

## RESOLUTION 77 (Rev. Baku, 2025)

### **Broadband technology and applications for greater growth and development of telecommunication/information and communication services and broadband connectivity**

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Baku, 2025),

*recalling*

- a) Resolution 71 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the strategic plan for the Union;
- b) Resolution 139 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on use of telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICTs) to bridge the digital divide and build an inclusive information society;
- c) the outcome documents of the 2015 World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Forum;
- d) Resolution 135 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on ITU's role in the durable and sustainable development of telecommunications/ICTs, in providing technical assistance and advice to developing countries<sup>1</sup> and in implementing relevant national, regional and interregional projects;
- e) Opinion 2 (Geneva, 2021) of the World Telecommunication/ICT Policy Forum, on affordable and secure connectivity in mobilizing new and emerging telecommunications/ICTs for sustainable development;
- f) Resolution 20 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC), on non-discriminatory access to modern telecommunication/ICT facilities, services and related applications;
- g) Resolution 37 (Rev. Baku, 2025) of this conference, on bridging the digital divide;

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

- h) Resolution 203 (Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on connectivity to broadband networks;
- i) Resolution ITU-R 65-1 (Rev. Dubai, 2023) of the Radiocommunication Assembly (RA), on principles for the process of future development of IMT-2020 and IMT-2030;
- j) Resolution 92 (Rev. New Delhi, 2024) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA), on enhancing the standardization activities of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) related to non-radio aspects of International Mobile Telecommunications (IMT);
- k) Resolution 93 (Rev. New Delhi, 2024) of WTSA, on interconnection of IMT networks;
- l) Resolution 9 (Rev. Baku, 2025) of this conference, on participation of countries, particularly developing countries, in spectrum management;
- m) Resolution 218 (Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on ITU's role in the implementation of the "Space2030" Agenda;
- n) Resolution 219 (Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on sustainability of the radio-frequency spectrum and associated satellite-orbit resources used by space services;
- o) Resolution ITU-R 69-2 (Dubai, 2023) of RA, on the development and deployment of international public telecommunications via satellite in developing countries,

*considering*

- a) the role of ITU, and in particular its Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D), in supporting the development of telecommunication/ICT infrastructure and services;
- b) the potential benefits of the rapid introduction of new and diverse telecommunication services, including those highlighted in Resolution 66/184 of the United Nations General Assembly, and consistent with § 54 of the WSIS Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, and the role of broadband connectivity are essential elements in attaining the Sustainable Development Goals;

c) the importance of broadband capacity to facilitate the delivery of a broader range of services and applications, promote investment and provide Internet access at affordable prices to both existing and new users in underserved and unserved communities using a technology-neutral approach to bridging the existing digital divide;

d) that innovative telecommunications/ICTs, including terrestrial and satellite telecommunications and submarine cables, can help bridge the digital divide, not only between developing countries and developed countries but also between urban, remote and rural regions where conventional fixed telecommunication services may not be adequate;

e) that ITU and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) set up the Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development, which agreed a set of four ambitious but achievable targets that countries around the world should strive to meet in order to ensure their populations participate fully in tomorrow's emerging knowledge societies;

f) that in accordance with Resolution 9 (Rev. Baku, 2025), the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT), in close consultation with the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau, is collecting pertinent information and preparing, over the period between WTDCs, appropriate documents and other relevant outputs that are responsive to the specific needs of developing countries on national, economic, regulatory and financial approaches to, and challenges of, spectrum management and spectrum monitoring,

*taking into account*

a) the final report of WTDC (Kigali, 2022), which highlights the importance of expanding digital connectivity through regional initiatives aimed at developing resilient broadband infrastructure, fostering enabling policy and regulatory environments and ensuring access to high-speed networks, particularly in remote and underserved areas, to accelerate progress towards meaningful connectivity for all;

- b)* that many countries are interested in introducing a comprehensive technology-neutral approach for broadband services in activities such as e-health, e-government and e-education;
- c)* that, despite considerable improvements in the availability and affordability of broadband, almost two-thirds of the world population lacks access to affordable broadband;
- d)* that unequal access to broadband telecommunication services does nothing to eradicate social inequality and has an adverse impact on the social and economic situation in different countries and regions;
- e)* the importance of competition in promoting investment, as presented in the report of the ITU/UNESCO Broadband Commission for Digital Development<sup>2</sup>;
- f)* that, as part of the work of ITU-T Study Group 3, on tariff and accounting principles including related telecommunication economic and policy issues, a series of Supplements to Recommendation ITU-T D.50, on international Internet connectivity, have been adopted for developing countries, with methodological recommendations for reducing the cost of international Internet connectivity;
- g)* that ITU-T Study Group 3 adopted Recommendation ITU-T D.52, on establishing and interconnecting regional Internet exchange points (IXPs), which guides regional collaboration to establish central hubs or IXPs that enable local Internet traffic to be routed locally, thereby saving international bandwidth and reducing international Internet connectivity costs,

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<sup>2</sup> Broadband Commission for Digital Development report "Broadband: A Platform for Progress", (September, 2010). (Available at [http://www.broadbandcommission.org/Documents/publications/Report\\_2.pdf](http://www.broadbandcommission.org/Documents/publications/Report_2.pdf))

*recognizing*

- a) the important role of ITU-D in coordinating the rational use of resources in the context of various projects aimed at securing more widespread deployment of technology-neutral telecommunication services in different countries of the world;
- b) that broadband-enabled terrestrial, wireless access and satellite communications, such as low Earth orbit (LEO), medium Earth orbit (MEO) and geostationary Earth orbit (GEO), are a factor in eliminating the isolation of certain categories of the population that live in parts of a country where coverage by conventional telecommunication networks remains inadequate and which lack resources;
- c) that studies suggest that broadband penetration is higher in countries with national broadband plans, policies or strategies than in countries without them;
- d) that, pursuant to § 22 of the Geneva Declaration of Principles adopted by WSIS, a well-developed information and communication network infrastructure that is easily accessible and affordable and makes greater use of broadband can accelerate the social and economic progress of countries and the well-being of all individuals, communities and peoples;
- e) that the ITU/UNESCO Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development regularly issues reports on the state of broadband, and in its 2023 report<sup>3</sup> highlights the policy considerations related to financing and funding the next phase of digital transformation through connectivity, emphasizing the following strategic actions and encouraging all Member States to:
  - i) define (and re-define) measurable goals for "universal meaningful connectivity" to meet today's needs;
  - ii) close the usage gap by addressing key barriers to people adopting and using the Internet in areas where coverage is available;

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<sup>3</sup> <https://broadbandcommission.org/publication/state-of-broadband-2023/>

- iii) broaden the contributor base and implement creative funding approaches, including incentivizing infrastructure funding, and reforming universal service and access fund approaches;
- iv) align and incentivize funding contributors, as a key aspect of government connectivity plans and mobilizing all sectors' pools of capital by removing challenges and barriers to network infrastructure investment;
- v) build network infrastructure policies to last, with sustainable and agile plans;
- f) that development and implementation of a national broadband plan, policy or strategy is essential to broadband development and economic growth;
- g) the work of the Internet Society (ISOC), the Internet Exchange Federation (IEF) and the regional IXP associations and other stakeholders to support the establishment of IXPs in developing countries in order to promote better connectivity;
- h) that high-altitude platform stations (HAPS) are solutions in the terrestrial service, among others, which can be used to provide backhaul and direct access connectivity in rural and remote areas, and are defined in No. 1.66A of the Radio Regulations,

*resolves*

1 to encourage greater coordination by BDT, and encourage the private sector to continue playing a significant role in supporting initiatives that foster access to and uptake of broadband connectivity by utilizing the most appropriate technology mix approach, with the aim of providing citizens greater access to ICT applications in support of national broadband strategies;

2 to promote availability, accessibility, reliability and affordability of broadband in developing countries by enabling Member States to develop national broadband policies and implementation strategies based on careful evaluation of supply and demand for broadband;

3 that BDT should support the implementation of regional and national projects for the use of terrestrial and satellite broadband communication systems to provide the population with services, including mobile services and applications such as e-government, e-health and e-education, as well as mobile financial services, on the basis of cooperation with interested Member States, relevant international organizations and the private sector;

4 that BDT, taking into account available experience and the strategy for bridging the digital divide and building the global information society, should formulate and implement a programme to develop proposals and recommendations on the most effective and efficient use of technology, including telecommunication services for broadband connectivity at regional and national levels, acting in association with ITU connectivity initiatives as appropriate,

*resolves to instruct the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector study groups each within its mandate and in collaboration with relevant and study groups of the other ITU Sectors*

to develop guidelines, based on national experiences and best practices, on policy and regulatory frameworks to facilitate the use of emerging space-based telecommunication/ICT networks that work together with terrestrial networks, taking into account the international regulatory framework defined by the Radio Regulations, relevant ITU resolutions and recommendations and Member States' rights set out in the ITU Constitution,

*instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau*

1 to seek partnerships and cooperation with parties directly involved in the provision of services to the population using the most practical telecommunication technology, facilities and networks, to ensure effective implementation of the relevant ITU programmes and activities in the development of broadband connectivity, providing reliable broadband access at affordable prices to both existing and new users in underserved and unserved communities;

2 to work in collaboration with ITU-T, ISOC, IEF and the regional IXP associations and other stakeholders to support Member States, especially developing countries<sup>4</sup>, in establishing regional IXPs in countries having submarine cable landing points, in order to help connect landlocked countries, as well as to provide advice and assistance in the establishment of IXPs for the latter;

3 to establish clear links between the broadband study Question(s), programmes and regional initiatives in order to maximize the use of human and financial resources and, most importantly, better meet the needs of developing countries;

4 to explore options to facilitate broadband connectivity, in close collaboration with the ITU Radiocommunication Sector and ITU-T,

*instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau, in collaboration with the Directors of the Radiocommunication Bureau and the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau*

1 working with ITU regional offices, to assist developing countries to update their national/regional policy and regulatory frameworks for the adoption of emerging space-based communication services as appropriate;

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<sup>4</sup> In particular landlocked developing countries.

2 to conduct workshops and forums on policy and regulatory approaches and best practices and support the development of tools and resources for the adoption of emerging space-based communications services,

*invites Member States*

1 to create and promote widespread affordable access to broadband communication infrastructure through enabling legal and regulatory environments, including the availability of spectrum for new broadband wireless access technologies and licensing policies that are fair, transparent, stable, predictable and non-discriminatory;

2 to undertake all efforts to foster an enabling environment for the greater growth and development of technology-neutral broadband connectivity, building on developments in ITU in the area of technology and flexible regulation of broadband access, in particular in developing countries;

3 to actively contribute to the broadband study Question(s);

4 to implement the results of the work performed on the study Question(s), including legal, regulatory and market reforms that create an enabling environment for broadband by promoting competition, private investment and public-private partnerships;

5 to consider and implement, as appropriate, relevant recommendations of the Broadband Commission, taking into account national circumstances and current needs in the field of broadband connectivity;

6 to implement policies and plans to encourage the availability of services, applications and content that stimulate demand for broadband;

7 to adopt measures that promote human capacity building, including digital literacy programmes and technical education, taking account of the need to promote broadband access for women and girls, persons with disabilities, people living in rural and remote areas and Indigenous Peoples;

8 to share strategies for and experience of network evolution, application cases, efficient deployment and operation, implementation and good practices in seminars and workshop events, in particular in developing countries,

*invites Member States, Sector Members, Associates and Academia*

to share experiences and best practices on the adoption of emerging space-based communication services and submit contributions for the relevant work of the ITU-D study groups.