

**COM/CITEL RES. 180 (XIV-04)<sup>1</sup>**

**EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF THE WORKING GROUP ON  
CONNECTIVITY INITIATIVES MANAGEMENT**

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

**WHEREAS:**

- a) That by Resolution COM/CITEL RES. 152 (XII-02) the Connectivity Initiatives Working Group was established.
- b) That CITEL is addressing individually the issues related to the Agenda for Connectivity in the Americas and Plan of Action of Quito adopted during the Third Summit of the Americas and is following up the implementation of the Declaration of Principles and Action Plan of the first phase of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS); and
- c) That due to the correlation among the issues stated in *considering* b), focused attention on them is required to ensure the best use of resources and provide consistency in CITEL decision-making process,

**CONSIDERING FURTHER:**

- a) That at the Third Summit of the Americas the declaration “Connecting the Americas” indicates “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 others, 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”;
- 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 information and communications 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 an Agenda for Connectivity in the Americas,
- e) That the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-02) adopted Resolution 39, “Agenda for Connectivity in the Americas and Plan of Action of Quito”, which resolved to include among the high priorities the support for initiatives within the framework, recommending the use of mechanisms

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<sup>1</sup> COM/CITEL /doc.914/04

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;

f) That the Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-02) adopted Resolution 128, which resolved to request ITU Secretary General to “to release appropriate financial resources to support and stimulate the implementation of projects aimed at fulfilling the objectives set in the resolutions and recommendation highlighted above, particularly by mobilizing the surplus income from world telecommunication exhibitions and forums (TELECOM)””; and to instruct the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau to pay particular attention to implementation of the provisions of the Istanbul Action Plan relating to the initiatives under the framework of the Agenda for Connectivity in the Americas and to provide appropriate support to the Member States in this regard through the ITU Regional Office for the Americas, and to help identify additional financial resources that could supplement those assigned by ITU for supporting the development of all related projects in the Americas region,

#### **TAKING INTO ACCOUNT:**

a) That the Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development (IACD) is OAS’s main entity to provide and coordinate technical assistance, and that it has established in its Development and Cooperation Strategic Plan for 2002-2005 eight priority issues: education, social development, science and technology, integration and trade, culture, tourism, environment and democracy, and that the IACD, in its programs, aims at the integration information and communication 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,

#### **OBSERVING:**

a) That on the first phase of the World Summit on the Information Society, representatives of the peoples of the world gathered there adopted a Declaration of Principles which reflect the consensus reached on the principles and values for the creation of an information society where persons, communities, and peoples may develop their full potential in the promotion of their sustainable development and improve their quality of life; and

b) That on that opportunity a Plan of Action was adopted which contemplates actions, policies and objectives at an international, regional and sub-regional level to succeed in bridging the digital divide and to guarantee a harmonious and equal development, fair to everyone,

#### **RECOGNIZING:**

That in view of the connectivity objectives established by the Summit of the Americas and CITEL’s responsibility in the development of activities that enable their achievement, it is necessary to promote cooperation relations with international and regional telecommunications organizations, telecommunication development funding organizations, and organizations and agencies from the different sectors involved,

#### **RESOLVES:**

1. To approve the modification to the Mandate of the Connectivity Initiatives Management Working Group, whose updated text is as follows:

- 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 significant number of them, and that the project ensures the identification and recognition of the best practices all over the world, and in particular, in the Region where it will be implemented, aiming at promoting its replication and adaptation, and
  - b) To do a systematic follow-up of the implementation of the Agenda for Connectivity and Plan of Action of Quito and the Declaration of Principles and Plan of Action the first phase of the World Summit on Information Society (WSIS)
  - c) To continue holding Working Group meetings together with scheduled regular meetings organized by CITEL in order to promote maximum participation of the members and carry out as many activities by mail or through CITEL's Electronic Forum.
  - d) To interact with ITU/BDT, through the ITU's Regional Office and with other agencies interested in implementing projects derived from those initiatives.
  - e) To invite the Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development (IACD) to work jointly with CITEL on activities which are developed within the framework of the areas identified by the group.
  - f) To continue working within the framework of the authority of CITEL, aimed at getting telecommunication development projects in line with the specific needs and decisions of each country.
  - g) To inform the OAS Office following up the decisions adopted by the successive Summits of the Americas on the implementation in the Region of said decisions regarding telecommunications.
  - h) To follow up the implementation of the Plan of Action adopted by the First Phase of the World Summit on the Information Society and inform said results to CITEL Member States and to OAS bodies which may request said information regarding telecommunications.
2. To modify the name of the Working Group for the Connectivity Initiatives Management for Connectivity in the Americas, regarding the extension of the Mandate.
3. To ratify the Chair of COM/CITEL for the position of Chair of the Working Group, and the Representatives of Nafta Group, the chair of CAATEL, Center-American Group, CARICOM Group, and MERCOSUR Group and Chile as Vice Chairs.
4. To revoke Resolution COM/CITEL RES. 152 (XII-02)

**TO INSTRUCT THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF CITEL:**

To assist the Working Group in the fulfillment of its mandate by providing it with all information and logistics which may become necessary to that end.