

**FRAMEWORK FOR STRENGTHENING THE EXPANSION OF DIGITAL
INFRASTRUCTURE**

The 37 Meeting of Permanent Consultative Committee I: Telecommunications/Information and Communications Technologies (PCC.I)

CONSIDERING:

- a) That in September 2019, the Heads of State and Government met at the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Summit to renew their determination to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- b) That while the health emergency caused by the COVID-19 outbreak hampers progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals, it also makes meeting them even more urgent and necessary, above all, to accelerate investment in the deployment of digital infrastructure to increase connectivity in the Americas.
- c) That the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) states that investment in digital infrastructure in the Americas and primarily in Latin America can have highly positive impacts on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set by the United Nations, which indicates that if all countries increased investment in digital infrastructure by 10% in one year, some 375,000 persons in the region would be saved from poverty and some 360,000 would no longer be undernourished.
- d) Furthermore, over one third of the countries of the Americas have reached the highest generation of 4G and 5G regulations in the 2020 edition of the ITU's "ICT Regulatory Tracker". Along the same lines, from 2007 to 2018, the region increased its average rating more than any other region, thirteen countries achieved 4G status, and Brazil and Canada stand out in the 5G collaborative regulation category.
- e) That, accordingly, reducing poverty and malnutrition, and promoting development and innovation in the Americas, requires jointly harmonizing the regulatory frameworks of the region with a view to achieving a fifth-generation regulation, open and inclusive collaborative dialogue, and a concerted cross-sector approach to expanding deployment of next-gen digital communications infrastructure.

RECOGNIZING:

- a) That during the first four years of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and SDGs, the UN Member States made significant progress in some areas. However, overall, the world is not on track to meet the SDGs by 2030.
- b) That in Recommendation PCC.I/REC. 28 (XXXIII-18), the CITEL Member States recognize that they have a significant challenge in making public policies and regulations to promote the development of and investment in infrastructure in rural, remote, or underserved areas. Likewise, this novel health context is added to the new connectivity challenges brought into focus by the pandemic.

¹ CCP.I-TIC/doc. 4972/20 rev. 1

c) That the health emergency caused by the COVID-19 outbreak demands greater deployment of telecommunications infrastructure so that citizens can access the various tools of tele-education, tele-work, the different information, communication, entertainment and productivity platforms, and others.

d) That policies and regulations for the deployment of infrastructure in Member States must adapt to the challenges of this new form of social coexistence and the next generation of 5G technology, both of which factors demand greater investment incentives and facilities to accelerate deployment of digital infrastructure.

RECOMMENDS:

1. That the Member States develop new innovative regulatory frameworks to strengthen the expansion of digital infrastructure deployment through measures to shorten installation time, such as reducing infrastructure deployment authorizations to the shortest possible times, replacing traditional public service channels with electronic means for presenting authorizations to install infrastructure, streamlining or speeding up procedures for obtaining permits to install infrastructure, fostering infrastructure mimicry of the environment, and eliminating or exempting smaller-size infrastructure installation procedures that do not have significant environmental impacts.

2. That Associate Members develop new use cases with next-gen technologies, new Internet-based services, promote innovation in the development of new business models, e.g., in ways to install and operate telecommunications networks so as to ensure economic, environmental and social sustainability in the deployment of digital infrastructure.

3. That the Member States and Associate Members share information and best practices on efficient procedures for the approval of requests to install telecommunications infrastructure. Finally, to identify new regulatory challenges and propose solutions to overcome them.