

**DECIDES:**

<b>COM/CITEL DEC.45 (XVI-05) <sup>1</sup></b>	<p>1. To send to the OAS 2006 General Assembly the attached draft Resolution “STRENGTHENING OF CITEL ACTIVITIES TO PROMOTE TELECOMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT IN THE REGION”, highlighting the important activities carried out by CITEL in 2005.</p> <p>2. To attach this draft Resolution to the Annual Report to be submitted by CITEL to the OAS General Assembly.</p> <p style="text-align:center"><b>ANNEX TO DECISION COM/CITEL DEC. 45 (XVI-05)</b></p> <p style="text-align:center"><b>DRAFT RESOLUTION</b></p> <p style="text-align:center"><b>AG/RES. YYYY (XXXVI-O/06)</b></p> <p style="text-align:center"><b>STRENGTHENING OF CITEL ACTIVITIES TO PROMOTE TELECOMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT IN THE REGION</b></p> <p style="text-align:center"><b>THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,</b></p> <p style="text-align:center"><b>HAVING SEEN</b> Resolution AG/RES. 2100 (XXXV-O/05), where the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL) is requested to present a follow-up report on its activities before the thirty-sixth regular session of the General Assembly;</p> <p style="text-align:center"><b>RECOGNIZING</b> the commitments made by the Heads of State and Government at the Summits of the Americas in Miami (1994), Santiago de Chile (1998), Québec (2001), Nuevo León (2004) and Mar del Plata (2005) relative to the strengthening of strategies to support the development and ongoing update of a telecommunications regional infrastructure plan and the effort to bridge the digital divide with the ongoing implementation of the Agenda for Connectivity in the Americas and the Plan of Action of Quito;</p> <p style="text-align:center"><b>REAFFIRMING</b> that, in its capacity of main hemispheric multilateral forum, the OAS has a unique role to play in strengthening connectivity in the region to contribute to its social and economic development;</p> <p style="text-align:center"><b>TAKING INTO ACCOUNT:</b></p> <p style="text-align:center">That Resolution AG/RES.1947 (XXXIII-O/03) adopted the Protocol of Amendment of the Inter- American Convention on the International Amateur Radio Permit which was adopted by</p>
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<sup>1</sup> COM/CITEL/doc. 1036/05

Resolution AG/RES.1316 (XXV-O/95) and which permits temporary operations of amateur radio stations within a Member State to those individuals holding an IARP permit from another Member State without any further review, something which is critical in cases of disaster;

That Resolution AG/RES. 2135 (XXXV-O/05) reiterated the commitment of Member States to the Declaration of Principles and Plan of Action of Geneva expressed at the World Summit on the Information Society, and underscored the importance of promoting at a regional level - in a coordinated action of the public sector, the civil society and the private sector - activities leading to implementing the postulates established under such Declaration as a way of contributing to the social and economic development of the Hemisphere, and

**UNDERSCORING:**

The valuable efforts of CITELE, as the main Inter-American telecommunications forum, proposing active, sustainable policies in support of Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs) and to strengthen the continuity of the initiatives generated in the area of carrying out the Agenda for Connectivity in the Americas and the Plan of Action of Quito and in general for the appropriate harmonization of regional actions related to the development of the Information Society, and for the establishment of a national and regional, proactive strategic vision of Member States as an important means to achieve further results in the international sphere;

**FURTHER UNDERSCORING:**

The following CITELE activities during the year 2005:

- a. Approval of various recommendations regarding the coordination of rules to guarantee interoperability and the timely introduction of advanced technologies; harmonization of the radio spectrum and the operation of radio communication services, including radio broadcasting; development and implementation of modern technologies and new radio communication services and economic aspects and principles to establish tariffs in order to promote the development of telecommunications networks and services;
- b. Approval and publication within the context of its preamble of the text of the Third version of the Blue Book "Telecommunications Policy for the Americas", a reference tool to provide the

countries in the Americas with objective information and descriptions on telecommunication policies and matters relative to regulation, including the difficulties and opportunities posed by developing new telecommunication technologies

- c. Offer of various telecommunications professional refresher courses with materials prepared by accredited training centers in the region and in coordination with the Center of Excellence for the Americas Region of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU);
- d. Coordination and harmonization of regional views at the telecommunication international forums, through the development of Inter-American proposals and shared positions for the World Telecommunication Development Conference and the Plenipotentiary Conference of the ITU, both scheduled for 2006, and the World Radiocommunication Conference to be held in 2007;
- e. Organization of various seminars and workshops dealing with priority issues for the countries, such as Number Portability, International Telecommunication Regulations (ITR), Broadband over Power Lines / Power Line Communications (BPL/PLC), “Broadband Wireless Technologies: opportunities and challenges”, and
- f. Maintenance and expansion of cooperation among all the Member States and with the pertinent regional organizations,

**RESOLVES:**

1. To reaffirm the essential value of the work and recommendations by CITELE in its goal of driving telecommunication development in the region, and in particular, in meeting the mandates of the Summits of the Americas, the General Assembly and CITELE assemblies.

2. To reiterate its commitment to continue strengthening and reinforcing mechanisms for Member States to continue implementing the commitments of the Summits of the Americas in connection with telecommunications.

3. To entrust to the General Secretariat of the OAS

to approve, through CITELE, the efforts of Member States to:

- a. Promote the spreading and application of CITELE Recommendations among the different stakeholders so that they contribute to its implementation; and that they continue to intensify efforts to adopt the measures, national plans and strategies necessary to improve connectivity in the region.
- b. Develop, promote and foster further dissemination of information, exchange of experiences and lessons learnt and to raise awareness regarding the impact of telecommunications through the different CITELE Observatories that compile information.
- c. Increase the active participation of Member States in the preparation and follow up of high level international telecommunication meetings and in particular in preparing coordinated Inter-American proposals, positions and views for such meetings.
- d. Promote the use of communication and information technologies, and in particular, the availability of a broadband infrastructure as essential elements to encourage massive access to information networks.
- e. Increase the development and training of human resources to better respond to the demands of the telecommunications sector and the needs of an economy increasingly based on knowledge.
- f. Consider signing, ratifying or adhering to the Inter-American Convention on the International Amateur Radio Permit (IARP) and its Protocol of Amendments, in case they have not done so yet, considering that it is a fundamental tool in cases of disaster situations and consider requesting to the Secretary General that a report be presented to the Permanent Council before the thirty-sixth regular sessions of the General Assembly, regarding the applicable status of signatures, ratifications and adhesions.
- g. Support the work of expert groups devoted to promoting the thematic areas identified under *Further underscoring*;

4. To urge the Secretary General to demonstrate the OAS commitment to strengthening connectivity in the region by

granting the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL), in its capacity as specialized OAS entity and main hemispheric telecommunication forum, sufficient resources to strengthen its ability to meet its growing mandates.

5. To request CITEL to present a follow-up report to the thirty-seventh regular sessions of the General Assembly.