

PCC.I/RES. 268 (XXVIII-16)¹

IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATION ITU-D 19 FOR THE AMERICAS REGION

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

CONSIDERING

- a) That it is of vital importance that, within the Member States, indigenous communities and remote rural areas, as well as other physically or socially vulnerable sectors, have telecommunication/information and communication technology (ICT) services to facilitate their economic, social, and cultural development.
- b) That it is necessary to ensure the equitable implementation of telecommunication/ICT services, which promote sustainable socioeconomic development and minimize poverty and the social inequalities of remote rural and indigenous communities.
- c) That despite Member State efforts of earlier years, the gap in telecommunication/ICT services persists, and many rural and indigenous communities do not have accessible and affordable telecommunications and ICTs.
- d) That as shown by the experience in this area of different innovative countries of the region, the development of telecommunication/ICT infrastructure in rural and remote areas by small nonprofit operators or by the indigenous and rural communities themselves ensures the availability of affordable and accessible services through the identification of effective, innovative, and affordable solutions.
- e) That in the Region, some countries have now made headway in implementing innovative social coverage alternatives based on Recommendation ITU-D 19.
- f) That the implementation of Recommendation ITU-D 19 shows that support for small nonprofit community operators through appropriate regulatory measures and adequate spectrum planning and management has yielded multiple economic and social benefits for remote rural and indigenous populations, since the availability of telecommunications services and ICT applications contributes significantly to improving the population's quality of life, maximizes societal well-being, increases productivity, conserves resources, and contributes to safeguarding human rights.

RECOGNIZING

- a) That an environment propitious to the development of telecommunications/ICTs necessarily requires appropriate policies and conditions to enable small operators and communities to contribute through actions to the provision of services by their own means, as established in Article 16 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- b) That Recommendation ITU-D 19 sets out essential elements related to radio spectrum planning and management, as well as access to essential telecommunication infrastructure that enables communities and small operators to meet their demands for connectivity.

¹ CCP.I-TIC/doc. 3877/16 rev. 5

c) That some countries of the Region have made major efforts to implement Recommendation ITU-D 19, so that it is important to ascertain their results and experiences, and to systematize, disseminate, and enrich them with the aim of generating, coordinating, and harmonizing at the regional level an optimal framework for the implementation of that Recommendation.

d) That the Connect 2020 Agenda of the member countries of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), adopted at the 2014 Plenipotentiary Conference, especially Goal 2, “Inclusiveness—Bridge the Digital Divide,” and Goal 4, “Innovation and Partnership,” call for collaborative actions for their achievement.

e) That Goal 4 of the Connect 2020 Agenda indicates that that it is necessary to ensure that innovations and experiences of other countries can be shared and utilized by other members.

RESOLVES

1. That coordinated actions be promoted for the implementation of Recommendation ITU-D 19 in the Americas Region by means of:

- a) Documentation, systematization, sharing, and dissemination of results and experiences of national initiatives related to the implementation of Recommendation ITU-D 19 as it pertains to the development of small nonprofit community operators that serve the communications needs of these areas.
- b) The conclusion of agreements for collaboration and support actions with participation by multi stakeholders for the generation of pilot projects related to the above-mentioned aspects of Recommendation ITU-D 19.
- c) The identification radio spectrum normative and management models that are appropriate for the implementation of the above-mentioned aspects of Recommendation ITU-D 19.
- d) Support to draw up public policies in line with Recommendation ITU-D-19, enabling the recognition and sustainability of not-for-profit community initiatives in accordance with OAS standards for Freedom of Expression.

INSTRUCTS

1. The Working Group on Development, to invite the Member States to contribute to the documentation, systematization, sharing, compilation, and dissemination of experiences of countries of the Region in implementing the above-mentioned aspects of Recommendation ITU-D 19.

2. The Executive Secretariat of CITELE to encourage activities for cooperation and collaboration between Member States and the Regional Bureau, and the collaboration of the multi stakeholders, for the coordinated actions to which Resolves 1 refers, and to submit a follow-up report on the implementation of this resolution.

INVITES

1. The Member States to collaborate in the implementation of this resolution.