|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| APTlogogreen3 | ASIA-PACIFIC TELECOMMUNITY | **Document No.:** |  |  |
| **The 3rd Meeting of the APT Preparatory Group for WTDC-21 (APT WTDC21-3)** | **APT WTDC21-3/**  **OUT-14 (Rev.1)** |  |  |
| 5-8 October 2021, Virtual/Online Meeting | 7 February 2022 |  |  |

Chair, WG3

**PRELIMINARY APT COMMON PROPOSAL**

**PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS TO RESOLUTION 37 ON BRIDGING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE**

|  |
| --- |
| **Priority area:** (Please mark “X” in front of the appropriate item)  \_\_\_ Declaration  \_\_\_ Thematic Priorities, Action Plan, Regional Initiatives and SG Questions  \_\_\_ Working Methods  \_X\_ Resolutions and Recommendations  \_\_\_ Other proposals  **Summary:**  The last year and a half, at least, have really shown us the importance of connectivity, but have also magnified the contrast between communities that are online and those that are unconnected or under-connected. The pandemic has underscored the staggering digital divides that persist between countries and within countries, as well as between gender, age, disability, socioeconomic status and geography.  ITU’s “Measuring Digital Development: Facts and Figures 2020” reported that 3.7 billion people around the world are still not connected to the Internet, thus remain excluded from the benefits of digital connectivity and transformation.  The Facts and Figures 2020 also reveals that people in rural areas continue to face greater challenges than people in urban areas in terms of remaining connected during the lockdown, especially in developing countries. Large swathes of the rural landscape are still not covered by mobile broadband networks, and fewer households in these areas have access to the Internet. It is observed that students in remote and rural areas are struggling to afford the appropriate ICT equipment and broadband connectivity. The persistent disparities between urban and rural will likely contribute to a second wave of digital divide as a result of the unsettling pandemic if these divides continue to persist.    This document contains proposed modifications to WTDC Resolution 37 to emphasize the fundamental role of telecommunication/ ICTs in bridging the digital divide. While existing WTDC17 Resolutions make recognition of the *potential* of telecommunication/ ICTs, the reality of persistent digital divides that have been magnified by the COVID-19 pandemic globally calls for a greater resolve by the ITU-D in stressing the role of telecommunication/ ICTs to ensure digital inclusion for equal access and use of ICTs for all.  **Expected results:**  APT Member administrations invite WTDC to examine the proposal and approve the modifications to Resolution 37.  **References:**   * WTDC Resolution 37 * ITU Facts and Figures 2020: Measuring digital development * UN 10 Priorities for 2021 * UNGA76 UN Secretary-General’s Keynote Address |

**PROPOSALS**

APT Member Administrations propose to modify WTDC Resolution 37, according to the Annex below.

MOD

RESOLUTION 37 (Rev. Addis Ababa, 2021)

**Bridging the digital divide**

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Addis Ababa, 2021),

*recalling*

a) United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Resolution 70/1, on transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

b) 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);

c) UNGA76 Keynote Address by the UN Secretary-General on 21 September 2021 which called for greater actions against the 6 Great Divides, in particular, in restoring trust and inspiring hope by bridging the digital divide;

d) Resolution 37 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC);

e) Resolution 25 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on strengthening the regional presence;

f) Resolution 135 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on ITU’s role in the durable and sustainable development of telecommunications/ information communications technologies (ICT), in providing technical assistance and advice to developing countries1 and in implementing relevant national, regional and interregional projects;

g) Resolution 11 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of WTDC, on telecommunication/ICT services in rural, isolated and poorly served areas and indigenous communities;

h) Resolution 20 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of WTDC, on nondiscriminatory access to modern telecommunication/ICT facilities, services and related applications;

i) Resolution 23 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of WTDC, on Internet access and availability for developing countries and charging principles for international Internet connection;

j) Resolution 46 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of WTDC, on assistance and promotion for indigenous communities through ICT;

k) Resolution 69 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA), on non-discriminatory access and use of Internet resources and telecommunications/ICTs;

l) Resolution 139 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the use of telecommunications/ICTs to bridge the digital divide and build an inclusive information society;

m) Resolution 200 (Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the Connect 2020 Agenda for global telecommunication/ICT development;

n) the WSIS+10 Statement on the implementation of WSIS outcomes and WSIS+10 vision for WSIS beyond 2015, adopted at the ITU-coordinated WSIS+10 High-Level Event (Geneva, 2014) and endorsed by the Plenipotentiary Conference (Busan, 2014);

o) Resolution 16 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of WTDC, on special actions and measures for the least developed countries (LDCs), small island developing states (SIDS), landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) and countries with economies in transition;

p) Resolution 123 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference and Resolution 44 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016) of WTSA, on bridging the standardization gap between developing and developed countries;

q) that Resolution 30 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference on special measures for the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

r) Resolution 175 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on telecommunication/ICT accessibility for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs;

s) Resolution 58 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of WTDC, on telecommunication/ICT accessibility for persons with disabilities, including persons with age-related disabilities;

t) Resolution 70 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016) of WTSA, on telecommunication/ICT accessibility for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs;

u) Action Line C7 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, covering the following ICT applications:

i) e-government

ii) e-business

iii) e-learning

iv) e-health

v) e-employment

vi) e-environment

vii) e-agriculture

viii) e-science

v) Resolution 201 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on creating an enabling environment for the deployment and use of ICT applications;

w) Resolution ITU-R 69-1, on the development and deployment of international public telecommunications via satellite in developing countries,

*noting*

a) that broadband connectivity is absolutely critical to accelerate digital transformation to bridge the digital divide to achieve *inter alia* digital inclusion;

b) that the COVID-19 pandemic has intensified the global demand for Internet access, speed and affordability following major shifts in the Internet use and traffic patterns, where ICTs have enabled billions of people to continue to work, study, shop and transact, care for others, and stay in touch with loved ones virtually;

c) that digital literacy is a requirement for bridging the digital divide;

d) that developing countries benefit from integrating ICTs into education systems which provides more effective and meaningful education and learning experiences, and ensuring that all students obtain the skills necessary to succeed in an information and knowledge-based economy and society;

e) that digital transformation will benefit all walks of society, especially women and girls, youth, children, persons with disabilities, persons with specific needs, the elderly, indigenous people as well as people living in remote areas;

f) that digital transformation is a requirement to bridge the digital divide and drive resilient recovery from and beyond global pandemic and crisis, and will improve education and quality of life, assist in connecting all citizens globally, and facilitate effective use of national resources for the future of society;

g) that countries and communities with limited education budgets should prioritize allocations for the integration of ICTs in education systems;

h) that UNGA will assess the outcomes and implementation of both the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2030 and the WSIS outcomes in 2025,

*recognizing*

a) that the telecommunication environment has undergone significant changes due to global surge in connectivity demand as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic that has shifted Internet use and traffic from offices to residential;

b) that the COVID-19 pandemic has magnified the digital divides between and within countries, gender, age, disability, socioeconomic status and geography;

c) that development in ICTs has contributed and should continue to reduce the cost of relevant equipment towards ensuring equal access and use of ICTs for all;

d) that, in many ITU Member States, regulations have been adopted dealing with regulatory issues such as interconnection, determination of tariffs, universal service, etc., designed to bridge the digital divide at the national level;

e) that the introduction of competition in the provision of telecommunication/ICT services has also contributed to reduce telecommunication/ICT costs to users;

f) that national plans and projects for the provision of telecommunication services in developing countries contribute to reducing costs to users and bridging the digital divide;

g) that the demand and use of digital technologies have also resulted in bringing down telecommunication/ICT costs;

h) that there is an urgent need to continue to create digital opportunities and accelerate the adoption of ICTs in developing countries, including LDCs, SIDS, LLDCs and countries with economies in transition, taking advantage of the revolution that ICTs have witnessed and are currently witnessing, and acknowledging the role ICTs will play in ensuring resilient recovery from global pandemic and crisis;

i) that various activities are being executed towards bridging the digital divide by many international and regional organizations, such as, in addition to ITU, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the United Nations economic commissions, the World Bank, the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT), the regional economic communities, the regional development banks and many others, and that such activity has increased following the conclusion of WSIS and the adoption of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, particularly in relation to implementation and follow-up;

j) that the BYND2015 World Youth Summit participants, in the Declaration of Costa Rica 2013, called for equitable and universal access to ICTs, particularly for women and girls, as well as other groups marginalized by the digital divide, and called for the United Nations, the international community and all Member States to consider their words and put them into action;

k) that the SDGs, officially known under the title "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", are a set of 17 "global goals" with 169 targets aimed at ending poverty, protecting the planet and ensuring prosperity for all;

l) that as a result of the “tragedy and peril” of 2020, the UN announced 10 urgent priorities for 2021 at the UNGA plenary meeting held on 28 – 29 January 2021 in recognition that the SDGs are more important than ever to put the world back on track and ensures sustainable and inclusive recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic,

*recognizing further*

a) ITU's role as a catalyst, and in particular that of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) as coordinator and promoter of the rational use of resources in the context of the various projects intended to narrow the digital divide;

b) that most ITU Member States have adopted integrated connectivity policies with a view to making affordable ICT services more accessible and inclusive to citizens, as an indispensable tool in bridging the digital divide;

c) that it is necessary to coordinate the efforts of both the public and private sectors to ensure that opportunities arising from the information society yield benefits, especially for the most disadvantaged;

d) that the integration models supported by the ITU Member States are an element that integrates, facilitates and does not exclude, one which takes into account the individual characteristics of all existing projects, respecting their autonomy and independence;

e) that the integration models propose ways to increase the profitability of existing infrastructure, to lower the cost of developing and implementing ICT projects and platforms, to provide for the sharing of expertise and skills, and to foster intraregional and extraregional technology transfers;

f) that the declarations of previous WTDCs (Istanbul, 2002; Doha, 2006; Hyderabad, 2010; Dubai, 2014 and Buenos Aires, 2017) have continued to affirm that ICTs and applications are essential for political, economic, social and cultural development, that they play an important role in poverty alleviation, job creation, environmental protection and the prevention and mitigation of natural and other disasters (in addition to the importance of disaster prediction), and that they must be placed at the service of development in other sectors; and that, therefore, opportunities offered by ICTs should be accelerated and fully exploited in order to foster digital inclusion towards sustainable development;

g) that Goals 2 and 4 in Resolution 71 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the strategic plan for the Union for 2020 – 2023, continues to declare that the aim is for ITU to assist in bridging the digital divide and provide broadband access for all and to enable innovation in telecommunications/ICT in support of the digital transformation of society,

*considering*

a) the role of ITU, in particular the specific functions of ITU-D;

b) that many stakeholders in the public, private, academic, non-governmental organization and multilateral sectors are seeking to bridge this divide;

c) that, in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic and even with all the developments mentioned above, in many developing countries and especially in rural areas, telecommunications/ICTs, particularly in relation to the Internet, are still not affordable to the majority of the people, as is evident at present;

d) the progress accomplished in the implementation of the outcomes of Phases 1 and 2 of WSIS;

e) that each region, country and area should tackle its own specific issues regarding the digital divide, while stressing the importance of cooperation in this area at regional and international level in order to benefit from experiences gained;

f) that many developing countries do not have the necessary basic infrastructure, long-term plans, laws, appropriate regulations and such like in place for telecommunication/ICT development;

g) that the use of radiocommunication systems, in particular satellite and other available services and applications such as high altitude platform station systems, to provide access for local communities located in rural or remote areas without increased connection costs due to distance or other geographical characteristics is an extremely useful tool for bridging the digital divide;

h) that satellite and other available services and applications such as high altitude platform station support communication solutions offering high connectivity, speed and reliability in both urban, rural and remote areas, and thus constitute a fundamental driver of digital transformation to speed economic and social development for countries and regions;

i) that the development of radiocommunication technologies and deployment of satellite and other available services and applications such as high altitude platform station enable sustainable and affordable access to information and knowledge, through the provision of communication services with high connectivity (broadband) and wide coverage (regional or global reach), which contribute significantly to bridging the digital divide, efficiently complementing other technologies and enabling countries to be connected directly, quickly and reliably;

j) that the programmes of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) under its action plans, on information and communication infrastructure and technology development, have provided assistance to developing countries in the area of spectrum management and in the efficient and cost-effective development of rural, national and international broadband telecommunication networks, including satellite and other available services and applications such as and high altitude platform station;

k) that, despite the previous decade's achievements in ICT connectivity, digital divides remain, both between and within countries, that need to be addressed through, among other actions, strengthened enabling policy environments and international cooperation to improve affordability, access, education, capacity building, multilingualism, cultural preservation, investment and appropriate financing, as well as measures to accelerate digital literacy and skills, and to promote cultural diversity,

*bearing in mind*

a) that gaps in access to and adoption of ICTs would lead to an extreme escalation of economic and social disparities, with negative impacts on the social and economic environment in the various regions excluded from the use of ICTs;

b) the interest shown by WSIS in ICT integration and the role of the three ITU Sectors in this regard;

c) the "Call to Action" of the Broadband Commission for Digital Development, to include ICT networks, services and applications as enablers of sustainable development;

d) the UN 2021 urgent priority to seize the opportunities of digital technologies demands affordable, meaningful and safe access to the Internet by 2030, and that all schools are conducted online as quickly as possible in the face of the on-going COVID-19 pandemic,

*considering further*

a) that public rights of way and the sharing of infrastructure, as well as the implementation of public policy through public investment and other mechanisms, when employed to support the application of ICTs, can lead to considerable savings in the cost of provision;

b) that the distribution of the benefits brought about by ICTs and the digital economy is not equitable between developing and developed countries, and between social categories within countries, taking into account the commitments of both phases of WSIS to bridge the digital divide and transform it into a digital opportunity;

c) that equitable and affordable access to telecommunications/ICTs and the transition of the countries of the developing world into knowledge economies and into the information age will boost their economic, social and cultural development, in the implementation of the aims of the Geneva Plan of Action and Tunis Agenda and of Goals 2 and 4 of the strategic plan for the Union for 2020 – 2023 in Resolution 71 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) (Inclusiveness: Bridge the digital divide and provide broadband for all; and Innovation: Enable innovation in telecommunications/ICT in support of the digital transformation of society, respectively), ;

d) that the implementation of the SDGs and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as adopted by the United Nation Sustainable Development Summit on 1 January 2016 will play a major role in narrowing the digital divide, and the WSIS+10 Statement and WSIS+10 vision for WSIS beyond 2015;

e) the disparity between those who have and do not have, and those who can and cannot afford access to ICTs, referred to as the "digital divide";

f) the lessons learned from the implementation of Action Line C7 of the Tunis Agenda;

g) that the goal of integrating ICTs, and accelerating digital transformation is to improve the quality of all aspects of our daily life, and that equitable and affordable access to ICTs is a key to digital inclusion as well as resilient recovery from global pandemic and crisis;

h) that the application of ICTs in contexts specified in WSIS Action Line C7 must give due regard to local needs in terms of language, culture and sustainable development;

i) that one of the principal advantages of satellite and other available services and applications such as high altitude platform station is access to remote, local communities without increased connection costs due to distance or the geographical features of the areas in which the societies are located;

j) that the security of these applications require the building of confidence and trust in the use of ICTs;

k) that as ICTs are being rapidly integrated into all sectors of society, the applications referred to in WSIS Action Line C7 are triggering profound changes in social productivity and hastening a major leap forward in industrial productivity, thus creating a good opportunity for developing countries to raise their level of industrial development and improve social and economic growth, as well as recovery from global pandemic and crisis;

l) that sharing of telecommunications/ ICTs experiences and best practices among ITU members will help to facilitate and accelerate digital transformation,

*confirms*

the importance of approaches to funding for bridging the digital divide in the Geneva Plan of Action, the Tunis Agenda and the strategic plan for the Union and their translation into equitable mechanisms for action, particularly in respect of issues related to Internet management, taking into consideration the special initiatives for promoting full gender equality, having regard to persons with specific needs, including persons with disabilities and the women, girls, the elderly, youth, issues related to indigenous peoples, telecommunications/ICTs for disaster relief and mitigation, and the child online protection initiative,

388 Res. 37

*undertakes*

to expedite and prioritize work from which all countries, especially the developing countries, may benefit, with a view to establishing international methods and specific mechanisms to strengthen international cooperation for narrowing the digital divide, through connectivity solutions and digital transformation to accelerate sustainable, inclusive and affordable access to ICTs, and, in parallel, to continue to shorten the time-frames for implementation of the Digital Solidarity Agenda, beginning with the Geneva Plan of Action, the outcomes of the Connect the World summits, the Tunis Agenda and the strategic plan as well as urgent priorities for the Union,

*resolves*

that BDT, in collaboration with the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau and the Radiocommunication Bureau, continues to adopt the necessary measures to accelerate the implementation of regional projects derived from the non-exclusive integration models which it has acquired, to actively link all stakeholders, organizations and institutions of the various sectors in an ongoing relationship of cooperation in which information is disseminated over networks, so as to narrow the digital divide in line with the outputs of Phases 1 and 2 of WSIS, as well as the UN 10 urgent priorities for 2021 that inter alia calls for seizing the opportunities of digital technologies through the implementation of the UN Roadmap of Digital Cooperation which was launched in 2020,

*resolves to instruct the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau*

1 to continue to follow up BDT’s work pursuant to Resolution 8 (Rev. Addis Ababa, 2021) of this conference in creating social connectivity indicators for the digital divide, standard indicators for each country and a single index, in cooperation with the competent organizations and the relevant United Nations agencies, using available statistics so that charts can be compiled to illustrate the current situation of the digital divide in each country and region;

2 to continue to advocate the advantages of developing low-cost, modern, high-quality ICT customer equipment, that can be directly connected to the networks supporting the Internet and Internet services and applications, so that economies of scale can be achieved on account of their acceptability at the global level, taking into consideration the possibility of satellite and other available services and applications such as high altitude platform station and the use of the above mentioned equipment;

3 to continue to assist in developing a user-awareness campaign in order to build user trust and confidence in ICT services and applications;

4 to ensure that special programmes under the ITU centres of excellence (CoE) continue to address the specific issue of ICT training and development of digital literacy and skills for poverty alleviation and improving the quality of life, and to give top priority to these centres;

5 to continue to foster the development of innovative models and digital transformation in order to reduce poverty and bridge the digital divide in the developing countries successfully;

6 to continue to identify key, and fit-for-purpose ICT applications in rural areas and to cooperate with specialized organizations with a view to developing a standardized user-friendly content format that overcomes the barrier of digital literacy and language;

7 to encourage innovation and accelerate the use and adoption of emerging digital technologies; and the development of business models or other innovative ways to help telecommunication operators in reducing costs that leads to acceleration of digital inclusion to bridge the digital divide;

8 to continue to advocate the need for affordable devices and services and assist in reducing access costs by encouraging manufacturers to develop appropriate technology scalable to broadband applications and having a low operating and maintenance cost, this having been adopted as a key objective of the Union as a whole and ITU-D in particular;

9 to encourage members to provide ITU with up-to-date ICT connectivity and rural experiences, which can then be put on the ITU-D website;

10 to facilitate discussion and exchange of best practices regarding the challenges and benefits of implementing projects or activities relating to ICT applications as referred to in WSIS Action Line C7 through strategic partnerships;

11 to take into consideration the importance of the security and confidentiality of the ICT applications highlighted in WSIS Action Line C7 and of protection of privacy, in order to facilitate discussions regarding guidelines, tools and mechanisms; improve collaboration between government authorities; implement user-friendly government services through integration and personalization of services; improve the quality and use of e-government services; and increase awareness of such services;

12 to continue to assist the Member States and Sector Members in developing a pro-competition policy and regulatory framework for ICTs, including online services and electronic commerce, as well as capacity building in connectivity and accessibility, taking into account the specific needs of women and marginal, vulnerable and disadvantaged groups;

13 to ensure BDT plays a central, agile and fit-for-purpose role in this initiative and collaborates closely with ITU Member States, through the ITU regional offices, to implement relevant programmes and projects, in addition to maintaining an active communication channel between strategic stakeholders;

14 to continue to encourage development of broadcast-mode methods for promoting the application and adoption of ICTs in rural areas;

15 to continue to help in promoting greater participation of women and girls, youth, children, persons with disabilities, persons with specific needs, the elderly, indigenous people and people living in remote areas in digital transformation initiatives;

16 to promote the implementation of studies or projects and activities, in collaboration with the ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R), with a view, on the one hand, to complementing national radiocommunication systems, including satellite and other available services and applications such as high altitude platform station, and, on the other, to increasing knowledge and capacities thereof, in order to achieve optimum utilization of the radiofrequency resource, particularly the digital dividend, and of the orbit/spectrum resource, with the aim of stimulating satellite and other available services and applications such as high altitude platform station broadband development and coverage for bridging the digital divide;

17 to analyse the adoption of measures for collaboration with ITU-R, in order to support studies, projects or systems and, at the same time, to implement joint activities which seek to build capacities in efficient use of the orbit/spectrum resource for the provision of satellite and other available services and applications such as high altitude platform station services, with a view to achieving affordable access to satellite and other available services and applications such as high altitude platform station broadband and facilitating network connectivity between different areas, countries and regions, especially in the developing countries;

18 to continue to encourage accelerated adoption of necessary measures to implement regional projects to link all stakeholders, organizations and institutions of the various sectors in an ongoing relationship of cooperation in which information is disseminated over networks, so as to bridge the digital divide in line with the outputs of Phases 1 and 2 of WSIS, and to contribute and work towards the Connect 2030 Agenda;

19 to continue to support and coordinate efforts to connect persons with disabilities using ICT services and applications;

20 to continue cooperating with study groups of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) in bridging the standardization gap between developing and developed countries;

21 to ensure that the necessary resources within the budgetary limits are allocated to the above actions;

22 to continue to make these applications a major strand for the activities of the relevant BDT programme, focusing on its key role for the implementation of study Questions related to ICT applications for the previous and forthcoming study periods;

23 to circulate the outputs of these activities on applications to all Member States on a regular basis;

24 that BDT continues to collaborate closely, through the ITU regional offices, with ITU Member States in order to implement these regional projects, in addition to maintaining an active communication channel between the strategic stakeholders and playing a central, agile and fit-for-purpose role,

*calls upon*

international financial institutions, donor agencies and private-sector entities to assist and to develop various, inclusive, fit-for-purpose and sustainable business models in developing ICT applications towards digital transformation referred to in WSIS Action Line C7, including public-private partnership projects and programmes in developing countries,

*invites Member States*

1 to develop and promote relevant policies to foster public and private investment in the development and construction of radiocommunication systems, including satellite and other available services and applications such as high altitude platform station systems, in their countries and regions, and to consider including the use of such systems in their national and/or regional broadband plans, as an additional tool that will help to bridge the digital divide and meet digital transformation needs, especially in the developing countries;

2 when implementing Resolution 17 (Rev. Addis Ababa, 2021) of this conference, on implementation of regionally approved initiatives at the national, regional, interregional and global levels, to select a project among those proposed for the regions that reflects optimal integration of ICTs with the aim of bridging the digital divide;

3 to participate actively in regional and global collaborative forums dealing with experiences and best practices in the implementation of e-government strategies and programmes;

4 to participate in the study of the role of ICTs in education systems by contributing their own experiences regarding the implementation of ICTs to achieve universal education worldwide,

*invites Member States and Sector Members*

1 to incorporate, in their e-government strategies and programmes, actions to accelerate the use of ICTs to improve collaboration between government authorities, actions to accelerate the implementation of user-friendly digital services, potentially including integration and personalization of services to improve the quality and use of e-government services, and actions to increase awareness of such services;

2 to support the collection and analysis of data and statistics on ICTs applications and services, including in agriculture, education, healthcare, manufacturing and processing, entertainment and media, oil and gas, transportation, tourism, and smart and sustainable city that will contribute to formulation and implementation of public policies, and cross-country comparisons;

3 to participate actively in regional and global collaborative fora dealing with experiences and best practices in the implementation of e-government strategies and programmes;

4 to participate in the study of the role of ICTs in education systems by contributing their own experiences regarding the implementation of ICTs to achieve universal education worldwide.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_