**PACP-19**

**PRELIMINARY APT COMMON PROPOSAL  
  
MODIFICATIONS TO WTDC RESOLUTION 66  
INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY, ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND CIRCULAR ECONOMY**

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| **Summary:**  It is proposed to amend the text of WTDC Resolution 66 on Information and communication technology, environment, climate change and circular economy.  **Expected Results:**  APT Member administrations invite WTDC to examine the proposal and approve the changes to WTDC Resolution 66.  **References:**  *WTDC Resolution 66 (Rev. Kigali, 2022) on Information and communication technology, environment, climate change and circular economy* |

1. **PROPOSALS**APT Member administrations propose to modify WTDC Resolution 66, according to the annex below.

**ANNEX**

**MOD**

RESOLUTION 66 (Rev. Baku, 2025)

Information and communication technology, environment, climate change and circular economy

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Kigali, 2022),

recalling

*a)* Resolution 182 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the role of telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICTs) in regard to climate change and the protection of the environment;

*b)* Resolution 1429 of the ITU Council, adopted at its 2024 session, on ITU's role in facilitating ICTs' contribution to sustainability and climate action; *c)* Resolution 73/247 (2018) of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), which recognizes the potential benefits for countries to transform their economies to promote sustainable consumption and production patterns, by engaging with partners to integrate or implement concepts such as circular economy and Industry 4.0 for more sustainable industrial activity and manufacturing systems, according to national plans and priorities;

*d)* Resolution 34 (Rev. Kigali, 2022) of this conference, on the role of telecommunications/information and communication technology in disaster preparedness, early warning, rescue, mitigation, relief and response;

*e)* Resolution 73 (Rev. Geneva, 2022) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA), on ICTs, environment, climate change and circular economy, instructing the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) in this area;

f) Recommendation ITU-D 21 (Dubai, 2014), on ICT and climate change;

*g)* the outcomes of the United Nations (UN) Climate Change Conferences, including the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCC) and the main outcomes of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal;

*h)* Resolution 79 (Rev. Geneva, 2022) of WTSA, on the role of telecommunications/ICTs in handling and controlling e-waste from telecommunication and information technology equipment and methods of treating it;

*i)* the outcomes of ITU-D Study Groups on environment, climate change and circular economy topics and ITU-T Study Group 5;

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

considering

*a)* the need to face the impacts and emergency from climate change from the telecommunication/ICT sector’s environmental impact and its increasing amount of waste through effective actions;

*b)* the role that ITU can play in monitoring the telecommunication/ICT sector’s climate impact and amount of e-waste being generated to support data and policy driven environmentally sustainable digital transformation and development;

*c)* that the concept of SMART (scientific monitoring and reliable telecommunication) cables includes scientific sensors mounted in the repeaters of submarine cables to measure ocean-bottom temperature, pressure and seismic acceleration;

*d)*  that increased digitilization worldwide and connecting the one-third of the world’s population still offline will require more infrastructure and devices;

*e)* that many countries are not monitoring the amount of e-waste being generated and not all countries have an e-waste policy, legislation or regulation in place;

*f)* that the role of ICTs in tackling the challenge of climate change encompasses a wide array of activities, including, but not limited to: the development of energy-efficient devices, applications and networks; the development of energy-efficient working methods; the implementation of satellite and ground-based remotesensing platforms for environmental observation, including weather monitoring, as well as innovative undersea sensing technology, including SMART submarine telecommunication cables; and the use of ICTs to warn the public of dangerous weather events and provide communication support for governmental and non-governmental aid providers;

*g)* that ICT products contain critical raw materials which are finite, thus requiring particular attention by the telecommunication/ICT sector to boost the global recycling rate of these materials, which according to ITU data and estimates, is currently at one per cent, and that caution must be exercised over the extraction procedures for these materials to ensure low environmental pollution levels;

*h)* that the rise in e-waste generation is outpacing the rise in formal recycling by a factor of almost 5, being driven by technological progress, higher consumption, limited repair options, short product lifecycles, growing electronification and inadequate e-waste management infrastructure.

*i)* that telecommunications/ICTs are essential for monitoring and managing the risks of climate change, and that adequate telecommunication networks and ICTs are required to reach people and relief organisations during disasters;

*j)* that cost-effective, safe and sustainable-by-design telecommunications/ICT solutions with improved carbon footprint are an urgent requirement,

considering further

the outcome document adopted by the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), entitled "The Future we want", reflecting the renewed commitment to advancing sustainable development and achieving environmental sustainability, and recognizing the important role of ICTs,

noting

*a)* that it is important to facilitate an environment in which ITU Member States, Sector Members and other stakeholders may cooperate to obtain and effectively use data and studies for disaster management and climate change to assist their transition to a circular economy;

*b)* that Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are demonstrating innovative, telecommunication/ICT-enabled responses to climate change, through integrated planning and digital sustainability efforts, recognised by ITU and the international community;

*c)* that there are a wide range of international forums, platforms, and partnerships working towards tackling climate change issues and supporting transition to a circular economy,

recognizing

*a)* the UN Joint Task Force to investigate the use of submarine telecommunication cables for ocean and climate monitoring and disaster warning (JTF SMART Cable Systems);

*b)* that the information obtained from SMART cables can be used for climate-change monitoring (ocean circulation, heat content and sea-level rise) seismic monitoring (earth structure and related hazards), and near-to-far field tsunami and earthquake early warning, contributing to disaster risk reduction, among other things;

*c)* the work of the Circular Electronics Partnership, of which ITU is a founding member, on a coordination platform for global organizations and businesses that are actively working on creating a circular electronics industry;

*d)* the Green Digital Action initiative led by ITU which advances climate action through digital innovation by driving industry commitments, promoting innovative digital solutions and strengthening global frameworks for monitoring and reporting;

*e)* the Coalition for Digital Environmental Sustainability, of which ITU is a founding co-champion, which sets priorities and develops capacities for an inclusive, sustainability-driven digital transformation;

*f)* that ITU and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research founded the Global E-waste Statistics Partnership, which produces the Global E-waste Monitors to monitor e-waste developments over time and help countries produce e-waste statistics;

*g)* that climate change is detrimental to all countries, including those that are susceptible to wildfires, droughts, floods, landslides, sea level rise and other disasters exacerbated by climate change;

*h)* the unique vulnerabilities of SIDS, and the national initiatives they are leading to address climate change, resilience, and sustainability through integrated and forward-looking approaches, which require continued support,

resolves

1 to give priority to ITU-D activities in this area and to providing the necessary support, while ensuring appropriate coordination among the three ITU Sectors on a full range of climate change and circular economy-related issues;

2 to continue and further develop ITU-D activities on ICTs, environment, climate change and circular economy in order to contribute to the wider global efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change;

3 to include, as a priority, assistance to developing countries in strengthening their human and institutional capacity to address climate change issues, manage climate-related disasters, and transition to a circular economy4 to increase awareness and promote information-sharing on the role of ICTs in enhancing environmental sustainability, in particular by promoting the use of more energy-efficient devices and networks and more efficient working methods, as well as ICTs that can be used to replace or displace higher energy consuming technologies/uses;

5 to encourage efficient water consumption, promotion of modular designs for devices and components, including its reuse as well as its replacements, and improvement in e-waste management and circularity across economic and social activities;

6 to promote the development and application of renewable energy systems and sources where appropriate, to support ICT operations and in particular continuity and resilience during disasters;

7 to set up elearning programmes related to ICT, environment, climate change and the circular economy, including on relevant ITU Recommendations, within available resources;

8 to encourage and support Member States, particularly LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS, in integrating telecommunications/ICTs into climate resilience strategies, policies, and long-term sustainability planning, to address their specific challenges and capacity needs,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau, in collaboration with the Directors of the other Bureaux

1 to formulate a plan of action for the role of ITU-D in this regard, taking into account the role of the other two Sectors;

2 to ensure that the plan of action is implemented under the relevant objective of the ITU-D Action Plan dealing with ICTs, environment, climate change and circular economy, taking into account the needs of developing countries, and cooperating closely with the study groups of the other two Sectors and with ITU-D Study Group 2 in its implementation of the relevant Questions;

3 to promote liaison with other relevant organizations in order to avoid duplication of work and optimize the use of resources;

4 to organize, in close collaboration with the Directors of the Radiocommunication Bureau and the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau and with other competent bodies, workshops, seminars and training courses in developing countries at the regional level for the purpose of raising awareness and identifying key issues;

5 to report on progress on the implementation of this resolution annually at the meeting of the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group;

6 to ensure, within the available budget of the Union, in implementing the ITU-D Action Plan, that appropriate resources are allocated for initiatives related to environment, climate change and circular economy;

7 to implement projects related to environment, climate change and circular economy, in particular in the field of data collection, monitoring, and policy and regulatory frameworks, in particular in developing countries, taking into account the needs of the developing countries, and within available resources;

8 to assist developing countries in monitoring and reducing their telecommunication/ICT sector GHG emissions and energy use and support policymakers in collecting data and setting effective policies to address these emissions;

9 to support the development of reports related to environment, climate change and circular economy, in particular in the field of data collection, monitoring and policy and regulatory frameworks, taking into consideration relevant studies in ITU-D study groups;

10 to assist affected countries with utilizing relevant applications for disaster preparedness, mitigation and response;

11 to support developing countries in monitoring and reducing their e-waste generation by establishing and strengthening e-waste policy and regulation, and collecting e-waste data;

12 to encourage and support developing countries in formulating their respective National Action Plans to transition to a circular economy in the telecommunication/ICT sector;

13 to assist developing countries in initiating projects that achieve the sustainable and smart management of water resources through the use of ICTs;

14 to assist developing countries in initiating projects on disaster prediction, detection, monitoring, response and relief;

15 to identify and share best practices and opportunities towards implementing environmentally sustainable policies, plans and practices, and to share use cases and success stories;

16 to support the ITU study groups in examining the benefits of undersea sensing technologies and continue collaboration with relevant stakeholders to increase ITU members' awareness/knowledge of undersea sensing technologies and to exchange up-to-date information that allows the reuse and repair of telecommunication/ICT equipment for sustainable use of ICTs,

invites Member States, Sector Members and Associates

1 to continue to contribute actively to the ITU-D work programmes on environment, climate change and circular economy, and towards the achievement of a net-zero telecommunication/ICT sector;

2 to continue or initiate public and private programmes that include climate change and circular economy, giving due consideration to relevant ITU initiatives;

3 to take necessary measures to reduce the effects of climate change by developing and using more energy-efficient ICT devices, applications and networks, as well as monitoring the impact of telecommunication/ICT sector on the environment and finite critical raw materials;

4 to continue developing and improving e-waste management and handling policies and regulations, including the management of hazards and establishment of effective tracking, collection and disposal schemes, in close cooperation across public and private sectors;

5 to promote the integration of ICT, climate, environment and energy policies to reduce GHG emissions and include the use of telecommunications/ICTs as an enabling tool for addressing the effects of climate change into national adaptation plans;

6 to liaise with their relevant national entities responsible for environmental issues in order to support and contribute to reducing waste and emissions from the telecommunication/ICT sector and contribute to the wider United Nations process on climate change and sustainable production and consumption, in particular taking into consideration the relevant Sustainable Development Goals.