

CITEL RES.28 (II-98) ¹

**COMMON PROPOSALS
FOR THE SECOND
WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE**

The Second Regular Meeting of the Assembly of the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission, CITEL,

CONSIDERING:

That the Fourth Meeting of the Permanent Executive Committee of the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission COM-CITEL, held in Montevideo in November 1996, resolved in Ref.38 (IV-96) to establish an Ad Hoc Working Group to prepare CITEL's participation in the Second World Telecommunication Development Conference, WTDC-98;

That the above-mentioned Ad Hoc Working Group was mandated by COM/CITEL to prepare CITEL's participation in WTDC-98;

That in accordance with part of that mandate the Ad Hoc Working Group worked on a number of issues considered important for the development of telecommunications in the region;

That the Member States of CITEL participated in the ITU planning process in 1997 and in the preparatory meetings for the WTDC-98;

That as part of their preparatory work, at a meeting held on September 1, 1997 on the Island of Margarita, the Ad Hoc Working Group in conjunction with the countries of the region, drafted a preliminary document containing the proposals to be presented at WTDC-98.

That the proposals in this preliminary document were put before the Regional Preparatory Meeting of the ITU held on September 2 and 3, 1997 on the Isla of Margarita.

That the preliminary proposals were analyzed and added to at the Fifth Meeting of COM/CITEL held in Punta del Este on December 1-5, 1997; and,

That the Meeting resolved to present the definitive proposals to WTDC-98 in the form of common proposals by the countries of the region.

RESOLVES:

1. To request the Second World Telecommunication Development Conference to incorporate the Common Proposal in Annex 1 of this Resolution into the scheduled activities of the Telecommunication Development Bureau, the ITU-D Study Groups, and the ITU's Regional Office in Brasilia, as deemed appropriate;

¹ CITEL/doc. 147 rev.2/98 (Approved during the Fourth Plenary Session)

2. That the names of the countries from the Americas that support the common proposals be added to the table of supporters contained in Annex 1 for submission to the BDT as common Inter-American Proposals of the named Administrations;
3. To request the Executive Secretary of CITELE to expeditiously re-distribute this Resolution to the CITELE Administrations pointing out the importance of their support for the above mentioned proposals and to urge the Administrations to adhere to the proposals contained in this Resolution that suggests a time limit up to March 16, 1998. However, in case this is not possible we ask to bring that information to the WTDC-98 in Malta.
4. To request the Executive Secretariat to submit this Resolution, following the procedures contained in resolution PCC.III/RES. 47 (VI-96), to the WTDC-98 for it to be considered at that meeting;
5. Urge CITELE Members to participate in the 1998 World Telecommunication Development Conference of the ITU and support these common Inter-American Proposals (IAP).

ANNEX 1

COMMON INTER-AMERICAN PROPOSALS (IAP)

The following are common proposals presented by the member countries comprising the Americas Region of the ITU to the Second World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC).

The BDT

- IAP//1 To hold a Regional Telecommunication Development Conference for the Americas before the next World Telecommunication Conference that will be held in the year 2002.
- IAP//2 That the ITU continue to develop the Centers of Excellence in the Americas.
- IAP//3 To develop a project in support of the creation of the World Telecommunication University for the Training and Development of Human Resources through the Virtual Classroom and computerization of Documentation and Information Centers as backing for Distance Education and Research, bearing in mind language differences in the member countries.
- IAP//4 To establish ways that will enable countries to share experiences regarding the development of telecommunications in rural and low-income urban setting such as virtual regional fora, databases, etc.
- IAP//5 To conduct a study, through ITU-D Study Groups, on universal access/service, and the critical issues involved in order to:
- Identify the best practice guidelines for countries to take into consideration when developing policies, legislation, and/or regulations;
 - Identify the objectives, impact, and expected benefits of existing policies regarding universal access/service;
 - Identify the most common and the most innovative approaches to attracting and allocating funds for initiatives and programs for universal access/service observing advantages and disadvantages at each one.
 - Describe the legislative and legal frameworks that have been used or are needed to implement initiatives and programs for universal access/service.
 - Identify guiding principles for raising, allocating and administering universal access/service programs, such as transparency, equitable distribution and access, competitively and technologically neutral allocation, and a focus on the end user.
 - Identify and analyze the relationship that universal access/service policies have on other key telecommunication issues that arise as competition increases in countries, such as access charges, interconnection frameworks and agreements, accounting rates, and tariff rebalancing.

Note: For an efficient and effective study to be performed on universal access/service. Study Group 1 of the ITU-D should utilize the work already done on questions 2/1 and 3/1 for the period 1994-1998, as well as any other background on this subject.

- IAP//6 Through the ITU-D Study Group 2 (specifically in reference to Question 4/2), a special emphasis should be placed on the need to:
- Define models that will allow a comparison of technologies suited to rural and remote areas in order to encourage the adoption of appropriate solutions;
- Promote initiatives for the development of national rural telecommunications as part of a planned, orderly, progressive, multi-year program, which is managed on a commercial basis;
- Foster the application of telecommunications facilities for developing various sectors of rural infrastructure and rural economy;
- Establish appropriate regulatory structures as a means of encouraging the expansion of telecommunications services to remote and rural areas; and
- Take advantage of a wide range of innovative and entrepreneurial financial and promotional approaches to minimize costs and maximize revenue in providing telecommunications to rural and remote areas.
- IAP//7 To evaluate the effectiveness and, based on the results, to continue, in coordination with regional organizations, the execution of pilot projects for community-based, access-oriented communications facilities which build upon work initiated by the ITU-D such as the implementation of tele-centers at all levels ranging from the simple telephone call box to more sophisticated communications centers.
- IAP//8 To establish a temporary Group of Experts, taking into consideration any work of ITU Study Groups, to conduct a study to help member countries with economic, regulatory, and technical issues related to interconnection. This study should conclude its work by the end of 1998.
- IAP//9 That the ITU-D work with the ITU-R to identify the needs of developing countries on spectrum management, and make efforts to provide assistance in this regard, including improving available systems and taking into account the emerging needs concerning the management of the spectrum, through the use of state of the art programming techniques and the reduction of the development and distribution time.
- IAP//10 To continue consultations with organizations such as the World Bank, FAO, UNEP, and UNESCO for the establishment of a framework for cooperation in the area of environmental protection, through the use of telecommunication technologies, including the implementation of a global telecommunications project directed towards providing ways to support and improve initiatives toward preservation of the environment.
- IAP//11 To urge the WTDC-98 to request that the ITU evaluate the implications of Internet services, and specifically voice services, on the policies of the operators/carriers, in view of the effects that these may have on member countries.

- IAP//12 To request the ITU-D to identify a set of best practice guidelines for countries to take into consideration when developing policies, legislation, and/or regulations to establish regulatory bodies. This task should be accomplished by the ITU-D study groups.
- IAP//13 As part of the Action Plan of Valetta, to update the Blue Book in order to bring it into line with the current situation in telecommunications.
- IAP//14 To urge the ITU to give Haiti higher priority in all the special programs established for the Least Developed Countries.
- IAP//15 To assist Developing Countries to respond to global telecommunications restructuring, especially regarding financial issues and the transition to new accounting rates regimes.
- IAP//16 Strengthen the regional presence of the BDT and its participation in the Americas by providing sufficient support to undertake the current activities and programs.

To Member Countries:

- IAP//17 To urge Member Countries to ratify their support for the “Draft Convention on the Provision of Telecommunications Resources for Disaster Mitigation and Relief Operations” and to request and emphasize the need for implementation, as soon as possible.

NOTICE:

INSERT TABLE OF SUPPORTERS