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Introduction

The United States congratulates the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the Government of the United Arab Emirates for hosting the 2014 World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-14) in the distinguished city of Dubai. As the last major development conference prior to the review of progress on the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), WTDC-14 will provide the opportunity to assess progress since WTDC-10 and establish the priorities of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) for the four-year period until the next WTDC. It is our hope that examination and evaluation of these goals, in turn, will help to produce cohesive and effective strategies in telecommunications/ICTs for the next four years leading to a people-centred, inclusive, and development-oriented Information Society.

The United States supports the announced theme for the WTDC-14: Broadband for Sustainable Development. We have long recognized that access to broadband is critical for development and believe that broadband plays a foundational role, both as an important measure of progress in its own right, and as a facilitator for achieving development milestones, as recognized in the MDGs. Increased access to broadband is widely credited with improving development outcomes, fostering economic growth, and increasing competitiveness.

The United States is pleased to note that over the last decade the world has made significant progress in the diffusion and uptake of communications services and access to broadband. Additionally, according to the latest Millennium Development Goals Report, approximately 96% of the global population has access to mobile cellular communications. This remarkable achievement reflects the success of public-private cooperation, market and regulatory reforms, technological innovation, and a commitment on the part of major stakeholders and national, regional and multinational organizations, including the ITU. In that regard, the ITU-D's regional and other projects on technology and network development, regulatory and market reforms, digital inclusion, ICT applications, human and institutional capacity building, and regional initiatives, including *Connect the World*, have contributed significantly to accelerating the diffusion of telecommunications/ICTs and broadband.

Despite the impressive gains in access to infrastructure and diffusion of telecommunications/ICTs, many people in developing countries still lack access to broadband connectivity. Moreover, the cost of access to broadband remains prohibitively high in many developing countries due to a

variety of factors, including lack of support for infrastructure investment and the need to develop enabling policies and regulations, in particular those that would promote effective competition.

The United States is aware of the gap in access to broadband technologies and is committed to expanding the reach of broadband both domestically and internationally. At the 2012 Summit of the Americas, for example, President Obama announced the creation of the Broadband Partnership of the Americas to bring together national governments, international donors, and the private sector from across the hemisphere to promote universal access to communications and broadband technologies as a tool for competitiveness, development, and economic prosperity. In addition, the United States supports initiatives, projects, and plans that promote affordable access to the Internet through public-private partnerships, infrastructure investment, and market and regulatory reforms so that the benefits of the digital economy reach everyone.

The ITU Development Sector is an important forum for development issues and should continue to promote policies that encourage growth and expansion of broadband infrastructure, applications, and services efficiently and effectively through collaboration with relevant stakeholders, through its bottom-up, membership-driven process. More importantly, ITU-D should work toward helping Member States foster an environment that supports innovation, investment and greater use of telecommunications/ICTs and broadband, which will lead to job creation, economic growth and prosperity. This conference will adopt plans and programs that encourage public-private partnerships to foster expansion and use of broadband infrastructure, services, and applications, especially in developing countries.

With this contribution, the United States recommends the priorities for the 2015-2018 Dubai Action Plan (DAP) and provides a summary description of our proposals to WTDC-14. It is vital that WTDC-14 adopt priorities and programs that address the needs of developing countries and achieves an overall positive outcome leading into PP-14 and the WSIS+10 review. We look forward to working with all participants to ensure a successful WTDC-14.

Substantive Priorities for the United States

Consistent with our submission to the Americas Regional Preparatory Meeting (Montevideo, 2013), the Hyderabad Declaration, and the development goals articulated in WSIS, MDGs, and United Nations Resolutions, the United States recommends the following priorities for the Development Sector for the next Study Period:

- **Broadband.** The United States recommends that increasing access to broadband services be among the highest priorities for the 2015 – 2018 study period. The Development Sector, with active participation from Member States and sector members, should work toward promoting availability of affordable broadband services. The United States believes Member States and sector members will benefit by analysing the technical issues involved in deploying broadband access technologies, including integration of access network solutions with existing or future network infrastructure. We therefore recommend that Study Questions related to broadband access technology implementation, application, and usage be studied together so that developing countries can better evaluate their best possible options for broadband deployment.
- **Disaster relief and emergency communications.** Disaster relief and emergency communications should be among the highest priorities of the Development Sector. The United States believes that developing as well as developed countries and sector members

would benefit from ITU-D work on early warning, response, relief, and recovery related to disasters and emergencies.

- **Cybersecurity and Combatting Spam.** We believe the Development Sector Question on cybersecurity has provided developing countries with tools to build confidence in the use of networks and to combat spam, and therefore would support continuation of that work on cybersecurity remain a priority for the Development Sector for the next study period.
- **Conformance and Interoperability.** The United States recommends that the Development Sector work toward meeting the confidence needs of countries and regions that are experiencing the least progress in ICT development associated with equipment conformance to ITU-T Recommendations, such as conformity assessment, type approval, and training through active public-private partnerships..
- **Gender and Persons with Disabilities.** The United States also recommends that the Development Sector give priority to two cross-cutting topics which affect all priorities: 1) telecommunications/ICTs accessibility for persons with disabilities, achieved through cooperation among governments, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, and civil society; and 2) gender equality to enable greater access by women and girls to communications technologies and investments, and thereby improve women's access to employment, health, and education opportunities.
- **Working Methods.** The United States recognizes that the BDT has taken a number of steps to enhance its procedures, including those applicable to the ITU-D Study Groups. The United States views the WTDC as an opportunity to examine and reform ITU-D procedures and working methods to improve efficiency, optimize human and financial resources, and improve accountability and transparency.

Finally, we believe the efficiency and effectiveness of the Development Sector is greatly enhanced by improving collaboration between work programs and study groups and by identifying and eliminating work of the study groups that is duplicative. Accordingly, and consistent with our priorities with respect to the broadband questions, we invite the Conference to consider proposals to combine study questions and to align study questions with BDT's regional projects and initiatives. Also in line with our proposals to create greater efficiencies within the work of the sector, we invite the Conference to consider combining and streamlining WTDC resolutions to better target the work of the sector. We also believe that clear linkages between study questions, Programmes, Regional Initiatives, and projects coupled with the membership-driven bottom-up approach will allow the Development Sector to reduce duplication, maximize the use of human and financial resources, and, most importantly, better meet the needs of developing countries.

United States Proposals

The following summary of our proposals to WTDC-14 reflects our priorities and commonalities with developing countries to address these issues over the next four-year period.

Proposal number	
	Objective(s): 2/3
USA/22/11 USA/22/12 USA/22/13 USA/22/14 USA/22/15 USA/22/16 USA/22/17	<p>Broadband access, affordability, and application: Considering the significant role played by telecommunications/ICTs to enable countries to meet the MDGs, we support continued emphasis on broadband development, as agreed at conferences and meetings including the Fourth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society (Montevideo, Uruguay, April 2013) and the 2012 Summit of the Americas (Cartagena, Colombia). Our proposals include provisions to provide citizens with greater access to ICT applications including e-health, e-banking, e-learning, and e-government. The United States believes that access to broadband and ICTs in the educational system is essential to achieving universal education in the 21st Century. We therefore propose a new resolution to carry out studies on the role of ICTs in education systems.</p> <p>Finally, the United States believes that ITU-D must focus on facilitating an enabling policy environment that encourages competition and private sector investment in telecommunications services. As recognized by the WSIS, policies that create regulatory stability and predictability, and ensure fair competition at all levels are necessary to attract private sector investment in telecommunications infrastructure. It is also a key predicate for effective public private partnerships. In this regard, the United States emphasizes the need to promote the availability of affordable broadband and Internet access through facilitating a policy environment that not only relies on market and regulatory reforms but also on public-private partnership to create an enabling environment that encourages private sector investment in broadband infrastructure, and a more targeted public investment in broadband infrastructure in areas that are underserved or are subject to market failure. We also support use of Universal Service Funds that are non-discriminatory and narrowly targeted to individuals with affordability issues. Proposals to improve affordable broadband access are reflected in our revisions to the Study Questions.</p> <p>We have made separate contributions in support of our broadband objectives, including modifications to Resolutions 43 (see Addendum 12), 54 (see Addendum 13), and 65 (see Addendum 14), and a holistic evaluation of study questions 7-3/1, 10-3/1, 12-3/1, 19-2/1, 25/2, and 26/2 (see Addendum 15). Our proposals to encourage and support continued capacity building are contained in Addendum 16 proposing modifications to Resolution 40. Our proposal for a new Resolution on the role of ICTs in Education is in Addendum 11.</p> <p>Finally, our proposal for the WSIS+10 Overall Review and a Vision for WSIS Beyond 2015 is contained in Addendum 17.</p>

	Objective(s): 6
USA/22/9 USA/22/10	<p>Disaster Relief and emergency telecommunications: Events like Hurricane Sandy in the United States, the earthquake in Haiti, the tsunami in Japan, the typhoon in the Philippines, and other disasters around the world demonstrate the critical role telecommunications/ICTs play in disaster prediction, mitigation, early warning, response, relief, and recovery. Our region has made modernizing public safety communications infrastructures to ensure connectivity and interoperability when communications are most needed - during disasters - a priority. There is a growing understanding in the region of how to better enable information flow and two-way communication for populations in crisis. Though much has been done, there is still more to do. In addition, the United States believes that a favourable regulatory environment must be in place to facilitate rapid deployment of resources after the natural disaster. We also propose revisions to Study Question 22-1/2 that may lead to creation of an Online Toolkit, and development of any additional tools or guidelines to support implementation of telecommunications/ICTs for disaster management.</p> <p>Our proposals on modernizing public safety communications infrastructures are shared by CITEC in IAP 1 and contained in our proposed modifications to Resolution 34 in Addendum 9. Our proposed modifications to Question 22-1/2 are in Addendum 10.</p>
	Objective(s): 3
USA/22/4 USA/22/5 USA/22/6 USA/22/7 USA/22/8	<p>Cybersecurity and combatting spam: As the use of telecommunications/ICTs continues to grow and becomes ever more intertwined with the economic and social well-being of all persons and societies, it is essential that telecommunications/ICTs and the networks that enable them function reliably and securely. The resiliency and security of networks is dependent on a collective ability to combat threats. Cooperation among stakeholders at the national, regional, and international levels is therefore critical to enhance our collective capacity to address cybersecurity and to combat the transmission of spam. Though much progress has been made at the national and regional level, cybersecurity and combatting spam continue to be among the top priorities for the region. The United States remains committed to international initiatives that support cybersecurity capacity building, particularly the work underway in ITU-D question 22-1/1, and looks forward to continuing to work with international partners to achieve our collective vision of “a global culture of cybersecurity.”</p> <p>Separate addenda to this contribution contain our proposals on modifications to cybersecurity Resolutions 45 (Addendum 4) and 69 (Addendum 5), Question 22-1/1 (Addendum 6), Resolution 67 (Addendum 8), and Programme 2 (Addendum 7). Our views on Question 22-1/1 are shared by CITEC in IAP 2.</p>

	<p>Objective(s) 2</p>
<p>USA/22/2 USA/22/3</p>	<p>Conformity Assessment: Plenipotentiary Resolution 177 (Guadalajara, 2010), WTDC Resolution 47 (Hyderabad, 2010), WTSA Resolution 76 (Dubai, 2012) as well as the Action Plan approved by Council 2013 (particularly Pillars 3 and 4) highlight the importance of human and institutional capacity building and training opportunities related to type approval, conformity assessment and other related matters. As the Plenipotentiary, WTSA, and Council documents have all appeared subsequent to WTDC Resolution 47, that Resolution must be updated to reflect the more recent agreements and more current WTDC resolves agreed upon.</p> <p>The United States proposed new question on conformity assessment is an effective way to address the issues raised in these various resolutions. More specifically, the proposed question identifies approaches to meet the needs of developing countries with respect to equipment conformity assessment, type approval, and training; examines the role of information transfer, know-how, training, and institutional and human capacity development in strengthening the ability of developing countries to meet their conformance assessment needs; and examines global trends related to conformance assessment.</p> <p>Our proposed modifications to Resolution 47 and the proposed new question are contained in Addenda 2 and 3, respectively, to this contribution.</p>
	<p>Objective(s): 5</p>
	<p>Access to telecommunications for persons with disabilities and gender equality: Accessibility is a cross-cutting issue that should be addressed throughout the work of the sector as a priority. We congratulate the ITU on the recent adoption of an ITU Accessibility Policy. In addition, the eLAC2015 plan of action for Latin America and the Caribbean affirms the intention of many in the region to take steps to mainstream the gender perspective across all policies designed to close the digital divide. Like access to telecommunications for persons with disabilities, we believe gender equality is a cross-cutting issue that requires attention throughout the work of the sector.</p> <p>We strongly support the proposals for modification to Resolution 58 on gender equality as reflected in CITELE IAP 6 (objective 5).</p>

	Objective: n/a
USA/22/1	Improving linkages and coherence among the elements of Development Sector program: The United States supports strengthening the alignment and integration of the work and outputs of member contribution-driven study questions, Programmes and Regional Initiatives. A stronger alignment between the various work elements and deliverables of the Development Sector and its Strategic Goals, Objectives, Programs, Resolutions, WSIS Action Lines, Sustainable Development Goals, and Key Performance Indicators would help the ITU-D maximize the focus, efficiency, and effectiveness of its work, and thus make its program easier to understand and more responsive to the needs of developing countries. Our proposed modifications to Resolution 1 are contained in Addendum 1 to this contribution.

Table of content of proposals from United States of America

Proposal number	Addendum	Title
USA/22/1	Addendum 1	Proposal for modification to Resolution 1
USA/22/2	Addendum 2	Modifications to ITU-D Resolution 47 on Conformance and Interoperability
USA/22/3	Addendum 3	Proposed New Question on Conformance Testing
USA/22/4	Addendum 4	Proposal for modifications to ITU-D Resolution 45
USA/22/5	Addendum 5	Proposal for modifications to ITU-D Resolution 69 - Creation of national computer incident response teams, particularly for developing countries, and cooperation between them
USA/22/6	Addendum 6	Proposed modifications to Question 22-1/1
USA/22/7	Addendum 7	Proposed modifications to Programme 2 - Cybersecurity, ICT applications and IP-based network-related issues
USA/22/8	Addendum 8	Proposed updates to ITU-D Resolution 67 on the role of the Telecommunication Development Sector in Child Online Protection
USA/22/9	Addendum 9	Proposed modifications to ITU-D Resolution 34: Role of telecommunications/information and communication technology in disaster preparedness, early warning, rescue, mitigation, relief and response
USA/22/10	Addendum 10	Proposed Modifications to Question 22-1/2 - Utilization of telecommunications/ICTs for disaster preparedness, mitigation and response
USA/22/11	Addendum 11	The role of ICTs in Education
USA/22/12	Addendum 12	Proposed modifications to ITU-D Resolution 43 - Assistance for implementing IMT
USA/22/13	Addendum 13	Proposed modifications to ITU-D Resolution 54 - Information and communication technology applications
USA/22/14	Addendum 14	Proposed modifications to ITU-D Resolution 65 - Improving access to healthcare services by using information and communication technologies
USA/22/15	Addendum 15	Proposal on continuation of Question 25/2 on Access technologies for Broadband telecommunications, including IMT, for Developing Countries
USA/22/16	Addendum 16	Modifications to ITU-D Resolution 40 on Capacity Building
USA/22/17	Addendum 17	Proposal on regional priorities for WSIS+10 High-Level Event