

**CITEL RES. 4(I-94)****GUIDELINES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF REGIONAL**

The First Assembly of the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission,

**WHEREAS:**

The responsibility assigned to the Assembly in article 5 of the CITEL Statutes.

**CONSIDERING:**

The project for guidelines for the development of regional telecommunications submitted to this Assembly by the Chair of COM/CITEL, in pursuance of resolution CITEL/Res. 148 (VI-91).

**RESOLVES:**

1. To recommend consideration of the document annexed to this Resolution, as Regional Telecommunication Guidelines.
2. The text of the annex to this Resolution should be considered as a preliminary document on the subject.
3. COM/CITEL should continue evaluating/examining these guidelines, and request the member countries of CITEL to submit shortly, comments and suggestions arising from their use.

**ANNEX****GUIDELINES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF REGIONAL  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS****I. INTRODUCTION**

1. These guidelines are an expression of willingness and consensus on the part of the Member states of CITEL in order to orient the development of telecommunications in the Americas.
2. Insofar as communications are strengthened in the scope of the OAS and the States integrating it, the guidelines will be very useful for the acceptance of the role of telecommunications in economic, social and integration processes in the region.
3. These concepts also constitute recommendations to resolve aspects having incidence on the telecommunications of the OAS Member States; they do not affect freedom of action to define national policies.
4. Furthermore, they contribute to standardize criteria to benefit from the resources available in international cooperation and coordination actions.

## II. AS A FACTOR AND A CONSEQUENCE OF DEVELOPMENT

1. Regional telecommunications constitute an essential condition for the planning, coordination and realization of all development and integration projects.
2. This essential condition is required as an indispensable factor for the realization of projects and as a result of the demand for inter-communications arising from projects realized at a later stage.
3. Therefore, it is valid and necessary to bear in mind that any development or integration project will be successful insofar as it is supported by a telecommunications component, the priority and financing of which are linked with the project priority and financing.
4. Another very important aspect of telecommunications is the profitability expected by the entities that contribute to their financing, because there must be a certain harmony between the economic profitability from a profit investment and the social profitability from an investment for the public service and the community welfare.

## III. PARTICIPANTS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF REGIONAL

1. sectors, and all the entities which in different ways contribute in the planning, developing, operation and maintenance of the Inter-American Telecommunication System covering the region.

Said entities may be:

- a) The Administration of each State as the regulating entity of national communications and as representative of the State in international organizations.
- b) Regional organisms the aim of which is to collaborate with the existence and efficiency of the Inter-American Telecommunication Sector.
- c) Public Service Enterprises (State and Private).
- d) Radio-broadcasting companies (Sound and TV).
- e) Private service entities and radio amateurs.
- f) Companies managing long distance terminals (via satellite, undersea cable, microwaves, etc.).
- g) Human Resources Training Centers.
- h) equipment manufacturers.
- i) equipment providers.
- j) Centers for Research and Development of technologies for telecommunication updating.

2. The Inter-American Telecommunication System integrated by international networks with different technologies that facilitate the interconnection of the national telecommunications systems in each country in the American and Caribbean region, offering the users the alternative to establish telecommunications within the region and into other regions.

The strengthening of the system as regards density and variety of services at the user's disposal as well as its updating, should be a permanent goal orienting the coordinated efforts of the entities participating in the Regional Sector activities.

3. The telecommunication users as a group of natural and juridical persons utilizing the services at their disposal, are doubtless responsible for the system's efficiency; said responsibility lies on the correct observance of instructions for the use of such services.

#### **IV. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF REGIONAL**

1. It is an essential element for the development of regional telecommunications, therefore, when all OAS State participate in said development, they commit themselves to contribute their maximum capacity.

2. International cooperation is materialized in any way, meaning some kind of aid, so that all States may possess, at least, a minimum level of telecommunications development, enabling them to participate in international links.

3. Therefore, it is very important to keep in mind that international cooperation actions help both the donor and the receiving country.

#### **V. THE CHANGING ENVIRONMENT OF REGIONAL**

1. From the perspective of Regional Telecommunication Guidelines, the changing environment may be defined as a set of variable circumstances, having an incidence on the procedures used to strengthen regional telecommunications.

2. These circumstances generally arise from the users' greater demands and from progress in technologies.

3. At all events, it is permanently valid to assess in all meetings and fora on telecommunications, the evolution of the environment, bearing in mind the characteristics of said meetings.

#### **VI. COORDINATION IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF REGIONAL**

1. Even though the States participating in development of regional telecommunications have freedom to define policies and procedures to develop their own telecommunications, the need to integrate them, compels said States to accept regional coordination, at least in those aspects inciding on international telecommunications.

2. The aspects in which coordination requirements are more relevant are the following:

- a) The standards used in international public services and radio broadcasting services (sound and TV).
- b) The technology employed in international trunks.
- c) International cooperation utilization.

3. This regional coordination requires an organism which, integrating OAS, generates the opportunity to make it into reality. Presently the above mentioned organism is the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL), which operates in the region in accordance with its Statutes and Regulations.

4. The Administrations of the OAS integrating States must watch that this organism has an operational capacity enabling it to carry out its mandate.

## **VII. COMMITMENT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ACTIVITIES OF CITEL**

1. Taking into account that CITEL as a Specialized entity lacks of a Multilateral Agreement engaging the OAS Member States to participate in its activities, a Participation Commitment is required.
2. This commitment must be deemed as a document which not having the force of an international agreement, encourages the Administrations to support its activities. It must also be a factor creating a good disposition in the OAS superior organisms to grant it the required resources to efficiently perform its mandate.

## **VIII. STRENGTHENING OF CITEL IMAGE IN THE REGION**

CITEL, as the main regional entity in charge of the promotion and encouragement of the telecommunications development must strengthen its efficiency image in the performance of its mandate. In order to do so it must be in permanent contact with regional and sub-regional organisms that may contribute to said purpose. At the same time it must offer the Regional Sector entities an appropriate support in order to encourage them to participate in its activities.

This goal will be achieved if all its organs (COM/CITEL, PCCs and Executive Secretariat) cooperate coordinately in the fulfillment of their specific mandates so that their meetings become international events of the highest hierarchy because of the contents of their agendas and because of the importance of the adopted resolutions. CITEL Assembly must have a special relevance which, being held every four-year period, promotes a notorious interest to participate on the part of OAS authorities, Ministers, Administrations, Chiefs and Heads of other international Organizations related with the telecommunications development and duly recognized Delegates.

## **IX. CONTRIBUTION OF TO REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

This is one of the most principal objectives which CITEL has been assigned in the Statute. It will be achieved as long as the Commission understands the telecommunications requirements for said development. The former will be obtained by means of a permanent coordination with the regional organisms for development.