CITEL RES. 52 (IV-06) [1]

APPROVAL OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN OF CITEL 2006 – 2010

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

CONSIDERING:

a)   That Resolution COM/CITEL RES. 149 (XII-02) approved the CITEL Strategic Plan for 2002-2006;

b)   That the XIII Meeting of COM/CITEL agreed to develop lines of action for measuring the degree of progress achieved in carrying out the activities programmed in the Strategic Plan and to incorporate annual indicators that make it possible to measure the headway made toward the objectives;

c)   That Permanent Consultative Committee I: Telecommunication Standardization, by Resolution PCC.I/RES. 52 (IV-04), presented to the Working Group on the Strategic Plan of CITEL the "PCC.I Actions regarding the Strategic Objectives and Priorities of CITEL's Strategic Plan of CITEL 2002-2006";

d)   That Permanent Consultative Committee II: Radiocommunications including Broadcasting, through Decision PCC.II/DEC. 36 (V-05) presented to the Working Group on the Strategic Plan of CITEL, the objectives, strategic priorities, lines of action, and indicators of PCC.II so as to be able to evaluate compliance with the Strategic Plan of CITEL;

e)   That this methodology made it possible to conclude that the Strategic Plan for 2002-2006 had been fulfilled;

f)   That the new Strategic Plan for 2006-2010 contains strategic goals of vital importance to CITEL and to the development of telecommunications in the Region;

g)   That the COM/CITEL Working Group on the Strategic Plan of CITEL has been established to do a follow-up of the PCC's work programs to meet the strategic goals suggested for their implementation,

RESOLVES:

1.   To approve the Strategic Plan of CITEL for 2006-2010, which is attached as an Annex.

2.   To establish that the PCCs are to report to the Chair of COM/CITEL annually on the internal work plans of each PCC and their consistency with the strategic goals, so as to show how the goals are being implemented. It is understood that the PCCs act independently in their decisions on what issues to address and in formulating their own particular strategic plans, but they are to report on the progress of actions made in relation to the objectives and strategic goals of the Strategic Plan of CITEL for 2006-2010.

3.   That the reports to the Chair should be presented at the annual meeting of the Steering Committee and to the corresponding meeting of COM/CITEL, and should show the plan of activities, progress thereon, and their relationship to implementation of the strategic goals of the Strategic Plan of CITEL for 2006-2010.

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[1] Document CITEL/doc.369/06 rev.3 cor.1

4.   That the Chair of COM/CITEL, with the collaboration of the members of that Committee, should follow-up on the activities, detecting possible difficulties in implementing the goals and helping in the search for solutions.

ANNEX TO RESOLUTION CITEL/RES. 52 (IV-06)

STRATEGIC PLAN OF CITEL 2006–2010

CONTENTS

Introduction

CITEL's Strategic Plan, establishes the strategic goals and priorities of the Commission, identifying how best to use limited resources and setting priorities in the work programs of the Permanent Consultative Committees (PCCs).

The Assembly, in Resolution CITEL/RES. 44 (III-02), adopted the Strategic Plan of CITEL for 2002-2006 and resolved to revise it periodically. Afterwards, by means of Resolution COM/CITEL RES. 149 (XII-02), amendments were made to the Plan and a Working Group was established to update it periodically. The Chair of the Working Group is in charge of the Administration that held the Chair of COM/CITEL in the preceding Assembly period and the vice-chairs are held by the Administrations that hold the Chair and Vice-Chair of COM/CITEL.

Since the approval of the Strategic Plan, for 2002-2006, carried out in 2002, CITEL faces major changes arising from the part it plays in the Information Society, the regional implementation of the Agenda for Connectivity in the Americas and Plan of Action of Quito, its technical and regulatory leadership in all that pertains to telecommunications, and the guidelines and mandates of the Summits of the Americas consistent with core competencies and existing budgetary resources of CITEL.

This Strategic Plan has also been developed in response to the need to guide CITEL, taking into account the situations mentioned above, advances in telecommunication technologies, the restructuring of Administrations of Member States, and the convergence of technologies and services worldwide.

It has been recognized that telecommunications are an essential infrastructure for the development of humankind, but the digital divide and limited telecommunication infrastructure in rural and marginal urban areas in some Member States of CITEL are hampering their economic and social development. Nevertheless, the Summits of the Americas, the second phase of the Agenda for Connectivity in the Americas and the Plan of Action of Quito, as well as the documents arising from the World Summit on the Information Society should be taken into account as Member States determine CITEL's future actions.

Likewise, to bridge the development gap between countries and in the countries, a concerted effort among the members of the Commission and other international and regional organizations is required.

The Strategic Plan outlines the guidelines under which CITEL shall be governed when carrying out its functions during 2006-2010 and shall serve as the basis for drawing up the Working Plans of its Technical Committees, where the specific goals and activities to be implemented shall be specified for their proper implementation. This Plan takes as its main reference the objectives and functions established in the Statute of CITEL and takes account OF the Strategic Plan of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

In accordance with this approach, a review of the general situation is presented, focusing on the global trends for the telecommunication sector, the CITEL's philosophy is highlighted, as set forth in its vision and mission, and the strategic goals are determined. The Strategic Plan encourages the active participation of the Member States and the associate members of CITEL and strengthens cooperation with ITU and other regional telecommunication organizations. The attention given to implementation of the Strategic Plan is fundamental, especially regarding its monitoring and evaluation system, which includes the selection of result and impact indicators to measure the organization's performance and specify the values to be achieved for each indicator.

STRATEGIC PLAN OF CITEL 2006-2010

1.   OBJECTIVES AND FUNCTIONS OF CITEL

The Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL) is an entity of the Organization of American States established by the General Assembly under Article 53 of the Charter of the Organization.

The objectives and functions of CITEL are:

Objectives:

a)   To facilitate and promote, by all means available to it, the continuing development of telecommunications, including information and communication technologies, in this hemisphere.

b)   To promote and foster the existence of appropriate telecommunications, including information and communication technologies, for the process of regional development.

c)   To organize and sponsor the periodic holding of meetings of technicians and experts to study planning, financing, construction, operation, standardization, technical assistance, maintenance, and other matters related to the use and operation of telecommunications in the Americas.

d)   To promote the adoption of uniform technical standards and criteria for the operation of the systems, in order to obtain maximum benefit from the available facilities for each individual country and for the region as a whole within the framework of global standardization of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

e)   To promote and study technical assistance, in agreement with the governments of the countries concerned.

f)   To foster the improvement and harmonization of administrative, financial, and operational procedures for the planning, installation, improvement, maintenance, and operation of the telecommunication networks of the Member States of CITEL, within the framework of the recommendations of the ITU.

g)   To recommend studies and promote the adoption of official agreements between the governments of the Member States of the Organization, in connection with the planning, installation, maintenance, and operation of telecommunications systems in the hemisphere.

Functions:

a)   To sponsor or undertake studies that will permit the orderly development of telecommunication networks, making use of the most suitable and efficient systems available.

b)   To maintain continuous contact with the various governmental and non-governmental international organizations in the field of telecommunications, and to promote the coordination of their activities with those of the Member States of the Organization.

c)   To request the cooperation of world or regional governmental organizations, especially the ITU, the Caribbean Telecommunication Union, and of international agencies concerned with telecommunications that enjoy consultative status with the United Nations or maintain cooperative relations with the Organization.

d)   To collect and disseminate among the Member States of CITEL information pertaining to accomplishment of its objectives, as well as any other information that may be of interest.

e)   To serve as the principal advisory body of the Organization in all matters related to telecommunications in the Americas.

f)   To study the regulatory aspects of telecommunications.

g)   To study legal problems related to direct transmission via satellite, in order to prepare draft inter-American agreements on this subject and to formulate a common position for the Member States of CITEL to take in this connection when dealing with the pertinent international agencies.

h)   To prepare studies on the harmonization of policies on matters relating to telecommunications.

i)   To make recommendations in the field of telecommunications to the governments of the Member States of CITEL, taking into account those made by the ITU.

j)   To prepare and coordinate research in the field of telecommunications and electronics.

k)   To consider any other matters relating to inter-American cooperation in the field of telecommunications as requested by the General Assembly, or the Councils of the Organization.

2.   CURRENT SITUATION OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Several important trends in the world situation of telecommunications could have an impact on CITEL in its efforts to carry out its mission in 2006-2010.

2.1   Policy issues

a)   The World Summit on the Information Society has agreed on political statements and implementation of the goals set out in the following documents:

- Declaration of Principles
- Plan of Action
- Tunis Agenda for the Information Society
- Tunis Commitment

b)   Declarations and plans of actions of the Heads of State and Government of the Summits of the Americas.

c)   Policy statements and reference documents that set forth guidelines for the development of telecommunications in the Americas, such as the Blue Book "Telecommunication policies for the Americas".

d)   CITEL undertakes to implement joint actions consistent with its core competencies and existing budgetary resources, through cooperation agreements with other international organizations as authorized by its membership.

e)   Market evolution of both products and services favours broader private-sector participation, creates new needs and expectations.

f)   Partnerships, mergers, and takeovers between companies are changing the nature of telecommunications, which may require adjustments to national regulatory frameworks.

g)   The importance of telecommunications including information and communication technologies for the economic and social development in the context of the Information Society.

2.2   Technological Factors

The changes that have taken place in recent years in the area of information and communication technologies are characterized by the following facts:

a)   Rapid technological advances, among others broadband applications and the digitization of broadcasting, that enable the efficiency of services and interactivity to be improved, infrastructure costs to be reduced and new services to be implemented but that also require investments to be made for their development.

b)   The rapid development of IP-based networks and wireless systems, as well as the need to take optimal advantage of the benefits of such technology for all peoples of the world, at fair prices.

c)   The convergence of telecommunication technologies, information, and broadcasting is redefining the frontiers of the telecommunication industry, bringing new opportunities in terms of products and services, especially in support of education, health, government, manufacturing, and trade programs, among others, and provides new and complex challenges of policy and regulation.

d)   The substantial differences among countries with regard to the expansion and modernization of telecommunication services and the major insufficiencies of telecommunication infrastructure and access to information in most Member States.

e)   The need for appropriate regulations and standards for the introduction of new technologies on the market, in an environment of legal certainty and healthy competition.

3.   STRATEGIC COURSE

3.1   MISSION

 Facilitate and promote the harmonious and integral development of telecommunications including information and communication technologies in the Americas for the benefit of society.

3.2 VISION

To be a responsive, dynamic, and effective high-level specialized advisory body that promotes the ongoing exchange of experiences, information, and knowledge between governments and the private sector and develops reference guidelines to assist Member States in achieving their objectives regarding access to telecommunications, including information and communication technologies, promoting development in the region.

4 CITEL'S STRATEGIC GOALS FOR 2006–2010

The value added by CITEL consists in being a regional intergovernmental telecommunication organization with recognized experience in building consensus, a wide range of activities and results achieved, the high level of its members, and close coordination with international and regional organizations.

The objectives of CITEL are met through its bodies: the Assembly, the Permanent Executive Committee (COM/CITEL), the Steering Committee, and the Permanent Consultative Committees, which submit reports on the headway made to fulfill their goals in accordance with the Regulations.

In fulfillment of CITEL's objectives and functions, the following strategic goals are established for 2006–2010. The order in which they appear is not indicative of their priority or importance.

Goal 1: The governing bodies and the PCCs will bear in mind in their work plans that the results of their actions should maintain, expand, and strengthen cooperation with the Member States of CITEL, the associate members of the permanent consultative committees, and the private sector in general in the region. The aim is to achieve harmonious development of telecommunications in the region.

Goal 2: The governing bodies and the PCCs will focus their efforts on resolving problems related to the digital divide between Member States; to this end, they will take into account the goals set forth in the Declaration of Principles and Plan of Action agreed to in WSIS (World Summit on the Information Society) Phase I, as well as the Tunis Commitment and Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, adopted in WSIS Phase II.

Goal 3: Give priority to the tasks of the second phase of the Agenda for Connectivity in the Americas, in accordance with the program adopted by the coordination body formed for this purpose by COM/CITEL, and bearing in mind the priorities identified in the mandates of the Summits of the Americas, the documents of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), the OAS, and the subregional plans, as well as the objectives of national policies.

Goal 4: Maintain CITEL's leadership in the region in all aspects of telecommunications, including information and communications technologies.

Goal 5: Strengthen CITEL by increasing the participation of Member States and associate members and strengthening cooperative relations with international, regional, and subregional telecommunication organizations and other telecommunication sector-related entities.

Goal 6: Promote training and technology transfer in the areas of greatest interest, especially for developing countries, so as to achieve harmonious development of human resources through the ITU Centre of Excellence for the Americas and CITEL's regional training centers.

Goal 7: Strengthen mechanisms of preparation for international telecommunication meetings, in order to present common, consensus-based proposals, with the aim of strengthening the region's position in the world.

Goal 8: Strengthen, update, and prioritize the work of the Permanent Consultative Committees (PCCs), taking into account decisions from the OAS General Assembly and the Summits of the Americas, while recognizing the WSIS outcomes and work being undertaken in the ITU and other relevant organizations.