

COM/CITEL RES. 50 (V-97)

CITEL RESPONSE TO THE SECOND SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS

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

CONSIDERING:

That CITEL has been requested by the General Coordinator on the Preparations for the Second Summit of the Americas to provide suggestions to be included in the telecommunications section for the Action Plan of the Santiago Summit;

That consultations have been undertaken by the Executive Secretariat of CITEL to the membership to provide advice on the substance of the items to be included in the telecommunications section of the Plan of Action;

That the V meeting of COM/CITEL has provided the opportunity for the members of the Committee to suggest further amendments to the section of the Plan of Action concerned with telecommunications issues.

RESOLVES:

- 1) To invite the Executive Secretary of CITEL to provide further advice to the General Coordinator of Preparations for the Second Summit of the Americas based on the amendments agreed by the V meeting of COM/CITEL;
- 2) To request the Executive Secretary to forward the annex to the CITEL membership at the earliest opportunity;
- 3) To urge the Member States of CITEL to forward these amendments as soon as possible to their respective authorities preparing for the second Summit.

ANNEX

C. Telecommunications

Governments will:

Adopt strategies to support the development and continuous updating of the regional information infrastructure plan that is consistent with the national information infrastructure plans of the countries of the Hemisphere to realize the benefits offered by the "Information Revolution" to the people of the Hemisphere.

Work together to rapidly build-out the communications and information infrastructure in the region, together with the private sector, and, if needed, request CITEI in close collaboration with the ITU and the IDB to assist with implementation of the World Trade Organization's Agreement on Trade in Basic Telecommunications Services (the GBT Agreement), and the Declaration and Action Plan adopted by the 1996 Senior Telecommunications Officials Meeting held in Washington, D.C.

Work together to develop, subject to national constraints, best practice guidelines on universal access/service, interconnection and the establishment of independent regulators and transparent procedures, taking into account the WTO agreement and the commitments made at the Meeting of Senior Telecommunication Officials held 25-26 September, 1996, in Washington, D.C.

Adopt strategies to make affordable access available to all for telephony and the INTERNET, and encourage the development of community information service centers that provide access to telephones, computers, e-mail, the INTERNET, and multimedia services enabling competitive and low-cost access to information and expertise, education and training, productivity tools and basic communication services.

Foster the development, mainly by the private sector, of applications over electronic networks, such as the INTERNET, broadcast television and radio, that will support education, health, agriculture and sustainable rural development, electronic commerce and other applications assisting small savers, micro-enterprise and Small and Medium-sized Enterprise (SMEs), and modernization of the State.

Encourage the public, private and civil sectors in the Hemisphere to develop INTERNET-based programs that are useable and useful to the many peoples of the Hemisphere with their different socioeconomic conditions and languages.

Foster the development of electronic commerce ensuring that the private sector have the leadership role in this area by avoiding undue restrictions and regulation and by supporting a predictable, consistent, nondiscriminatory and simple legal environment for electronic commerce.

Encourage CITEI to address, with some degree of urgency, studies of the standards coordination aspects of the existing network infrastructure, specifically in the area of Telecommunication Management Network (TMN) and Intelligent Network (IN) so that the network can evolve to meet the information infrastructure needs of the Americas.

Direct Ministers within the OAS/CITEI process, to continue to examine ways to develop consistent regulatory approaches among member Countries leading to the promotion of greater communality in the certification process for telecommunications and information technology equipment and to the establishment of a framework for mutual recognition agreements (MRA's) encompassing all the countries of the region.