ADD APT/37A29/1

Draft New Resolution [APT-1]

Proposed new Resolution on ITU-T’s role in facilitating the use of ICTs to prevent the spread of global pandemics

(Geneva, 2022)

The World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (Geneva, 2022),

recalling

*a)* Resolution 45 (Hammamet, 2016) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA), on effective coordination of standardization work across study groups in the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector and the role of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group;

*b)* Resolution 34 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference, on the role of telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICTs) in disaster preparedness, early warning, rescue, mitigation, relief and response;

*c)* Resolution 136 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the use of telecommunications/information and communication technologies for humanitarian assistance and for monitoring and management in emergency and disaster situations, including health-related emergencies, for early warning, prevention, mitigation and relief;

*d)* Resolution 140 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on ITU's role in implementing the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as in their follow-up and review processes,

recalling further

*a)* § 91 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society adopted by the second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS);

*b)* item c of § 20 of Action Line C7 (E-environment) of the Geneva Plan of Action adopted by the first phase of WSIS on establishing monitoring systems, using ICTs, to forecast and monitor the impact of natural and man-made disasters, particularly in developing countries, LDCs and small economies,

recognizing

*a)* the new coronavirus disease (COVID-19), pneumonia of unknown cause first reported to the WHO in late 2019, dramatically changed the global society, including quarantine, strict social distancing, imposing a blockade, declaring a state of emergency, and even harsher measures to mitigate the spread of the disease;

*b)* that since such pandemics can cause numerous confirmed cases and deaths and will eventually lead to global economic crisis and depression, telecommunications/ICTs now play a more prominent role in connecting remote populations allowing them to pursue their regular lives while preventing direct contact from each other,

taking into account

*a)* some Member States have been uncompromisingly transparent, open, and adaptive in the process of robust testing, vigorous tracing, and quick treatment of the patients to minimize the human suffering and to contain socio-economic consequences;

*b)* that such actions were possible thanks to the intense and rigorous use of telecommunications/ICTs in addition to finding cures and vaccines;

*c)* these Member States are being asked to share their best practices how they responded to the pandemic using telecommunications/ICTs and how telecommunications/ICTs help social distancing, rapid testing, and quick tracing to flatten the curve on the global pandemic;

*d)* that it is of further importance to take necessary measures pre-emptively before unexpected pandemics occur and travel around the world to prevent unnecessary deaths,

considering

*a)* that such necessary measures include ITU-T’s crucial role in providing their deliverables such as Recommendations, Technical Reports, White Papers to facilitate the use of telecommunications/ICT at a suitable time and place for the right purpose of preventing the spread of global pandemics;

*b)* that ITU-T has already developed a number of Recommendations on telecommunications/ICTs understanding the rising importance of telecommunications/ICTs that will impact a wide range of industries in the future;

*c)* that since a single ITU-T Recommendation cannot cover entirely developing ICT solutions to overcome global pandemics, it is crucial for ITU-T to harmonize these different Recommendations from a holistic point of view,

bearing in mind

*a)* that the ITU-T’s deliverables can act as useful references when deploying ICT solutions, which help people keeping them alerted by predicting and detecting their surrounding environment;

*b)* that a culture of avoiding direct contact will carry on even after the pandemic ceases and such culture will dramatically shift the paradigm of the majority of industries including not only healthcare but also education, transportation, distribution;

*c)* that the change of culture requires leveraging and facilitating the use of telecommunications/ICTs, which is especially important to assist Member States to ensure timely access to information and infrastructure;

noting

*a)* that the ITU-T is already having virtual meetings of study groups and initiated the AI for Good Webinar Series to encourage distanced participants who cannot travel due to the global pandemic;

*b)* that timely provision of ITU-T deliverables to develop ICT solutions to prevent the spread of global pandemics will make ITU-T deliverables more prominent and pervasive in the future society;

*c)* that ease of access and better understanding of the ITU-T deliverables will even help bridge the standardization gap,

resolves

1 to acknowledge that the role of telecommunications/ICTs will become more prominent in tackling the global pandemics;

2 to collect and analyse the best practices of Member States in facilitating the use of telecommunications/ICTs to prevent the spread of global pandemics and lessons learned from their experience in containing the global crisis;

3 to identify existing deliverables and potential Recommendations of ITU-T based on the analysis of *resolves* 2 above;

4 to categorize the existing deliverables of ITU-T for experts to easily and quickly search and adopt appropriate deliverables while developing ICT solutions in case of sudden occurrence of pandemics;

5 to publish the result of *resolves* 4 above online through various means including ITU-T Flipbook, ITU-T White Paper, and other multilingual online encyclopaedias such as Wikipedia;

6 to develop a standardization roadmap in order to facilitate better deployment of future ITU‑T deliverables and systematically organize and initiate work on potential Recommendations on relevant telecommunications/ICTs,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau

1 to support the activities of the ITU-T members to fulfil the *resolves* above by establishing appropriate working groups;

2 to facilitate the exchange of best practices to mitigate the pandemic with all relevant SDOs and entities to create opportunities for cooperative efforts to support the active deployment and use of telecommunications/ICTs;

3 to review, oversee, and give consultations to the future actions of ITU-T study groups in response to the *resolves* above and take necessary measures to ensure appropriate implementation of the Resolution;

4 to submit a report on the progress in the implementation of this Resolution to the next World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly in 2024,

instructs study groups of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector, according to their mandate

1 to cooperate with other study groups of the Union to fulfil the *resolves* above by providing inputs to the established work group in the *instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau* 1 above;

2 to discover new work items on telecommunications/ICTs to support applications and services that help to prevent the spread of global pandemics;

3 to formally liaise with other SDOs, as appropriate, to foster studies carried out by relevant ITU-T study groups and focus groups by sharing on-going works to avoid duplication of work;

invites Member States, Sector Members, Associates and Academia

1 to cooperate among all Member States of the Union, relevant organizations and communities to raise awareness, build capacity, and share best practices and lessons in using telecommunications/ICTs to act quickly and pre-emptively throughout the global challenge;

2 to promote necessary international solidarity and cooperation to solve problems resulted from global pandemics.