

RESOLUTION 30 (REV. BUCHAREST, 2022)

Special measures for the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Bucharest, 2022),

considering

- a)* United Nations resolutions on programmes of action for the least developed countries (LDCs), small island developing states (SIDS), landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) and countries with economies in transition;
- b)* Resolution 72/200 of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), on information and communication technologies (ICTs) for sustainable development;
- c)* UNGA Resolution 72/228, on science, technology and innovation for development;
- d)* UNGA Resolution 70/1, on transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- e)* Resolution 135 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of this conference, on ITU's role in the durable and sustainable development of telecommunications/ICTs, in providing technical assistance and advice to developing countries¹ and in implementing relevant national, regional and interregional projects,

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

recognizing

- a) the importance of telecommunications/ICTs as an enabler that harnesses the potential of and opportunities resulting from digital innovation which can benefit the socio-economic development of the countries concerned and help achieve the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted in UNGA Resolution 70/1;
- b) that the vision of an information society and its economic benefits cannot be achieved without embracing the principle of inclusiveness,

having noted

- a) Resolution 16 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC), on special actions and measures for LDCs, SIDS, LLDCs and countries with economies in transition;
- b) Output 4.1 of Objective 4 of the Buenos Aires Action Plan for concentrated assistance to LDCs, SIDS and LLDCs and countries with economies in transition;
- c) Resolution 1 (Dubai, 2012) of the World Conference on International Telecommunications, on special measures for LLDCs and SIDS for greater access to international optical fibre networks,

concerned

- a) that the number of LDCs remains high despite the progress that has been made in recent years, and that it is necessary to address the situation;
- b) that the challenges confronting LDCs, SIDS, LLDCs and countries with economies in transition continue to pose a threat to the development agenda of these countries;
- c) that LDCs, SIDS and LLDCs are vulnerable to devastation caused by natural disasters and lack the resources needed to respond effectively to such disasters;

d) that there is very limited Sector Member and Academia representation from within the industry and academia of these countries, in particular in the ITU Telecommunication Standardization and Radiocommunication Sectors;

e) that the geographical location of SIDS and LLDCs is an obstacle to international connectivity of telecommunication networks with these countries,

aware

a) that improvement of telecommunication networks and their international interconnectivity in these countries will give an impetus towards social and economic integration across sectors and overall development, and provide the opportunity to create knowledge societies and participate in the digital economy, as well as achieving the 17 SDGs;

b) that enhanced and effective participation of industry and academia from these countries in ITU activities would facilitate development of ICT ecosystems in these countries,

recalling

a) abrogated Resolution 49 (Doha, 2006) of WTDC, on special actions for LDCs and SIDS;

b) that, given that the United Nations recognized LDCs as a category of State back in 1971, which is over 50 years ago, more focused efforts are required to bridge the digital divide in LDCs and other categories of country in order to spread the development of telecommunications/ICTs;

c) that the Doha Programme of Action of the fifth United Nations Conference on LDCs, held in 2022, identified a goal of leveraging the power of science, technology and innovation to fight against multidimensional vulnerabilities and to achieve the SDGs, emphasizing the urgent need to accelerate investment in the development and scaling of innovation and technology solutions for the most pressing problems that LDCs face across economic, social and environmental fields that support their digital transition and strengthen efforts to bridge digital divides,

resolves to instruct the Secretary-General and the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

- 1 to continue to review the state of telecommunication/ICT services in LDCs, SIDS, LLDCs and countries with economies in transition, so identified by the United Nations and needing special measures for the development of telecommunications/ICTs that contribute to economic growth, and to identify areas of critical weakness requiring priority action;
- 2 to support LDCs, LLDCs, SIDS and countries with economies in transition in enhancing engagement by academia and industry in ITU, including by disseminating information on ITU activities and considering the creation of a network for industry and academia in LDCs, LLDCs, SIDS and countries with economies in transition;
- 3 to continue submitting to the ITU Council concrete measures intended to bring about genuine improvements and effective assistance to these countries, from the Special Voluntary Programme for Technical Cooperation, the Union's own resources and other sources of finance;
- 4 to work towards providing the necessary administrative and operational structure for identifying the needs of these countries and for proper administration of the resources appropriated for LDCs, SIDS, LLDCs and countries with economies in transition;
- 5 to propose new and innovative measures, as well as partnerships or alliances with other international and regional bodies, that may generate additional funds or joint projects to be used for telecommunication/ICT development in these countries, in order to benefit from the opportunities that financial mechanisms offer in using ICTs for development, as indicated in the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society;
- 6 to continue enhancing ITU's web-based tools, in an effort to make it easier to locate guidelines, recommendations, technical reports, best practices and use cases developed by the ITU Sectors, as well as identifying strategies and mechanisms to help and allow Member States to proactively use these tools to speed up the transfer of knowledge;
- 7 to report annually on this matter to the Council,

instructs the ITU Council

1 to consider the reports referred to in *resolves to instruct the Secretary-General and the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau 7* above and take appropriate action so that the Union may continue to display its keen interest and cooperate actively in the development of telecommunication/ICT services in these countries;

2 to make appropriations for this purpose from the Special Voluntary Programme for Technical Cooperation, the Union's own resources and any other sources of finance, and promote partnerships among all stakeholders in this regard;

3 to keep the situation under constant review and to report on this matter to the next plenipotentiary conference,

encourages least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition

1 to continue according high priority to telecommunication/ICT activities and projects that promote overall socio-economic development, including those that make it possible to improve international connectivity conditions, by adopting cooperation activities funded from bilateral or multilateral sources, for the benefit of the wider population;

2 to complement ITU efforts for enhanced engagement from academia and industry in telecommunication/ICT activities,

invites Member States

to cooperate with LDCs, SIDS, LLDCs and countries with economies in transition in promoting and supporting regional, subregional, multilateral and bilateral projects and programmes for the development of telecommunications/ICTs and the integration of telecommunication infrastructure making it possible to improve international connectivity conditions.

*(Kyoto, 1994) – (Rev. Antalya, 2006) – (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) – (Rev. Busan, 2014)
– (Rev. Dubai, 2018) – (Rev. Bucharest, 2022)*
