**PACP-09**

**PRELIMINARY APT COMMON PROPOSAL**

**MODIFICATIONS TO WTDC RESOLUTION 16**

**SPECIAL ACTIONS AND MEASURES FOR THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES, LANDLOCKED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND COUNTRIES WITH ECONOMIES IN TRANSITION**

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| **Summary:**  It is proposed to amend Resolution 16 to align with the Pacific ICT Ministerial Lagatoi Declaration 2023, ensuring Pacific SIDS’ priorities are reflected internationally and supported through stronger action, resources, and partnerships.  **Expected Results:**  APT Member administrations invite WTDC to examine the proposal and approve the changes to Resolution 16 to better reflect the current and emerging telecommunication/ICT development needs and priorities of LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS, especially Pacific Island countries, and countries with economies in transition.  **References:**  - Pacific ICT Ministerial Lagatoi Declaration (2023)  - ITU-D Resolution 16 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017)  - ITU-D Strategic Plan 2026  - UN Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA Pathway)  - SDGs (Goals 9, 13, and 17) |

1. **PROPOSALS**

APT Member administrations propose to modify WTDC Resolution 16, according to the annex below.

**ANNEX**

**MOD**

RESOLUTION 16 (Rev. Baku, 2025)

**Special actions and measures for the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and  
countries with economies in transition**

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Baku, 2025),

*recalling*

*a)* United Nations resolutions concerning programmes for least developed countries (LDCs), small island developing states (SIDS), landlocked developing countries (LLDCs), and countries with economies in transition;

*b)* Resolution 79/194 of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), on information and communication technologies (ICT) for sustainable development;

*c)* UNGA Resolution 78/160, on science, technology and innovation for development;

*d)* UNGA Resolution 70/1, on transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

*e)* UNGA Resolution 70/125, on the outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS);

*f)* UNGA Resolution 79/1 underscores the importance of global commitment to digital cooperation and inclusive development, reinforcing the role of WSIS in advancing equitable access to ICTs and ensuring its outcomes are aligned with the objectives of the Global Digital Compact, as an annex to the Pact for the Future,

*considering*

*a)* Resolution 30 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on special measures for LDCs, SIDS, LLDCs and countries with economies in transition;

*b)* Resolution 25 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on strengthening the regional presence;

c) Resolution 131 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on measuring information and communication technologies to build an integrating and inclusive information society;

*d)* Resolution 135 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on ITU's role in the durable and sustainable development of telecommunications/ICTs, in providing technical assistance and advice to developing countries and in implementing relevant national, regional and interregional projects;

*e)* Resolution 139 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the use of telecommunications/ICTs technologies to bridge the digital divide and build an inclusive information society,

*recognizing*

*a)* that telecommunications/ICTs are a key tool for implementing the WSIS vision beyond 2015 and a key enabler for social, environmental, cultural and economic development, and consequently for accelerating the timely attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and associated targets;

*b)* the unique vulnerabilities and challenges faced by SIDS, particularly those in Pacific, due to geographic isolation, limited economies of scale, infrastructure constraints, and significant time zone differences, factors that create present persistent barriers to full participation in ITU processes, access to technical and financial assistance, and opportunities for capacity-building and institutional development;

*c)* the Lagatoi Declaration on Digital Transformation in the Pacific, with its commitment to build an inclusive, connected and digitally empowered Pacific, taking into account the Pacific’s unique geographic, economic, and social challenges;

*d)* the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent and Pacific Islands Forum leaders’ commitment for a well-connected region that ensures inclusion, accessible secure and affordable ICT infrastructure and services,

*noting*

*a)* Resolution 1 (Dubai, 2012) of the World Conference on International Telecommunications, on special measures for LLDCs and SIDS for access to international optical fibre networks;

*b)* the striking imbalance in telecommunication/ICT development between these countries (LDCs, SIDS, LLDCs and countries with economies in transition) and other countries, the persistence of which exacerbates the digital divide, including gender digital divides and accessibility divides for persons with disabilities and specific needs;

*c)* that accessible and affordable telecommunications/ICTs for rural and remote areas is critical to bridge the digital divide, and the role community-centred connectivity and telecommunication/ICT complementary access networks and solutions can play to this end;

*d)* that these countries and countries in special need are vulnerable to extreme levels of devastation resulting from natural disasters and lack the capacity to respond effectively to these calamities;

*e)* the existence of countries which owing to geographical and political conditions have limited access to terrestrial and marine international cable systems;

*f)* that SIDS are working together to define shared development priorities and regional commitments on digital transformation, resilience, and inclusion, which is gaining recognition within the international community,

*appreciating*

the special measures taken for the benefit of these countries in the form of concentrated assistance provided under the ITU-D Action Plan,

*noting with concern*

*a)* that, despite all the measures taken so far, the telecommunication networks in many of these countries remain in a very poor state of development in urban, semi-urban, rural and remote areas;

*b)* that the geographical situation of SIDS and LLDCs is an obstacle to the establishment of international telecommunication network connectivity with these countries;

*c)* that multilateral and bilateral flows of technical assistance and investment finance to these countries are constantly declining;

*d)* that to date there are many countries in this category;

*e)* with the low level of resources allocated to the special programme for these countries, *aware*

that improved telecommunication networks in these countries will constitute a major driver underpinning their social and economic recovery and their development, and can provide opportunities for sustainable livelihoods and drive digital transformation,

*resolves*

to endorse the new priority areas for the next four years, the associated programme of action for these countries and its implementation strategy,

*instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau*

1 to continue efforts to support cooperation of the ITU membership on this issue and on mobilizing resources to address the needs of LDCs, SIDS (including Pacific Island Countries), LLDCs and countries with economies in transition, as well as underserved and vulnerable populations, including through the Partner2Connect Digital Coalition (P2C);

2 to continue to review the state of telecommunication/ICT services in LDCs, SIDS, LLDCs and countries with economies in transition, as identified by the United Nations and needing special measures for the development of telecommunications/ICTs, and to identify areas of critical weakness requiring priority action;

3 to continue submitting to the ITU Council concrete measures intended to bring about genuine improvements and effective assistance to these countries, from the Special Voluntary Programme for Technical Cooperation, the Union's own resources and other sources of finance;

4 to implement fully the programme of assistance for these countries contained in the ITU-D Action Plan, noting the priorities of LDCs, SIDS, LLDCs and countries with economies in transition;

5 to give priority to requests received from these countries in implementing other Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) programmes of assistance to developing countries[[1]](#footnote-1) that are intended to improve and provide effective assistance to these countries;

6 to pay special attention to suburban, rural and remote telecommunication/ICT development in these countries, particularly for remote communities and the role that telecommunication/ICT complementary access networks and solutions can play in connecting the unconnected, with a view to achieving universal access to telecommunication and information technology services;

7 to continue to work towards providing the necessary administrative and operational structure for identifying the development needs of these countries and for proper administration of the resources appropriated for LDCs, SIDS, LLDCs and countries with economies in transition;

8 to continue strengthening ITU regional presence in a manner that reflects the specific needs and priorities of LDCs, SIDS, LLDCs, and countries with economies in transition taking into account the ITU Council approved criteria for establishing future regional and area offices, thereby ensuring timely, needs-based administrative and operational support;

9 to report annually on this matter to the ITU Council on progress made in the implementation of this resolution, highlighting key achievements, challenges, and recommendations for further actions,

*requests the Secretary-General*

1 to request the forthcoming Plenipotentiary Conference (Doha, 2026) to provide the necessary budget for these countries with a view to enabling BDT to undertake essential and programmed activities for them;

2 to continue enhancing the assistance provided to these countries through other resources, and in particular through unconditional voluntary contributions and appropriate partnerships, as well as any surplus income from world and regional telecommunication exhibitions and forums;

3 to propose new and innovative measures capable of generating additional funds to be used for telecommunication/ICT development in these countries, to benefit from the possibilities afforded by financial mechanisms in facing the challenges of utilizing ICT for development purposes, as stated in the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society;

4 to engage with relevant United Nations agencies to implement this resolution,

*calls upon governments of least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition*

1 to continue to accord higher priority to ICT development as well as disaster response and risk reduction planning, and to adopt measures, policies and national strategies that are conducive to bringing about faster development of telecommunications/ICTs in their countries, such as sector liberalization and the introduction of new technologies;

2 in selecting technical cooperation activities financed by bilateral and multilateral sources, to continue to accord high priority to telecommunication/ICT activities and projects;

3 to accord priority to the development of ICTs in national development plans;

4 to engage actively in regional and sub-regional cooperation to strengthen the voice of SIDS, particularly those in the Pacific, in promoting participation and driving global telecommunication/ICT development processes,

*calls upon other Member States and Sector Members*

to establish partnerships with these countries, either directly or through BDT, in order to bring increased investment into their ICT sectors and to stimulate the modernization, affordability and expansion of networks, including access to international optical fibre networks, in these countries in a bold attempt to reduce the digital divide, including gender digital divides and accessibility divides for persons with disabilities and specific needs, and to achieve the ultimate goal of universal access in line with the Geneva Plan of Action, the Tunis Commitment, the Tunis Agenda, the World Summit on the Information Society vision beyond 2015 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

1. These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)