

PCC.I/RES. 265 (XXVIII-16)¹

**CREATION OF THE PREPAREDNESS COORDINATION GROUP IN EMERGENCY
TELECOMMUNICATIONS FOR THE AMERICAS**

The 28 Meeting of Permanent Consultative Committee I: Telecommunications/Information and Communication Technologies (PCC.I),

CONSIDERING:

- a) That recently, disasters such as earthquakes, hurricanes, tsunamis and others, have increased significantly in frequency and scale, causing great concern in the region of the Americas and the world, causing loss of human life and damage to properties.
- b) That within the strategic plan of CITEL for 2014-2018 on specific goals, in addition to the full terms of COM/CITEL, PCC.I and PCC.II particularly in its paragraph 8, it provides support disaster preparedness and serve as a means for Member States to channel their telecommunications needs with regard to early warning, mitigation and recovery from natural disasters.
- c) The Inter-American Telecommunications Commission (CITEL), has as part of its functions to act as the principal advisory organ of the Organization of American States (OAS) in all matters related to telecommunications / ICT policy in the Hemisphere.
- d) That CITEL also has as part of its role, to make recommendations on telecommunications / ICT to the governments of the Member States of CITEL, especially those ones made by the ITU, and other related organizations.

RECOGNIZING:

- 1) That CITEL has held significant events on Emergency Telecommunications, and has approved several resolutions and decisions directed to present solutions and recommendations in the emergency communications.
- 2) That the Rapporteurship of PCC.I of Disaster Prevention, Response and Mitigation, PCC.I approved / RES. 255 (XXVII- 15) of Emergency Communications - ongoing activities and possible next steps for regional action.
- 3) That after the earthquake in Haiti in 2010, PCC.I / approved the draft recommendation REC 6 (XVI -10) the adoption of measures for the establishment of the installation procedure of minimum communication equipment in times of natural disasters.

GIVEN:

- 1) That the General Secretariat of the OAS, within its plans Strategic Initiatives plan, has decided to give priority to the Natural Disaster Assistance to countries in the region.

¹ CCP.I-TIC/doc. 3879/16 rev. 2

- 2) That administrations experiencing disasters or major emergencies have asked the Executive Secretariat of CITEL for emergency assistance in telecommunications, among other things.

RESOLVES:

- a) The CITEL Secretariat will serve as a focal point for greater preparedness and capacity building, and will create opportunities for voluntary collaboration and coordination among administrations and with other institutions when disasters strike.
- b) To instruct the CITEL Secretariat to circulate the “Roster of Experts” (CCP.I-TIC/doc.3913/16)) to all administrations, requesting that each administration list individuals who are either seeking experience in priority areas of disaster preparedness and response or who have experience. The CITEL Secretariat will then compile these results.
- c) To approve the formation of a voluntary Coordination Group on Emergency Telecommunications Preparedness which will review Roster responses to identify potential gaps in emergency communications preparedness, then identify organizations with expertise in disaster preparedness and response, including the ITU and operational technology responders, then design educational and capacity building opportunities, to be delivered by conference call/webex, seminars and in the form of exercises.
- d) The CITEL Secretariat will develop a mechanism to hold pilot “situational awareness” calls in case of Disaster which will be activated at the request of an administration in emergency situations. These calls will be voluntary and will enable all interested parties to learn of network conditions and needs from the administration, to offer assistance, or to make needs known to others.
- e) The Preparedness Coordination Group will report on its activities and obtain feedback in meetings of the Rapporteurship of Disaster Prevention, Response and Mitigation, Working Group on Development (WGD) and in coordination with the Executive Secretariat of CITEL.
- f) Membership in the Preparedness Coordination Group shall be voluntary, a composed of members from across the region.
- g) This Preparedness coordination group on emergency telecommunications, to better prepare administrations to enable communications when disasters strike, will have the following functions:
 - 1. Introduce Member States coordinating telecommunications preparedness and mitigation measures to the different institutions, authorities or commissions who might assist.
 - 2. To examine or study from administration responses to the “Roster of Experts” the types of capacity building that Member States are interested in and set priorities for activities, training and exercises to build greater emergency telecommunications preparedness, in coordination with ITU efforts.
 - 3. With the support of the CITEL Secretariat, establish “Experts E-mail” groups for 1) Preparedness and 2) Response, to enable CITEL administrations to engage one another to increase preparedness and to offer assistance following a disaster.

4. The Group may invite, for support or cooperation, specialists or institutions with specific expertise to participate in capacity building activities, trainings, seminars, exercises or workshops, as needed.
 5. Keep CITELE informed on preparedness and capacity building activities and make an annual report of the work done.
 6. Perform any other activity related to emergency telecommunications preparedness activities indicated by CITELE and member administrations.
- h) Request the Executive Secretary to send this Resolution to Member States and Associate Members.