

COM/CITEL DEC. 103 (XXXV-18)¹

**FORWARDING THE DRAFT RESOLUTION TO THE OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
THE UNDERLYING ROLE OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES IN THE
DEVELOPMENT OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION
TECHNOLOGIES/TELECOMMUNICATIONS THROUGH THE INTER-AMERICAN
TELECOMMUNICATION COMMISSION (CITEL)**

The 35 Meeting of the Permanent Executive Committee of CITEL, COM/CITEL,

DECIDES:

1. To forward the attached draft resolution to the OAS General Assembly for consideration and approval.
2. To attach this draft resolution to the Annual Report for 2018 to be presented by CITEL to the OAS General Assembly.
3. To instruct the Executive Secretary of CITEL to take the steps necessary to implement the mandate contained in this decision.

ANNEX I TO DECISION COM/CITEL DEC. 103 (XXXV-18)

DRAFT RESOLUTION OF THE OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**GA/RES. XXXX (XLVIX-O/19): THE UNDERLYING ROLE OF THE ORGANIZATION OF
AMERICAN STATES IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF INFORMATION AND
COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES/TELECOMMUNICATIONS THROUGH THE INTER-
AMERICAN TELECOMMUNICATION COMMISSION (CITEL)**

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

ACKNOWLEDGING:

Resolution GA/RES. 2917 (XLVIII-O/18), “The Underlying Role of the Organization of American States in the Development of Information and Communication Technologies/ Telecommunications through the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL)” approved on 4 June, 2018; and,

Resolution GA/RES. 1 (LIII-E/18), “Program-Budget of the Organization for the year 2019” approved on 20 October, 2018 regarding the mandates related to CITEL;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT Resolution CITEL/RES. 80 (VII-18) regarding the “Strengthening of CITEL within the OAS” approved by the Seventh Ordinary Meeting of the CITEL Assembly through Resolution CITEL/RES. 80 (VII-18) in which CITEL invites the OAS General Assembly to confirm its commitment with CITEL’s financial sustainability; and

¹ COM/CITEL doc. 211/18 rev. 4

CONSIDERING

That telecommunications and information and communication technologies (ICTs) are key tools to promote social, economic, cultural and environmental development and thereby for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

That CITEL is the OAS institution specialized in telecommunications and ICTs and as such effectively contributes to the implementation of the four OAS pillars and the mandates and initiatives of the Summits of the Americas for which end it has encouraged, along with the political leaders of the region, actions such as the launching of the public-private 2030 ICT Alliance for the Americas, the call for larger investments in broad band infrastructure and the campaign for access to broad band aimed at improving social inclusion, as well as Alliance of Rural Women – Empowering rural women through ICT;

That, reflecting the unique membership based role and ability to bridge academia, private sector, technical community and government, CITEL advanced whole of hemisphere interests at the 2018 International Telecommunications Union (ITU) Plenipotentiary Conference through the incorporation of the 87% of its Inter-american proposals in the resolutions adopted as well as in the elections obtaining the Radiocommunications and Development of Telecommunications Bureaux for the region;

That according to ITU to date, one third of people in the region have no access to broadband connectivity, it is important to continue strengthening CITEL as the essential setting for cooperation in the field of communications and ICTs in the Americas, and in particular as a place to discuss and reach agreements on digital inclusion, development of telecommunication infrastructure, use of the radio-electric spectrum and creation of a setting to facilitate investment in ICTs;

That efforts made to facilitate the process of transition from analog to digital television (DTT) and the allocation of the digital dividend taking into account mutual compatibility among broadcasting and mobile stations in the VHF and UHF bands within Central America and the Caribbean laid the groundwork for spectrum coordination and future collaboration;

That actions were undertaken by CITEL in coordination with ITU, CTU, and COMTELCA to improve communications and response capabilities to build resilience to disasters and emergency situations in the region, and

That having assessed the positive results of the work that has been done, it has become necessary to ensure CITEL's financial sustainability to guarantee that it will count with the tools required to continue with its tasks and to manage to implement its 2018-2022 Strategic Plan in line with the organization's Integral Strategic Plan,

RESOLVES:

1. To encourage the Member States of OAS to intensify horizontal cooperation and the exchange of information, experiences and good practices among them, regarding telecommunications and information and communication technologies (ICTs), with the support of the Executive Secretariat of CITEL.
2. To encourage the Member States of OAS to implement activities in their countries and in the region to advance connectivity and broadband access as a fundamental driver of sustainable development.

3. Request the General Secretariat of the OAS to continue taking into account, when preparing the draft program-budget for the year 2020 for the consideration of the Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Affairs and its adoption by the General Assembly in its LIV extraordinary period of sessions, the financial needs of CITELE, in accordance with Resolution CITELE/RES. 80 (VII-18) adopted in the VII ordinary meeting of the CITELE Assembly and with Resolution GA/RES. 1 (LIII-E/18), "Program-Budget of the Organization for 2019" adopted in the LIII extraordinary period of sessions of the General Assembly of the OAS, so that it can continue meeting its goals, mission and optimize its operations.

4. Request the CITELE Secretariat to inform the L ordinary period of sessions of the General Assembly of the OAS about the implementation of the present resolution, whose execution will depend on the availability of financial resources in the program – budget of the Organization and of other resources.