

RESOLUTION 18 (Rev. Baku, 2025)

Special technical assistance to Palestine

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Baku, 2025),

recalling

- a) Resolution 32 (Kyoto, 1994) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on technical assistance to Palestine for the development of telecommunications, Resolution 125 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference on assistance and support to Palestine for infrastructure development and capacity building in the telecommunication and information technology sector on assistance and support to Palestine for rebuilding its telecommunication networks;
- b) Resolution 99 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the status of Palestine in ITU;
- c) the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;
- d) Resolution 18 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) and Resolution 18 (Rev. Kigali, 2022) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC), on special technical assistance to Palestine;
- e) United Nations General Assembly Resolutions 68/235 and 72/240, which recognize the Palestinian people's right to permanent sovereignty over their natural resources, specifically land, water, energy and other natural resources, in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem;
- f) the provisions of § 16 of the Declaration of Principles of the first phase (Geneva, 2003) of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and the outcomes of the second phase of WSIS, particularly § 96 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, relating to ITU's role in taking steps to ensure rational, efficient and economic use of, and equitable access to, the radio-frequency spectrum by all countries, based on relevant international agreements,

considering

- a) that the ITU Constitution and Convention are designed to strengthen peace and security in the world for the development of international cooperation and better understanding among the peoples concerned;

b) ITU's policy of assistance to Palestine for the development of its telecommunication/information and communication technology (ICT) sector, which is efficient but has not yet achieved its goals;

c) Resolution 9 (Rev. Kigali, 2022) of this conference, to the effect that it is the sovereign right of every State to manage spectrum use within its territories, the provisions in Resolution 99 (Rev. Dubai, 2018), and Resolution 12 (Rev. Dubai, 2023) of the World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC),

considering further

a) that establishment of a reliable and modern telecommunication network is indispensable to support economic and social development and is of the utmost importance to the future of the Palestinian people;

b) the damage to infrastructure and telecommunication services;

c) Palestine, under the current circumstances and in the foreseeable future, requires assistance for the reconstruction and development of its telecommunication sector in general, and its infrastructure in particular, which necessitates the support of the international community, whether on a bilateral, regional, or multilateral basis, including through international organizations,

having regard to

a) the continuing challenges faced by Palestine and ITU in executing the five projects agreed with the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) under the implementation of Resolution 18 (Rev. Istanbul, 2002), Resolution 18 (Rev. Doha, 2006), Resolution 18 (Rev. Hyderabad, 2010), Resolution 18 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) and Resolution 18 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017), Resolution 18 (Rev. Kigali, 2022) of WTDC, which must be a matter of anxiety and concern for the entire international community, especially ITU;

b) the decisions of the Connect Arab summit;

c) the key outcomes of the Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Arab region (RPM-ARB), held in Sudan in 2017, particularly issues relating to Palestine,

noting

the long-term technical assistance from BDT to Palestine for the development of its telecommunications/ICTs pursuant to Resolution 32 (Kyoto, 1994) and the urgent need for forms of assistance to be provided in the various fields of information, informatics and communication, and the increasing difficulties that have accompanied the provision of this assistance continuously since that resolution was adopted,

noting with grave concern

1 the restrictions and difficulties related to the current situation in Palestine that are preventing access to telecommunication/ICT means, services and applications and which constitute a continuing obstacle to telecommunication/ICT development in Palestine;

2 the repercussions of war in Palestine on digital economy and the sector of information and communications technology, and its impact on the infrastructure of communication and information technology in Palestine generally, and in Gaza strip particularly;

3 easing up the restrictions and difficulties related to telecommunication networks in Gaza strip, which still operate by 2G technology, to support the progress towards digital transformation;

4 the importance of providing assistance urgently to Palestine to operate and manage telecommunication technologies and spectrum management, in order to use 4G and 5G networks;

5 the continue need to expand 4G and 5G services in Palestine, and its impact on the development of infrastructure and the Palestinian digital economy;

6 the inconsistency of mobile services inside Palestinian territories, and its negative direct impact on the Palestinian economy,

resolves to continue to instruct the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to continue and enhance the technical assistance provided to Palestine for the development of its telecommunications/ICTs and digital transformation, taking into consideration the need to overcome the increasing and escalating difficulties encountered in the provision of this assistance during the previous cycles since 2002;

- 2 to take appropriate measures within the mandate of BDT aimed at facilitating enabling Palestine to establish international access networks, including terrestrial and satellite stations, submarine cables, optical fibre and microwave systems;
- 3 to instruct BDT, in coordination with the Radiocommunication Bureau, to enable Palestine in acquiring and managing frequencies required in the band 470-694 MHz for the operation of single- and multi-frequency digital terrestrial television, and identify mechanisms for ensuring that Palestine can exploit the 694-862 MHz frequency band resulting from the digital transition for broadband mobile service uses and applications to be used after WRC-23;
- 4 to provide a technical periodic report on various experiences in liberalization and privatization of telecommunications/ICTs and the challenges of the Palestinians in the sector, the development of the infrastructure, and to assess their impact on the development of the sector in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank;
- 5 to implement e-health, e-education, e-government, spectrum planning and management pursuant to the previous agreements in ITU, and human resources development projects and all other forms of assistance;
- 6 to instruct BDT in coordination with the Secretary-General and directors of the other Bureaux to provide urgent assistance to Palestine in acquiring and managing the required radio-frequency spectrum resource for the operation of 4G and 5G networks, and introducing the necessary devices and equipment for this purpose; consistent with the interim Agreement;
- 7 to instruct the BDT, in coordination with the Secretary-General and Radiocommunication Bureau, to provide assistance to Palestine, and facilitate acquiring the frequency bands required for satellite communication services;
- 8 to take the necessary measures, within the mandate of the BDT, aiming to enable the state of Palestine to establish, own, and operate telecommunication broadband networks, including networks of fibre optics, and microwaves, connecting it to neighbouring states and Palestinian cities, as well as connecting the west bank with Gaza strip, in order to expand digital coverage and achieve transformation;

9 to urgently provide assistance, follow up, and support Palestine to rebuild the telecommunication/ICT sector;

10 to report to the ITU Council with an annual report on the progress made in implementing this resolution (and similar resolutions) and the mechanisms employed to deal with the increasing difficulties arising;

11 to ensure the mobilization of sufficient human and financial resources, within available budget, and ICT Trust Fund, to implement proposed procedures,

calls upon ITU members

1 to provide all forms of support and assistance to Palestine bilaterally or through executive actions taken by ITU in this regard;

2 to assist Palestine in rebuilding and restoring the Palestinian telecommunication networks in general, and particularly in Gaza strip;

3 to assist Palestine in recovering its entitlements accruing from incoming and outgoing international traffic;

4 to provide Palestine with assistance in support of the implementation of BDT projects, including human resources capacity building;

5 to provide essential support to build and activate 4G and 5G services, and satellite services in Palestine,

requests the Secretary-General

1 to report to the ITU Council and the Plenipotentiary Conference on the progress achieved in implementing this resolution;

2 to take the necessary measures to provide financial and technical resources to implement this resolution.