PCC.I/RES. 336 (XLIV-24)[1]

ONLINE SEMINAR ON FUNDING MECHANISMS FOR CONNECTIVITY ROLLOUT AND EXPANSION

The 44 Meeting of Permanent Consultative Committee I: Telecommunications/Information and Communication Technologies (PCC.I),

CONSIDERING:

a)   That resolution PCC.I/RES. 323 (XLI-22) updated the structure and terms of reference of PCC.I working groups and rapporteurships, including the structure of the Rapporteurship on broadband, universal access, digital inclusion, and gender equity;

b)   That, according to resolution PCC.I/RES. 323 (XLI-22), the mandate of the Rapporteurship on broadband, universal access, digital inclusion, and gender equity is to promote actions and best practices conducive to achieving the inclusion and social appropriation of telecommunications/ICTs, taking into consideration gender equality and the needs of minority or vulnerable social groups;

c)   That resolution PCC.I/RES. 332 (XLIII-23) approved holding an Online Seminar on Funding Mechanisms for Connectivity Rollout and Expansion scheduled to take place before the 44 meeting of PCC.I and that, owing to challenges encountered because of a full agenda of sector activities and events, as well as the availability of panelists, it is necessary to reschedule this activity,

RECOGNIZING:

a)   That the terms of reference of the work plan of the Rapporteurship on broadband, universal access, digital inclusion, and gender equity include conducting activities for capacity building of member states in telecommunications/ICT, with special attention to minority and vulnerable social groups, so that they can use and take advantage of them for their human development, coordinating actions with stakeholders in the private sector, the academic community, civil society, and government entities;

b)   That part of the terms of reference of the Rapporteurship on broadband, universal access, digital inclusion, and gender equity aims to promote the gathering, analysis, conduction of studies, and exchange of best practices in terms of public policies, regulatory frameworks, incentives, national broadband plans, affordability and accessibility issues in the countries of the region that make it possible to bridge the digital divide; enhance coverage in unserved or underserved areas, especially in rural areas involving the participation of indigenous peoples, other population groups, community operators, nonprofit operators, and small operators; ensure universal access to telecommunications and broadband services; and achieve digital inclusion;

c)   That the work plan of the Rapporteurship on broadband, universal access, digital inclusion, and gender equity has called for a survey on funding mechanisms for connectivity service rollout and expansion, such as the Universal Service Fund (USF), government investments, and public-private partnerships, among others, with specific measures targeting rural, remote, or hard-to-reach areas, for the purpose of making these services more affordable;

RESOLVES:

1.   To approve holding this seminar on Funding Mechanisms for Connectivity Rollout and Expansion online before the 46 meeting of PCC.I.

2.   To organize the seminar at no cost to CITEL.

3.   To designate the Rapporteurship on broadband, universal access, digital inclusion, and gender equity of the Working Group on Policies and Regulation (WGPR) to coordinate this online seminar with support from the CITEL Secretariat.

4.   To approve the preliminary topics specified in the annex to the present resolution as the seminar's key focus.

5.   To revoke resolution PCC.I/RES. 332 (XLIII-23).

ANNEX TO RESOLUTION PCC.I/RES. 336 (XLIV-24)

PRELIMINARY TOPICS

SEMINAR ON FUNDING MECHANISMS FOR CONNECTIVITY ROLLOUT AND EXPANSION

Panel 1:

Exchange of best practices

Panel 2:

Panel of discussion with industry regulators and leaders

Key issues:

- Main achievements and difficulties in funding connectivity rollout and expansion