

The XVIII Meeting of the Permanent Executive Committee of CITEL, COM/CITEL,

DECIDES:

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| <p>COM/CITEL DEC. 58 (XVIII-06)¹</p> | <p>1. To send to the OAS 2007 General Assembly the attached draft Resolution “STRENGTHENING HEMISPHERIC COOPERATION WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF CITEL’S WORK ON FOSTERING TELECOMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT IN THE REGION”, highlighting the important activities carried out by CITEL in 2006.</p> <p>2. To attach this draft Resolution to the Annual Report to be submitted by CITEL to the OAS General Assembly.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">DRAFT RESOLUTION AG/RES. YYYY (XXXVII-O/07)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">STRENGTHENING HEMISPHERIC COOPERATION IN THE FRAMEWORK OF CITEL EFFORTS TO PROMOTE TELECOMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT IN THE REGION</p> <p style="text-align: center;">THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,</p> <p>HAVING SEEN resolution AG/RES. 2160 (XXXVI-O/06), in which the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL) is requested to submit a follow-up report on its activities to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh regular session;</p> <p>CONSIDERING:</p> <p>That the CITEL is the ideal forum for the coordination, discussion, and harmonization of regional strategies and policies on telecommunications and for the exchange of information in this area, so as to facilitate and promote the ongoing development of telecommunications in the Hemisphere, including information and communication technologies (ICTs); and</p> <p>That the Fourth Regular Meeting of the Assembly of CITEL, held in San José, Costa Rica, adopted the Strategic Plan of CITEL for 2006-2010;</p> |
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¹ COM/CITEL/doc. 1115/06 cor.1

RECALLING:

That, in the Declaration of Santo Domingo: Good Governance and Development in the Knowledge-based Society, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation of the Member States of the OAS request that “the organs, agencies, and entities of the Organization of American States (OAS) continue to support the incorporation of ICTs into national development plans,” and further request the OAS to continue, through its General Secretariat, in particular through its specialized commissions, such as CITEL, coordinating regional efforts to develop initiatives and identify additional resources to provide greater access to ICTs and their use and benefits, thus contributing to bridging the digital divide; and

That, in resolution AG/RES. 2243 (XXXVI-O/06), “Support for the Implementation of the Declaration of Santo Domingo,” the General Assembly urged member states to attach priority to and continue supporting the implementation of the second phase of the Agenda for Connectivity in the Americas and Plan of Action of Quito and, in accordance with that document, to continue adopting policies and regulations that promote the development and expansion of, and access to, infrastructure, especially in rural, remote, and underserved areas;

RECOGNIZING:

The importance of telecommunications and information and communication technologies for the political, economic, social and cultural progress of the countries, and that many countries in the region still do not have the necessary basic infrastructure, or long-term plans, laws, and regulations in force to promote ICT development and use;

The need to promote equitable, affordable, and universal ICT access everywhere so as to bridge the digital divide and create digital opportunities for all; and

The wide variety of activities undertaken by CITEL in 2006 to introduce technological advances, develop common positions for the Member States of CITEL to take when dealing with the ITU, strengthen dialogue among Members of CITEL, and expand training opportunities in order to promote the ongoing development and strengthening of the telecommunication sector in the Americas,

RESOLVES:

1. To urge authorities of member state

governments to continue to promote the development, incorporation, and use of ICTs, and to request CITELE and the OAS General Secretariat to support such efforts.

2. To express its satisfaction with the work of CITELE to identify measures to strengthen hemispheric cooperation for the development of telecommunication infrastructure, and in creating an important platform for dialogue and exchange of experiences in order to move forward in this area.

3. To instruct the General Secretariat to implement the programs and projects set out in the Strategic Plan of CITELE for 2006-2010, especially those referring to the work of the second phase of the Agenda for Connectivity in the Americas, promotion of the use of ICTs and the availability of broadband infrastructure, further human resource development and training, and preparation and follow-up on inter-American proposals, positions, and coordinated views for high-level international telecommunication meetings, so as to strengthen the regional position in the international context.

4. To instruct CITELE, with support from the General Secretariat:

a. To continue reviewing, in the framework of the second phase of the Agenda for Connectivity in the Americas, the status of telecommunication/ICT services and connectivity;

b. To identify the sectors with critical deficiencies where priority action is needed; and

c. To present each year a report to the General Assembly that contains concrete proposals on how best to improve the status of ICTs in the countries, for wide dissemination in the member states, the private sector, and other interested groups.

6. To invite all member states to attach high priority to allocating resources to the telecommunication sector and to step up cooperation between developed and developing countries, as well as among developing countries, with a view to facilitating access to telecommunications infrastructure, especially in rural areas.

7. To urge the Secretary General to include CITELE projects and programs among such priorities as may arise for the mobilization of external resources.

8. To urge the member states and permanent observers, individuals, and national and international public and

private entities that wish to do so to participate in CITEL activities under way; follow up on their progress; and make voluntary contributions to support the development and implementation of CITEL projects and programs.

9. To request the Permanent Council, through the Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Affairs (CAAP), to invite the Secretariat of CITEL to submit reports periodically on the financial resources needed to implement its mandates.

10. To request CITEL to present to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh regular session a follow-up report on the implementation of this resolution.