# PCC.I/RES. 194 (XIX-11) [1]

## GENDER ISSUE IN THE AMERICAS REGION

The XIX Meeting of Permanent Consultative Committee I: Telecommunications/Information and Communication Technologies (PCC.I),

**CONSIDERING:**

a)      That the development of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) constitutes a foundation for human development and inclusion in the new Information and Knowledge-based Society;

b)      That in that context, differences exist stemming from the capacity for equal access to the benefits of these new information and communication technologies;

c)      That in that regard, the "digital divide" refers not only to inequalities between those with and those without access to the infrastructure and education necessary to take advantage of those benefits, but also to a complex concept involving inequalities stemming from other aspects, such as age, gender, socioeconomic level, and ethnicity, among others, shaping and deepening society's existing processes of inequity;

d)      That ICT development is not unrelated to inequities stemming from gender issues, with ensuing new forms of social exclusion of women;

e)      That if social and gender-based inclusion is to be promoted, a gender perspective must be mainstreamed in development policies,

**RECOGNIZING:**

The part played by regional and international telecommunication organizations in promoting access to ICT and, especially, in bridging the digital divide, whatever its origin:  lack of access to infrastructure, the need for digital literacy, socioeconomic level,

---

[1] CCP.I-TIC/doc.2460/11

**BEARING IN MIND:**

a)       That women, children, indigenous peoples, older persons, and persons with disabilities have been included in the category of people with special needs;

b)       That the Hyderabad Action Plan stipulates that the Telecommunication Development Bureau of the International Telecommunication Union should continue to support training and human capacity building that helps expand communications infrastructure and access to communications services in the developing world, promoting greater participation in its activities by women, youth, and children, and, to that end, should allocate resources for activities that promote gender equality;

c)       That the objectives of Program 4 include "working on removing gender barriers to ICT training and promote equal training opportunities in ICT-related field for women and girls; to assist the membership in developing and implementing national strategies, plans, policies and practices in order to achieve digital inclusion for people with special needs, including fostering accessible telecommunications/ITC, such as by making assistive technologies available for people with disabilities, and ensuring basic ICT literacy training and use of telecommunication/ICT for economic and social development, poverty reduction and wealth creation."; and "to support the membership in developing and providing capacity building on ICT literacy skills for all, ICT-based life skills and vocational and education training for people with special needs, including in local languages, taking advantage of existing facilities such as schools, libraries, multipurpose community centres  …, and by promoting the establishment of local ICT centres in collaboration with all stakeholders.";

d)       That Resolution 70 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) establishes a series of actions to be carried out to ensure the mainstreaming of a gender perspective in all policies to be implemented; and

e)       That in that Resolution it was also resolved to endorse Resolution 55 (Doha, 2006) on promoting gender equality towards all-inclusive information societies,

**RESOLVES:**

1.       To create a "Program for the Inclusion of Women and Girls in ICT," whose objectives include and provide for:

   a)  Building institutional capacities to internalize this issue and plan effectively for it.

   b)  Building capacities of children and women.  Designing a capacity-building program that includes, *inter alia*, definitions and objectives, beneficiaries, infrastructure available or to be utilized, financing if required, and timeframes.

   c)  Evaluating measures implemented, performance, and impact on the lives of women and girls involved.

   d)  Contacting international organizations and organizations and entities specialized in this area for linkage of this proposal with current and emerging issues in the gender perspective area.

**INSTRUCTS:**

1.      The Executive Secretary of CITEL to forward this Resolution to the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Development Bureau to request its support and assistance in implementing these actions.

2.      The Secretariat of CITEL to forward this Resolution to international organizations and to organizations and entities specialized in this area for linkage of this proposal with current and emerging issues in the gender perspective area.