in the maintenance and development of ICTs;

5   to incorporate, in this training, best practices, experience and knowledge that the indigenous peoples have developed on the matter and, where appropriate, include the participation of indigenous experts, in accordance with applicable ITU rules and regulations governing recruitment;

6   to update the research on best practices and public policy recommendations for the development of ICTs in indigenous communities and foster the study of mechanisms that ensure the availability of spectrum for the networks in question;

7   to ensure access to training and innovation solutions through pilot projects that enable the implementation of local communication networks administered and operated by indigenous peoples themselves,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

to carry out the necessary actions to reinforce the implementation of Output 4.3 of the Dubai Action Plan as it relates to indigenous peoples, establishing collaboration mechanisms with the Member States, other relevant regional and international organizations and cooperation agencies,

invites

1   Member States to provide the necessary facilities and information to allow the participation of members of indigenous peoples and communities in the activities provided for in this resolution;

2   Sector Members to support the implementation of the activities provided for in this resolution.

---

[1] The ITU Academy initiative encompasses the centres of excellence and Internet training centres initiatives.