

COM/CITEL RES. 99 (IX-00) ¹

**DRAFT TELECOMMUNICATIONS SECTION OF THE ACTION PLAN FOR THE
THIRD SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS**

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

CONSIDERING:

- a) That CITEL was requested by the Permanent Mission of Canada to prepare the draft section on telecommunications for inclusion in the Action Plan of the Third Summit of the Americas, and
- b) That the Ninth Meeting of COM/CITEL provided the opportunity to review the draft telecommunications section of the Action Plan attached in the Annex to this Resolution,

RESOLVES:

1. To approve the work of the Ad Hoc Group that prepared the draft telecommunications section of the Action Plan
2. To forward the draft telecommunications section for the Action Plan to the General Coordinator for the preparations of the Third Summit of the Americas.

¹ document COM/CITEL 583/00.

ANNEX

SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS DECLARATION ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS

We, the Heads of State and of Government of the countries of the Americas,

Recognize that the progress made in the areas of telecommunications and information technologies open up countless opportunities for the individual and collective development of our societies and the growth of our economies. Accordingly, we reaffirm our will to adopt measures in order that all the peoples of the Americas may actively take part in the Global Information Society based on democratic values, the free flow of information and knowledge, mutual tolerance, and respect for diversity.

We will do whatever is within our power to ensure that this new society permanently provides our peoples with a definitive opportunity to preserve peace and democracy, improve their quality of life, strengthen up their capabilities, and stimulate economic and social development in a framework of understanding and cooperation, by extending the benefits that development brings, equally to all the countries and inhabitants of the hemisphere.

To those ends,

We will continue working in cooperation with the private sector to modernize the telecommunications sector, bearing in mind the social, political, economic, commercial, and cultural needs of our peoples, in particular those of less developed communities. Accordingly, we will foster the development of the telecommunications infrastructure needed to carry out comprehensive programs in all sectors of society and the economy, including promoting the timely availability of facilities for Internet access and for utilizing information technology resources to increase productivity in all sectors, and taking into account the conditions that favor the development of electronic commerce.

We will establish conditions that promote and strengthen free and fair competition in all telecommunications services, in order to attract the investment needed to develop infrastructure, and will adopt policies to protect the interests of users, in order to reduce the costs and enhance the quality, efficiency, coverage, and diversity of services, all based on respect for user privacy.

We encourage the improvement of the potential of human resources in the telecommunications sector through ongoing training programs on telecommunications policy, regulation, management, and technology. To that end, we will promote cooperation among the countries and joint initiatives with the private sector, in order to achieve results in accordance with the present conditions of the globalization and technological convergence in the telecommunications sector.

The governments will adopt measures to implement the Mutual Recognition Agreement on conformity assessment via CITELE, including notification of the timing of implementation and adjustment of national laws as required.

We will propose measures designed to modernize national laws, as appropriate, in order to adapt them to the guidelines set forth in this declaration, based on principles such as: permanence of strong and independent regulatory bodies, a pro-competitive approach, including the adoption of rules on dominant operators; and a flexible regulatory framework consistent with technological convergence.

Further, we instruct the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITELE) to:

- Prepare guidelines on Universal Service and connectivity, based on the principles of technological neutrality, transparency, non discrimination, private investment, competition, open standards, and a clear definition of the responsibilities of governments and private entities.
- Promote and coordinate the modernization of telecommunications infrastructure through introduction of new technologies, in particular broadband technology, mobile and third generation telecommunications, new standards on telecasting and IP. These actions will encourage the use of open and efficient architectures intended to guarantee convergence and interconnection of networks, to the benefit of all participants, as well as the interoperability of services and ensure their sustainability.
- Promote the formulation of guidelines to encourage increased competitiveness and productivity of all sectors through applications such as tele-education and tele-medicine, and on the creation of domestic industries dedicated to the generation of Internet content.
- Promote and coordinate the adoption of adequate standards to ensure the interoperability of existing and future telecommunications networks, timely introduction of technology in all markets, and development of new markets, taking into account the regulations and recommendations of the ITU.
- Assist governments to create the necessary conditions for the development of their telecommunications sector, based on a free competition framework that will further the elimination of the digital gap.
- Support negotiations involving telecommunications issues, and in particular, electronic commerce that are carried out through the Free Trade Americas Area (FTAA).
- Promote the development of telecommunications for humanitarian assistance.