

COM/CITEL RES. 209 (XIX-07) ¹

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REGIONAL PROJECT ENTITLED “REDUCING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE AND ADVANCING THE INFORMATION SOCIETY”

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

CONSIDERING:

- a) That on 20 August 2007 during the Forum on Convergence held in San José, Costa Rica, an agreement was signed between the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL) to cooperate in the implementation of the regional project entitled, “Reducing the Digital Divide and Advancing the Information Society”;
- b) That this regional project is in line with the Declaration of San Jose adopted at the IV Assembly of CITEL as well as with two of the five regional initiatives (“Support to Administrations in the design and implementation of policies and programmes for large-scale development of broadband access, with a view to meeting national universal services objectives” and “Connectivity in Rural Areas, Marginal Urban Areas and Isolated Areas in the Americas Region”) defined by the World Development Telecommunication Conference (WTDC-06) of the ITU for the Region of the Americas;
- c) The importance of the work to be carried out by the Working Group on Connectivity in the Americas in coordination with the ITU Regional Office for the purpose of implementing the aforementioned agreement;
- d) That to initiate the regional project, three pilot projects have been and are currently being identified in the countries of Costa Rica, Ecuador and Uruguay, and others must be identified in accordance with the work plan of said project,

RECOGNIZING:

The work that the Telecommunication Development Bureau of the ITU (BDT) has been performing for the development of telecommunications in the region, work carried out in close coordination with the Member States and regional organizations of the Americas,

¹ COM/CITEL/doc.1173/07

NOTES WITH SATISFACTION:

- a) That the Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU) through the project with Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and the Provest Fund of the European Union is moving ahead with the implementation of actions in the frame of the ITU regional initiative, “Establishment of a Caribbean Task Force on Spectrum Management”;
- b) That CDERA through the project with the European Development Fund (EDF) launched the implementation of actions in the frame of the ITU regional initiative, “Interconnection of Information Networks for Disaster Prevention”;
- c) The entry into operation of the Centre of Excellence node for the Caribbean as established in the ITU “Caribbean Centre of Excellence Project”,

RESOLVES:

1. To encourage the authorities of the governments of the Member States to continue promoting the development, access, use and knowledge of information and communication technologies (ICT).
2. To request the Working Group on Connectivity in the Americas, in close collaboration with the ITU Regional Office, to identify other projects, in addition to those already identified and under way, for implementation in the region in line with the Agreement between CITELE and ITU in order to cooperate with implementation of the regional project entitled, “Reducing the Digital Divide and Advancing the Information Society”.
3. To ask the Member States and regional organizations to give the BDT the collaboration necessary, under the understanding that the BDT is using the appropriate way to implement the regional initiatives defined by the WTDC-06 for the Americas Region, in close coordination with the Member States as well as the regional organizations.
4. To ask Member States with connectivity projects to send contributions illustrating experiences, project planning, stages of implementation and other details they consider valuable, so that these can be made available to other countries interested in organizing similar projects.
5. To request the ITU Regional Office for the Americas to disseminate the contributions received as much as possible.

INSTRUCTS THE SECRETARIAT OF CITELE:

To post information received from Member States on the CITELE web page and publicize it to the greatest extent possible.