

**ACTION PLAN TO ACHIEVE YOUTH EMPOWERMENT THROUGH
TELECOMMUNICATIONS/ICT**

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

CONSIDERING:

- a) Resolution 198 (Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), "Empowerment of youth through telecommunication/information, and communication technology", in which considerations are made about the effects that the Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) can have on young people. Additionally, it identifies resolutions of the General Assembly of the UN, the Plenipotentiary Conference and the World Conference on Telecommunications Development of ITU as well as the World Summit on the Information Society. They recognize the importance of the youth empowerment and development, and the ICT role as tools through which young people can exponentially contribute and make an influence over their own economic, cultural and social development, and in the role of the Academy as a facilitator of young people towards the knowledge of science, technology and innovation in telecommunications and ICT;
- b) The Declaration of the World Youth Summit where young people need enhanced tools to share information and knowledge in order to continue promoting their autonomy to social, political and economic level;
- c) Resolution 76 (Dubai, 2014) of the World Conference on Telecommunications Development on promoting information and communication technologies among young women and men for social and economic empowerment;
- d) Resolution 70 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference of the ITU, " Mainstreaming a gender perspective in ITU and promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women through information and communication technologies", which performs actions in order to promote innovation in learning telecommunications/ICT towards equality between men and women, and encourage the empowerment of women and girls;
- e) Resolution 201 (Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference of the ITU, "Creating an enabling environment for the deployment and use of information and communication technology applications" encourages the introduction of cyber applications in favor of sustainable development in various fields, and to study measures to increase cooperation and coordination with other Member States, international organizations, and others to intensify their involvement and activities related to ICT applications;
- f) The Action Plan of Guatemala, of the Fourth Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Science and Technology of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI / REMCYT-IV / doc.5 / 15 Rev. 1) recognizes the four pillars of the Action Plan of Panama 2012-2016: 1) Innovation; 2) Education and Training of Human Resources; 3) National Quality Infrastructure; and 4) technological development needed to give continuity to the implementation of policies and programs of social inclusion that allow the excluded sectors of our societies join the benefits of science, technology, engineering and innovation. The sectors mentioned above include the youth and women;

¹ CCP.I-TIC/doc. 3563/15 rev.3

g) The National Network for Research and Education (NNRE) established as nonprofit in most countries in the Americas are represented by CANARIE in Canada, Internet2 in the United States and 2 regional groups: one for Latin American "Latinamerican Consortium of Advanced Networks" (CLARA), and one for the Caribbean "Caribbean Knowledge and Learning Network" (CKLN). The mentioned institutions interconnect most institutions of secondary and higher education, and research by deployment of telecommunications infrastructure to form a continental academic broadband network,

RECOGNIZING:

- a) That the COM/CITEL has given to PCC.I a mandate to promote and encourage the development and universalization of information and communications technology (ICT) and the new telecommunications/ICT services derived, as tools to promote economic, social and cultural development;
- b) That the role of Member States in the development of national strategies and share best practices for using ICT as a tool for educational, economic and social development of young people are needed;
- c) That it is required to have coordination and participation of institutions of government, academy, Associate Members and other international organizations;
- d) That it is of urgency to explore further how the young people of developing countries use the ICT and its impact on their development;
- e) That the ITU model used for estimating the digital native population in the world is of utmost importance as well as its reply at regional and national level;
- f) That young people should be encouraged to take advantage of the opportunities offered by the ICTs in order to promote their development and, in turn, their contribution to local, national, regional and international economic development;
- g) That young people have the right to a full integration to the social, public, digital and economic environments,

BEARING IN MIND:

- a) The Young Political Leaders initiative;
- b) Child Protection Online initiative;
- c) The Girls Day in ICT;
- d) The Young Innovators Program;
- e) The Global Youth Summit,

RESOLVES:

1. To develop a regional Action Plan which helps the implementation of the commitments set out in Resolution 198 (Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference of the ITU, "Empowering youth through telecommunication/information communication technologies";
2. To have as a goal developing lines of action and mechanisms with a view to empowering the young people through the use and development of telecommunications/ICT in order to contribute to its development and, in turn, to contribute to the economic development, social and regional policy;

3. That the lines of action and mechanisms for promoting the use, ownership and ICT development should be established according to the national context of each Member State, in line with its national policy and taking into account the characteristics and circumstances of each country in the Americas Region and the heterogeneity of youth;

4. To achieve the general objective, it should be determined lines of action and goals, which may include, among others:

- Capacity building and acquisition of knowledge (all young people should have skills to fully utilize telecommunications and ICT);
- Closer regional cooperation;
- Development of national strategies;
- Creating programs that include young women and men in decision-making processes;

5. To achieve the general objective, there are a few proposed strategies:

- Academic essays;
- Regional Innovative Young Contest;
- Regional celebration and youth in ICT;
- Generation of statistics;
- Training and applied research;
- Program for youth delegates, with a gender perspective;
- Conduct a Regional Youth Summit every two years to allow youth participation in official national delegations in major regional events;
- Development of national strategies to integrate the young people in decision-making processes of the sector;
- Share progress, best practices and strategies;
- Development of cyber applications for various sectors;

6. To determine the level of progress and implementation of the Action Plan, it should follow through national reports, which would allow the achievement evaluation and target measurement, and contribute to the generation of statistics.

7. Regarding funding, the implementation of this proposal should involve various existing funding agencies in order to make the project self-financing.

8. To work in coordination with the Inter-American Institute of Children and Adolescents, as well as with Member States, Associate Members, Academia and other international organizations with experience in youth empowerment.

9. To designate as coordinators of the work the Administrations of Mexico and Costa Rica.