

COMMITTEE 6

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Sources:

[MOD ARB/79A2/9](#)

[AFCP/69A1/11](#)

[IAP/34A1/34](#)

RESOLUTION -167 ([REV. BUSAN, 2014](#) (~~GUADALAJARA, 2010~~))

**Strengthening and developing ITU capabilities for electronic
meetings and means
to advance the work of the Union**

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union
([Busan, 2014](#) (~~Guadalajara, 2010~~)),

considering

- a) the rapid technological change in the field of telecommunications and the associated policy, regulatory and infrastructure adaptations required at national, regional and global levels;
- b) the consequent need for the widest possible engagement of the ITU membership from around the world to address these matters in the work of the Union;
- c) that developments in technologies and facilities for the holding of electronic meetings and the further development of electronic working methods (EWM) will enable more open, rapid and easy collaboration between participants in the activities of ITU, which may be paperless;

[fd\) that some activities and procedures associated with certain ITU meetings still require direct face-to-face participation by the Union's membership.](#)

recalling

a) Resolution 66 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on documents and publications of the Union, regarding the electronic availability of documents;

i) Resolution 175 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on telecommunication/ICT accessibility for persons with disabilities, including age-related disabilities that resolves to take account of persons with disabilities and specific needs.

eb) Resolution 32 (Rev. Dubai, 2012; Johannesburg, 2008) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSAs), on strengthening electronic working methods in the work of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) and the implementation of EWM capabilities and associated arrangements in the work of ITU-T;

de) Resolution 73 (Rev. Dubai, 2012; Johannesburg, 2008) of WTSAs, on information and communication technologies (ICTs) and climate change and, in particular, recognizing g) thereof concerning energy-efficient working methods;

de) Resolution 5 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC) on enhancing participation by developing countries in the activities of the Union, in particular, instruction 4 to continue promoting remote participation and meetings and electronic work methods so as to encourage and facilitate in the work of ITU-D;

fe) Resolution 66 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) of WTDC, on Information and communication technology and climate change, in particular the instruction to the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG) to consider possible changes in working methods to meet the objectives of the EWM initiatives;

gf) Resolution 81 (Dubai, 2014) of WTDC, on further development of electronic working methods for the work of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector, that identifies the role of BDT in providing support to EWM and the benefits to the ITU membership;

ehg) [Resolution 64 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of this conference on non-discriminatory access to modern telecommunication / ICT facilities, services and applications, including applied research and transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms. suggestion is to put between brackets]

h) ITU-R 7-2 (1993-2000-2012) of the Radiocommunication Assembly (RA) on the development of telecommunications, including coordination and collaboration with the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector;

f) Resolution 175 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of this conference, on telecommunication/ICT accessibility for persons coordination and collaboration with disabilities, including age-related disabilities the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector,

Suggestion: The secretariat will help us in appropriately grouping the outputs of meetings and placing them in the correct order as well as to avoid repetition(s), if any.

recognizing

~~a) the budgetary difficulty that delegates from many countries and, in particular developing countries, have in travelling to participate in face-to-face ITU meetings;~~

~~a)~~ that electronic participation ~~has been producing~~ will have significant benefits for the Union's membership, by reducing travel costs, and ~~has facilitated~~ will facilitate wider participation in both the work of the Union and in meetings that require attendance;

~~e)~~ that numerous ITU meetings are already available as audio and video webcasts and that use of videoconferencing, audioconference calls, real-time captioning and web-based collaboration tools for electronic participation in certain types of meetings have been advanced in meetings of the Sectors and the General Secretariat;

~~a)~~ the budgetary difficulty that delegates from many countries and, in particular developing countries, have in travelling to participate in face-to-face ITU meetings;

~~d)~~ the current status of the Interactive Remote Participation (IRP) allows "remote intervention" rather than "remote participation", in so far as a remote participant cannot take part in decision making";

~~e)~~ the regional offices are an extension of the ITU as a whole and that therefore these means will serve to build up the effectiveness of the Union's activities, including project implementation as set forth in Resolution 157 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference,

~~e)~~ the expected-role of the regional offices is essential to fully comply with the basic mandates of the Union; to this effect, it is necessary that these offices count on affordable means of communication (video conferencing), such as those that can be accessed over the Web, to hold electronic meetings with the Member States, [recalling that these relations must encompass all without exception as stated in Resolution 58 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) of this Conference];

recognizing further

~~a)~~ mindful

~~a)~~ that some activities and procedures associated with certain ITU meetings still require direct face-to-face participation by the Union's membership;

considering further

~~the important contribution of the use of ICTs and reduced travel to climate neutrality,~~

- a) the annual reports by the Secretary-General to Council on the implementation of this resolution;
- b) the report from the 2014 Session of the ITU Council to this Conference,
- c) of the financial, legal, procedural and technical difficulties of providing remote participation to all, particularly with respect to:
- the difference in time zones between regions and in relation to Geneva, and particularly to the Americas and the Asia-Pacific regions;
 - the costs of infrastructure, broadband, equipments, applications, meeting room renovations and staff, specifically in developing countries¹;
 - the rights and legal status of remote participants and chairmen;
 - the limitation in formal procedures available to remote participants in comparison to physically present participants;
 - the telecommunication infrastructure limitations in some countries with unstable or inappropriate connections;
 - increased accessibility for people with disabilities and specific needs;

noting

- ~~a) that, as an alternative to face-to-face meetings, there are benefits in utilizing electronic meetings to progress discussions;~~
- b) that the existence of electronic meetings, with well-documented rules and procedures, will help ITU in widening the involvement of potential stakeholders, both member and non-member experts, particularly from developing countries, who are unable to participate in face-to-face meetings;
- a) that electronic working methods have made important contributions to the work of Sector groups, such as rapporteur groups, and of Council working groups, and that work, such as the development of texts, has been progressed in various parts of the Union through electronic communications;
- b) that different modes of participation are suitable for different types of meetings;

¹ These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

c) that electronic meetings may lead to increased efficiency of the activities of ITU and reduction of costs for all parties, for example by reducing the need for travel and reducing the need for printed copies of documents;

~~d) that there needs to be a coordinated and harmonized approach to the technology used;~~

~~e) that managing electronic meetings managed by from the regional offices can facilitate regional coordination, in order to promote greater participation by the Member States in the work of the Study Groups of the three sectors;~~

~~d) that there needs to be a coordinated and harmonized approach to the technology used;~~

noting further

~~a) that electronic working methods have made important contributions to the work of Sector groups, such as rapporteur groups, and of Council working groups, and that work, such as the development of texts, has been progressed in various parts of the Union through electronic communications;~~

~~b) that different modes of participation are suitable for different types of meetings;~~

~~[c) the need to establish the role of hyperlinks, in particular in documents submitted to executive or deliberative organs for approval, and the related decision of the 2009 session of the Council²⁴;~~

~~d) the importance of having complete texts available at the time of approval,]~~

[Editor's note: Deletion of this text is dependent upon agreement of addressing use of hyperlinks in other output of the Plenipotentiary.]

emphasizing

a) that there is a need for procedures to ensure fair and equitable participation by all;

b) that electronic meetings can contribute to bridging the digital divide;

c) that the implementation of electronic meetings is beneficial to ITU's role in leading the coordination on ICTs and climate change, and on accessibility,

² Document C09/90, § 12.

~~⁴ Document C09/90, § 12.~~

resolves

~~1a)~~ that ITU should continue to further develop its facilities and capabilities for remote participation by electronic means in appropriate meetings of the Union, including working groups created by the Council;

~~[2bb) that final documents submitted for approval shall not contain hyperlinks other than, where appropriate, internal hyperlinks to documents or parts of documents that are stable and have already been approved by the competent organ of the Union, and that the inclusion of an internal hyperlink in a document submitted for approval should not result in implicit approval of the content of the hyperlink's target; rather, any approval must be explicit (this procedure is not applicable to study groups);]~~

[Editor's note: Deletion of this text is dependent upon agreement of addressing use of hyperlinks in other output of the Plenipotentiary.]

~~3e)~~ that ITU should continue to develop its electronic working methods concerning, the elaboration development, distribution and approval of documents, and the promotion of paperless meetings;

~~4d)~~ that the Union continue to develop EWM, within budget availability, for the participation of persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs, which may include, *inter alia*, Captioning for the hearing-impaired, Audio conferencing for the visually impaired, and Web conferencing for persons with restricted mobility, as well as other solutions and facilities challenges;

~~6~~ that the Union to further study the impact of remote participation on existing working rules of procedure;

~~f)~~ that ITU should provide facilities and capabilities for EWM at ITU meetings, workshops and training courses, particularly to assist developing countries that have bandwidth limitations and other constraints;

~~7~~ to encourage electronic participation of developing countries in meetings, workshops and training by providing simplified facilities and guidelines, and, by waiving, within the credits that the Council is empowered to authorize, any expenses for those participants, other than the local call or Internet connectivity charges,

instructs the Secretary-General, in consultation and collaboration with the Directors of the three Bureaux

~~1~~ to maintain continue to implement the EWM Action Plan (Annex 1), to addressing the legal, technical, security, and Financial implications of increasing the EWM capability of ITU;

~~2~~ to build upon trials for electronic meetings, in collaboration with the Directors of the Bureaux, such that their subsequent implementation is technologically neutral, to the greatest extent possible, and cost effective, in order to allow broad participation, as broad participation as possible (equitable for all), and satisfying the necessary security requirements;

3 to identify and review costs and benefits of the action items on a regular basis;

43 to involve the advisory groups in the evaluation of the use of electronic meetings and to develop further procedures and rules associated with electronic meetings, including the legal aspects;

54 to report to the Council on an ongoing basis on the developments made with regard to electronic meetings, in order to assess progress in their use within ITU;

65 to report to the Council on the feasibility of extending the use of languages in electronic meetings,

Instructs the secretary general

To share information about the developments made with regard to electronic meetings and the progress within the ITU with the United Nations and other specialized agencies for their consideration.

instructs the Directors of the Bureaux

to continue taking ~~take~~ action, in consultation with the Sector advisory groups, in order to provide appropriate electronic participation or observation facilities in Sector meetings for delegates unable to attend face-to-face meetings;

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

to take all necessary measures to implement, in the shortest time frame possible and according to budgetary availability, a suitable technological platform that makes it possible to host electronic meetings in all regional offices with their membership, in accordance with Resolution 25 of this Conference,

instructs the Council

to consider the financial requirements to implement this resolution and to allocate financial resources, within the limits of the resources available and consistent with the financial and strategic plans.

ANNEX I – ACTION PLAN

- Upgrade infrastructure at headquarters and regional offices to support use of e-participation.
- Implement technical solutions to extend ITU interpretation services to e-participants.
- Implement technical solutions to implement self-service provisioning and running of e-meetings.
- Establish guidelines for e-participation in ITU meetings.
- Provide training, as appropriate, to ITU meeting organizers, regional office staff, chairmen, Rapporteurs, Editors and delegates.
- Review current applicable policies and practices.
- Review legal issues related to amendments that would be required to legal instruments of the Union.
- Implement collection of statistics across all Sectors so as to track trends in e-participation.
- Report annually to Council on the results of the EWM and remote participation policies, including statistical evaluation of the results and on procedural, financial, technical and legal matters.

- Discuss the improvement of ITU capabilities on EWM and remote participation and propose the necessary amendments to the Rules of Procedure to Council and to the 2018 Plenipotentiary Conference. (Guadalajara, 2010)
