

**DRAFT INTER-AMERICAN PROPOSAL FOR THE 2002 WORLD
TELECOMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE TO PROPOSE THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF REGIONAL TELE-EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

The XIX Meeting of the Permanent Consultative Committee III: Radiocommunications,

RECOGNIZING:

- a) That in resolution COM/CITEL RES. 85 (VIII-99) a Working Group was established to prepare CITEL for the 2002 ITU Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-02);
- b) That in order to avoid duplicating efforts, it was considered convenient that the Working Group responsible for preparing CITEL for PP-02 be in charge of preparing the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-02);
- c) That due to the above, the resolution COM/CITEL RES.103 (IX-00) was issued which establishes that the Working Group for the preparation of CITEL for PP-02 be responsible for preparing for the WTDC-02 through the coordination of its chapters on “regional presence” and “Telecommunications development sector”, with the objective, among others, of preparing common proposals and/or recommendations for the work of the Conference, and also that each Permanent Consultative Committee establishes an Ad Hoc Group to prepare contributions for the WDTC;
- d) That resolution PCC.III/RES 111 (XVII-01), adopted during the Seventeenth Meeting of the CITEL Permanent Consultative Committee III: Radiocommunications (PCC.III), resolved to establish an Ad Hoc Group to develop, from the point of view of PCC.III, inputs on those items deemed important to the PCC.III area of responsibility,

CONSIDERING:

- a) That the issue “Development of plans for the development of telecommunications in rural and low income urban areas”, was one of those given priority in the resolution COM/CITEL RES.103 (IX-00);
- b) That in the Declaration “Connecting the Americas” participating countries made a commitment to expand access to global knowledge and provide full integration to the knowledge-society, particularly among rural and vulnerable groups, as well as to encourage the development of the telecommunications infrastructure needed to support all sectors of society and strengthen the application of information technologies for human development;
- c) That said Declaration provides that it is by encouraging all members of society to access information and communication technologies, enabling them to play a greater role in the

¹ Document PCC.III/doc.2120/01

political, economic and social development of their respective societies, that makes it possible to face the transition to a knowledge-based society;

- d) That in this regard, as telecommunications are a major element for the development of rural and low-income communities, telecommunication development plans must fully achieve their goals in a proper framework that takes the specific needs of these populations into account;
- e) That a commitment was made in the Plan of Action for the Americas to narrow the gap between rural and urban populations in the region, through universal access to new information and communication technologies, and
- f) That the Americas Regional Preparatory Meeting for the World Telecommunication Development Conference for 2002 of the ITU also identified this issue, as a priority to be included in the next Plan of Action of the Telecommunication Development Bureau,

FURTHER CONSIDERING:

- a) That the educational backwardness, the increasing need for training and professionalization, the need for educational approaches in the area of labor, illiteracy and other problems facing the region require answers that could be found in Open Distance Education;
- b) That in recent years, different people and institutions have made efforts from a pedagogical perspective to link new computer science and communication technologies to education;
- c) That different institutions have performed individual research directed at developing pedagogical models to facilitate learning through the network or satellite communications;
- d) That one of the main advantages of the satellite alternative is its access to remote communities not increasing the cost of the link by distance or geographical characteristics of the area in which the community is located;
- e) That tele-education programs will eliminate the need for users to commute to urban centers to access schooling, encouraging their permanence in their place of origin; this feature also represents a viable option to tackle educational backwardness prevalent in the region. In order to do this, it is necessary to include electronic and social communication media as a basis for the various projects that will be developed for this purpose, and
- f) That the Distance Education Program would help to strengthen the technological infrastructure, as well as to use electronic communication media and computer science in educational systems, and to develop methods and materials that take advantage of these resources for individual development,

RESOLVES:

1. To approve the following as a Draft Inter-American Proposal to be submitted for consideration by the COM/CITEL Working Group to prepare CITEL for the Plenipotentiary Conference and the World Telecommunication Development Conference of the ITU of 2002:
 - To carry out studies with the assistance of the ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau on the viability of a regional tele-education system.
 - The technical assistance by experts from the ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau to implement a regional tele-education system.
 - Support in the areas of human resources and material provided by the ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau in the implementation of a regional tele-education system.
 - Financing the acquisition of the necessary equipment and training in handling satellite technology by the ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau.
2. To forward this resolution to the COM/CITEL Working Group to prepare CITEL for the Plenipotentiary Conference and the World Telecommunication Development Conference of the ITU, for approval as an Inter-American Proposal of CITEL, if appropriate.

INSTRUCTS THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:

To carry out the steps necessary to comply with *resolve* 2 of this resolution.

