**MOD** RCC/23A10/1

RESOLUTION 17 (REV. BUENOS AIRES, 2017)

Implementation of regionally approved initiatives at the national, regional, interregional and global levels[[1]](#footnote-1)1

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Buenos Aires, 2017),

recalling

*a)* Resolution 34 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on assistance and support to countries in special need for rebuilding their telecommunication sector;

*b)* Resolution 135 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on ITU's role in the development of telecommunications/information and communication technologies, in providing technical assistance and advice to developing countries and in implementing relevant national, regional and interregional projects;

*c)* Resolution 32 (Rev. Hyderabad, 2010) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference, on international and regional cooperation on regional initiatives;

*d)* the mechanisms for international and regional cooperation to implement the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), referred to in §§ 101 а), b) and с), 102 а), b) and с), 103, 107 and 108 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society,

considering

*a)* that telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICTs) continue to be one of the most vital elements for the growth of national economies and protection of the environment;

*b)* that the existence, at the national, regional, interregional and global levels, of suitable telecommunication networks and services for sustainable development is an essential element for national development and improving the social, economic, financial and cultural situation of Member States;

*c)* that, in order to achieve the objectives of the developing countries[[2]](#footnote-2)2, new approaches must be adopted with a view to meeting the challenges of growth, in both qualitative and quantitative terms;

*d)* that the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) is the appropriate framework for the exchange of experiences with a view to formulating the policies most likely to result in harmonious and complementary development which respects the aspirations of all countries to a thriving telecommunication sector in the service of economic development;

*e)* that developing countries are increasingly experiencing the need for knowledge of fast‑developing technologies and the associated policy and strategic issues;

*f)* the vital importance of the cooperation among Member States, ITU-D Sector Members and Associates for the implementation of these regional initiatives;

*g)* the need to coordinate and harmonize efforts to develop telecommunication infrastructure at the national, regional, interregional and global levels;

*h)* that the leadership of the ITU Member States is needed to outline a unified national vision of a connected society that is comprehensive of all stakeholders;

*i)* the commitment of the ITU Member States to promote access to ICTs at affordable prices, paying special attention to the least favoured segments,

recognizing

*a)* that developing countries and countries participating in these regional initiatives are at different stages of development;

*b)* the need, therefore, to exchange experiences on telecommunication development at a regional level in order to support these countries;

*c)* that there is a continued need for ITU to cooperate more closely with regional organizations, including regional organizations of regulators, in order to support these countries;

*d)* that exchanging information between regions on implementation of projects under regional initiatives promotes the development of international cooperation in the field of telecommunications/ICT,

taking into account

*a)* the vital importance of telecommunication development initiatives endorsed by all regional development conferences, and by the preparatory meetings preceding this conference;

*b)* that there is a lack of funding from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and other international financial institutions, impeding the implementation of such initiatives;

*c)* that developing countries are increasingly experiencing the need for knowledge of fast‑developing technologies and the associated policy and strategic issues;

*d)* the achievements of the Connect the World initiatives promoted by the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU‑D);

*e)* the satisfactory and encouraging results achieved by activities of this kind, which have helped cooperation in the creation of telecommunication networks;

*f)* that, given the resources at the disposal of developing countries, it is an important task to meet the requirements cited in *taking into account c)* above, and that, as the United Nations specialized agency for telecommunications, ITU is in a position to meet these requirements,

noting

*a)* that the ITU‑D centres of excellence training significantly assists the developing countries with knowledge-based requirements;

*b)* that the relevant regional organizations play a prominent and important role, especially in support of the developing countries;

*c)* the existence of regional and subregional organizations of regulators, examples of which are the regional telecommunication regulators' networks in some regions;

*d)* the development of cooperation and technical assistance activities among regional and subregional organizations of regulators,

resolves

1 that the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) should continue cooperation with the ITU regional offices to identify possible ways and means of implementing the regionally approved initiatives at the national, regional, interregional and global levels, including the Agenda for the Connectivity of the Americas, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), UNITAR, the Latin American Institute for Educational Communication (ILCE) and other similar initiatives in various regions, especially the new initiatives established at the two recent summits (for Africa and for the Commonwealth of Independent States), making the utmost use of available BDT resources, its annual budget and surplus income from ITU-TELECOM events, in particular by means of equitable budget allotments for each region;

2 that BDT continue to actively assist the developing countries in elaborating and implementing these initiatives, which are specified in section 3 of the Buenos Aires Action Plan;

3 that Member States should consider contributing in kind and/or in cash to the budget foreseen for implementation of these initiatives and the realization of other projects foreseen within the framework of these initiatives at the national, regional, interregional and global levels;

4 that BDT continue to conclude partnerships with Member States, ITU‑D Sector Members, financial institutions and international organizations in order to sponsor implementation activities for these initiatives;

5 that BDT should assist in the implementation of these initiatives at the national, regional, interregional and global levels, integrating as far as possible those initiatives that have the same content or objectives, taking into consideration the Dubai Action Plan;

6 that BDT, through the ITU regional offices, shall compile all the experiences accumulated during the implementation of regional initiatives in each region, and make them available to other regions in order to identify synergies and similarities that will make it possible to make better use of available resources, using the portal for project implementation, in the six official languages of the Union;

7 that BDT make information available on initiatives successfully implemented by each of the regions, so as to capitalize on the experience and leverage the outcomes, which might be replicated in order to save time and resources when setting up and designing projects in the other regions;

8 that BDT should strengthen its relations with regional and subregional regulatory organizations in different networks, through ongoing cooperation to stimulate the mutual exchange of experience and assistance with the implementation of these regional initiatives;

9 that BDT also channel the accumulated experience on regional initiatives through the regional offices, and make information available to Member States on implementation, outcomes, stakeholders, financial resources used and so forth;

10 that the agenda of Regional Development Forums should include an item on the possibility of using the results of regional initiatives implemented in other regions to meet the needs of the region in which the regional forum in question is being held,

appeals

to international financial organizations/agencies, equipment suppliers and operators/service providers to contribute, fully or partially, to financing these regionally approved initiatives,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to take all necessary measures for promoting and implementing these regionally approved initiatives at the national, regional, interregional and global levels, and in particular the similar initiatives agreed at international level;

2 to ensure that ITU-D actively coordinates, collaborates and organizes joint activities in areas of common interest with regional organizations and training institutions, and takes into consideration their activities, as well as providing them with direct technical assistance;

3 to put forward a request at the annual Global Symposium for Regulators meeting, for the meeting to support the implementation of these regional and international initiatives;

4 to ensure that the ITU regional offices have a role in monitoring the implementation of the initiatives approved in their regions, and to submit an annual report to the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group on the implementation of this resolution;

5 to continue to promote the dissemination to other regions of the results of projects implemented under regional initiatives;

6 that an annual meeting be held for each region in order to discuss the regional initiatives and projects for each region and mechanisms for implementation of the initiatives adopted and to make known the needs of the different regions, and that a regional development forum (RDF) may be held in conjunction with the annual meeting for each region;

7 to take all measures needed to promote consultation with the Member States in each region before implementing and executing approved initiatives in a timely fashion, in order to agree on priorities, suggest strategic partners, means of financing and other issues, thereby promoting a participatory, inclusive process of meeting the goals;

8 in consultation and coordination with the Directors of the Radiocommunication and Telecommunication Standardization Bureaux, to promote the joint work of the three Sectors in order to provide suitable, efficient, agreed assistance for Member States to implement the regional initiatives,

requests the Secretary-General

1 to continue the practice of implementing special measures and programmes to develop and promote activities and regional initiatives, in close cooperation with regional and subregional telecommunication organizations, including regulators, and other related institutions;

2 to make every possible effort to encourage the private sector to take actions to facilitate cooperation with member countries in these regional initiatives, including countries with special needs;

3 to continue to work closely with the coordination mechanism established in the United Nations family and with United Nations regional commissions such as, but not limited to, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA).

1. 1 An initiative shall take the form of an all-embracing heading under which a number of projects can be included, leaving it to each region to define these. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. 2 These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)