

RESOLUTION 30 (Rev. Sharm el-Sheikh 2014)

Role of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector in implementing the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Hyderabad, 2010),

recalling

- a) Resolution 30 (Rev. Hyderabad, 2010) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference;
- b) Resolution 1334 (Mod. 2013) of Council;
- c) Resolution 140 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on ITU's role in implementing the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS);
- d) the documents adopted by both phases of WSIS:
 - the Geneva Declaration of Principles and Geneva Plan of Action;
 - the Tunis Commitment and Tunis Agenda for the Information Society,

recognizing

- a) that WSIS stated that the core competencies of ITU are of crucial importance for building the information society, and identified ITU as a moderator/facilitator for implementing Action Lines C2 and C5, and as a partner in Action Lines C1, C3, C4, C6, C7 and C11, as well as Action Line C8 as stated in Resolution 140 (Antalya, 2006);
- b) that it was recently agreed among the parties to follow up the Summit outcomes to appoint ITU as moderator/facilitator for the implementation of Action Line C6, in which it was previously only a partner;
- c) that the Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D), in view of its purposes and objectives, the nature of the existing partnership among Member States and ITU-D Sector Members, its accumulated experience over many years in dealing with different development needs and implementing a range of projects, including infrastructure projects and telecommunication/information and communication technology (ICT) infrastructure projects specifically, financed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and various funds and through possible partnerships, the nature of its six existing programmes, adopted at this conference to meet the needs of the telecommunication/ICT infrastructure and achieve the WSIS goals, and the presence of its authorized regional offices, is a key partner in the implementation of WSIS outcomes, especially in respect of Action Line C2 which is the cornerstone of the Sector's work pursuant to the ITU Constitution and Convention;
- d) that given the dynamic of the Internet platform whereby competing, autonomous providers may readily interoperate with each other through the Internet Protocol, creating a platform that is naturally neutral and open with respect to communications supporting diverse applications because each network provider cannot predict the design of applications on other networks, funding mechanisms and partnership schemes must be developed to support contexts providing competitive access at the physical layer;
- e) that telecommunications contexts wherein infrastructure installed at the physical layer is allowed to be treated chiefly as a private asset serving as a supply to the higher level information products and services of a few network incumbents are appropriately regarded as local intranets rather than as constituting an Internet platform, since they do not open the physical layer to autonomous and competing network providers;
- f) that public-private partnerships may be better designed to support development of an Internet platform through policies enabling competitive access to the physical layer, if they incorporate explicit recognition of the role of public oversight as a feature that applies inherently to a shared resource such as the public right of way;
- g) that local intranets offer certain advantages such as more tailored forms of network management and shaping of transmissions according to type within the network, while the Internet platform offers

advantages of its own, such as its flexibility, openness and support for permissionless innovation by network providers and end users;

h) that recognizing the distinction between the open Internet platform and specialized or managed services supported by other types of IP-based networks, allows for clear understanding of when practices, policies and technologies that may be deployed in service of the Information Society may have an impact on availability of the Internet and its unique characteristics and advantages,

resolves to invite the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector

1 to continue working in cooperation with the other ITU Sectors and with development partners (governments, specialized agencies of the United Nations, relevant international and regional organizations, etc.), through a clear plan and appropriate mechanisms for coordination among the different partners concerned at the national, regional, interregional and global levels, having particular regard to the needs of the developing countries, including in the field of building the telecommunication/ICT infrastructure, building confidence and security in the use of telecommunications/ICTs, and implementation of the other WSIS goals;

2 to continue to encourage the principle of non-exclusion from the information society and to devise appropriate mechanisms to this end (§§ 20-25 of the Tunis Commitment);

3 to continue to facilitate an enabling environment encouraging ITU-D Sector Members to give priority to investing in the development of the telecommunication/ICT infrastructure, encompassing rural, isolated and remote regions, through different technologies, and recognizing that a policy and regulatory context that may foster infrastructure development for a platform of competing, interoperating providers who can readily gain access at the physical layer, may differ markedly from one that promotes infrastructure development for other types of IP-based networks;

4 to assist Member States in finding and/or improving innovative financial mechanisms to develop telecommunication/ICT infrastructure (such as the Digital Solidarity Fund and others mentioned in § 27 of the Tunis Agenda, and partnerships);

5 to continue to assist developing countries in advancing their legal and regulatory frameworks in order to further the goal of building the telecommunication/ICT infrastructure and achieve the other WSIS goals, noting clearly the distinct kinds of advantages of both the Internet and other types of IP-based networks including next-generation networks;

6 to pursue its activities in the field of statistical work for telecommunication development, using ~~the~~ indicators required to evaluate progress in this area with a view to bridging the digital divide, *inter alia*, within the framework of the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development, ~~and~~ consistent with §§ 113-118 of the Tunis Agenda, acting on the content of Resolution 8 (Rev. Hyderabad, 2010), and reflecting the distinction between the open Internet platform and other types of networks;

7 to develop and implement the ITU-D strategic plan, taking into account the need to give priority to building the telecommunication/ICT infrastructure at the national, regional, interregional and global levels and to achieve the other WSIS goals related to the activities of ITU-D, and noting carefully how the distinction between the open Internet platform and other types of networks applies to WSIS goals;

8 to continue to propose at the forthcoming plenipotentiary conference appropriate mechanisms for funding the activities flowing from the WSIS outcomes that are relevant to the core competencies of ITU, specifically those to be adopted in relation to:

- i) Action Lines C2, C5 and C6, in which ITU is now identified as a moderator/facilitator;
- ii) Action Lines C1, C3, C4, C6, C7 including its eight sub-action lines, C8 and C11, in which ITU is identified as a partner,

calls upon Member States

- 1 to continue to give priority to the development of the telecommunication/ICT infrastructure, including in rural, remote and underserved areas, in order to build the information society;
- 2 to engage in the WSIS+10 Review process, including the high-level event on the Overall Review to be held in 2014 in conjunction with the World Telecommunications Development Conference;
- 3 to consider the need to continue implementing WSIS goals after 2015 for the further development of the Information Society on the way to a Knowledge society with a view to take full advantage of ICT in addressing development challenges of the 21st century.

requests the Secretary-General

to transmit this resolution to the Plenipotentiary Conference (Busan, 2014) for consideration and appropriate action in this regard when reviewing Resolution 140 (Guadalajara, 2010), in order to specify ITU-D's clear role in this area and the provision of the necessary funding.
