

COM/CITEL/RES. 268 (XXXI-15)¹

SUPPORT FROM CITEL FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOMES OF THE SEVENTH SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS

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

CONSIDERING:

a) That by Resolution COM/CITEL Res. 242 (XXV-11), “Contribution by CITEL to the Sixth Summit of the Americas,” the Permanent Executive Committee of CITEL invited the member states of the Inter-American Telecommunications Commission (CITEL) to forward to the National Coordinator of the Seventh Summit of the Americas documents arising from different CITEL meetings that reflected the positive impact of telecommunications and of information and communication technologies (ICTs) on matters of high importance to the region, such as social inclusion, citizen security, natural-disaster prevention and mitigation, and promotion of access to and use of technology;

b) That by Resolutions AG/RES. 2765 (XLIII-O/13), “Support from CITEL for the Implementation of the Outcomes of the Sixth Summit of the Americas and the High-Level World Conferences held in 2012 and in Preparation for International Telecommunication Events for the 2013-2014 Cycle” and AG/RES. 2859 (XLIV-O/14), “Telecommunications/Information and Communications Technologies for Development”, the OAS General Assembly expressed its support for the continued work of CITEL as the OAS’ leading advisory body in all matters relating to telecommunications/ICT in the Hemisphere and a reference point in the Americas with regard to the Information Society, emphasizing the core competencies of CITEL in the field of ICTs, and urging CITEL to promote the development, coordination, and implementation of strategies, as applicable, to expand the use of ICTs in accordance with commitments undertaken at the Sixth Summit of the Americas;

c) That the Seventh Summit of the Americas was held in Panama City, Panama from April 10-11, 2015, under the theme “Prosperity with Equity: The Challenge of Cooperation in the Americas,” one of whose mandates highlighted the need for it to be “equitable, pluralistic, broad, secure, and reliable access to new information and communication technologies” to promote citizen participation, AND increasing by 2025 “broadband access to overcome the digital gap” as well as “investment in infrastructure and its effectiveness” as some of the main commitments and mandates of the Seventh Summit of the Americas, AND that these are directly related to the work of CITEL;

d) That the Heads of State and Government, at the Seventh Summit of the Americas, entrust the inter-American organizations and institutions to cooperate and coordinate as extensively as they can in implementing the mandates contained in the Mandates for Action;

RECOGNIZING:

a) That while in recent years considerable progress has been made in access to information and communications technologies, the digital divide persists in many Member States,

¹ COM/CITEL/doc. 042/15 rev. 3

b) That telecommunications/ICTs are the most efficient and effective instruments to expand access to information and education for all and to allow for freedom of speech and expression, which are essential components to the promotion of democracy, the defense of human rights, the assurance of security and the fostering of integral development and prosperity in the hemisphere, the four pillars of the Organization of American States (OAS),

c) That promoting access to broadband and increasing adoption of broadband services and deployment of broadband infrastructure is essential to reduce the digital divide and technological gap within societies in the Hemisphere,

d) That CITELE has worked in several priority activities for the period 2010-2015 that have directly contributed to the implementation of the four pillars of the OAS and the mandates of the Sixth and Seventh Summit of the Americas, including calling for greater investment in broadband infrastructure and promoting access to broadband for social inclusion, promoting greater international cooperation in ensuring the security and robustness of international telecommunications networks; improving access to and use of ICT for emergency services, education and other e-services while allowing for greater citizen participation, as well as exploring new technologies to bridge the digital and technological gap.

e) That the recently announced Global Connect Initiative whose goal it is to catalyze multistakeholder efforts to bring 1.5 billion new Internet users online by 2020, is consistent with the goal of the Seventh Summit of the Americas to promote access to broadband for societies in the Hemisphere.

RESOLVES:

1. To invite Member States to participate actively in the activities of CITELE related to the implementation of the Mandates of Action of the Seventh Summit of the Americas.

2. To invite member states, to forward to the National Coordinator of the Summit of the Americas, documents arising from different CITELE meetings and events that reflect the impact and advances made toward implementation of the Mandates of Action of the Seventh Summit of the Americas, in particular with respect to broadband access, investment in broadband infrastructure.

3. To promote, within the framework and work plan(s) of the appropriate CITELE working group(s), the access and increase in adoption of broadband services, deployment of broadband services and investment in broadband infrastructure.

4. To support Global Connect efforts to catalyze multi-stakeholder initiatives to bring 1.5 billion new Internet users online by 2020, including its principles to achieve Internet connectivity.

5. To request the Executive Secretary of CITELE to submit a report to the OAS General Assembly at its next regular session on the implementation of this resolution.