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| Warsaw, Poland**13-16.01.2014** |  |
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| **Date issued:** | 7 January 2014 |
| **Sources:** | United Kingdom |
| **Subject:** | **Draft WTDC-14 Resolution on Broadband Technology for greater growth and development of broadband connectivity** |

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Password protection required? (Y/N)

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| **Summary:** Proposed new WTDC Resolution on broadband technology  |
| **Proposal:**  |
| For discussion and acceptance |
| **Background:** There is no single WTDC resolution which comprehensively addresses issues relating to the role of the ITU-D Sector in the delivery of technical assistance or the creation, development and improvement of broadband networks and services in developing countries. The existing Resolutions need updating and the existence of several separate Resolutions is confusing. Accordingly, to remedy this and improve efficiency, Europe is proposing a new comprehensive Resolution dealing with Broadband Technology for greater growth and development of broadband connectivity.As a result of this, Europe also proposes the suppression of Resolutions 20, 43, 50 and 72.  |
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1. **Add**

**Broadband Technology for greater growth and development of broadband connectivity**

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Dubai, 2014),

*recalling*

1. Resolution 71 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010), on the Strategic Plan for the Union;
2. Resolution 139 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010), on telecommunications and communication technologies to bridge the digital divide and build an inclusive information society;
3. The 2005 World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) outcome documents;
4. Resolution 135 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010), on ITU's role in the development of telecommunications/information and communication technologies, and the importance of telecommunications and information and communication technologies for economic and social progress;
5. Opinion 2 of the World Telecommunications Policy Forum 2014, on fostering an enabling environment for the greater growth and development of broadband connectivity;
6. Resolution 20 (Rev. Hyderabad, 2010), on non-discriminatory access to modern telecommunication/ information and communication technology facilities, services and related applications;
7. Resolution 43 (Rev. Hyderabad 2010), on assistance for implementing IMT;
8. Resolution 50 Rev. Hyderabad, 2010), on optimal integration of information and communication technologies;
9. Resolution 72 (Hyderabad, 2010), on more effective utilization of mobile communication services,

*considering*

1. the role of ITU, and the role of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) in particular, in the development of telecommunication/ICT facilities and services;
2. the potential benefits of the rapid introduction of new and diverse telecommunication services, including those highlighted in Resolution 66/184 of the UN General Assembly, and consistent with § 54 of the Tunis Agenda, and the role of broadband connectivity in attaining the UN Millennium Development Goals;
3. the importance of broadband capacity to facilitate the delivery of a broader range of services and applications, promote investment and provide Internet access at affordable prices to both existing and new users in underserved and un-served communities using a technology neutral approach to bridging the existing digital divide;
4. that new innovative terrestrial wireless systems as well as satellite system technologies can help bridge the digital divide, not only between developing countries and developed countries but also between urban, remote and rural regions where coverage by conventional fixed telecommunication services may not be adequate;
5. that terrestrial wireless and satellite systems are an effective, and in many cases – particularly rural areas - the most effective means of performing many practical tasks to open up new prospects to help bridge the digital divide and in affording developing countries access to new technologies,

*taking into account*

1. the Report of the fifth World Telecommunication Development Conference (Hyderabad, 2010), highlighting the importance of telecommunication infrastructure and technology development, particularly in developing countries, and adopting regional initiatives and the Hyderabad Action Plan to assist developing countries achieve, to a greater degree, universal access to telecommunications services;
2. that many countries are interested in introducing a comprehensive technology neutral approach for broadband services in activities such as e-health, e-government and e-education;
3. that unequal access to broadband telecommunication services does nothing to eradicate social inequality and has an adverse impact on the social and economic situation in different countries and regions,
4. the importance of competition in promoting investment, as presented in the report of the Broadband Commission for Digital Development[[1]](#footnote-1),

*recognizing*

1. the important role of ITU-D in coordinating the rational use of resources in the context of various projects aimed at securing more widespread deployment of technology neutral telecommunication services in different countries of the world;
2. that terrestrial wireless and satellite enabled communications is a factor in eliminating the isolation of certain categories of population who live in parts of a country where coverage by conventional telecommunication networks remains inadequate and lack resources;
3. that, pursuant to § 22 of the Geneva Declaration of Principles adopted by WSIS, a well-developed information and communication network infrastructure easily accessible and affordable making greater use of broadband, can accelerate the social and economic progress of countries and the well-being of all individuals, communities and peoples;
4. the policy recommendations in the report of the ITU/UNESCO Broadband Commission for Digital Development[[2]](#footnote-2) encouraging broadband infrastructure development and for creating a favourable environment for investment in telecommunications infrastructure by encouraging all Member States to:
5. enable government services that will stimulate demand for and investment in telecommunications, especially in developing countries;
6. establish a universal service program to support technology neutral telecommunications infrastructure investment;
7. encourage efficient and innovative broadband practices for new market entrants and consumers;
8. Ensure the availability and affordability of broadband-enabled services,

*invites Member States,*

1. to create and promote widespread affordable access to broadband communication infrastructure by enabling legal and regulatory environments, including availability of spectrum and licensing policies that are fair, transparent, stable, predictable and non-discriminatory;
2. to undertake all efforts to foster an enabling environment for the greater growth and development of technology neutral broadband connectivity in, in particular, developing countries;
3. to continue to work, as appropriate, in the activities of ITU-D, and in all international, regional and national forums considering the subject of broadband connectivity, to share technology and best practices regarding the implementation of progressive regulatory regimes designed to liberalize markets, promote competition and stimulate investment,

*Resolves*

1. to encourage greater coordination by the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT), and the private sector to continue playing a significant role in supporting initiatives that encourage the access and uptake of broadband connectivity by utilizing the most appropriate technology mix approach with the aim of providing citizens greater access to ICT applications in support of national broadband strategies;
2. the BDT should support the implementation of regional and national projects for the use of terrestrial and satellite broadband communication systems to provide the population with services, including mobile services and applications such as e-government, e-health and e-education, as well as mobile money transfer and transactions, mobile payment, mobile banking and mobile marketing on the basis of cooperation with interested Member States, relevant international organisations and the private sector;
3. that BDT, taking into account available experience and the strategy for bridging the digital divide and building the global information society, should formulate and implement a program to develop proposals and recommendations on the most effective and efficient use of technology including telecommunication services for broadband connectivity at regional and national level acting in association with ITU connectivity initiatives as appropriate,

*instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau*

 to seek partnerships and cooperation with parties directly involved in the provision of services to the population using the most practical telecommunication technology, facilities and networks to ensure the effective implementation of the relevant ITU programs and activities in the development of broadband connectivity providing reliable broadband access at affordable prices to both existing and new users in underserved and un-served communities.

1. **Supp**

RESOLUTION 20 (rev. Hyderabad, 2010)

Non-discriminatory access to modern telecommunication/information and communication technology facilities, services and related applications

 RESOLUTION 43 (REV. HYDERABAD, 2010)

**Assistance for implementing IMT**

RESOLUTION 50 (REV. HYDERABAD, 2010)

**Optimal integration of information and communication technologies**

RESOLUTION 72 (HYDERABAD, 2010)

**More effective utilisation of mobile communication services**

1. “Broadband: A Platform for Progress”. A Report by the Broadband Commission for Digital Development, Sept 2010. (Available at <http://www.broadbandcommission.org/Reports/Report> 2.pdf). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. “The State of Broadband 2012: Achieving Digital Inclusion for All”. A Report by the Broadband Commission for Digital Development, Sept, 2012. (Available <http://www.broadbandcommission.org/Documents/bb-annual>.pdf). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)