

**THE DESIRABILITY AND TIMELINESS OF CARRYING OUT THE ACTION PLAN
OF THE SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS BY RECOMMENDING A COMMON
HEMISPHERIC STANDARD FOR TERRESTRIAL DIGITAL TELEVISION
BROADCASTING IN THE AMERICAS**

The II Meeting of the Permanent Consultative Committee II: Radiocommunications including Broadcasting,

CONSIDERING:

a) That each country is strongly encouraged to establish a work calendar aimed at promoting Terrestrial Digital Television services considering their special conditions, as well as their plans and projects, including among others, the following factors:

- A transition process considering a public interest consultation and the agreements with current operators and market forces;
- The convenience of adopting policy guidelines for the region, aimed at promoting the elaboration of positive national regulations to implement Terrestrial Digital Television in a convergence framework;
- The need to establish business and transition models according to each country's needs and socio-economic condition of their populations;
- The elaboration of frequency plans that consider existing services;
- The need to have available contents according to the technology;
- The development of new generation services associated to the convergence of technologies,

b) That the special responsibility of the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL) to promote joint action and regulatory harmony among the various nations of the Americas enables it to contribute to carrying out the Summit action plan, specifically by:

- Stimulating and fostering the development of the broadcasting service in the region;
- Promoting the use of modern technologies and evaluating their impact, and
- Promoting the efficient use of the radio spectrum allocated to the broadcasting service, taking into account, in particular, the need to prevent and avoid, to the extent possible, harmful interference in radio-communication services,

c) That the challenge to all Inter-American institutions is to ensure that the enormous potential benefits of information technology and connectivity are maximized and fully shared by all citizens of the Americas;

d) That all national television broadcasting systems in the Americas currently operate in 6 MHz wide channels, and

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e) The convenience of supporting the development of current or future Terrestrial Digital Television technologies that promote a new generation of broadcast and telecommunication services,

RECOGNIZING:

a) That the Heads of State and Government Summit in Quebec City (April 20-22, 2001):

- Recognized that a technological revolution is unfolding that will enable our region to access knowledge and improve flows of information to facilitate integration of the hemisphere into an increasingly knowledge based society;
- Endorsed the need to harness the rapid development and spread of information technology and connectivity that holds out the promise of unprecedented opportunities for political, economic and social development in the Americas;
- Instructed, as appropriate, in its plan of action, regulatory bodies working within our regional and sub-regional agencies and organizations to develop and implement before the next Summit of the Americas a cooperative and collaborative program to support a connectivity agenda for the hemisphere;

b) That CITEL Member States, in cooperation with the private sector, have an early opportunity to contribute to the objectives outlined in *recognizing* a);

c) That the adoption by the CITEL Member States of a common approach to Terrestrial Digital Television broadcasting would serve to:

- Enable individuals to participate in inter-cultural dialog for the promotion and protection of their cultures;
- Facilitate the most rapid possible implementation of DTV systems throughout the region, by creating and leveraging substantial economies of scale to accelerate the production of affordable consumer and professional DTV products and applications throughout the Americas;
- Ensure an orderly conversion process from an analog to a digital television system;
- Make more efficient use of the electromagnetic spectrum through the conversion to digital television service;
- Facilitate the development and achievement of common goals for the benefit of its members;

d) That Terrestrial Digital Television broadcasting secures new ways of accessing and sharing information that can serve new partnerships between private and public sectors and can allow for broader avenues of media literacy;

e) That Terrestrial Digital Television broadcasting will play a pivotal role in achieving the objectives that the 3rd Summit of the Americas endorsed as a vehicle for democratic participation that uses technology to engage citizenry in a fundamentally different way;

f) That the upgrade of the broadcasting infrastructure of each Member State from analog to digital technology will be greatly enhanced, more cost effective and faster if all of the Member States of the Americas work together to adopt a single hemispheric standard for digital television; and

RESOLVES:

1. To encourage Member States to adopt and implement a common Terrestrial Digital Television broadcasting standard.

2. To work together to encourage the successful transition from analogue to digital terrestrial television technology as rapidly as possible, recognizing the economic and social conditions in individual countries.

3. To continue to assist Member States in expediting the implementation of a common hemispheric standard for Terrestrial Digital Television broadcasting.