

**Addendum 14 to
Document WTDC14/22-E
4 February 2014
Original: English**

SOURCE: United States of America

TITLE: Proposed modifications to ITU-D Resolution 65 - Improving access to healthcare services by using information and communication technologies

BACKGROUND:

Increasing access to broadband has been among the United States of America's highest priorities for a long time. The United States, as well as many developing countries, is consistently adopting policies and initiatives on a national, regional and international level, with the aim of promoting the development of broadband infrastructure to increase access to citizens, and promoting broadband as an essential service to all citizens. Healthcare services are heavy consumers of broadband and thus require broadband access if they are to fulfil their potential.

Indeed, the Hyderabad Declaration of WTDC-2010 affirmed in its declaration that "broadband access and usage are increasingly considered as essential services, that need to be universally available to all citizens in order to develop networked economies and information societies" (Hyderabad Declaration, WTDC-10,§7). In fact, the ITU-D has long played a significant role in supporting initiatives to spur the access and uptake to broadband infrastructure in the developing world to help connecting all citizens. In the last work period, the establishment of this work was supported by three Resolutions, of which Resolution 65, *Improving access to healthcare services by using information and communication technologies*, was one.

Given the importance of access to broadband in developing as well as developed countries and the dependence of healthcare services on access to broadband, the United States believes it is important that this Resolution accurately reflect the current state of affairs and updated resolves for the next four years.

USA/22/14 Objective(s): 3

The United States proposes that Resolution 65 be updated as proposed in the Attachment.

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RESOLUTION 65 (REV. DUBAI, 2014)

Improving access to healthcare services by using information and communication technologies

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Dubai, 2014),

considering

- a) that the World Telecommunication Development Conference (Hyderabad, 2010) recommended that ITU continue to study the potential of using telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICTs) for e-health in order to meet the needs of developing countries;
- b) that the World Health Organization (WHO) approved in May 2005 Resolution WHA58.28 on e-health, stressing "... that e-health is the cost-effective and secure use of information and communications technologies in support of health and health-related fields, including healthcare services, health surveillance, health literature, and health education, knowledge and research";
- c) that the World Summit on the Information Society, which was held in two phases (Geneva, 10-12 December 2003 and Tunis, 16-18 November 2005), included e-health in the Geneva Plan of Action as one of the important ICT applications, and stated the following: "Promote collaborative efforts of governments, planners, health professionals, and other agencies along with the participation of international organizations for creating reliable, timely, high-quality and affordable healthcare and health information systems and for promoting continuous medical training, education, and research through the use of ICTs, while respecting and protecting citizens' right to privacy. Encourage the adoption of ICTs to improve and extend healthcare and health information systems to remote and underserved areas and vulnerable populations, recognizing women's roles as health providers in their families and communities",

considering further

- a) the importance of maintaining momentum so that the potential advantages of ICTs in the healthcare sector in developing countries are not compromised by barriers of a legal, technical, economic or any other nature;
- b) revised [Question 14/2] on the measures to be taken to facilitate the introduction of mobile e-health services in developing countries so that individuals, society and the economy all benefit from such initiatives,

recognizing

that e-health solutions and applications can play a very important role in healthcare delivery, in particular in developing countries, where the acute shortage of doctors, nurses and paramedics is directly proportional to the enormous unsatisfied demand for health services,

resolves to instruct the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

- 1 to continue its efforts to raise awareness among decision-makers, regulators, telecommunication operators, health professionals, partners, beneficiaries and other key players of the benefit of telecommunications/ICTs for e-health applications;

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2 to continue to support e-health projects in developing countries in collaboration with government, public, private, national, regional and international partners – in particular WHO – and to encourage collaboration on e-health projects at national and regional level;

3 to work with the health sector and other partners to identify and develop models for sustainability of e-health applications, particularly in remote and rural areas of developing countries, using the potential of mobile e-health either via mobile phones or via mobile medical centres wirelessly connected to nearby hospitals/clinics;

4 to assist developing countries in the development of their national e-health master plans;

5 to continue to promote, facilitate and provide technical support and training in ICTs for e-health;

6 to continue to promote the development of telecommunication standards for e-health network solutions and interconnection with medical devices in the environment of developing countries, in conjunction with the ITU Radiocommunication Sector and the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector in particular;

7 to encourage greater coordination and linkage with the work being developed under Question [25/2] that, among others, focuses on case studies of countries using broadband access technologies with the aim of providing citizens with greater access to ICT applications (e.g., e-health, e-banking, e-learning, e-government, among others);

8 to take into account the outcome of Question [14-3/2] in relevant BDT Programmes, that are components of the toolkit BDT uses when solicited by Member States and Sector Members, in order to support their efforts to build confidence and greater access to ICT applications,

invites

1 Member States to consider the development of their national e-health strategy or "e-health master plan", with close cooperation between telecommunication and healthcare sectors, as a strategically important step forward to the introduction of e-health services;

2 international financial institutions and donor agencies to assist in developing e-health/telemedicine applications, projects and programmes in developing countries;

3 private-sector entities to develop different business models and consider the introduction of e-health/telemedicine services in developing countries on the basis of public-private partnerships.

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