PCC.I/RES. 239 (XXVI-15) [1]

TECHNICAL NOTEBOOK: "SUSTAINABILITY OF UNIVERSAL ACCESS PROJECTS"

The XXVI Meeting of Permanent Consultative Committee I: Telecommunications/Information and Communications Technologies (PCC.I),

RECOGNIZING:

a)   That the work of the Rapporteurship on Broadband for social inclusion and universal access is focused on studying aspects related to universalization of broadband with the aim of promoting polices and a regulatory framework appropriate to ensure the availability of broadband to the population as a whole in order to reduce the digital divide;

b)   That aspects to be studied include the economic and social sustainability of universal access projects in order to optimize the use of the scarce resources of economies in the region;

c)   That Member State efforts must be joined so as to obtain comparative information on the legal and regulatory frameworks governing the provision and allocation of subsidies for the formulation and sustainability of universal access projects for public telecommunication services;

d)   That to that end, it is necessary to share information and experiences on the sustainability and impact of universal access projects in the region's countries to enable the Member States to evaluate the implementation of possible solutions in their countries;

e)   That it is in the interest of the Member States to determine the impact that rapid technological change has had on the financial and economic balance of universal access projects in the region so that solutions to ensure their economic sustainability can be proposed,

CONSIDERING:

a)   That the terms of reference of the Rapporteurship on Broadband for social inclusion and universal access include, among other activities, the study of aspects promoting the economic and social sustainability of universal access projects;

b)   That the Member States need to be able to share information on policies, legislation and regulations, and methodologies for calculating resource allocations for universal access projects in order to resolve aspects that might complicate the implementation of these activities;

c)   That by sharing that information, the Member States will be able to gain knowledge of experiences of their peers of allocating resources to finance the execution and sustainability of universal access projects, with a view to formulating policies to address problems of profitability that may impact companies that provide telecommunication services to underserved, remote, and low-income populations,

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[1] CCP.I-TIC/doc. 3508/15

BEARING IN MIND:

a)   That one of the objectives of the Rapporteurship on Broadband for social inclusion and universal access is to enable the Member States to have the tools needed to carry out actions aimed at improving the sustainability of projects for universal access to broadband services;

b)   That to that end it is advisable for the Member States to have systematized information on national policies, legal provisions, and model projects in execution in the different public entities or organizations of the region's countries for undertakings to promote universal access by the population to public telecommunication services;

c)   That it is part of the Work Plan of the above-mentioned Rapporteurship to monitor policies adopted by the Member States for optimizing resource allocations for the universalization of broadband services;

d)   That sharing experiences and compiling information on studies, consultancies, and reports in this area, including recommendations and lessons learned in the region constitute a first step in evaluating best practices and, where applicable, identifying policies and actions applicable to the different Member States,

RESOLVES:

1.   To approve the creation of a Technical Notebook on "Sustainability of Universal Access Projects" to provide updated and detailed information on the policies, projects, legislation and regulations, studies, and other measures of interest issued, as well as the results achieved by the Member States of OAS/CITEL.

2.   To designate as Coordinator of said Technical Notebook the Administration of Peru, represented by Mr. Carlos Sánchez Tarnawiecki, Rapporteur of the Rapporteurship on Broadband for social inclusion and universal access, who will see to the compilation of any contributions submitted by the Member States and Associate Members, the organization of seminars, workshops, etc., and the ongoing update of the Technical Notebook.

3.   To approve the contents of the Technical Notebook attached hereto in the Annex.

4.   To request the Secretariat of CITEL to distribute this Resolution to the Administrations in order to begin the information compilation process.

5.   To urge the Member States and Associate Members to contribute to the contents of the Technical Notebook with the aim of sharing information and preparing document in this area going forward.

ANNEX TO RESOLUTION PCC.I/RES. 239 (XXVI-15)

TABLE OF CONTENTS OF THE TECHNICAL NOTEBOOK

"SUSTAINABILITY OF UNIVERSAL ACCESS PROJECTS"

1. Methodologies for prioritizing and defining geographic intervention areas, the regulatory environment, and project scope.

2. Methodologies for estimating demand and calculating the maximum subsidy for universal access projects.

3. Strategies for ensuring economic and social profitability and reducing risks in projects for broadband development for universal access.

4. Methodologies for approving broadband for universal access projects and their social viability in the framework of the public investment systems of the Member States.

5. Monitoring and supervising universal access projects throughout their life cycle with regard to trends in demand, traffic, and profitability.

6. Compiling studies on the sustainability of universal access projects or consultancies carried out in this area by Member States and international and/or multilateral entities.

7. Successful initiatives or best practices of self-sustainability of universal access projects.

8. Case studies of practical application on specific topics of interest to Member States, such as:

   a. Baselines and impact of universal access projects;
   b. Compromise between affordability and subsidy efficiency;
   c. Continuity of universal access projects following the subsidy period;
   d. Economic and financial balance of universal access projects to prevent adverse impact on rural operators;
   e. Contract modifications and project adjustments resulting from the impact of unforeseen technological changes, such as fixed-mobile substitution;
   f. Problems of project sustainability identified;
   g. Actions taken to resolve problems identified.

9. Lessons learned in the area of universal access project sustainability.