

COM/CITEL/RES. 266 (XXXI-15)¹

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR THE CITEL STRATEGIC PLAN

The 31 Meeting of the Permanent Executive Committee of CITEL, COM/CITEL,

RECOGNIZING:

- a) That the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL) is an entity of the Organization of American States, established by the General Assembly in accordance with Article 53 of the Charter of the Organization; and inter-governmental organization whose purpose must always be to pursue the overall interest; when seeking funding through external resources, both from the Administrations, as well as the Associate Members, the Executive Secretariat of CITEL shall preserve such condition in order to defend the fundamental pillars of the OAS and the development of telecommunications / ICT in the Region of the Americas;
- b) That, in accordance with Article 1 of the Statute of CITEL, CITEL has the mission to facilitate and promote the integral and sustainable development of interoperable, innovative and reliable telecommunications/ICTs in the Americas, under the principles of universality, equity and affordability. In addition, Article 1 of the Statute establishes that the vision of CITEL is the full integration of the American States into the Global Information Society, with a view to enabling and accelerating social, economic and environmentally sustainable development for all the region's inhabitants through the development of telecommunications and information and communication technologies (ICTs),
- c) That, in accordance with Article 25 of the Statute of CITEL, the Secretariat is the central and permanent administrative organ of CITEL. It is responsible for the coordination of the administrative services required for implementing the decisions of the CITEL Assembly, COM/CITEL, and the Permanent Consultative Committees, and it shall perform such other functions as are assigned by those bodies:
- d) That giving greater technical and operational responsibilities to the Secretariat of CITEL can help the countries of the Americas to improve and accelerate their development and social integration, strengthen their infrastructure, drive economic growth, reduce poverty, improve education, guarantee security, and reduce and manage environmental risks through the access and use of information and communication technologies, achieving greater social inclusion and better quality of life for our peoples; and
- e) That the Secretariat of CITEL has the technical capability to better promote the strategic goals of CITEL, in accordance with its Strategic Action Plan, by means of a more intensive application of the telecommunications/ICT component, through greater participation in programs, projects and activities already underway, and with new initiatives based on the current and future needs of the Member States of CITEL,

CONSIDERING:

- a) That, in accordance with the 2014-2018 Strategic Plan of CITEL, adopted by the Assembly of CITEL by means of Resolution CITEL RES. 70 (VI-14) during its Sixth Regular Meeting, CITEL's strategic

¹ COM/CITEL/doc. 040/15 rev. 3

goals include: (1) Encouraging the development of interoperable telecommunication/ICTs in the Americas, including infrastructure, services, equipment and devices; (2) Promoting initiatives to expand the use/adoption/penetration of telecommunication/ICTs in the Americas; (3) Fostering inclusiveness and affordability of telecommunication/ICTs and reducing the digital divide in the Americas; (4) Promoting the development of a harmonized telecommunication/ICTs environment in the Americas; (5) Promoting greater and more active participation by the Member States of CITELE and all actors of the telecommunication/ICT sector in the activities of CITELE; and (6) Ensuring that the Organization continue to contribute with financial and non-financial resources to the sustainability of CITELE;

b) That the use of telecommunications/ICTs is cross-cutting to the four pillars of the Organization: democracy, human rights, integral development, and multidimensional security, and that CITELE must facilitate and promote their development in the region through these pillars;

c) That CITELE can be positioned by driving and strengthening cooperation before the technical and political bodies of the Organization, generating a tangible impact regarding the usefulness and importance of telecommunications/ICTs in the different areas;

d) That CITELE faces the challenge of reaching those who are not connected, especially the least developed countries, developing countries and those countries most in need in the region, with the purpose of bridging the digital divide;

e) That promoting the development, coordination and implementation of strategies and projects in the Member States, access to and use of telecommunications/ICTs can be expanded or implemented in those that are not connected yet, with the support and participation of CITELE members, international organizations, the public and private sectors, academia and civil society, in order to achieve greater social inclusion and improve the quality of life of our peoples; and

f) That leveraging telecommunications/ICTs within the framework of poverty reduction programs has allowed the democratization and socialization of their use, the aim being to move from an Information Society to a Knowledge Society in the Americas,

RESOLVES:

1) To instruct the Executive Secretary of CITELE to redouble efforts in order to mobilize external resources in the implementation of the CITELE mandates.

2) To urge the Member States of COM/CITELE to contribute to the mobilization of resources in order to mitigate the financial vulnerability of CITELE.

3) To request the Executive Secretary of CITELE to use existing resources -or those obtained in accordance with the previous points under *resolves*- to provide technical assistance to existing programs, projects and activities, as well as any new telecommunications/ICT initiatives, with the aim of promoting the strategic goals of CITELE according to its Strategic Action Plan , and to help the countries of the region search for solutions to their obstacles and challenges with respect to social innovation.