

**COMMITTEE 4**

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**WORKING GROUP OF THE PLENARY**

**FOURTH SERIES OF TEXTS SUBMITTED BY  
WORKING GROUP OF THE PLENARY TO THE EDITORIAL COMMITTEE**

The following texts have been adopted and are submitted to the Editorial Committee for consideration and subsequent transmission to the Plenary Meeting.

<b>Action</b>	<b>Title</b>
MOD	RESOLUTION 131
	RESOLUTION 139
	RESOLUTION 176

Musab ABDULLA  
Chairman, Working Group of the  
Plenary

**Annex: 15 pages**

MOD WGPL/138/1

RESOLUTION 131 (REV. ~~GUADALAJARA, 2010~~ BUSAN, 2014)

**Measuring Information and ~~communication technology index~~<sup>1</sup>-  
Communication Technologies (ICTs) to build an integrating and ~~community-  
connectivity indicators~~<sup>2</sup> inclusive information society**

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

*aware*

a) that technological innovation, digitization and telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICTs) have ~~developed significantly and have continued to modify the ways in which people access knowledge and communicate with one another;~~ the potential to achieve sustainability, while contributing to enhancing socioeconomic development and quality of life;

b) that there is still an ongoing need to call for the promotion of knowledge and the development of skills in all populations in order to achieve greater economic, social and cultural development and to raise the standard of living of the world's citizens;

c) that each Member State is seeking to establish its own policies and ~~regulations~~ regulatory frameworks based on ICT statistical data in order to narrow as effectively as possible the digital divide between those who have access to communication and information and those who do not,

*recognizing*

a) that the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) represented an opportunity to identify a global strategy for narrowing the digital divide from the development standpoint;

b) that the outcome of the global Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development has resulted in agreement on the identification of a set of basic indicators and a methodological framework for measuring producing internationally comparable data for the measurement of ICT for development, as called for by § 115 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society;<sup>i</sup>

c) that the WSIS+10 High-Level Event, in its WSIS+10 Vision for WSIS Beyond 2015, highlights that: "ICTs will play a critical role in achieving the sustainable development goals. Taking into account the ongoing dialogue on the Post-2015 Development Agenda (MDG review process) and the WSIS implementation process, all stakeholders have indicated the necessity of increased interaction between both processes in order to ensure that efforts across the UN System are coherent and coordinated to achieve maximum and sustainable impact",

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<sup>1</sup> ~~The single ICT index must be further developed, taking into consideration the needs of the membership.~~

<sup>2</sup> ~~Community connectivity is taken here to refer to the possibility to access telecommunication services from a terminal facility put at the disposal of a community, to facilitate ease of use.~~

considering

- a) that the Geneva Plan of Action adopted by WSIS provides for the following: *"In cooperation with each country concerned, develop and launch a composite ICT Development (Digital Opportunity) Index. It could be published annually, or every two years, in an ICT Development Report. The index could show the statistics while the report would present analytical work on policies and their implementation, depending on national circumstances, including gender analysis"*;
- b) that key stakeholders, among which ITU (represented by the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D)), involved in the production of ICT statistics for the measurement of the information society ~~statistics~~, joined forces to create a "global Partnership for Measuring ICT for Development";
- c) the contents of Resolution 8 (Rev. Hyderabad, 2010Dubai, 2014) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC) as well as Programme 3 of the HyderabadDubai Action Plan, on collection and dissemination of telecommunication/ICT information and statistics, with particular emphasis on consolidation of information and statistical data by the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT), in order to avoid duplication in this field;
- d) that, through Programme 3 of the HyderabadDubai Action Plan, WTDC called upon ITU-D to:-
- ~~— collect and disseminate in a timely fashion data and statistics, including sex-disaggregated data where applicable;~~
  - ~~— analyse telecommunication/ICT trends and produce regional and global research reports;~~
  - ~~— benchmark ICT developments and clarify the magnitude of the digital divide (using tools such as the ICT Development Index and the ICT Price Basket);~~
  - ~~— develop international~~
  - ~~— coordinate the development of ICT standards and, methodologies, definitions, and indicators on ICT statistics; agreed at the international level;~~
  - ~~— contribute to the monitoring of internationally agreed goals and targets (such as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the WSIS targets);~~
  - ~~— maintain a leading role in the global Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development;~~
  - ~~— provide capacity building and technical assistance to Member States in the area of ICT statistics production and measurement;~~
  - collect, harmonize and disseminate data and official statistics in the area of telecommunications/ICTs using a variety of data sources and dissemination tools, such as the World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators (WTI) Database, the ICT Eye ITU online portal, the UN Data portal and others;
  - analyse telecommunication/ICT trends and producing regional and global research reports, such as the Measuring the Information Society (MIS) report as well as statistical and analytical briefs;
  - benchmark telecommunication/ICT developments and clarifying the magnitude of the digital divide (using tools such as the ICT Development Index and the ICT Price Basket) and measuring the impact of ICTs on development and the gender digital divide;

- develop international standards, definitions and methodologies on telecommunication/ICT statistics, in close cooperation with other regional and international organizations, including the United Nations, Eurostat, OECD and the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development, for consideration by the United Nations Statistical Commission;
- provide a global forum for discussing information society measurements for ITU members and other national and international stakeholders, by organizing the World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Symposium and its related statistical expert groups;
- encourage Member States to bring together different stakeholders in government, academia, and civil society in raising national awareness about the importance of production and dissemination of high-quality data for policy purposes;
- contribute to the monitoring of internationally agreed goals and targets, including the MDG and WSIS targets as well as the targets set by the Broadband Commission, and developing related measurement frameworks;
- maintain a leading role in the global Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development and its relevant task groups;
- provide capacity building and technical assistance to Member States for the collection of telecommunication/ICT statistics, in particular by means of national surveys, through the delivery of training workshops and the production of methodological manuals and handbooks;

e) the WSIS outcomes in relation to ICT indicators, especially the following paragraphs in the Tunis Agenda:

- § 113, which called for formulating appropriate indicators and benchmarking, among them, indicators of ICT access and use, including community connectivity indicators, to clarify the magnitude of the digital divide, in both its domestic and international dimensions, and keep it under regular assessment, and tracking global progress in the use of ICTs to achieve internationally agreed development goals and objectives, including the Millennium Development Goals;
- § 114, which recognized the importance of the development of ICT indicators for measuring the digital divide and noted the launch of the Partnership for Measuring ICT for Development;
- § 115, which noted the launch of the ICT Opportunity Index and the Digital Opportunity Index, based on the set of basic core indicators defined by the global Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development;
- § 116, which stressed the need to take into account different levels of development and national circumstances;
- § 117, which called for further development of these indicators, in collaboration with the global partnership, in order to ensure cost-effectiveness and non-duplication in this field;
- § 118, which invited the international community to strengthen the statistical capacity of developing countries by giving appropriate support at national and regional levels;
- § 119, in which a commitment is made to review and follow up progress in bridging the digital divide, taking into account the different levels of development among nations, so as to achieve the internationally agreed development goals and objectives, including the Millennium Development Goals, assessing the effectiveness of investment and international

cooperation efforts in building the Information Society, identifying gaps as well as deficits in investment and devising strategies to address them;

- § 120, which indicates that the sharing of information related to the implementation of WSIS outcomes is an important element of evaluation,

*highlighting*

*a) the responsibilities that the ITU Development Sector (ITU-D) had to take up as a result of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, especially its § 112 to 120;*

*b) that the Declaration of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC) (Dubai, 2014) declares that: “the transparent and collaborative collection and dissemination of quality indicators and statistics that measure and provide comparative analysis of advancements in the use and adoption of ICTs continue to be a major factor for supporting socio-economic growth. These indicators and their analysis provide governments and stakeholders with a mechanism to better understand key drivers of telecommunication/ICT adoption and assist in ongoing national policy formulation. They also serve to monitor the digital divide as well as progress towards achievement of internationally agreed goals in the post-2015 development agenda”;*

*c) that the WSIS+10 High-Level Event, in its WSIS+10 Vision for WSIS Beyond 2015, states that: “The evolution of the information society over the past 10 years is contributing towards, inter alia, the development of knowledge societies around the world that are based on principles of freedom of expression, quality education for all, universal and non-discriminatory access to information and knowledge, and respect for cultural and linguistic diversity and cultural heritage. When mentioning the information society, we also refer to the above mentioned evolution and to the vision of inclusive knowledge societies”,*

*recognizing further*

*a) that, with a view to providing their populations with faster access to telecommunication/ICT services, many countries have continued to implement public policies for digital inclusion, including community connectivity ~~policies~~ in those communities that are poorly served with telecommunication facilities;*

*b) that the approach of achieving universal service through community connectivity and broadband access instead of seeking in the short term to ensure that all households have a telephone line has become one of the main goals of ITU<sub>7</sub>;*

*c) that the ICT Development Index is considered as the most important indicator of the digital gap,*

*bearing in mind*

*a) that, in order to keep each country's public policy makers properly informed, ITU-D shall continue to strive to gather and periodically publish a variety of ICT statistics which provide some indication of the degree of progress in and penetration of telecommunication/ICT services in the different regions of the world;*

*b) that, according to the guidelines of the Plenipotentiary Conference, it is necessary to ensure as far as possible that the policies and strategies of the Union are fully in tune with the constantly changing telecommunication environment,*

*noting*

- a) that the Geneva Plan of Action adopted by WSIS identifies indicators and appropriate reference points, including ~~community connectivity~~ indicators of ICT access and use, as elements for the follow-up and evaluation thereof;
- b) that the single ICT Development Index (IDI) was developed by ITU-D and has been published annually since 2009;
- c) that Resolution 8 (Rev. ~~Hyderabad, 2010~~Dubai 2014) instructs the Director of BDT, among other actions, to establishprepare and collectcompile community connectivity indicators and to participate in the establishment of core indicators to measure efforts to build the information society and, by doing so, to illustrate the scale of the digital divide, and efforts made by developing countries to reduce it,

*resolves*

- a) that the ITU, as a specialized agency of the United Nations, should spearhead the tasks of compiling information and statistical data on telecommunications/ICTs; data for evaluating ICT trends; and for measuring impact in narrowing the digital divide, showing to the extent possible, impact on matters related to gender, persons with disabilities, and the different social sectors, as well as social inclusion, as a result of access in the areas of education, health, and e-government, etc., including their influence on the development and quality of life of all persons, highlighting their contribution to progress and sustainable development;
- b) that the ITU should strengthen its coordination with other relevant international organizations involved in the collection of ICT data and establish a standardized set of indicators through the Partnership for Measuring ICT for Development improving its availability and quality of ICT data and indicators favoring the development of strategies and national, regional and international public policy,

*resolves to instruct the Secretary-General and the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau*

- 1 to take the measures necessary to enable the ITU carry out the tasks described in *resolves a* and *b* above;
- 2 to continue, ~~if justified,~~ to promote the adoption of measures necessary to ensure that indicators of community connectivity ~~indicators~~and ICT access and use are taken into account in regional and world meetings convened for the purpose of evaluating and following up the Geneva Plan of Action and Tunis Agenda, also considering the WSIS+10 Statement on the Implementation of WSIS Outcomes and the emergence of new challenges in achieving the development of an inclusive Information Society in the wider context of the Post-2015 Development Agenda;
- 3 to ensure that the projects, although with highly different goals and scopes, take account of the data, indicators and indices for measuring ICTs for their comparative analysis and measurement of their results, as for example in the implementation of Resolution 17 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) of the WTDC,

*instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau*

- 1 to continue to promote the adoption of ~~ITU~~the ICT statistics of the ITU based primarily on official data provided by Member States, and to publish them regularly;

2 to promote the activities required to define and adopt new indicators including e-application indicators for the purpose of measuring the real impact of ICTs on countries' development;

3 to promote efforts to disseminate the internationally agreed ICT methodologies and indicators;

4 in order to give full effect to Resolution 8 (Rev. ~~Hyderabad, 2010~~Dubai, 2014), to ~~continue-convening~~maintain a seminar for group of experts on ICT indicators and statistics so that Member States ~~and experts to~~ develop existing indicators and systematically review their methodologies and definitions, commencing this review in accordance with Resolution 8 (Rev. ~~Hyderabad, 2010~~Dubai, 2014), and, as appropriate, to formulate any other ICT indicators that may be required;

~~4 — to call for a conference on ICT indicators at least once every two years;~~

55 to continue to hold the World Telecommunications/ICT Indicators Symposium and experts meetings, periodically, with participation by all Member States, Sector Members, experts on ICT indicators and statistics, and others interested in measuring ICTs and the Information Society;

6 to give the necessary support for the implementation of Resolution 8 (Rev. ~~Hyderabad, 2010~~), ~~Dubai, 2014~~ and to stress the importance of implementing the WSIS outcomes in relation to the indicators mentioned, and to continue to avoid duplication in statistical work in this field;

67 to continue to work to promote a single ICT ~~index~~ Development Index using available internationally recognized methodologies as the means by which ITU responds to *considering a)* above;

78 to cooperate with relevant international bodies, in particular those involved in the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development, for the implementation of this resolution;

89 to work on the development of indicators of community connectivity ~~indicators and ICT access and use~~ and forward the results on an annual basis;

910 to adapt the data collection and the ~~single~~ ICT ~~index~~ Development Index in order to reflect the changing access to and use of ICTs, and to invite Member States to participate in such processes,

*instructs the Secretary-General*

to submit a report to the next plenipotentiary conference on progress in the implementation of this resolution,

*invites Member States*

1 to participate in the submission to ITU-D of their national statistics on ICT access and use and community connectivity ~~statistics to ITU-D~~;

2 to participate actively in these endeavours, by providing the requested information to ITU-D so as to produce telecommunication/ICT benchmarks, ~~with a view to developing a single ICT index in particular the ICT Development Index.~~



MOD      WGPL/138/2

RESOLUTION 139 (REV. ~~GUADALAJARA, 2010~~BUSAN, 2014)

**Use of Telecommunicationstelecommunications/information and communication technologies to bridge the digital divide and build an inclusive information society**

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

*recalling*

Resolution 139 (~~Antalya, 2006~~Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference,

*recognizing*

- a) that the social and economic underdevelopment of a large part of the world is one of the most serious problems affecting not only the countries concerned but also the international community as a whole;
- b) that there is a need to create opportunities for digital services in developing countries, including the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition, taking advantage of the benefits of the revolution in information and communication technologies (ICTs);
- c) that the new architecture of telecommunication networks shows potential for offering more efficient and economic telecommunication and ICT services and applications, particularly for rural and remote areas;
- d) that the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) highlighted that the ICT infrastructure is an essential foundation for an inclusive information society, and called for the commitment of all States to placing ICTs and ICT applications at the service of development;
- e) that the WSIS+10 High-Level Event, an expanded version of the WSIS, held by the ITU in collaboration with UNESCO, UNCTAD and UNPD, recognizes in its Declaration on the application of the WSIS Outcomes that, since the Tunis Phase was held in 2005, the use of ICTs has increased considerably, which are now part of our everyday lives, accelerate socio-economic growth, contribute to sustainable development, increase transparency and accountability (when applicable), and offer new opportunities for both developed and developing countries to leverage the benefits offered by these new technologies;
- f) that, in turn, the Declaration of the WSIS+10 Vision for WSIS Beyond 2015 reaffirms that the objective of this Summit is bridging the digital, technology and knowledge divide and creating a people-centric, inclusive, open and development-oriented information society where everyone can create, access, utilize and share information and knowledge;
- eg) that the declarations of previous world telecommunication development conferences (WTDC) (Istanbul 2002, Doha 2006, ~~and~~ Hyderabad 2010, ~~and~~ Dubai 2014) have continued to affirm that ICTs and ICT applications are essential for political, economic, social and cultural development, that they play an important role in poverty alleviation, job creation, environmental



protection and the prevention and mitigation of natural and other disasters (in addition to the importance of disaster prediction), and that they must be placed at the service of development in other sectors; and that, therefore, opportunities offered by new ICTs should be fully exploited in order to foster sustainable development;

~~fh)~~ that Goal 2 in [Resolution 71 \(Rev. Busan, 2014\)](#) of the [Plenipotentiary Conference about the Strategic Plan for the Union for 2016-2019](#), continues to declare ~~Strategic Plan for the Union for 2008-2011 and likewise the fundamental goal of the Strategic Plan for the Union for 2012-2015~~ that the aim is for ITU to assist in bridging the national, regional and international digital divide in ICTs and ICT applications by facilitating interoperability, interconnection and global connectivity of telecommunication networks and services, and by playing a leading role, within its mandate, in the multistakeholder participation process for follow-up and implementation of the relevant goals and objectives of WSIS, [and to focus on bridging the digital divide and provide broadband for all](#);

~~gi)~~ that, even prior to WSIS, in addition to ITU activities, various activities were being executed by many organizations and entities to bridge the digital divide;

~~hj)~~ that such activity by the Union has been increasing since the conclusion of WSIS and the adoption of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, particularly in relation to implementation and follow-up, in accordance with the strategic plan for the Union for ~~2008-2011-2016-2019~~ and the resolutions of the Plenipotentiary Conferences (Antalya, 2006 [and Guadalajara, 2010](#)),

*recalling*

a) Resolution 24 (Kyoto, 1994) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the role of ITU in the development of world telecommunications, Resolution 31 (Rev. Marrakesh, 2002) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on telecommunication infrastructure and ICTs for socio-economic and cultural development, and Resolution 129 (Marrakesh, 2002) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on bridging the digital divide;

b) that the Union's World Telecommunication Development Report has highlighted the unacceptable imbalance in the distribution of telecommunications and the imperative and urgent need to remedy that imbalance;

c) that, in this context, the first WTDC (Buenos Aires, 1994), *inter alia*, called on governments, international agencies and all other parties concerned to accord, particularly in developing countries, an appropriate higher priority to investment and other related actions for the development of telecommunications;

d) that, since that time, WTDCs have established study groups, developed work programmes and approved resolutions to promote digital opportunities, highlighting the role of ICT in a number of areas;

e) that Resolutions 30 and 143 (Rev. ~~Guadalajara, 2010~~ [Busan, 2014](#)) of this conference highlight that what countries need, as reflected in these two resolutions, is for the digital divide to be bridged, as a fundamental goal;<sup>2</sup>

~~f) — Resolution 143 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) of this conference,~~

*endorsing*

1 Resolution 16 (Rev. Hyderabad, 2010) of WTDC on "Special actions and measures for the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition", which calls upon other Member States and Sector Members to establish partnerships with these countries, either directly or through BDT, in order to bring increased investment into the ICT sector and to stimulate the modernization and expansion of networks in these countries in a bold attempt to reduce the digital divide and to achieve the ultimate goal of universal access in line with the Geneva Plan of Action, the Tunis Commitment and the Tunis Agenda;

2 Resolution 37 (Rev. ~~Hyderabad, 2010~~ Dubai, 2014) of the WTDC on "Bridging the Digital Divide";~~this subject,~~

3 Resolution 50 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) of WTDC on "Optimal integration of information and communication technologies";

4 Resolution 44 (Rev. Dubai, 2012) of WTSA on "Bridging the standardization gap between developing and developed countries",

*considering*

a) that, even with all the developments described above and the improvement observed in some respects, in numerous developing countries ICTs and ICT applications are still not affordable to the majority of people, particularly those living in rural or remote areas;

b) that each region, country and area must tackle its own specific issues regarding the digital divide, with emphasis on cooperation with others in order to benefit from experience gained;

c) that many countries do not have the necessary basic infrastructure, long-term plans, laws, regulations and such like in place for the development of ICT and ICT applications;

d) that the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition still face particular problems in bridging the digital divide;

e) that it is necessary to study and analyze the social, demographic, economic and technological context of the communities in which it is intended to deploy infrastructure and implement plans for capacity building,

*considering further*

a) that telecommunication/ICT facilities, services and applications are not only the consequence of economic growth, but a prerequisite for overall development, including economic growth;

b) that telecommunications/ICTs and ICT applications, are an integral part of the national, regional and international development process;

c) that a favorable environment, that includes the necessary policies, skills and technical capacities to use and develop technologies is considered to be as important as infrastructure investments;

ed) that recent progress, and particularly the convergence of telecommunication, information, broadcasting and computer technologies and services, are agents of change for the information and knowledge;

*de)* that there is a continuing need in most developing countries for investment in various development sectors, while giving priority to investment in the telecommunication/ICT sector, in view of the pressing need for telecommunications/ICTs to support growth and development in other sectors;

*ef)* that, in this situation, national e-strategies should be linked to overall development goals and guide national decisions;

*fg)* that it continues to be necessary to provide decision-makers with relevant and timely information on the role and general contribution of ICTs and ICT applications to overall development plans;

*gh)* that past studies undertaken at the initiative of the Union for assessing the benefits of telecommunications/ICTs and ICT applications in the sector have had a salutary effect in other sectors and are a necessary condition for their development;

*i)* that the use of terrestrial and satellite systems to give access to local communities located in rural or remote areas without increasing connection costs due to distance and other geographic characteristics, must be considered an extremely useful tool to bridge the digital divide;

*j)* that satellite broadband services make it possible to provide cost-effective communications solutions with great connectivity, speed, and reliability in metropolitan, rural and even remote areas, becoming an essential engine for the economic and social development of our countries and regions,

*stressing*

*a)* the important role played by telecommunications/ICTs and ICT applications in the development of e-government, labour, agriculture, health, education, transport, industry, human rights, environmental protection, trade and transfer of information for social welfare, and in the general economic and social progress of developing countries, especially those living in rural or remote areas;

*b)* that telecommunication/ICT infrastructure and applications are central to achieving the goal of digital inclusion, enabling universal, sustainable, ubiquitous and affordable access to information;

*mindful*

*a)* ~~that the Hyderabad Declaration emphasized the important role that governments, policy-makers and regulators should play to promote widespread affordable access to telecommunications/ICTs through fair, transparent, stable, predictable, non-discriminatory, enabling legal and regulatory environments that promote competition, foster continued technological and service innovation and encourage investment incentives;~~ that the Dubai 2014 declaration stated that, with convergence, policy-makers and regulators should continue to promote widespread, affordable access to telecommunications/ICTs, including Internet access, through fair, transparent, stable, predictable and non-discriminatory enabling policy, legal and regulatory environments, including common approaches to conformance and interoperability that promote competition, increase consumer choices, foster continued technological and service innovation and provide investment incentives at national, regional and international levels;

*b)* that goals in the strategic plan for the Union for ~~2012-2015~~ 2016-2019 are aimed at enabling and fostering the growth and sustained development of telecommunication networks and services, at facilitating universal access so that people everywhere can participate in, and benefit

from, the emerging information society, and at providing assistance to developing countries in order to bridge the digital divide by achieving broader telecommunication/ICT-enabled socio-economic development;

c) that the Geneva Declaration of Principles adopted by WSIS recognized that policies that create a favourable climate for stability, predictability and fair competition at all levels should be developed and implemented in a manner that attracts more private investment in telecommunications and in ICT infrastructure;

d) that, in many ITU Member States, independent regulatory bodies have been established to deal with regulatory issues such as interconnection, determination of tariffs, licensing and competition, designed to promote digital opportunities at the national level,

*appreciating*

the various studies that have been carried out as part of the programme of technical cooperation and assistance activities of the Union,

*resolves*

1 that implementation of Resolution 37 (Rev. ~~Hyderabad, 2010~~Dubai, 2014) should continue to be followed~~up without delay~~;

2 that the Union should continue to organize, sponsor and conduct necessary studies in order to highlight, in a different and changing context, the contribution of ICTs and ICT applications to overall development;

3 that the Union should continue to act as a clearing-house mechanism for the exchange of information and expertise in this regard, within the implementation of the Hyderabad-Dubai 2014 Action Plan and in partnership with other appropriate organizations, and implement initiatives, programmes and projects aimed at promoting access to telecommunications/ICTs and ICT applications;

4 that the ITU, in cooperation with the relevant organizations, continue its task of preparing adequate ICT reference indicators for measuring the digital divide, collecting statistical data, measuring the impact of ICTs, and facilitating a comparative analysis of digital integration, which will continue to be a fundamental need in support of economic growth,

*continues to invite*

the administrations and governments of Member States, agencies and organizations of the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, financial institutions and providers of telecommunication equipment and services and ICTs to extend their support for the satisfactory implementation of this resolution,

*continues to encourage*

all agencies responsible for development aid and assistance, including the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and regional and national development funds, as well as donor and recipient Member States of the Union, to continue to attach importance to ICTs in the development process and to accord a high priority for resource allocation to this sector,

*instructs the Secretary-General*

- 1 to bring this resolution to the attention of all interested parties including, in particular, UNDP, IBRD, regional funds and national development funds for cooperation in implementing this resolution;
- 2 to report annually to the ITU Council on the progress made in the implementation of this resolution;
- 3 to arrange for the wide dissemination of the findings resulting from the activities carried out in accordance with this resolution,

*instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau, in coordination with the Directors of the other Bureaux, as appropriate*

- 1 to continue to assist the Member States and Sector Members in developing a pro-competitive policy and regulatory framework for ICTs and ICT applications;
- 2 to continue to assist Member States and Sector Members with strategies that expand access to telecommunication infrastructure, particularly for rural or remote areas;
- 3 to evaluate models for affordable and sustainable systems for access to information in rural or remote areas, communications and ICT applications on the global network, based on studies of these models;
- 4 to continue to conduct, within available resources, case studies concerning telecommunications/ICTs in rural areas and, if appropriate, to deploy a pilot model using IP-based technology, or equivalent thereof in the future, to extend rural access;<sup>7i</sup>
- 5 to promote and facilitate collaborative actions between the different Sectors of the Union to carry out studies, projects, and inter-related activities identified in Action Plans of the Sectors, whose aim is to complement the development of the national telecommunication networks;
- 6 to continue to support member states by providing a database of experts in the required field and to fund the necessary actions for bridging the digital divide for developing countries within the resources allocated by the financial plan;
- 7- to strengthen cooperation and coordination with the relevant international and regional organizations, in particular those of the developing countries in the activities related to bridge the digital divide,

*instructs the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau*

to implement actions, in coordination with the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau, in order to support studies and projects and, at the same time, promote joint activities whose aim is to build capacities for an increasingly efficient use of the orbital spectrum resource with the purpose of expanding affordable access to satellite broadband and facilitating connectivity between networks, and between different zones, countries and regions, especially in developing countries,

*instructs the Council*

- 1 to allocate adequate funds, within approved budgetary resources, for the implementation of this resolution;
- 2 to review the Secretary-General's reports and take appropriate measures to ensure the implementation of this resolution;
- 3 to submit a progress report on this resolution to the next plenipotentiary conference,

*invites Member States*

- 1 to continue to undertake concerted action in order to achieve the objectives of Resolution 37 (Rev. ~~Hyderabad, 2010~~Dubai, 2014) of the WTDC, as was the case for Resolution 37 (Rev. ~~Doha, 2006~~Hyderabad, 2010), by supporting this resolution as revised at this conference;
- 2 to conduct consultations with the beneficiaries of the infrastructure plans, programs and investment, considering current differences stemming from the social conditions and dynamics of the population so that there will be a correct appropriation of ICTs;
- 3 to promote the implementation of policies to promote public and private investments for the development and construction of Radiocommunication Systems, including satellite systems, in their own countries and regions, and to contemplate the inclusion of their use in the National and/or Regional Broadband Plans as an additional tool that will help bridge the digital divide and meet telecommunication needs, especially in developing countries.

**MOD**      **WGPL/138/3**

**RESOLUTION 176 (~~GUADALAJARA, 2010~~REV. BUSAN, 2014)**

**Human exposure to and measurement of electromagnetic fields**

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

*recalling*

- a) Resolution 72 (~~Johannesburg, 2008~~Rev. Dubai, 2012) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly, on measurement concerns related to human exposure to electromagnetic fields (EMF);
- b) Resolution 62 (~~Hyderabad, 2010~~Rev. Dubai, 2014) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference, on measurement concerns related to human exposure to EMF;
- c) relevant resolutions and recommendations of the ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R) and ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T);
- d) that there is ongoing work in the three Sectors relating to human exposure to electromagnetic fields, and that liaison and collaboration between the Sectors and with other expert organizations are important, in order to avoid duplication of effort,

*considering*

- a) that the World Health Organization (WHO) ~~and the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP)~~ have the specialized health expertise and competence to assess the impact of radio waves on the human body;
- ~~b) that WHO recommends exposure limits from international organizations such as the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP);~~
- ~~cb) that ITU has expertise in a mechanism to verify compliance with levels of radio signals by calculating and measuring the field strength and power density of radio signals;~~
- ~~de) the high cost of equipment used for measuring and assessing human exposure to EMF;~~
- ~~ed) that the considerable development in radio spectrum use has resulted in multiple sources of EMF emissions within any given geographic area;~~
- ~~fe) the urgent need for regulatory bodies in many developing countries to obtain information on EMF measurement methodologies in regard to human exposure to radio-frequency energy, in order to establish national regulations to protect their citizens;~~
- ~~g) that without adequate information, public awareness and/or appropriate regulation, people, particularly in developing countries, may have concerns about the effect of EMF on their health, which may result in increasing opposition to the deployment of radio installations;~~
- ~~fh) that guidelines on limits of exposure to EMF have been established by ICNIRP<sup>1</sup>, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE)<sup>2</sup> and the International Organization for Standardization/International Electrotechnical Commission (ISO/IEC) and that many administrations have adopted national regulations based on these guidelines; however there is a need to harmonize EMF guidelines for regulators and policy makers to help them formulate national standards;~~
- ~~ji) that most of the developing countries do not have the necessary tools to measure and evaluate the impact of Radio waves on the human body,~~

*resolves to instruct the Directors of the three Bureaux*

- 1 to collect and disseminate information concerning exposure to EMF, including on EMF measurement methodologies, in order to assist national administrations, particularly in developing countries, to develop appropriate national regulations;
- 2 to work closely with all the organizations in implementation of this resolution, as well as Resolution 72 (Rev. Dubai, 2012) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly, Resolution 62 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference, in order to continue and enhance the technical assistance provided to Member States,

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<sup>1</sup> Guidelines for limiting exposure to time-varying electric, magnetic and electromagnetic fields (up to 300 GHz) – <http://www.icnirp.de/documents/emfgdl.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> IEEE Std C95.1™-2005, IEEE standard for safety levels with respect to human exposure to radio frequency electromagnetic fields, 3 kHz to 300 GHz.



*instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau, in collaboration with the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau and the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau*

- 1 to ~~ascertain the requirement for, and as appropriate~~ conduct, regional seminars and workshops in order to identify the needs of developing countries and to build human capacity in regard to measurement of EMF related to human exposure to these fields;
- 2 to encourage Member States in the various regions to cooperate in sharing expertise and resources and identify a focal point or regional cooperation mechanism, including if required a regional centre, so as to assist all Member States in the region in measurement and training;
- 3 to encourage relevant organizations to continue undertaking necessary scientific studies to investigate possible health effects of EMF radiation on human body;
- 4 to formulate necessary measures and guidelines in order to help mitigate the possible health effects of EMF radiation on human body;
- 5 to encourage Member States to conduct periodic reviews to ensure that ITU Recommendations and other relevant international standards related to the exposure to EMF are followed,

*instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau, in collaboration with the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau and the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau*

to participate in the Electromagnetic Field Programmes as part of collaborative efforts with other international organizations to encourage the development of international standards for EMF exposure, conducted by WHO,

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

- 1 to prepare a report on the implementation of this resolution for submission to the ITU Council at each annual session for evaluation;
- 2 to provide a report to the next plenipotentiary conference on measures taken to implement this resolution;

*Invites Member States*

- 1 to take the appropriate measures to ascertain compliance with guidelines produced by ITU and other relevant international organizations with respect to exposure to EMF;
- 2 to implement sub-regional cooperation mechanisms for the acquisition of the needed equipment to measure EMF;
- 3 to conduct a periodic review to ascertain compliance with levels of radio signals by relevant entities, in accordance with ITU-T recommendations and ITU-R recommendations;
- 4 to raise public awareness of the health effects of human exposure to non-ionizing EMF, by conducting awareness-raising campaigns, holding workshops and publishing brochures on the subject.

