<center>COM/CITEL RES. 177 (XIV-04)[1]</center>

CREATION OF A SITE TO FACILITATE THE DEVELOPMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS IN INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY REGIONS OF AMERICA

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

CONSIDERING:

a)   That indigenous communities of America, particularly in Latin America, are facing alarming marginalization conditions, which made them be considered as a priority item in the framework of the Plan of Action of the Americas and the Plan of Action of Istanbul;

b)   That Item C.8 of the Plan of Action of Geneva issued by the World Summit on Information Society states the carrying out of actions tending to the promotion and protection of the cultural diversity and emphasizes on the attention to indigenous communities;

c)   That the Conference Preparatory Working Group mandate includes the development of regional initiatives in the context of the preparation for the Plenipotentiary Conference and the World Telecommunication Development Conference, and provides the attached project to be considered as a regional initiative for the World Telecommunication Development Conference;

d)   That in accordance with decision COM/CITEL DEC.33 (XIII-03) the decision was made to continue with the discussion group on Indigenous Communities in the CITEL Electronic Forum to continue receiving new contributions;

e)   That in accordance with the report of the X Meeting of the Steering Committee the requirement of submitting reports of the discussion group about indigenous communities to the Regional Office of the ITU was accepted to prepare a regional project to be presented in the next COM/CITEL meeting; and

f)   That in the context of the Forum a Project of Regional application has been submitted which is attached hereto and is intended to be approved by COM/CITEL as a regional initiative to be taken to the ITU Regional Office for its implementation,

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT:

a)   That one of the most important methods for the development of telecommunications is the dissemination of experiences and networking efforts bringing different players together and thus providing for a better utilization of resources and mutual support to encourage the full development of indigenous communities in accordance with their own priorities; and

b)   That CITEL is a competent body to propose Projects to facilitate the development of telecommunications in indigenous regions and to apply for the necessary support before the ITU,

RESOLVES:

1.   To approve the project attached hereto as a regional initiative.

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[1] COM/CITEL/doc.903/04 rev.1

2.   To appoint the discussion group coordinator, Mr. Cristian Martínez (Argentina) as rapporteur of the project, and Mr. Erick Huerta Velázquez (Mexico) as co-rapporteur.

3.   To instruct the rapporteur and co-rapporteur of this project, that in coordination with the regional ITU Office and with the support of CITEL Secretariat, carry out the necessary activities to implement the project through the direct support of and funds from institutions and administrations interested in this subject.

4.   To invite Member States and Associate Members to cooperate with the project.

ANNEX TO RESOLUTION COM/CITEL RES. 177 (XIV-04)

Project for the Creation of a Site Facilitating the Development of Telecommunications in the Indigenous Communities of the Americas and pilot projects

I.   Problem.

Indigenous communities are seriously marginalized especially in Latin American countries.[2]. The situation regarding the digital divide is not different. As a result of the conditions and the geographical situation of the regions in which these communities are settled, they are not benefited by information technologies[3], not only because they do not have Internet connection but also because they have little possibilities to access contents of interest to them.

Indigenous population's access to ICT has proved to be an effective tool to improve the quality of life and the defense of their rights. Just to give an example, in the Chiapaneco case, the Internet played a key role for the dissemination and search of support to guarantee the rights of indigenous populations.

Therefore, elements that facilitate indigenous population's access to ICT and the implementation of these mechanisms to their benefit are of the utmost importance. So, having connectivity is not enough, it is more important to be able to use connectivity to the benefit of their own communities.

Although there are successful experiences regarding connectivity as well as the inclusion of contents and the adoption of ICT[4], this information is scattered and to date there is no tool that facilitates its access and exchange of experiences among the parties involved, or information that allows for the development of appropriate cooperation policies for these matters.

II.   The Project.

Within this perspective, the project seeks to carry out a research that compiles successful experiences, accessible and appropriate technologies, experiences in the use of ICT, and content creation so that a user can find information that allows him to contact the necessary agents for the provision of infrastructure, create content and take advantage of ICT as well as to use the experiences of other communities and to set

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[2] Just to give an example, in Guatemala, Mexico, Bolivia and Peru, the indigenous population that lives in poverty exceeds 60% (Hernández 1994)

[3] Hernández and Calcagno, *Los Pueblos Indígenas y la Sociedad de la Información*, Santiago 2003

[4] Net Mapu-Chile www.mapuche.cl, Fondo de Cobertura Social de México and e-México program www.emexico.gob.mx, Asociación de Cabildos Indígenas de Colombia www.inforcauca.org, just to mention some examples.

up relationships that guide them in its development, and in a second stage, the support of pilot projects to develop telecommunications in indigenous communities that verify the usefulness of the site.

The project is based on the idea that social capital facilitates a more effective and respectful development of indigenous cultures as it allows for free access to information as well as access to resources that help them meet their own goals based on the strengthening of their own capabilities.

III.   Principles.

The project is based on the principles of indigenous population's right to determine their own development. Therefore, it intends to make information available to interested parties and to facilitate contacts that will allow these communities to access resources and determine the goals of the own projects.

In this sense, it has a social and integrated vision of telecommunications that goes beyond the provision of infrastructure and intends its use for the benefit of indigenous communities.

According to the above paragraphs, the project is designed based on an adaptable system of resources and activities that allows for flexibility to include the needs of the interested parties as well as for a cooperative work that encourages indigenous community participation.

IV.   Purpose.

Creating a site with information that facilitates the development of telecommunications in the indigenous communities of the Americas, creating relations with the different interested parties based on their own interests and fostering three telecommunication projects that use the information included in the web site.

V.   Goals.

- Compiling information on existing experiences and projects to incorporate ICT, technologies, funding methods, service providers, tele-applications and regulatory experiences of indigenous communities.
- Interacting with those who had these experiences so that they also become site users and facilitarors of the web site.
- Integrating the information in a web site with discussion forums and links to participating institutions and members.
- Designing and presenting a workshop on the development of telecommunications in indigenous communities.
- Applying experiences for the development of three projects in different indigenous communities of the Americas.

VI.   Resources.

The government of the United States of Mexico through the Commission for the Development of Indigenous Peoples is able to make contributions in the items mentioned below whenever Mexico is the host country. Cooperation from the ITU-D and the industry or other Administrations is being sought.

Therefore, additional resources will be required for the project coordinator, the researcher, per diem, web site design, and funding for pilot projects.

Stage	Activities	Schedule	Resources
Research	• Collect preliminary information (to organize the research and sources areas) • Collect specific information • Analyze experiences • Organize the information to be submitted	The project is programmed in 18 months. Research: From 1st to 10th month	• Project Coordinator (18 months) • Researcher (12 months) • Research Assistant and Facilitator (18 months) * • Per diem • Overhead *
Development of the Site	• Design and create the site • Tests and management of forums.	From 4th to 10th month	• Web site Designer • Site hosting and support services *
Development of projects in communities	• Study and design the web site in conjunction with the community • Installation • Training • Monitoring and evaluation of the results	From 9th to 8th month	• Only funding and monitoring services are offered, the community or the center organizes its own resources
Workshop	• Seminar on the development of the ICT in indigenous communities	17th month	• Headquarters, facilitators and stationary *

Responsible parties	Functions
Project Coordinator	• Design, manage and monitor the project • Negotiate agreements with involved parties to broadcast the web site • Facilitate the cooperation work among players • Coordinate the research according to the principles of the Project • Coordinate the submission of results of the research • Check the stages of the Project and update the research once finished • Monitor and assess results • Organize the seminar • Issue a quarterly report of the Project
Researcher	• Design the research according to the principles of the project • Organize and collect information • Prepare a research report
Research Assistant and Facilitator	• Provide assistance in the documentation and field research activities and perform as facilitator and researcher in projects carried out in communities. Provide assistance in the assessment of community projects and in the general project. Provide information about the use of the site and training to interested parties.

* These would be provided by Mexico through the Commission for Development of Indigenous Peoples.