

**COM/CITEL RES. 32 (IV-96)**

**TO ENCOURAGE THE APPROACH TO THE CONVERSION TO ELECTRONIC DATA  
EXCHANGE IN THE AMERICAS**

The Fourth Meeting of the Permanent Executive Committee of CITEL (COM/CITEL),

**CONSIDERING:**

The clear direction, strong support and substantial momentum towards free trade throughout the Western Hemisphere which is currently evident and is widely endorsed;

The progressive liberalization throughout the telecommunications industry in this Hemisphere,

**BEARING IN MIND:**

That the Declaration of Principles of the Meeting of Senior Telecommunication Officials in Washington in September, 1996 highlighted the point that the development of partnership strategies between governments and the private sector should be promoted to accelerate the process of conversion to electronic commerce;

That the Plan of Action for the Americas of the Meeting of Senior Telecommunication Officials set as an objective to promote regional coordination in the areas of value-added services, equipment certification, and coordination of standards,

**RECOGNIZING:**

CITEL's objective to improve its working methods through the use of electronic document handling techniques, particularly to support work in the areas of certification harmonization and standards coordination;

That electronic document handling techniques applied on a network basis throughout the Americas could facilitate electronic data exchange;

That many successful examples of the application of such technology exist, for example one being the airline industry, and have proven to be of substantial value to countries where it has been applied;

That such techniques in the Americas will provide an opportunity to reduce costs and accelerate the provision and extension of telecommunication services;

That the Plan of Action for the Americas includes the promotion of the installation of networks and systems that provide by electronic means interaction between citizens and Government and, internally, among state agencies at various levels;

**RESOLVES:**

To encourage the States of the Region to consider ways and means to utilize the available techniques and systems to accelerate the process of advancing electronic data exchange as submitted and self-financed by appropriate entities.

**INVITES:**

Appropriate entities to consider the possibility of submitting proposals to administrations for such prototype electronic support systems which are self-financed and can accelerate the availability of electronic data exchange.