

RESOLUTION 90 (Rev. Baku, 2025)

Fostering telecommunication/information and communication technology-centric entrepreneurship and digital innovation ecosystems for sustainable digital development

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Baku, 2025),

recalling

- a) Resolution 30 (Rev. Baku, 2025) of this conference, on role of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) in implementing the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- b) Resolution 37 (Rev. Baku, 2025) of this conference, on bridging the digital divide;
- c) Resolution 75 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference, on the implementation of the Smart Africa Manifesto and support for the development of the information and communication technology (ICT) sector in Africa;
- d) Resolution 76 (Rev. Baku, 2025) of this conference, on promoting ICTs among young women and men for social and economic empowerment;
- e) Resolution 85 (Rev. Baku, 2025) of this conference, on facilitating the Internet of Things and smart sustainable cities and communities, including villages, for global development;
- f) Resolution 198 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the empowerment of youth through telecommunication/ICT;
- g) Resolution 205 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on ITU's role in fostering telecommunication/ICT-centric innovation to support the digital economy and society;
- h) Resolution 209 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on encouraging the participation of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the work of the Union;

i) Resolution 78/160 of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), on science, technology and innovation for sustainable development;

j) the Global Digital Compact adopted as Annex I to UNGA Resolution 79/1 of 22 September 2024, which sets out objectives, principles, commitments and actions related to digital transformation,

recognizing

a) that telecommunication/ICT innovation plays a critical role in enabling infrastructure development for the provision of services in remote, rural and underserved areas, and in the deployment of telecommunications/ICTs to support digitalization of the economy;

b) that digital divides impose an obstacle to telecommunication/ICT entrepreneurship and digital innovation worldwide;

c) that telecommunication/ICT innovation has a transformational effect on individuals, societies and economies throughout the world;

d) that technology-driven entrepreneurial endeavours provide a means to accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through a bottom-up stakeholder approach to problem-solving;

e) that digital innovation ecosystems, which offer a thriving environment to sustain digital development, need focused intervention by decision-makers and partners;

f) that UNGA Resolution 70/1, on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, has substantial implications for the activities of ITU, especially those fostering innovation, for the advancement of SDG 9 (Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation);

g) the importance of digital innovation and the need for an enabling environment to tackle complex issues in communities during a crisis, and the need to ensure every country has the innovation capacity for futureproofing against pandemics and crises;

h) that inclusion of all of society is an essential goal for development,

noting

- a) ITU-D's Innovation and Entrepreneurship Alliance for Digital Development, which builds local and organizational capabilities in innovation and entrepreneurship for the ITU membership;
- b) the ITU Global Innovation Forum, which brings together relevant stakeholders to foster the development of digital innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystems for social and economic development,

resolves to instruct the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

- 1 to support, within existing resources, the sharing of good practices in telecommunications/ICTs developed by Member States to enable blueprints for accelerated development of digital entrepreneurship initiatives, including by leveraging relevant platforms and events and developing technology parks, innovation hubs, incubators, accelerators and mentoring programmes, funds and partnership mechanisms;
- 2 to continue providing technical assistance to developing countries¹ for the development and/or implementation of telecommunication/ICT-related studies, policies, strategies, roadmaps and strategic foresight, where digital entrepreneurship is the key driver for digitalization of the economy, taking into account ITU experience in the matter;
- 3 to continue building capabilities of stakeholders at the national level that promote the uptake of entrepreneurship-driven innovation and the development of sustainable digital innovation communities using telecommunications/ICTs in support of the achievement of the SDGs;
- 4 to coordinate with international and regional organizations and cooperate with other stakeholders in order to establish a supportive environment to enable the exchange of knowledge, expertise and best practices to support the deployment of entrepreneurship-driven innovation projects leveraging telecommunications/ICTs;

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

5 to support local initiatives, startups and SMEs in leveraging telecommunications/ICTs to access domestic and global markets in order to scale up their innovation, including through collaboration with the International Trade Centre and other relevant international and regional organizations;

6 to facilitate the sharing of best practices and strategies that accelerate the development of ICT/telecommunication-driven entrepreneurial universities, technology-based vocational schools and a culture of entrepreneurship, as well as mechanisms to enhance multistakeholder and multisector cooperation at the national level for sustainable digital development;

7 to continue the work of ITU in supporting digital innovation ecosystems without discrimination of any kind, including in respect of age, ability, gender or location, and to promote innovation as a means to bridge digital divides;

8 to continue work, within available resources, to support telecommunication/ICT regulatory authorities and other stakeholders in supporting innovation and competition within the telecommunication/ICT sector;

9 to leverage the regional offices to support local innovators and entrepreneurs,

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

1 to ensure that coordination takes place on all activities relevant to the purposes of this resolution;

2 to collate work done within ITU relating to the objectives of this resolution, including work in study groups, and to facilitate knowledge-sharing and dissemination of good practices in all countries;

3 to promote, within the remit of ITU, digital entrepreneurship and the development of digital innovation,

invites the Secretary-General

to support the activities in ITU-D that enable telecommunication/ICT-centric entrepreneurship-driven innovation and digital innovation ecosystems, including by human and financial means for ITU members,

invites Member States and Sector Members

- 1 to participate actively, in collaboration with other stakeholders, in digital entrepreneurship and digital innovation ecosystem-related activities, while facilitating the participation of technology hubs, entrepreneurial support organizations, local initiatives, SMEs and startups;
- 2 to collaborate with ITU on activities related to the implementation of this resolution to leverage digital entrepreneurship to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs;
- 3 to establish methodologies policies, strategies and regulations in their countries/regions that foster telecommunication/ICT-centric innovation for all;
- 4 to engage their research and academic institutions and industry in strategic foresight activities that can help developing countries to navigate the rapidly changing digital landscape.