

COM/CITEL/RES. 278 (XXXI-15)¹

**GA/RES. XXXX (XLVI-O/16): PRIORITY ROLE OF THE OAS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF
TELECOMMUNICATIONS/INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES
THROUGH THE INTER-AMERICAN TELECOMMUNICATION COMMISSION (CITEL)**

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING:

That the aim of the OAS, as stipulated in Article 1 of the Charter, is to achieve among its Member States "an order of peace and justice, to promote their solidarity, to strengthen their collaboration, and to defend their sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence;"

That to meet these ends, the OAS was built upon the central pillars of democracy, human rights, security, and development;

That it is the mission of the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL) to facilitate and promote the integrated, sustainable development of interoperable, innovative, reliable telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICTs) in the Americas under the principles of universality, equity and affordability,

CONSIDERING:

That the environment of telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICTs) is changing considerably due to technological progress and growing user demands for services, and that these developments provide access to information and knowledge through the supply of more efficient, affordable services and applications, particularly in rural and remote areas,

RECOGNIZING:

That, despite the impressive growth and expansion of telecommunications/ICTs recorded in the region of the Americas, there are still major disparities, as many countries lack the necessary basic infrastructure, long-term public plans and policies, and suitable laws and/or regulations to facilitate the development of ICTs, applications and content.

That telecommunications/ICT applications and digital contents have a key role in national and regional processes of political, social, economic, and cultural development through the promotion of education, e-government, employment, health, transport, industry, human rights, environmental protection, trade, and others;

That an enabling environment, consisting of the policies and capabilities needed for the population to utilize and develop technologies, is as essential as investments in infrastructure,

STRESSING:

¹ COM/CITEL/doc. 030/15 rev. 1

That the OAS, through CITEL, remains ideally positioned for coordination, exchange of opinions, holding dialogues, harmonizing telecommunication/ICT strategies, and adopting common views to enable non-discriminatory access to services and applications;

That in 2015, in compliance with its mandates, CITEL conducted innumerable activities in support of development, which included: adopting more than 230 Inter-American Proposals for the 2015 World Radiocommunication Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and starting preparations for the ITU World Assembly on Telecommunication Standardization to be held in 2016, thereby ensuring that the voice of the Americas region be heard strongly at this UN world forum; offering 98 scholarships for 14 courses and conducting various seminars, workshops and online tutorials on matters of priority for the countries; and adopting several resolutions and recommendations on topics such as:

- regional measures to combat the importation, sale and use of unauthorized satellite TV receiving devices;
- setting up computer incident response teams (CIRTs);
- guidelines for establishing spectrum use agreements in coordination areas;
- technical recommendations for the compatibility of the UHF digital terrestrial television (DTT) broadcasting service below 698 MHz with systems of the land mobile service in the 698 MHz - 806 MHz band;
- registering the earth stations of the fixed satellite service (FSS);
- strengthening the CITEL "Program for the Inclusion of Women and Girls in ICTs" by updating a 2016-2018 road map for the development of projects, human and financial resources for the empowerment of women through ICTs;
- technological neutrality related to the provision of telecommunication services, safeguarding conditions of quality and equality for users; and
- adopting a program for the development of technical visits on issues relating to the protection of user rights.

RESOLVES:

1. To invite the member states to take an active role in the work of harmonizing, developing and enhancing telecommunications/ICTs in the region by taking appropriate measures to adapt to trends in telecommunication/ICT infrastructure development.
2. To ask CITEL to continue analyzing and developing studies and models of affordable, sustainable systems of access to telecommunications/ICTs, particularly in rural areas, and to continue its broad dissemination of national and regional initiatives, in order to ensure equitable access to telecommunications/ICTs, information and knowledge.
3. To promote and facilitate efforts toward collaboration and support for the various areas of the OAS to carry out studies and interrelated activities aimed at expanding the use of telecommunications/ICTs as an essential tool to achieve optimal use of resources.
4. To ask CITEL to strengthen its cooperation and coordination with regional and international telecommunication/ICT organizations for better resource use and to achieve short-term results.
5. To instruct the General Secretariat of the OAS to continue providing CITEL the financial support necessary to ensure continuity in fulfilling its mandates.
6. To invite member states and permanent observers, individuals, and private and public national or international entities who wish to make voluntary financial contributions, provide expertise and

other forms of assistance, in order to better respond to requests by developing countries in the field of telecommunications/ICTs to support the development and implementation of CITEL's projects and programs.

7. To ask CITEL to present a progress report regarding the implementation of this resolution at the XLVII regular session of the General Assembly.