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| **The 4th Meeting of the APT Preparatory Group**  **for PP-22 (APT PP22-4)** | **APT PP22-4/OUT-16** |
| 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 30**

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

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| **Summary:**  The contribution proposes a few specific activities and edits to the Plenipotentiary conference resolution 30 to complement the efforts to enhance the membership of LDCs, LLDCs, SIDS and Countries in Special Need (CISN) in ITU sectors to further enable telecommunications / ICT development in the countries. |

**INTRODUCTION**

While there is an improvement in the participation from the private sector and academia in ITU activities from the specific categories of countries (LDCs, LLDCs, SIDSs, CISN, there is still a significant gap in their presence in the sector and associate membership of ITU.

Based on inputs from WTDC, Council, other conference etc., the Plenipotentiary Conference (PP 2018) has resolved to encourage Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) as associates in the sectors of the union by setting lower levels of financial contribution for SMEs when compared to other private sector members subject to ongoing review by the Council.

To promote enhanced participation from academia and industry from the LDCs, LLDCs, SIDS and Countries in Special Need (CISN) for telecommunications / ICT development, the following measures, inter alia, are proposed to be taken up for the Plenipotentiary conference 2022.

1. Akin to Network for Women, a “Network for industry, Academia in “LDCs, LLDCs, SIDS, CISNs” may be considered (if already not there), inter alia, to enable focused efforts under One ITU engagement. This may complement to enhance the active engagement through learnings of successes and challenges towards achieving national objectives in Telecommunication/ ICTs and SDGs;
2. Develop a country wise plan for LDC, LLDC, SIDS, CISNs for enhanced engagement from academia and industry;

**PROPOSAL**

APT Member Administrations propose modifications to PP Resolution 30 as provided in the Annexure.

**PACP-03**

**MOD**

RESOLUTION 30 (REV. BUCHAREST, 2022 )

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

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

*Considering*

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

*b)* Resolution 72/200 of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), on information and communication technologies (ICTs) for sustainable development;

*c)* UNGA Resolution 72/228, on science, technology and innovation for development;

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

*e)* Resolution 135 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of this conference, on ITU's role in the development of telecommunications/ICTs, in providing technical assistance and advice to developing countries[[1]](#footnote-1)1 and in implementing relevant national, regional and interregional projects,

*recognizing*

*a)* the importance of telecommunications/ICTs as an enabler that harnesses the potential of and opportunities resulting from digital innovation which can benefit the socio-economic development of the countries concerned and help achieve the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted in UNGA Resolution 70/1;

*b)* that the vision of an information society and its economic benefits cannot be achieved without embracing the principle of inclusiveness,

*having noted*

*a)* Resolution 16 (Rev. Kigali, 2022) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC), on special actions and measures for LDCs, SIDS, LLDCs and countries with economies in transition;

*b)* Output 4.4 of Objective 4 of the Kigali Action Plan for concentrated assistance to LDCs, SIDS and LLDCs;

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

*concerned*

*a)* that the number of LDCs remains high despite the progress that has been made in recent years, and that it is necessary to address the situation;

*b)* that the challenges confronting LDCs, SIDS, LLDCs and countries with economies in transition continue to pose a threat to the development agenda of these countries;

*c)* that LDCs, SIDS and LLDCs are vulnerable to devastation caused by natural disasters and lack the resources needed to respond effectively to such disasters;

*d)* that there is a very limited representation in sector and academia membership from the industry, academia of these countries, in particular, in Telecommunication Standardization and Radiocommunication sectors;

*e)* that the geographical location of SIDS and LLDCs is an obstacle to international connectivity of telecommunication networks with these countries,

*aware*

*a)* that improvement of telecommunication networks and their international interconnectivity in these countries will give an impetus towards social and economic integration across sectors and overall development, and provide the opportunity to create knowledge societies and participate in the digital economy, as well as achieving the 17 SDGs;

*b)* that an enhanced and effective participation of industry and academia from these countries in ITU activities would facilitate the development of ICT ecosystem in these countries,

*recalling*

*a)* former Resolution 49 (Doha, 2006) of WTDC, on special actions for LDCs and SIDS;

*b)* that United Nations has recognized least developed countries (LDCs) as a category of States since 1971 and it is over 50 years since its categorization requiring more focused efforts to bridge digital divide in Least Developed Countries and other category of countries to proliferate telecommunication / ICTs development;

*c)* that the fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (2011) (A/Conf.219/3/Rev.1) emphasized the challenge of lack of adequate ICT infrastructure, inter alia and stressed on, “acquiring new technologies and building domestic capacity and a knowledge base to be able to fully utilize acquired technologies and promoting indigenous capacity on a sustainable basis for research and development are needed to enhance productive capacities in least developed countries”,

*resolves to instruct the Secretary-General and the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau*

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

2 to take necessary steps to develop a country wise plan for LDCs, LLDCs, SIDS, Countries with economies in transition for enhanced engagement from academia and industry;

3 to consider to create a “Network for industry, Academia in LDCs, LLDCs, SIDS” to complement and enable focused efforts under one ITU engagement in disseminating information on ITU activities and provide necessary support towards achieving national objectives and SDGs related to Telecommunication/ ICTs;

4 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;

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

6 to propose new and innovative measures, as well as partnerships or alliances with other international and regional bodies, that may generate additional funds or joint projects to be used for telecommunication/ICT development in these countries, in order to get benefits from the opportunities that financial mechanisms offer in using ICT for development, as stated in the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society;

7 to continue enhancing ITU's web-based tools, in an effort to make it easier to locate guidelines, recommendations, technical reports, best practices and use cases developed by the ITU Sectors, as well as identifying strategies and mechanisms to help and allow Member States to proactively use these tools to speed up the transfer of knowledge;

8 to report annually on this matter to the Council,

*instructs the ITU Council*

1 to consider the reports referred to in paragraph 8 above and take appropriate action so that the Union may continue to display its keen interest and cooperate actively in the development of telecommunication/ICT services in these countries;

2 to make appropriations for this purpose from the Special Voluntary Programme for Technical Cooperation, the Union's own resources and any other sources of finance, and promote partnerships among all stakeholders in this regard;

3 to keep the situation under constant review and to report on this matter to the next plenipotentiary conference,

*encourages least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition*

1 to continue according high priority to telecommunication/ICT activities and projects that promote overall socio-economic development, including those that make it possible to improve international connectivity conditions, by adopting cooperation activities funded from bilateral or multilateral sources, for the benefit of the wider population;

2 to complement ITU efforts for enhanced engagement from academia and industry in telecommunication/ICT activities,

*invites Member States*

to cooperate with LDCs, SIDS, LLDCs and countries with economies in transition in promoting and supporting regional, subregional, multilateral and bilateral projects and programmes for the development of telecommunications/ICTs and the integration of telecommunication infrastructure making it possible to improve international connectivity conditions.

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