|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| APTlogogreen3 | ASIA-PACIFIC TELECOMMUNITY | **Document No.:** |
| **The 4th Meeting of the APT Preparatory Group**  **for PP-22 (APT PP22-4)** | **APT PP22-4/OUT-28** |
| 1-5 August 2022, Bangkok, Thailand | 5 August 2022 |

APT Preparatory Group for ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2022

**Preliminary APT Common Proposal**

**PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS TO RESOLUTION 205**

**ITU's role in fostering telecommunication/ information and communication technology-centric innovation to support the digital economy and society**

|  |
| --- |
| **Summary:**  Based on the consideration of the importance of strengthening role of ITU in fostering telecommunication/ICT-centric innovation to support the digital economy and society. The PP Resolution 205 is proposed to be revised to further enhance the roles of ITU. |

**INTRODUCTION**

In the last period, as a specialized UN agency, ITU is the leading organization in establishing mechanisms and developing the technical standards to ensure that networks and technologies are seamlessly interconnected as an enabling platform for all human communication and social-economic activities.

In the context of the global innovation environment, the digital platform as "soft infrastructure" is now becoming an essential element in ecosystem development, introducing a physical reality into the world of electronic communications, goods, and services. Digital platforms are an essential component of the digital economy, with many potential capacities in connecting people and engaging in bridging digital gaps.

Keeping pace with the tendency of technological development and the need for socio-economic life, ITU should consider reshaping itself and improving its mission in developing, operating, and interconnecting all platforms as the digital infrastructure where everyone can network with each other, share data, and promote their business. ITU should also promote its important role in fostering membership collaboration to achieve the success of global digital transformation.

**PROPOSAL**

APT Member administrations propose the revision of PP Resolution 205 on ITU’s role in fostering telecommunication/ICT-centric innovation to support the digital economy and society

**PACP-20**

**MOD**

**PROPOSED MODIFICATIONs TO RESOLUTION 205**

**ITU's role in fostering telecommunication/information and communication technology-centric innovation to support the digital economy and society**

RESOLUTION 205 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022)

ITU's role in fostering telecommunication/information and communication technology-centric innovation to support the digital economy and society

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Bucharest 2022),

*recalling*

1. Resolution 198 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of this conference, on empowerment of youth through telecommunication/information and communication technology (ICT);
2. Resolution 204 (Dubai, 2018) on use of information and communication technologies to bridge the financial inclusion gap;
3. United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Resolution 70/1, on transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
4. UNGA Resolution 70/125, on the outcome document of the UNGA high- level meeting on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS);
5. UNGA Resolution 68/220, on science, technology and innovation for development;
6. UNGA Resolution 75/1, on Declaration on the commemoration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations, which included a Declaration to improve digital cooperation,

*considering*

1. that the ongoing digital transformation of the economy and society enables innovation and promotes sustainable and inclusive economic development;
2. that COVID-19 demonstrated the critical role of telecommunications/ICTs in connecting societies and accelerating digital transformation;
3. that new and emerging technologies can create challenges concerning telecommunications/ICTs innovations, and international collaboration can address these challenges;

*d)* that ITU's role in increasing access to and promoting development of telecommunications/ICTs contributes to the development of the digital economy, and that the benefits generated by the digital economy contribute greatly to the overall economy;

*e)* the Kigali Declaration and the Kigali Action Plan adopted at the world telecommunication development conference (WTDC) in 2022;

*f)* relevant WTDC and Plenipotentiary Conference resolutions, in particular Resolution 17 (Rev. Kigali, 2022) of WTDC, on implementation of and cooperation on regionally approved regional initiatives at the national, regional, interregional and global levels;

*g)* that the Union, among others, plays a fundamental role in providing global perspectives on the development of the information society as regards telecommunications/ICTs;

*h)* that the strategic plan for the Union for 2020-2023 set out in Resolution 71 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of this conference identifies enabling innovation in telecommunications/ICTs in support of the digital transformation of society as one of the strategic goals of the Union,

*i)* that the sixth World Telecommunication/Information and Communication Technology Policy Forum 2021 (WTPF-21) , under the theme of "policies for mobilizing new and emerging telecommunications/ICTs for sustainable development" endorsed five opinions,

*noting*

1. Goal 9 in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: "Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and foster innovation", and specifically target 9.c: "Significantly increase access to information and communications technology and strive to provide universal and affordable access to the Internet in least developed countries by 2020";
2. Goal 8 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: "Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all";

*c)*  ITU's role in the organization of dedicated annual events addressing innovation dynamics at the regional and international level,

*d)* that ITU partners with UN organizations, governments, the private sector, international and intergovernmental organizations, civil society, the technical community, academia and other stakeholders to advance programs and initiatives that aim to improve ICT education and equip people, especially youth, with digital skills and improve digital literacy,

*bearing in mind*

1. that the benefits brought about by the digital economy have mostly followed existing disparities between developing countries[[1]](#footnote-1) and developed countries;
2. that both phases of WSIS made commitments to bridge the digital divide and create digital opportunities,

*resolves*

1. that the Union, within its mandate, should seek to foster telecommunication/ICT-centric innovation in the development and deployment of telecommunication/ICT infrastructure and digital platforms that contribute to the development of the digital economy and society, and facilitates the sustainable development of telecommunication/ICT, the benefits of which contribute greatly to the overall economy;
2. that the Union, within its mandate and existing mechanisms, should support Member States, upon request, in promoting an enabling environment for telecommunication/ICT-centric innovation by small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), start-ups, incubation centres and young entrepreneurs, supporting relevant activities with other international agencies;
3. that the Union should continue to collaborate with other related United Nations agencies and other international organizations to assist Member States in providing capacity building related to digital skills, which are considered as a core foundation for digital transformation;
4. that the Union should continue supporting WSIS action lines, consistent with its role as specified in Resolution 140 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of this conference, through responding to the global need to foster telecommunication/ICT-centric innovation that accelerates the digital transformation of society and the economy,
5. that the Union should foster a policy and regulatory environment that is conducive to sustainable telecommunication/ICT development that encourages innovation,

*instructs the Secretary-General*

1. to coordinate cross-sectoral activities in the Union and collaborate with other relevant United Nations agencies and stakeholders in implementing this resolution;
2. to ensure implementation of this resolution within the allocated resources in the financial plan and biennial budget as approved by the ITU Council;
3. in implementing this resolution, to take into account Resolution 11 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of this conference, on ITU Telecom events;
4. in implementing this resolution, to take into account the discussions and initiatives underway across the UN system which address new and emerging technologies in support of sustainable development;
5. to support the relevant ITU capacity building activities that promote education, digital literacy, training and skills development on new and emerging telecommunication/ICT services and technologies, to foster sustainable development and digital empowerment and inclusion for all;
6. to provide annually to the Council a comprehensive report detailing the activities, actions and engagements that the Union is undertaking in response to this resolution;
7. to prepare and submit a progress report on ITU activities related to this resolution to the next plenipotentiary conference in 2026,

*instructs the Directors of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau and Radiocommunication Bureau*

1. to take this resolution into account when carrying out activities in their respective Sectors;
2. to encourage the participation of SMEs in study groups and relevant ITU activities,

*instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau*

1. to provide technical assistance and capacity-building support to developing countries upon request in facilitating/strengthening their respective telecommunication/ICT-centric innovation ecosystems and developing telecommunication/ICT infrastructures;
2. to cooperate with other related international and regional organizations on enhancing the Digital Skills Toolkit to support Member States in designing national digital skills development strategies;
3. in close collaboration with the Directors of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau and the Radiocommunication Bureau, to consolidate all guidelines, recommendations, technical reports and best practices developed by all the Sectors that facilitate telecommunication/ICT-centric innovation driven by digital platform and its contribution to development of the digital economy and society, and make them effectively accessible to the developing countries to hasten the sharing of information and transfer of knowledge to narrow the development gap;
4. to cooperate with other relevant organizations and to contribute to efforts to measure development of the digital economy and society, by sharing information from ongoing Telecommunication Development Bureau measurements of telecommunication/ICT infrastructure, access and use by households and individuals,

*invites Member States*

1. to promote widespread affordable access to telecommunication/ICT services by supporting telecommunication/ICT-centric innovation ecosystems through encouraging competition, innovation, private investment and public-private partnerships;
2. through cooperation with all stakeholders, to foster an enabling environment for digital innovation ecosystems for inclusive growth and development of relevant new and emerging technologies to facilitate the use of telecommunications/ICTs for sustainable development;
3. to promote awareness and involvement of the public in telecommunication/ICT-centric innovation through the promotion of national initiatives with the assistance of ITU, and enhance digital skills and digital platforms development, especially among marginalized groups and persons with specific needs, including women and girls, children and youth, older persons, persons with disabilities, and indigenous people, to foster digital empowerment and inclusion for all;
4. to participate actively, in collaboration with other stakeholders, in the innovation-related activities of the Union, while facilitating the participation of telecommunication/ICT-related entrepreneurs, SMEs, start-ups and incubation and acceleration centres;
5. to exchange where possible best practices on enhancing digital literacy and skills for the purpose of fostering telecommunication/ICT-centric innovation to support digital economy and society;
6. to consider establishing policies/strategies that foster telecommunication/ICT-centric innovation,

*invites Member States, Sector Members, Associates and Academia*

1. to contribute by sharing their experiences and expertise on fostering innovation and supporting the development and deployment of telecommunications/ICTs as described in this resolution;
2. to foster an enabling environment for the development of digital platforms which could accelerate digital transformation worldwide;
3. within the framework of this resolution, to encourage the participation of telecommunication/ICT-related entrepreneurs, SMEs, start-ups and incubation and acceleration centres in the ITU Telecom World and other relevant events.

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