

COM/CITEL/RES. 287 (XXXII-16)¹

SUPPORT FROM CITEL FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOMES OF THE SEVENTH SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS AND IN PREPARATION FOR THE VIII SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS

The 32 Meeting of the Permanent Executive Committee of CITEL, COM/CITEL,

CONSIDERING:

- a) That Resolution COM/CITEL/Res.242 (XXV-11), “Contribution by CITEL to the Sixth Summit of the Americas,” at the Summit held in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, on April 14 and 15, 2012, of the Permanent Executive Commission of CITEL, invited Member States of the Inter-American Telecommunications Commission (CITEL) to send the President of the Seventh Summit of the Americas documents arising from the various meetings of CITEL that reflected the positive impact of telecommunications and information technology and communication (ICT) on matters of high importance to the region, such as social inclusion, public safety, natural disaster prevention and mitigation, and promoting access to and use of technology;
- b) That by Resolution 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 by Resolution AG/RES. 2859 (XLIV-O/14), “Information and Communication Technologies for Development,” the OAS General Assembly expressed support for the ongoing work of CITEL as the principal advisory body on all matters pertaining to telecommunications/ICTs and the Hemisphere and as a benchmark for the Information Society in the Americas, emphasizing the core competencies of CITEL in the area 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 the commitments made at the Sixth Summit of the Americas;
- c) That the Seventh Summit of the Americas was held in Panama City, Panama on April 10-11, 2015, under the theme “Prosperity with Equity: The Challenge of Cooperation in the Americas,” one of whose mandates highlighted the need to “facilitate equitable, pluralistic, broad, secure, and reliable access to new information and communication technologies” in order to promote citizen participation and significantly increase by 2025 “broadband access to overcome the digital gap” and “investment in infrastructure and its effectiveness,” since the main commitments and mandates of the Seventh Summit of the Americas relate directly to the work of CITEL;
- d) That the Heads of State and Government at the Seventh Summit of the Americas entrusted the inter-American organizations and institutions to cooperate and coordinate as extensively as they can in implementing the mandates and initiatives contained in the document “Mandates for Action”;

RECOGNIZING

- a) That, although in recent years considerable progress has been made in access to information and communication technologies, the digital gap persists in many Member States;

¹ COM/CITEL/doc. 71/16

b) That telecommunications/ICTs are the most efficient and effective tools to expand access to information and education for all and to enable freedom of speech and expression, which are essential components of fostering democracy, advocating human rights, ensuring security, and promoting comprehensive development and prosperity in the hemisphere, the four pillars of the Organization of American States (OAS),

c) That promoting broadband access and increased adoption of broadband services and deployment of broadband infrastructure is essential to reducing the digital and technological gap in the societies of the Hemisphere,

d) That CITELE has worked on a number of priority activities for the 2010-2016 period that have directly contributed to implementing the four pillars of the OAS and the mandates of the Sixth and Seventh Summit of the Americas, including the launch of the 2030 ICT Alliance for the Americas initiative, the call to increase investment in broadband infrastructure and promote access to broadband for social inclusion; promoting greater international cooperation to ensure the security and robustness of international telecommunication networks; increasing access to and use of ICTs for emergency services, education and other electronic services while allowing greater citizen participation and exploring new technologies to reduce the digital and technological gap.

e) That the recent announcement of the Global Connect Initiative, which aims to catalyze multi-sectoral efforts to attract 1.5 billion new Internet users online by 2020, is consistent with the goal of the Seventh Summit of the Americas to promote broadband access for the societies of the hemisphere.

f) That it is essential to create spaces for dialog between the private sector, the public sector and multilateral agencies to harmonize strategies that will make it possible to accelerate achievement of the development goals of Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development adopted by the United Nations on September 25, 2015;

RESOLVES:

1. To invite the Member States to take an active part in CITELE activities related to implementing the mandates and initiatives of the "Mandates for Action" of the Seventh Summit of the Americas; and to collaborate with the Summits of the Americas process by highlighting the importance of aligning the work of CITELE with preparations for the VIII Summit of the Americas to be held in Peru in 2018.

2. To invite the Member States to submit to the Chair of the Summits of the Americas process all documents arising from the various meetings and events of CITELE that reflect the impact of and progress towards implementing the mandates and initiatives of the "Mandates for Action" of the Seventh Summit of the Americas, particularly as regard broadband access and investment in broadband infrastructure.

3. To promote, within the structure and work plan(s) of the appropriate work group(s) of CITELE, access to and increased adoption and development of broadband services, and investment in broadband infrastructure.

4. To support the Global Connect efforts to catalyze multi-sectoral initiatives to attract 1.5 billion new Internet users online by 2020, including its principles to achieve Internet connectivity; to ensure that all public schools in the Americas are connected to the Internet by 2030 and create relevant local content; and to promote digital training to help raise the quality of education and build talent for the new digital economy; and

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