

**ESTABLISHMENT OF A GROUP FOR CONNECTIVITY INITIATIVES MANAGEMENT**

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

**CONSIDERING:**

- a) That the Heads of State and Government of the Americas acknowledged in the Declaration of the Quebec Summit “that a technological revolution is unfolding and that our region is entering a new economy, one defined by a vastly enhanced capacity to access knowledge and to improve flows of information” and expressed that “we are convinced that the promotion of a Connectivity Agenda for the Americas will facilitate the beneficial integration of the hemisphere into an increasingly knowledge-based society. We share the goal of providing all citizens of the Americas with the opportunity to develop the tools to access and share knowledge that will allow them to fully seize opportunities to strengthen democracy, create prosperity and realize their human potential. Connectivity will open new opportunities to our society in all areas, for which equal access and appropriate training are necessary”;
- b) That at that same moment they established in the Quebec Action Plan, among other, to “instruct, as appropriate, our telecommunications authorities and our relevant regulatory bodies, working within our regional and sub-regional agencies and organizations to develop and implement before the next Summit of the Americas a **cooperative and collaborative program to support a connectivity agenda for the Hemisphere** and to encourage increased competitiveness and productivity of all sectors through applications such as **distance education and tele-health** and promote the creation of domestic activities dedicated to the generation of Internet-based industries”;
- c) That in the Washington Declaration, Member States of the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL) agreed to continue consolidating and expanding CITEL’s capabilities so it can fully respond to the commitments adopted by the Heads of State at the Summit of the Americas, in view of the fact that telecommunications and information technologies and connectivity are priority elements in the sustainable development of the Region, and
- d) That the III Ordinary Assembly of the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL) adopted Resolution CITEL/RES. 33 (III-02) regarding implementation of a Agenda for Connectivity in the Americas,

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<sup>1</sup> Document COM/CITEL/doc. 756/02 rev.1

**CONSIDERING FURTHER:**

- a) That the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WCTD-02) adopted Resolution 39, “Support the Agenda for Connectivity in the Americas and the Quito Action Plan”, which resolved to include among the high priorities support for initiatives under the “Agenda for Connectivity in the Americas”, recommending the use of mechanisms to help to achieve the necessary results for each country and region, and promote the exchange of information on the development of connectivity activities globally;
- b) That Recommendation 14 of WTDC-02, regarding Pilot integration project for information and communications technologies, recommended that the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) adopts all necessary measures to implement regional projects derived from non-exclusive integration models designed to link all stakeholders, organizations and institutions of the various sectors in an ongoing relationship of cooperation in which information is disseminated over networks, so as to narrow the digital divide; that BDT plays a central role in this initiative and uses the funds at its disposal to attain that objective and that the Latin American region serves as the initial testing ground for this initiative, and
- c) That the Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-02) adopted Resolution COM 6/10, which resolved to commission ITU Secretary General to “release the appropriate financial resources to endorse and foster execution of projects intended to comply with the objectives stated in the mentioned Resolutions and Recommendations; in particular through the use of Exhibitions and World Telecommunication Forum (TELECOM) Surplus”; and to commission the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau to bring special attention to the application of Istanbul Action Plan provisions regarding initiatives proposed within the framework of the Connectivity Agenda for the Americas, to provide adequate support to Member States in this regard, through the Regional Bureau for the Americas and to cooperate in identifying additional funding resources which could supplement funds provided by the ITU to support development of related projects in the Americas Region,

**BEARING IN MIND:**

- a) That the Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development (IACD) is OAS’s main entity to provide and coordinate technical assistance, and that in the Development and Cooperation Strategic Plan for 2002-2005 has established eight priority issues: education, social development, science and technology, integration and commerce, culture, tourism, environment and democracy, and that the IACD, by means of its programs, aims at the integration of communication and information technology use, and
- b) The support given by the Director of the BDT to the implementation of projects related to connectivity initiatives for the Americas, both with respect to the financial aspects as well as to providing experts and coordinating activities,

**RECOGNIZING:**

That taking into account the connectivity objectives stated at the Summit of the Americas as well as CITELE responsibility in developing activities to attain them, it is necessary to foster cooperation relationships with telecommunication and financing organizations, at the international and regional levels, as well as with organizations and agencies from all sectors involved, with the aim to develop telecommunications,

**RESOLVES**

1. To establish a Group for Connectivity Initiatives Management that will interact with the ITU/BDT through the Regional Office of the ITU and with other interested organizations in order to implement projects originating from these initiatives.
2. To invite the Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development to work together with CITELE on projects to be developed in the areas identified by the Management Group.
3. To instruct the Group to work within the competence framework of CITELE in the following areas:
  - Promotion of network infrastructure development
  - E-government (development of applications which enable the implementation of government modernization processes)
  - E-health
  - E-education
  - E-commerce
  - Human Resource training in the telecommunication sector
  - E-culture and distance-culture
  - ICT's access
  - Minorities
  - People in special need
  - Public protection and disaster relief telecommunications.
4. To establish as the Group's objectives, the following:
  - a) To identify those projects whose outcomes comply with the requirement of satisfying the common needs of all the countries in the Region or a large number of them, and that the project ensures the recognition of the best practices identified all over the world, and in particular, in the Region where it will be implemented, aiming at cost-reduction and the encouragement of implementing similar ideas and its adaptation, and
  - b) To promote cooperation mechanisms with international and regional financing organizations as well as mechanisms of partnership with the private sector and other interested entities, to enable accomplishment of the identified projects and coordination of implementation actions
5. To entrust the Chair of COM/CITELE to chair the Group for Connectivity Initiative Management.
6. To entrust the Chair of COM/CITELE to establish the necessary vice-chairs taking into account the criteria of regional balance in the Americas Region, including at least a representative from:
  - NAFTA group
  - Andean Region
  - Center-American Group
  - CARICOM group
  - Mercosur and Chile Group
7. To carry out Working Group meetings jointly with the ordinary meetings scheduled by CITELE in order to promote maximum participation of Members and to undertake as many activities as possible through mail or the CITELE Electronic Forum.