**PACP-24**

**PRELIMINARY APT COMMON PROPOSAL**

**MODIFICATIONS TO WTDC RESOLUTION 77**

**BROADBAND TECHNOLOGY AND APPLICATIONS FOR GREATER GROWTH**

**AND DEVELOPMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATION/INFORMATION AND**

**COMMUNICATION SERVICES AND BROADBAND CONNECTIVITY**

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| **Summary:**  It is proposed to amend the text of Resolution 77 of WTDC. The proposed amendments include editorial refinements and updated references to ensure consistency with current terminology and reinforce the alignment between ITU efforts and the latest international frameworks and efforts on ICTs for development. The proposed amendment also considers streamlining with Resolution under PP (particularly Resolution 203).  **Expected Results:**  APT Member administrations invite WTDC to examine the proposal and approve the changes to Resolution 77. The proposal aims to ensure that the Resolution remains relevant and responsive to evolving international frameworks and priorities on ICTs for development. Ultimately, this will strengthen ITU’s role in supporting global digital development efforts.  **References:** *1. WTDC 2022 RESOLUTION 77 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) - Broadband technology and applications for greater growth and development of telecommunication/information and communication services and broadband connectivity*  *2. PP 2022 RESOLUTION 203 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) – Connectivity to broadband networks* |

1. **PROPOSALS**

APT Member administrations propose to modify WTDC Resolution 77, according to the annex below.

**ANNEX**

**MOD**

RESOLUTION 77 (Rev. Baku, 2025)

Broadband technology and applications for greater growth  
and development of telecommunication/information and  
communication services and broadband connectivity

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Baku, 2025),

recalling

*a)* Resolution 71 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the strategic plan for the Union;

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

*c)* the outcome documents of the 2015 World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Forum;

*d)* Resolution 135 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on ITU's role in the durable and sustainable development of telecommunications/ICTs, and the importance of telecommunications/ICTs for economic and social progress;

*e)* Opinion 2 (Geneva, 2021) of the World Telecommunication/ICT Policy Forum, on affordable and secure connectivity in mobilising new and emerging telecommunications/ICTs for sustainable development;

*f)* Resolution 20 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of this conference, on non-discriminatory access to modern telecommunication/ICT facilities, services and related applications;

*g)* Resolution 37 (Rev. Kigali, 2022) of this conference, on bridging the digital divide;

*h)* Resolution 43 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of this conference, on assistance for implementing international mobile telecommunications (IMT);

*i)* Resolution 203 (Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on connectivity to broadband networks;

*j)* Resolution ITU-R 65 (United Arab Emirates, 2023) of the Radiocommunication Assembly, on principles for the process of future development of IMT-2020 and IMT-2030;

*k)* Resolution 92 (Hammamet, 2016) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA), on enhancing the standardization activities of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) related to non-radio aspects of IMT;

*l)* Resolution 93 (Rev. New Delhi, 2024) of WTSA, on interconnection of International Mobile Telecommunications networks;

*m)* Resolution 9 (Rev. Kigali, 2022) of this conference,

considering

*a)* the role of ITU, and in particular its Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU‑D), in supporting the development of telecommunication/ICT infrastructure and services;

*b)* the potential benefits of the rapid introduction of new and diverse telecommunication services, including those highlighted in Resolution 66/184 of the United Nations General Assembly, and consistent with § 54 of the Tunis Agenda for Information Society, and the role of broadband connectivity are essential elements in attaining the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);

*c)* 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 unserved communities using a technology-neutral approach to bridging the existing digital divide;

*d)* that innovative terrestrial and non-terrestrial technologies can help bridge the digital divide, not only between developing and developed countries but also between urban, remote and rural regions where conventional fixed telecommunication services may be inadequate and serve as effective, and in many cases the most effective, means of enabling access to practical services and new technologies, particularly in rural areas; *e)* that ITU and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) set up the Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development, which agreed a set of four ambitious but achievable targets that countries around the world should strive to meet in order to ensure their populations participate fully in tomorrow's emerging knowledge societies;

*f)* that in accordance with Resolution 9 (Rev. Kigali, 2022), the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT), in close consultation with the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau (BR), is collecting pertinent information and preparing, over the period between world telecommunication development conferences (WTDCs), appropriate documents and other relevant outputs that are responsive to the specific needs of developing countries on national, economic, regulatory and financial approaches to, and challenges of, spectrum management and spectrum monitoring,

taking into account

*a)* the report of the eighth WTDC (Kigali, 2022), highlighting the importance of expanding digital connectivity through regional initiatives aimed at developing resilient broadband infrastructure, fostering enabling policy and regulatory environments and ensuring inclusive access to high-speed networks, particularly in remote and underserved areas, to accelerate progress towards meaningful connectivity for all;

*b)* 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;

*c)* that, despite considerable improvements in the availability and affordability of broadband, almost two-thirds of the world population lacks access to affordable broadband;

*d)* 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;

*e)* the importance of competition in promoting investment, as presented in the report of the Broadband Commission for Digital Development[[1]](#footnote-2);

*f)* that, as part of the work of ITU-T Study Group 3, on tariff and accounting principles including related telecommunication economic and policy issues, a rapporteur group was set up for the purpose of drafting a supplement to Recommendation ITU‑T D.50 to facilitate the adoption of specific measures to reduce international Internet connection costs, especially for developing countries;

*g)* that ITU-T Study Group 3 adopted Recommendation ITU‑T D.52, on establishing and interconnecting regional Internet exchange points (IXPs), which guides regional collaboration to establish central hubs or IXPs that enable local Internet traffic to be routed locally, thereby saving international bandwidth and reducing the international Internet connectivity costs,

recognizing

*a)* 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;

*b)* that broadband-enabled terrestrial and non-terrestrial communications are 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 who lack resources;

*c)* that studies suggest that broadband penetration is higher in countries with national broadband plans, policies or strategies than in countries without them;

*d)* that, pursuant to § 22 of the Geneva Declaration of Principles adopted by WSIS, a well-developed information and communication network infrastructure that is easily accessible and affordable and makes greater use of broadband can accelerate the social and economic progress of countries and the well-being of all individuals, communities and peoples;

*e)* the policy considerations outlined in the report of the State of Broadband 2023: Digital Connectivity - A Transformative Opportunity[[2]](#footnote-4), related to financing and funding the next phase of digital transformation through connectivity, which emphasise the following strategic actions, by encouraging all Member States to:

i) defining (and re-defining) measurable goals for “universal meaningful connectivity” to meet today’s needs;

ii) closing the usage gap by addressing key barriers to people adopting and using the Internet in areas where coverage is available;

iii) broadening the contributor base and implementing creative funding approaches, including incentivising infrastructure funding, reforming USAF approaches;

iv) aligning and incentivizing funding contributors is key for government connectivity plans, mobilizing all sectors’ pools of capital by removing challenges and barriers to network infrastructure investment;

v) building network infrastructure policies to last with sustainable and agile plans.

*f)* the work of the Internet Society (ISOC), the Internet Exchange Federation (IEF) and the regional IXP associations and other stakeholders to support the establishment of IXPs in developing countries in order to promote better connectivity,

resolves

1 to encourage greater coordination by BDT, and encourage the private sector to continue playing a significant role in supporting initiatives that foster access to 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 to promote availability, accessibility, reliability and affordability of broadband in developing countries by enabling Member States to develop national broadband policies and implementation strategies based on careful evaluation of supply and demand for broadband;

3 that BDT should support the implementation of regional and national projects for the use of terrestrial and non-terrestrial 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 financial services, on the basis of cooperation with interested Member States, relevant international organizations and the private sector;

4 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 programme 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

1 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 effective implementation of the relevant ITU programmes and activities in the development of broadband connectivity, providing reliable broadband access at affordable prices to both existing and new users in underserved and unserved communities;

2 to establish clear links between the broadband study Question(s), programmes and regional initiatives in order to maximize the use of human and financial resources and, most importantly, better meet the needs of developing countries;

3 to assist Member States in increasing connectivity and reducing costs by establishing national and regional IXPs to help connect landlocked developing countries (LLDCs);

4 to work in collaboration with ITU-T, ISOC, IEF and the regional IXP associations and other stakeholders to support developing countries, particularly LLDCs, in accessing effective advice and support on the establishment of IXPs;

5 to explore options to facilitate broadband connectivity, in close collaboration with the ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R) and ITU-T,

invites Member States

1 to create and promote widespread affordable access to broadband communication infrastructure through enabling legal and regulatory environments, including the availability of spectrum for new broadband wireless access technologies 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 particular in developing countries;

3 to actively contribute to the broadband study Question(s);

4 to implement the results of the work performed on the study Question(s), including legal, regulatory and market reforms that create an enabling environment for broadband by promoting competition, private investment and public-private partnerships;

5 to implement policies and plans to encourage the availability of services, applications and content that stimulate demand for broadband;

6 to adopt measures that promote human capacity building, including digital literacy programmes and technical education, taking account of the need to promote broadband access for women and girls, persons with disabilities, people living in rural and remote areas and indigenous peoples.

1. "Broadband: A Platform for Progress". A report by the Broadband Commission for Digital Development, September 2010. (Available at <http://www.broadbandcommission.org/Documents/publications/Report_2.pdf)> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. State of Broadband 2023: Digital Connectivity - A Transformative Opportunity. A report by UNESCO, International Telecommunication Union, Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development, 2023. (Available at https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000387841) [↑](#footnote-ref-4)