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TITLE: Draft new Resolution: Strengthening digital confidence and creating an enabling climate for electronic exchanges of economic data to benefit developing countries

ALG/28/1 Objective: 3

ICTs are now perceived, for the world economy, as a key factor in the implementation of social and economic development programmes, especially in the countries of the South.

Despite the continual development of ICTs in the countries of the South, in the absence of a framework for digital confidence, the flow of electronic communications and economic data exchanges at the regional level between these countries remains at a low level and tends to limit the development of business partnerships, which are also subject to developmental limits between the countries of the South and those of the North.

In this regard, promoting and improving confidence and security in cyberspace is a key factor in future growth of the digital economy at the global level, which should encourage developing countries to complete the construction of national systems for creating confidence and to establish a conducive framework for international and regional cooperation. This would enable countries to identify needs as regards electronic and economic data exchanges and to assess the feasibility of regulatory, operational and technical interoperability frameworks.

DRAFT NEW RESOLUTION ALG/1

**Strengthening digital confidence and creating an enabling climate
for electronic exchanges of economic data to benefit
developing countries**

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Dubai, 2014),

recalling

- a)* Resolution 130 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on strengthening the role of ITU in building confidence and security in the use of information and communication technologies;
- b)* Resolution 135 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) 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 174 (Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on ITU's role with regard to international public policy issues relating to the risk of illicit use of information and communication technologies;
- d)* Resolution 181 (Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on definitions and terminology relating to building confidence and security in the use of information and communication technologies;
- e)* The resolutions of the World Telecommunication Development Conference, in particular:
- Resolution 45 (Rev. Hyderabad, 2010), on mechanisms for enhancing cooperation on cybersecurity, including countering and combating spam;
 - Resolution 48 (Rev. Hyderabad, 2010), on strengthening cooperation among telecommunication regulators;
 - Resolution 50 (Rev. Hyderabad, 2010), on optimal integration of information and communication technologies;
 - Resolution 54 (Rev. Hyderabad, 2010), on information and communication technology applications;
 - Resolution 71 (Hyderabad, 2010), on strengthening cooperation between Member States and Sector Members of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector, including the private sector;
 - Resolution 74 (Hyderabad, 2010), on more effective adoption of e-government services,

considering

- a)* the important role that national telecommunication/ICT policy can play in stimulating innovation and investment in new technologies;
- b)* the sovereign right of each country to establish its national telecommunication/ICT priorities and policies;

- c) the importance of telecommunication network and ICT infrastructure for economic development;
- d) that the current context, characterized by the difficulty of promoting business partnerships, is an obstacle to exchanges and transactions between economic partners, state institutions and individuals;
- e) that the volume of electronic transactions at the national and regional levels is low in developing countries but their development potential is undeniable;
- f) the potential for a broader range of telecommunication and ICT applications that are made available by, *inter alia*, the new technologies;
- g) that the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) adopted specific action lines in its Plan of Action, including in particular:
- Action Line C1: The role of governments and all stakeholders in the promotion of ICTs for development;
 - Action Line C2: Information and communication infrastructure: an essential foundation for the information society;
 - Action Line C5: Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs;
 - Action Line C7: ICT applications: benefits in all aspects of life,

noting

- a) the adoption and implementation of the Hyderabad Action Plan (WTDC-10), which incorporates provisions on the development of telecommunication/ICT services in developing countries through various programmes, in particular Programme 2 on cybersecurity, ICT applications and IP-based network-related issues, and Programme 3 on the enabling environment;
- b) that this conference has reaffirmed, in its declaration and resolutions, a commitment to:
- foster international cooperation on telecommunication/ICT development issues;
 - create an enabling environment conducive to telecommunication/ICT development;
 - enhance the roll-out and the safe use of ICT applications and services and build confidence and security in the use of ICTs;
- c) 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,

recognizing

- a) that ICTs have helped to transform business models and organizational structures in countries and are thus a key asset for an enterprise or a country in becoming integrated into the new global economy;
- b) that today's interest in ICTs is perceived as being, for the global economy, a determining factor in implementing social and economic development programmes, especially in the countries of the South;
- c) the low level of electronic communications and economic data exchanges at the regional level between the developing countries of the South;

d) the limits in development of business partnerships between the countries of the South and those of the North due to the characteristically one-way nature of exchanges between these countries, despite the continuous development of ICTs in the countries of the South;

e) that the promotion and improvement of confidence and security in cyberspace is a key factor in future growth of the digital economy at the global level;

f) that current regional community and national laws and regulations are not necessarily in line with existing world economic standards on digital transactions,

conscious

a) that the modernization of telecommunication networks and the development of services and applications associated with information and communication technologies in these countries will be one of the principal factors in their economic development and will offer them an opportunity to lay the foundations of an inclusive information society;

b) of the potential impact for developing countries of the spread of electronic exchanges in the world of business and their results in terms of improvements in the value chain of players involved in the digital economy;

c) that in the developing countries, existing obstacles to the development of electronic transactions are linked to the absence of a framework for digital confidence;

d) that the spread of secure digital exchanges contributes to the creation of new regional partnerships and more opportunities for cooperation between administrations, businesses, and individuals, and to the development of e-business between countries;

e) that digital identification of the actors involved in digital transactions is essential for creating a climate of digital confidence beyond national borders;

f) of the need to establish a framework for interoperability and for harmonizing regulation regarding digital confidence among countries, thereby enabling economic partners to effect reliable electronic transactions which comply with laws and regulations,

resolves

1 to endorse the principles recommended by the ITU-D and ITU-T study groups through previous and current studies of Questions pertaining to ICT and applications and cybersecurity;

2 to instruct Study Group 2 to take into account the aims of this resolution when continuing the study of the updated Question 17 in the next study period,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to act as a catalyst in enhancing international and regional cooperation among Member States, especially as regards the question of creating digital confidence and security in electronic exchanges of economic data;

2 to assist developing countries in completing the construction of their national systems for confidence and to launch initiatives to spread the use of electronic signatures in G2B, G2C, B2B and B2C exchanges;

3 to identify the mechanisms that will facilitate, in particular for developing countries, access to best practices by encouraging the harmonization of laws and the adoption of standards on electronic certification, without calling into question the national laws of these countries;

4 to adopt the measures needed to involve regional or subregional telecommunication organizations, in order to assist Member States in defining and coordinating initiatives aimed at promoting electronic exchanges of economic data;

5 to promote, through the various bodies of ITU, best practices in digital economic data exchanges,

invites Member States and Sector Members

1 to encourage the creation of an enabling framework for international and regional partnership in which countries identify their needs as regards electronic exchanges of economic data, and assess the feasibility of associated regulatory, operational and technical interoperability frameworks;

2 to set up common forums dealing with aspects of the development of e-signatures and e-Trust;

3 to continue to take appropriate steps for the creation of an enabling environment at the national, regional, and international levels, in order to encourage development and investment in the ICT sector and thereby encourage the development of a digital network economy.
