

RESOLUTION 206 (DUBAI, 2018)

OTTs

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018),

recalling

a) Resolution 2 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA), which stipulates that Study Group 3 of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) is responsible for studying the economic and regulatory impact of the Internet, convergence (services or infrastructure) and new services, such as over-the-top (OTT), on international telecommunication services and networks;

b) Resolution 44 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016) of WTSA, which instructs the ITU-T study groups to consider including implementation guidelines for ITU-T recommendations where these could provide advice to assist developing countries¹ in adopting them, with emphasis on recommendations having regulatory and policy implications;

c) Resolution 123 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of this conference, on bridging the standardization gap between developing countries and developed countries,

considering

a) the need to discuss policy issues, as well as the economic implications of OTTs, including issues relating to benefits for consumers, including persons with disabilities and specific needs, competition and innovation;

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

- b) that the mutual cooperation between OTTs and telecommunication operators can be an element to foster innovative, sustainable, viable business models and their positive roles in fostering socio-economic benefits;
- c) that, given the global nature of many OTTs, collaboration across multiple Member States and Sector Members should be strongly encouraged;
- d) the policy aspects of OTT, some of which may have international considerations,

considering further

- a) that the private and public sectors play a key role in the expansion of telecommunication/information and communication technologies (ICTs), for example through investments in infrastructures and services;
- b) that the evolution of the telecommunication/ICT sector has led to new market structures, business models, investment strategies and revenue streams,

recognizing

- a) that network operators and OTTs are part of the international telecommunication/ICT ecosystem;
- b) that the Preamble of the ITU Constitution fully recognizes the sovereign right of each State to regulate its telecommunication;
- c) that the development of technology and OTTs in telecommunications/ICTs brings both opportunities and challenges;
- d) that the global telecommunication ecosystem is interdependent and increasingly data-driven,

recognizing further

- a) studies by Study Group 1 of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D), and the approval by the 2017 world telecommunication development conference of Question 3/1, on emerging technologies, including cloud computing, m-services and OTTs: challenges and opportunities, economic and policy impact for developing countries;
- b) inputs of stakeholders presented to the fifth Open Consultation of the ITU Council Working Group on international Internet-related public policy issues (CWG-Internet), on public policy considerations for OTTs, and the discussions held at the physical open consultation meeting on 18 September 2017;
- c) The final report of the tenth meeting of CWG-Internet (21 September 2017), on the role of ITU with respect to OTTs;
- d) studies and ongoing work in ITU-T and ITU-D study groups, particularly ITU-T Study Groups 3 and 17 and ITU-D Study Group 1;
- e) the ITU-T Technical Report on economic Impact of OTTs;
- f) the ITU-D Report on policy, regulatory and technical aspects of the migration from existing networks to broadband networks in developing countries, including next-generation networks, m-services, OTT services and the implementation of IPv6;
- g) that ITU-D plays an important role in facilitating the discussion and the dissemination and adoption of best practices in telecommunication regulation,

noting

the ongoing cooperation and collaboration with relevant organizations and stakeholders, including but not limited to the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, to further the objectives of this resolution,

resolves

- 1 to raise awareness and promote a common understanding and dialogue among relevant stakeholders for enabling the OTT environment and ecosystem within the remit of ITU;
- 2 to continue fostering studies on OTT aspects, taking into account *considering d)* and *recognizing further d)*, consistent with ITU's mandate;
- 3 to foster capacity-building programmes among ITU members in order to share information related to best practices and technical guidance on OTTs, especially for developing countries,

instructs the Secretary-General

- 1 to continue cooperation and collaboration with other relevant organizations and stakeholders and to explore opportunities for collaboration between ITU members and those of other organizations to further the objectives of this resolution;
- 2 to foster opportunities for collaboration among relevant stakeholders on capacity-building programmes in order to share information related to best practices and technical guidance on OTTs, especially for developing countries;
- 3 to submit an annual report to the Council on the activities undertaken under this resolution,

instructs the Secretary-General, in consultation and collaboration with the Directors of the three Bureaux

- 1 to foster collaboration and dialogue among relevant groups within the Union and with other relevant stakeholders on OTT activities;
- 2 to foster collaboration and dialogue among relevant groups within the Union and with other relevant stakeholders on the transition from a legacy to an IP-based ecosystem,

instructs the Directors of the Bureaux

- 1 to collaborate closely with the Sector advisory groups to provide information on the matters covered in this resolution;
- 2 to foster studies in relevant ITU study groups on different OTT aspects, such as technical, economic and policy aspects, which may have international considerations;
- 3 upon request, to assist ITU Member States in applying, as appropriate, the relevant outcomes of the study groups related to OTT,

invites Member States and Sector Members

- 1 to contribute to the above activities and take an active part in the implementation of this resolution;
- 2 to promote collaboration and dialogue among relevant stakeholders recognized under this resolution, taking into account *considering b*).

(Dubai, 2018)
