

COM/CITEL/RES. 81 (VIII-99) ¹

ESTABLISHMENT OF AN AD HOC GROUP IN CHARGE OF ELABORATING THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SECTION OF THE PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE THIRD SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS

The Eighth Meeting of the Permanent Executive Committee of CITEL, COM/CITEL,

HAVING SEEN:

That all CITEL Members should be given the opportunity to make policy recommendations that will promote the development of telecommunications in their countries so that they can be included in the Plan of Action that will be submitted to the Heads of State of the Americas for their approval.

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT:

- a) That, as a specialized agency of OAS, CITEL is in charge of advising the Heads of State meeting at the Third Summit of the Americas on sector policymaking;
- b) The importance of the telecommunication sector as a driving force behind the socioeconomic development of the states;
- c) The advisability of having a Plan of Action that guides the development of the telecommunications sector towards achieving universal service goals;
- d) The need to establish common criteria that facilitate the use of new technologies and the timely introduction of modern services; and
- e) That the Third Summit of the Americas, as the highest-level political forum, is the appropriate event for the formulation of telecommunications guidelines for the Governments of the Americas at the start of a new millennium,

f)

RESOLVES:

1. To establish an Ad Hoc Group in charge of preparing the draft Plan of Action for the telecommunications sector that will be presented at the Third Summit of the Americas, including among other issues, those related to the contents of Annex 1.
2. To include evaluation of the draft Plan of Action in the agenda of COM/CITEL's next meeting.
3. Designate Felix Castro from Colombia as Chairman of the Ad Hoc Group.

¹ Reference Document: COM/CITEL/doc.493/99rev.1

Annex 1

Items to be included in the Plan of Action

The items to be considered by this group will be the following:

1. Guidelines that contribute to achieving the objective of implementing universal service, keeping in mind the development status of the sector in each country and the resources available for this, including the identification of possible financing sources,
2. The new concept of universal service includes not only basic telephone services, but also mainly the availability of world connectiveness to all citizens with a capacity that is in line with their specific needs.
3. Policies for the development of telecommunication infrastructure, with enough capacity to deliver broadband multimedia services, with access to world information networks and with wide coverage for user access through different media.
4. Continuity in the coordination of regional technical standardization to guarantee the inter-operability of networks and services, and in particular the services based on Internet Protocol (IP).
5. Guidelines aimed at reorienting the development of human resources and consolidating established mechanisms to adjust them to the demands of technological convergence and competitiveness.
6. Political guidelines for the liberalization of telecommunication service markets that are in agreement with the establishment of the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA).
7. Guidelines to promote and consolidate competition and protection for telecommunication service users rights in the region.
8. Guidelines and procedures for implementation of the Inter-American Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) for Assessing the Conformity of Telecommunications Equipment.
9. Development of mechanisms of coordination with other world regions engaged in similar or identical MRA implementations.
10. Guidelines aimed at preparing the countries of the Americas to develop their infrastructure in order to promote their full participation in the modern scheme of the Global Information Society.