

## **PCC.I/RES.10 (I-02)**

### **To forward to the XII meeting of COM/CITEL the report on the activities undertaken by the PCC.I regarding the WSIS**

The First Meeting of the Permanent Consultative Committee I: Telecommunication Standardization,

#### **CONSIDERING:**

a. That during the XVI Meeting of the Permanent Consultative Committee I: Public Telecommunications Services (PCC.I) held on May 27 – 30, 2002 in Montevideo, Uruguay, Resolution N° PCC.I/Res. 158 (XVI-02) was adopted, entitled “Call to the Member Countries and Associate Members to forward their Views and Requests Regarding CITEL’s Participation in the Framework of the WSIS” so that, based on the outcome of the I Meeting of the Preparatory Committee (PreCom 1) and the list of topics submitted by the Member States, the Rapporteur Group will draw up a proposed structure that will constitute the document that the PCC.I (Telecommunication Standardization) will submit to COM/CITEL for consideration as the CITEL contribution to the WSIS (Annex II); and

b. On this matter, the Member States and the Associate Members are requested to submit their contributions to the I Meeting of PCC.I (Telecommunication Standardization) through the Executive Secretariat of CITEL, taking into consideration the outcome of the unofficial Meeting of Sub-Committee 2 of PreCom 1, while also taking into consideration the results of the Plenipotentiary Conference 2002 (Decision PLEN/1 and Resolution PLEN/7).

#### **TAKING INTO ACCOUNT:**

a. That during the III Regular Meeting of CITEL held on August 12 – 16, 2002, the Declaration was adopted in Washington, D.C., through which it was agreed, among other matters, to contribute actively to the preparatory measures for the World Summit on the Information Society, providing the principles of an Agenda for Connectivity in the Americas, fostering cooperation and participation among stakeholder sectors in the Region, drawing up proposals and deploying any other mechanism allowing the active presence of the Member States and Associate Members;

b. That in addition to the above, Resolution CITEL/RES.43 (III-02) was adopted, through which it was resolved to establish the Permanent Consultative Committee I and II, as well as their objectives and mandates; and

c. That, as a result of the restructuring proposed at the I Meeting of PCC.I (Telecommunication Standardization), WSIS-related activities were brought to a close.

#### **RESOLVES**

Pursuant to the above and considering the above-mentioned resolution CITEL/RES.43 (III-02) to invite the Chair of PCC.I to forward to the XII Meeting of COM/CITEL the Report on the Activities undertaken by PCC.I regarding the WSIS (Annex I) for consideration thereby, together with Annex II of this Resolution.

## **ANNEX I**

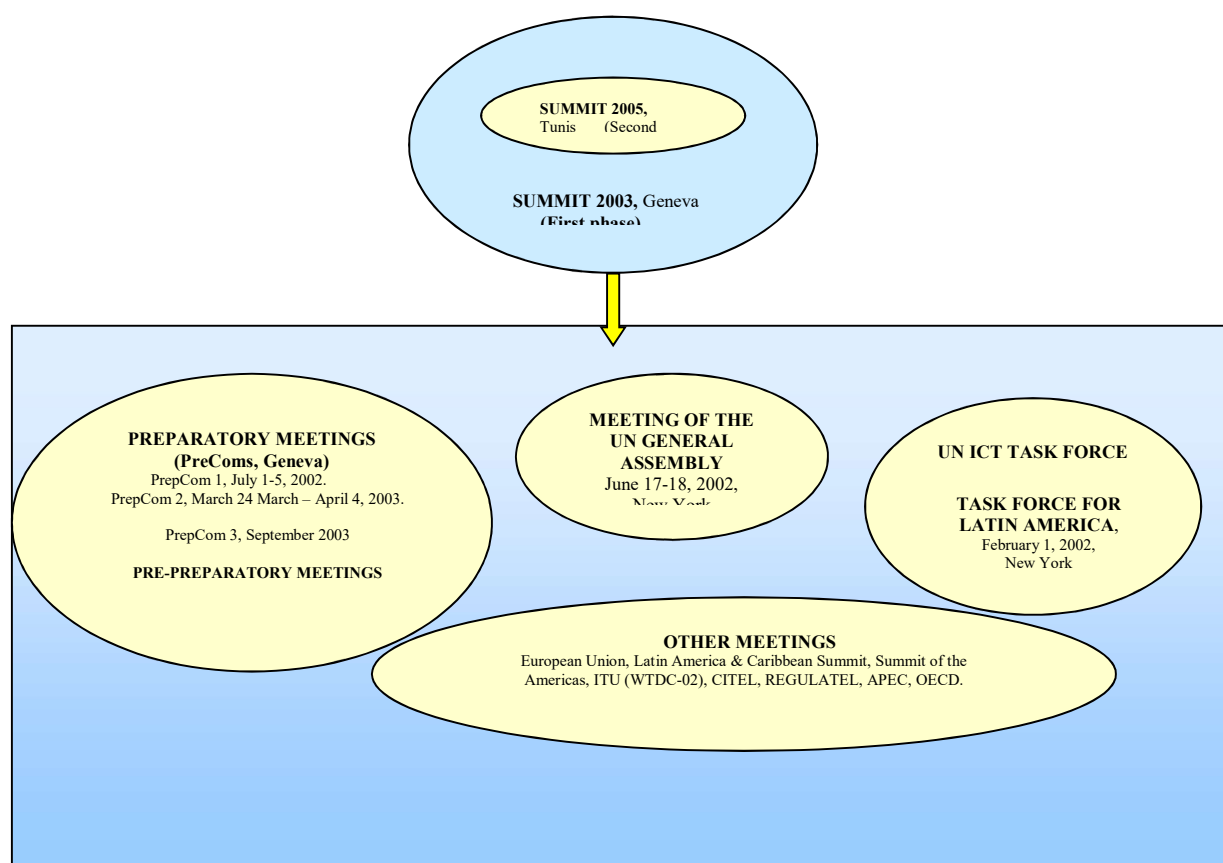
### **REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF PCC.I FOR THE WORLD SUMMIT ON THE INFORMATION SOCIETY**

During the XVI Meeting of the Permanent Consultative Committee I: Public Telecommunications Services held on May 27 – 30, 2002 in Montevideo, Uruguay, Resolution N° PCC.I/Res. 158 (XVI-02) was adopted, entitled “Call to the Member Countries and Associate Members to forward their Views and Requests Regarding CITEL’s Participation in the Framework of the WSIS” through which the following was resolved:

1. To urge the Member States of CITEL to forward a list to the Rapporteur Group on e-Commerce and Community Development under the Working Group for the Promotion of the Global Information Infrastructure, putting forward the topics to be included in the document that the PCC.I will submit to COM/CITEL for consideration as the CITEL contribution to the WSIS.
2. To invite the Member States to attend the next PrepCom-1, from July 1 - 5, 2002, at the International Conference Center in Geneva (CICG).
3. Based on the results of the above-mentioned PrepCom-1 and the list of topics submitted by the Member States, the Rapporteur Group on e-Commerce and Community Development will draw up a proposed structure for the document mentioned in Item 1 of this Resolution.
4. That the proposed structure mentioned in the previous item should be forwarded to the Member States, so that they may submit their comments on this document to the Rapporteur Group in question.

At the III Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL) held on August 12 – 16, 2002, the Declaration was adopted in Washington, D.C., through which it was agreed, among other matters, to contribute actively to the preparatory measures for the World Summit on the Information Society, providing the principles of an Agenda for Connectivity in the Americas, fostering cooperation and participation among stakeholder sectors in the Region, drawing up proposals and deploying any other mechanism allowing the active presence of the Member States and Associate Members.

## VARIOUS FORUMS LEADING TO THE WSIS:



The idea of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) was launched for the first time in Resolution N° 73 of the Plenipotentiary Conference of the ITU (Minneapolis, 1998) and was later confirmed by Resolutions N° 1158 and 1179 of the Council of the ITU at the meetings held in 2000 and 2001 respectively, as well as by Resolution 1196 and Decision 509 of the Council 2002, and also by Resolutions 30 and 37 of the WTDT-02. In Resolution N° 56/183 issued by the General Assembly of the United Nations, the international community decided to organize the WSIS, and invited the ITU to assume “the main administrative function” in the Executive Secretariat of the WSIS and its preparatory process in cooperation with other organizations and associates.

### OBJECTIVES AND THEMES PROPOSED BY THE WSIS

The Table presented below contains the objectives defined in above-mentioned Resolution N° 56/183:

Proposed Theme Groupings	Objectives established in the above-mentioned Resolution N° 56/183	Proposed Themes
<b>View</b>	To promote a common view and understanding of the information society and adopt a Declaration and Plan of	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Open doors</li> <li>➤ Define a framework</li> </ul>

	Action to apply to governments, international institutions and all sectors of civil society.	
<b>Access</b>	The need was stated to seek world consensus and commitment to promote urgent access for all countries to knowledge, information and communications technology fostering development in order to take advantage of the technological revolution in information and communications.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Build infrastructure</li> <li>➤ User needs.</li> </ul>
<b>Applications</b>	The urgent need is recognized to make good use of the possibilities offered by knowledge and technology to promote the objectives set in the Millennium Declaration and to pursue effective and innovative ways to place these possibilities at the service of development for all.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Services and applications.</li> <li>➤ ICTs and education.</li> </ul>

## RESULTS EXPECTED FROM THE WSIS<sup>1</sup>

It is expected that the WSIS will adopt a Declaration of Principles on the foundations of the information society in the XXI century, as well as the preparation of a strategic Plan of Action to foster across-the-board development of the Information Society.

## PREPARATORY COMMITTEES (PrepComs)

A High-Level Summit Organizing Committee (HLSOC) was established, consisting of the Directors-General of the United Nations agencies and directed by the Secretary-General of the ITU, with the aim of coordinating efforts in the United Nations system to prepare, organize and hold the WSIS.

The following Meetings of Preparatory Committees have been considered:

- PrepCom 1 – Geneva, Switzerland, 1 to 5 July, 2002. To launch a round of discussions on the themes and agenda of the WSIS.
- PrepCom 2 – Geneva, Switzerland, 24 March to 4 April, 2003. Whenever programmed conferences are organized by governments and ad hoc or theme-specific meetings to obtain more comments on the themes, agenda and results, included in regional points of view, these contributions will be channeled to PrepCom 2. On the other hand, the possibility will be offered of submitting written contributions to be examined at this meeting.
- PrepCom 3 – Geneva, Switzerland, September 2003. A second opportunity will be afforded to fine-tune and focus on essential issues, themes, agenda and results.

## RESULTS OF PrepCom1

The Preparatory Committee decided to set up two Sub-Committees: a) chaired by Switzerland, Sub-Committee 1 was commissioned to examine the Draft Internal Regulations of the Preparatory Committee, Draft Internal Regulations of the Summit and accreditation provisions; and b) chaired by Mexico, Sub-Committee 2 was commissioned to examine the themes proposed for the Summit and its possible results.

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<sup>1</sup> The fact that the WSIS is held in two stages allows the efficiency of the Plan of Action to be evaluated and fine-tuned in the second stage.

With regard to Sub-Committee 2, the document containing the guiding principles for the preparatory work and the WSIS was adopted; another document concerning the themes proposed for the WSIS<sup>2</sup> was included as an Annex to the Report, and will serve as a guide for future work.

As a result of these efforts, the Chair of Sub-Committee 2 called an informal meeting in Geneva, Switzerland, from September 16 – 18, 2002 to define the principles and themes for the WSIS, the results of which are presented below:

### **Results of the Unofficial Meeting of Sub-Committee 2 / PrepCom1 for the WSIS**

On the basis of the document adopted by the I Meeting of the Preparatory Committee on the guiding principles for the preparatory works and the WSIS, as well as the topics proposed for the Summit by the Chair of Sub-Committee 2, this Sub-Committee undertook official consultations on September 16 - 18, 2002. It was agreed to present the following official at the Regional Preparatory Meetings and the II Meeting of the WSIS Preparatory Committee.

In this regard, the following set of principles was initially identified to guide the preparatory work and the Summit.

- The Preparatory Committee and the Summit should strive to extend the benefits of the Information Society to all, steering development and bridging the digital divide.
- This requires reaching common understandings and fostering awareness of:
  - the information society; and
  - the types of response to the challenges offered by the digital divide.
- The Summit should examine matters related to infrastructure and content.
- The preservation of linguistic diversity and cultural identity should be rated as top priority.
- The corresponding ethical dimensions of the ICTs should be taken under consideration.
- A spirit of international cooperation should prevail.

- The ICTs are tools for attaining economic and social targets, such as the objectives of the United Nations Millennium Declaration, rather than as an end in themselves.
- The importance of universal access should be stressed, while opening the information society to all.
- [This requires many links to be built up among many diverse players][The importance of broad-ranging cooperation among the players should be underscored]
- The importance of the communities should be stressed, together with ICT use benefiting the least-favored groups (such as women, young people, children, the disabled, indigenous peoples and migrants).

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<sup>2</sup> The following themes were identified as a starting point for undertaking future work (Annex 4 of doc. WSIS/PC-1/DOC/11 (Rev.1)-S):

- Infrastructure: financing, installation and sustainability;
- Identifying and surmounting the stumbling-blocks hampering the establishment of the information society;
- The functions of the government, the business sector and civil society in furthering ICTs to foster development;
- Education, development of human resources and capacity-building;
- Access to information and communication technologies;
- Information network security;
- Preparing a policy and regulatory framework, and
- ICT applications (education, healthcare, culture, eradicating poverty, government, employment and enterprises).

- [The importance of matters related to information network security should be emphasized]

In parallel, the following topics are initially identified as the starting point for future works.

- Information and Communication Infrastructure: financing and investment, costs, development and sustainability.
  - Broad range of associations for allocating investments.
- Identifying and surmounting stumbling blocks that hamper the implementation of the information society, tailored to human needs.
- Access [universal and equitable] to information and communication technologies and sciences, [including technology transfers] and access to information and knowledge based on cultural and linguistic diversity, and the creation thereof.
- Functions of the government, the competent UN entities and agencies, the pertinent regional, national and international organizations, including financing and development institutions, the business sector, civil society /NGOs, academic institutions, the communications media and any other element that could contribute to the progress of the information society, deploying ICTs to foster development.
- Capacity-building: development of human resources, education and training.
- Options:
  - [Information network security]
  - [Global government of the ICTs, including information and network security, data protection, consumer safety and user privacy]
  - [Information security and network security]
  - [Information security]
- [[Establishing a context [national and international], mainly][policies and regulatory frameworks][and drawing up codes of conduct for trade and business]]
- Development of ICT applications focused on development for all (such as education, health, culture, eradication of poverty, e-government, employment, business, e-commerce, local content, context, warning and prevention systems, voice and touch applications).
- Encouraging the participation of SMEs, particularly in the developing countries within the sphere of influence of the ICTs.
- [Follow-up and assessment]

## **PREPARATORY ACTIVITIES AT THE NATIONAL, REGIONAL & INTERNATIONAL LEVELS**

### **I. National Preparatory Measures**

The national governments were invited to present timely contributions for examination by the Preparatory Committee and the WSIS, as well as identifying national connection points with the WSIS. The preparatory measures and contributions from the national governments may be made available for the WSIS preparation efforts in several different ways, including participation in the Regional Conferences and Ad Hoc (Theme-specific) Meetings.

### **II. Regional Preparatory Measures**

The regional preparatory measures for the WSIS will take place during 2002 and 2003, including Regional Conferences, Ad Hoc Meetings and Meetings of Experts, organized in order to help assess the

challenges facing the Information society from a regional standpoint. Working closely with the UN Regional Commissions, the national governments will play a significant role in the organization of the Regional Conferences and Ad Hoc Meetings.

The scheduled Regional Conferences are listed below:

- African Regional Conference:  
May 28 - 30, 2002, Bamako, Mali;
- Pan-European Regional Conference:  
November 07 - 09, 2002, Romania;
- Asia-Pacific Regional Conference:  
Japan has expressed its interest in hosting this Conference; and
- Latin America & Caribbean Regional Conference:  
First quarter 2003, Dominican Republic.

### **III. International Preparatory Measures**

The World Telecommunications Development Conference (WTDC-02) organized by the ITU adopted a Resolution on the role of the Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) covering the preparations for WSIS and the application of its Resolutions. The ITU-D / ITU will help draw up a Plan of Action, building up high-synergy links and relationships between development strategies and the WSIS.

The Plenipotentiary Conference organized by the ITU in 2002 will provide input and feedback for PrepCom-2 that will help draw up the Declaration of Principles and the Plan of Action for the WSIS.

The UN ICT Task Force has a specific role, as its mandate complies with the Millennium Declaration, stating that it must “Strive to ensure that everyone can enjoy the benefits of the new technologies, specifically the information and communications technologies”.

The UNDP has identified several projects providing strategic support for the WSIS, including the Initiative for a worldwide response and resource web.

Similarly, UNESCO will contribute to the preparation of the WSIS and its products, namely the Declaration of Principles and the Plan of Action, through a wide variety of preparatory activities.

Ending in 2003, a series of round tables on technological development and capacity-building is being organized by UNCTAD in order to ensure the ability to compete in a digital society.

The FAO intends to organize a small exhibition at the WSIS, showcasing its institutional experience in the management and distribution of agricultural information.

The WHO directs the International Health Network in order to streamline an unlimited and accessible flow of information on healthcare, helping upgrade public health through using the Internet.

The OECD will cooperate with APEC in the Asia-Pacific Region, organizing the Theme-Specific Forum on political frameworks for the digital economy in January 2003

The Council of Europe has negotiated the preparation of the Convention on Cybernetic Crimes; already signed by over 30 States, it represents a new basic international agreement framework that could form part of a series of discussions during the WSIS.

The World Bank has launched several initiatives related to the Information Society and Knowledge Management, which should provide input for various discussions during the WSIS.

The heads of the G8 countries have focused their attention on the impact of information technologies and the increasing risks of a global “digital divide”.