COM/CITEL/RES.151 (XII-02) [1]

CITEL AND THE WORLD SUMMIT ON THE INFORMATION SOCIETY

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

CONSIDERING:

a) That the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) is to take place under the high patronage of the UN Secretary-General in two phases, with the first in Geneva in 2003 and the second phase in Tunis in 2005;

b) That the ITU has assumed the leading coordination role in organizing the Summit and the managerial role in the Executive Secretariat of the WSIS;

c) That, in adopting a Decision and Resolution concerning the planning for the Summit, the 2002 ITU Plenipotentiary Conference recognized the importance of taking into account the United Nations Millennium Development Goals and the results of other relevant initiatives such as the Agenda for Connectivity in the Americas;

d) That a number of key regional preparatory meetings for the WSIS have been organized including one for Latin America and the Caribbean to be held in the Dominican Republic from 29 to 31 January, 2003 involving the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the OAS as among the principal participants, and

e) That CITEL has an important telecommunication perspective to offer in strengthening and developing inter-American cooperation,

RECOGNIZING:

a) That the Declaration on Telecommunications forming part of the Action Plan adopted by Heads of State at the 2001 Summit of the Americas emphasized the importance of connectivity through the promotion and coordination of the modernization of telecommunications infrastructure and the need for interoperability of existing and future telecommunications networks;

b) That the Washington Declaration adopted by Member States at the Third Regular Assembly of CITEL in August 2002 highlighted the need for CITEL to actively contribute in the preparations for the Summit through actions that include advancing and promoting the principles for a Agenda for Connectivity in the Americas;

c) That Resolution COM6/10 was adopted by the 2002 ITU Plenipotentiary Conference on the subject of "Support for the 'Agenda for Connectivity in the Americas and Plan of Action of Quito'",

d) That Permanent Consultative Committee I through resolution PCC.I/RES.10 (I-02) and Permanent Consultative Committee II are identifying activities of direct relevance to both the WSIS including

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cyber security protection of the telecommunication infrastructure of the Americas and the implementation of the Agenda for Connectivity;

RECOGNIZING ALSO:

That there a number of common issues among the proposed themes of the Summit and the Agenda for Connectivity which include the role of connectivity as a tool for social, economic and cultural development of the countries of Americas, infrastructure development, universal and equitable access, capacity building through human resource development as well as services and applications,

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT:

a)   The concerns expressed by CITEL Member States on the need for identifying a full range of issues for the Summit preparations associated with connectivity such as human capacity building and infrastructure development, with bridging the digital divide through, for example, the introduction of competition in the provision of telecommunication services and of new applications and services, and with initiatives underway in the OAS in pursuing common policies in such critical areas as cyber security, and

b)   The need to identify suitable mechanisms to reflect the views of CITEL Member States into the WSIS preparatory process,

RESOLVES:

1.   To invite the Secretary-General of the OAS as a participant in the WSIS regional preparatory meeting to be held in the Dominican Republic to relay the following broad telecommunication objectives that have been identified in this Resolution as appropriate as representing the views of the Members of COM/CITEL on the Summit process specifically within the mandate of CITEL:

- Modernization of telecommunication infrastructure and greater access to telecommunication services through policies that promote universal access, free and fair competition in telecommunication services to encourage public and private investment in connectivity;

- Mobilization of human resources to strengthen capacities for applying information and communication technologies to human development;

- Devoting special attention to capacity building in areas of human resource development in support of connectivity;

- Building a culture of cyber security to protect telecommunication infrastructures by raising awareness among all participants in the Americas in information systems and networks concerning the risk to those systems and by developing necessary measures to address security risks to respond quickly to cyber incidents.

2.   To distribute this Resolution to all CITEL Member States to assist in the development of their respective positions and proposals to the WSIS through the ITU Council Working Group established for this purpose.