



**Letter of Intent
to Establish an Agreement on
“The use of ICTs for emergency and disaster situations in the Americas region”**

This Letter of Intent (“LOI”) is entered into by and between:

THE INTER-AMERICAN TELECOMMUNICATION COMMISSION (“CITEL”), through the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (“GS/OAS”), is an entity of the Organization of American States (“OAS”) established by the General Assembly in its Resolution AG/RES. 1224 (XXIII-O/93), in keeping with Article 53 of the OAS Charter, having its headquarters at 1889 F Street N.W. Washington D.C. 20006 USA. The GS/OAS is the central and permanent organ of the OAS and is authorized to carry out relations of cooperation in accordance with Article 112(h) of the Charter and OAS General Assembly Resolution AG/RES. 57 (I-O/71),

THE REGIONAL TECHNICAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION OF CENTRAL AMERICA (“COMTELCA”) is an organization that coordinates and promotes the regional integration and development of the telecommunications sector in Central America having its headquarters at Colonia Altos de Miramontes, Calle Principal, Edificio Miramontes Plaza No. 1583. Tegucigalpa, M.D.C., Honduras, 11101,

THE CARIBBEAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNION (“CTU”), is a Caribbean intergovernmental organization dedicated to facilitating the development of the regional telecommunications sector having its headquarters at 4 Mary Street, St. Clair, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago and,

THE INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION (“ITU”) an intergovernmental organization and the specialized agency of the United Nations for information and communication technologies (ICTs), having its headquarters at Place des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland.

For purposes of this LOI, CITEL, COMTELCA, CTU and ITU are hereinafter referred to collectively as the “Signatories”.

NOTING, Resolution 25 (Rev. Busan, 2014) on Strengthening the regional presence and that cooperation between the ITU regional and area offices, relevant regional organizations and other international organizations dealing with development should continue to be improved, in the interests of optimizing the use of resources and avoiding duplication, in order to ensure that countries’ needs are being met in a coordinated fashion;

NOTING, Resolution 135 (Rev. Busan, 2014) on ITU’s role in the development of telecommunications/information and communication technologies, in providing technical assistance and advice to developing countries and in implementing relevant national, regional and interregional projects in close collaboration with regional and international organizations;

NOTING, Resolution 136 (Rev. Busan, 2014) on the use of telecommunications/information and communication technologies for monitoring and management in emergency and disaster situations for early warning, prevention, mitigation and relief which recognizes the need to promote joint activities and avoid duplication of efforts;

WHEREAS, disasters disrupt national economies, and severely weaken the poor and vulnerable communities. Disasters are recognized as major impediments to sustainable development and the reduction of poverty, especially in poor countries. When disasters strike, they leave a legacy of lost or broken lives and economic damage. The impact is even worse for those living in remote and isolated areas with no access to basic information and communication facilities that are essential in providing the alerts so

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vital to saving lives;

WHEREAS, to mitigate the impact of disasters, timely dissemination of authoritative information before, during, and after disasters is critical, telecommunications being a key element in all phases of disaster management;

WHEREAS, the ITU World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC) held in Dubai in 2014 approved the Americas Regional Initiative on Emergency Communications based on the needs identified by countries of the Americas region and the countries in the region have reaffirmed their desire and commitment to maintain emergency communications as one of the regional priorities;

WHEREAS, the Signatories already collaborate with their members for greater support and better on-the-ground responses in case of emergencies;

WHEREAS, the Signatories recognize that joint projects and collaborative arrangement build on each of their respective strengths and enhance regional cooperation and synergies for the improvement of emergency and disaster response at national and regional levels in all phases of a disaster;

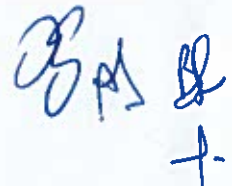
WHEREAS, the Signatories desire to develop a cooperation mechanism between them for the implementation of projects on the use of ICTs for emergency and disaster situations in the Americas region to enable government authorities in an effort to build regional cooperation for quicker and greater support and better on-the-ground responses in case of emergencies;

WHEREAS, for the purpose of implementing such projects, each of the Signatories intends to make certain cash and/or in-kind contributions, subject to the corresponding authorizations and availability of funds, and in accordance with the terms and conditions of the corresponding cooperation agreement and project document, which will be negotiated, agreed and signed by the duly authorized representatives of the Signatories; and





WHEREAS, the Signatories desire to hereby manifest by this LOI their intent to negotiate in good faith, mutually agreeable terms and conditions to be included in formal binding cooperation agreements and the corresponding project documents for the purpose of implementing projects on the use of ICTs for emergency and disaster situations in the Americas region to improve regional disaster response and to enhance the emergency telecommunications capabilities of the countries in the region,

Now, therefore, the Signatories agree as follows:

1. The purpose of this LOI is to reaffirm the intent of the Signatories to develop a cooperation mechanism between them for the implementation of projects on the use of ICTs for emergency and disaster situations in the Americas region.
2. The specific terms and conditions relating to such cooperation mechanism, the respective contributions, rights, duties, roles, responsibilities and the activities to be carried out by and between the Signatories for the implementation of each project will be subject to, and set forth in greater detail in, specific written binding cooperation agreements and the corresponding project documents to be jointly negotiated, agreed and signed by the duly authorized representatives of the Signatories.
3. This LOI is not a binding agreement between the Signatories, and is not intended to and does not give rise to any form of fiduciary responsibility or any legal obligations under international or national laws. This LOI does not create obligations of a financial nature for any of the Signatories, and any contribution and/or work that may be conducted hereunder is subject to the corresponding authorizations, availability of staff, resources and funds, and the signature of a written binding cooperation agreement and the corresponding project document containing the applicable terms and conditions of the project.
4. The Signatories mutually recognize the privileges and immunities they enjoy by virtue of the relevant agreements and laws on the subject and general principles of international law.



In witness whereof, the Signatories have caused their duly authorized representatives to sign this LOI in four (4) originals, in the English language, as of the dates set forth below.

<u>For</u>	<u>Signature</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Name & Title</u>
ITU	 <hr/>	<u>12/10/17</u>	Brahima Sanou BDT Director
GS/OAS	 <hr/>	<u>12/10/17</u>	Oscar León CITEL Executive Secretary
COMTELCA	 <hr/>	<u>12/10/17</u>	Allan Ruiz Executive Secretary
CTU	 <hr/>	<u>12/10/17</u>	Bernadette Lewis Secretary-General