

WORKSHOP ON DIGITAL INCLUSION AND MEANINGFUL BROADBAND ADOPTION IN THE AMERICAS

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

CONSIDERING:

- a) That the 31 Meeting of the Permanent Executive Committee of CITEL (COM/CITEL) in 2015 adopted COM/CITEL/RES. 268 (XXXI-15) “Support from CITEL for the Implementation of the Outcomes of the Seventh Summit of the Americas” and promotes within the framework and work plans of the appropriate CITEL working group(s) the access and increase in adoption of broadband services and deployment of broadband infrastructure;
- b) That the same COM/CITEL Res. 268 supports the goal of the Global Connective Initiative to bring 1.5 billion new Internet users online by 2020, including its principles to achieve Internet connectivity;
- c) That to be able to realize projects in the region, it is advisable to have up-to-date information on the areas of action and lines of funding that regional and international organizations have available for the development of telecommunications;

RECOGNIZING:

- a) The while considerable progress has been made, the digital divide persists in many places in the Americas region;
- b) That according to the 2016 World Bank Report on Digital Dividends, in Latin America, fewer than 1 in 10 poor households is connected to the Internet;
- c) That advancing access to broadband and increasing adoption of broadband services and deployment of broadband infrastructure supports economic and social growth and opportunity in the region and is essential to reduce the digital divide and technological gap within societies;
- d) That it is within the Terms of Reference of the Work Plan of the Rapporteurship on Broadband for Universal Access and Social Inclusion to conduct activities related to information sharing and capacity building of Member States related to broadband service and infrastructure deployment within CITEL;
- e) That it is also part of the Terms of Reference of the Work Plan of the Rapporteurship on Broadband for Universal Access and Social Inclusion to provide recommendations and best practices regarding broadband deployment and use for reducing the digital divide and increasing development benefits, “digital dividends,” from using the broadband technologies.
- f) That in recent years, it can be observed various examples in countries of the region , policies oriented to deploy transport backbones in order to deliver broadband to rural and isolated areas,

¹ CCP.I-TIC/doc. 3826/16 rev. 2

g) That in some regions there is a need and the opportunity of interconnecting the national backbone networks in order to facilitate the connectivity and make possible the integration of national backbone networks of a country with another country.

RESOLVES:

1. To approve a full day Workshop on “Digital Inclusion and Meaningful Broadband Adoption in the Americas,” to take place on the Monday before the first day of the 29 Meeting of the Permanent Consultative Committee I: Telecommunications, Information and Communications Technology.
2. To designate Michele Wu-Bailey from the United States, Carlos Sanchez from Peru, and Solana de Aspiazu from Argentina, as CITEI’s contact points to coordinate the Workshop.
3. To approve the list of topics included in the Annex, as a starting point for discussions on the issues to be addressed during the Seminar.

ANNEX TO RESOLUTION PCC.I/RES. 269 (XXVIII-16)

TOPICS FOR WORKSHOP

DIGITAL INCLUSION AND MEANINGFUL BROADBAND ADOPTION IN THE AMERICAS

1. Policies to promote deployment of broadband infrastructure including through regulatory and market reforms, public private partnership, universal service funds, and innovative fixed and mobile technologies that expand the reach of broadband networks
2. Spectrum planning to advance broadband adoption
3. Successful experiences in the deployment of National Transport Networks and regional initiatives for interconnecting Backbone Networks
4. Policies promoting broadband application and use including e-commerce, e-health, e-government, emergency and disaster relief, mobile banking, and availability of over the top services (OTT) that stimulate demand for broadband services
5. Best practices and/or successful examples from the Americas region
6. Work methods, lines of action and financing mechanisms and procedures of financing institutions for the implementation, sustainability and support of regional projects
7. Conclusions and follow up actions/compilation of information