

COM/CITEL/RES. 276 (XXXI-15)¹

**RULES FOR THE CALL TO THE ACADEMIC ESSAY CONTEST ON: HOW CAN
TELECOMMUNICATIONS/ICT CONTRIBUTE TO MEETING THE SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN THE REGION OF THE AMERICAS?**

The 31 Meeting of the Permanent Executive Committee of CITEL (COM/CITEL)

CONSIDERING

- a) That the Inter-American Telecommunications Commission (CITEL) is the entity of the Organization of American States (OAS) that specializes in telecommunications/ICTs and was established by the General Assembly through resolution AG/RES. 1224 (XXIII-O/93);
- b) That one of the duties of CITEL is to promote or undertake studies and programs that enable the sustainable development of telecommunications/ICTs;
- c) That the strategic objectives of CITEL include project and program initiatives with international, regional and local entities, such as universities or higher education institutions, one of the most significant factors in global development, especially with regard to training, research and innovation of knowledge,
- d) United Nations Resolution A/RES/70/1 “Transforming Our World: 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,” which adopted the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);

RECOGNIZING

- a) That the technologies and information promotion agendas of the various regional and international organizations specializing in telecommunications/ICTs should be linked to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and their 169 targets;
- b) That the UN member countries participating in the WSIS+10 review procedures of the within the framework of the UN General Assembly have recognized that growing ICT connectivity, innovation and access have played a key role in furthering the Millennium Development Goals, and that it is necessary to link and align closely the WSIS process and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, highlighted the cross-cutting role of ICTs in contributing to all MDGs and the eradication of poverty, and that in turn ICT access also has become an indicator of development and an aspiration in itself;
- c) That Target 4.b of the MDGs referring to quality education seeks, “by 2020, to significantly expand globally the number of scholarships for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing states and African countries, to enroll in higher education,

¹ COM/CITEL/doc. 016/15 rev. 3

including vocational training, information and communication technologies, technical, engineering and scientific programs in developed countries and other developing countries;”

d) That Target 5.b of the MDGs, related to gender equality, aims to “enhance the use of enabling technologies, in particular information and communication technologies, to promote women’s empowerment;”

e) That Target 9.c of the MDGs, related infrastructure, industrialization and innovation, aims to “significantly increase access to information and communication technologies and strive to provide universal and affordable access to internet in least developed countries by 2020;”

f) That Target 17.8 of the MDGs, related to implementation and partnerships, aims to “fully operationalize the Technology Bank and STI (Science, Technology and Innovation) capacity building mechanism for least developed countries by 2017, and enhance the use of enabling technologies, in particular ICTs;”

RESOLVES

1. To approve the rules for the call to the “academic essay contest on: how can telecommunications/ICT contribute to meeting sustainable development goals in the region of the Americas? described in Annex 1.

2. To establish that the Evaluation Panel shall consist of one representative of each of the chairs of Permanent Consultative Committee I (PCC.I) and Permanent Consultative Committee II (PCC.II) and one representative of COM/CITEL, plus the CITEL Executive Secretary who shall Chair the Panel

3. To announce the winner of the essay contest among the administrations and Associate Members of CITEL and to hold a meeting (physical or virtual) in which the winner will present his or her essay.

4. To instruct the Secretariat of CITEL, in coordination with the Chair of COM/CITEL, to seek sponsors for the prize to the best essay, and to that end, according to the jury’s evaluation and the criteria defined for that purpose, to invite the associate members of CITEL to participate by providing sponsorship for the award specified in the contest rules.

5. To establish that the prize awarded will use neither the regular fund nor the specific fund of the budget for the Associate Members of CITEL.

INSTRUCTS THE SECRETARIAT OF CITEL

1. To arrange the appropriate coordination to define the logistics for presenting, publishing and disseminating the announcement in February 2016 among all Member State Administrations, Associate Members of CITEL and missions to the OAS for them to send this information to the ministries of education so that they can remit it to the universities and other centers of study, and on the CITEL and OAS websites, the rules for the call to the “academic essay contest on how can telecommunication/ICTs contribute to meeting the sustainable development goals in the region of the Americas?.

2. To coordinate the evaluation process and selection of the winning essay with the Evaluation Panel.

ANNEX I TO RESOLUTION COM/CITEL/RES. 276 (XXXI-15)

RULES FOR THE CALL TO THE ACADEMIC ESSAY CONTEST ON HOW CAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS/ICTs CONTRIBUTE TO MEETING THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN THE REGION OF THE AMERICAS?

The Inter-American Telecommunications Commission (CITEL) invites undergraduate students in public or private schools in the region of the Americas, and those who have completed their studies at this level during the school year immediately preceding the launching of this contest, to register and participate in accordance with the contest rules.

GENERAL PURPOSE

To develop an academic essay aimed at developing ideas on how telecommunications/ICTs can contribute and act as a catalyst to meeting the Sustainable Development Goals (ODS) adopted by the UN General Assembly.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

Students at the licentiate level or higher (i.e., undergraduate and/or postgraduate) who are studying in public or private schools in the region of the Americas, and those who completed their studies at this level during the year immediately preceding the launch of this contest in February 2016, to register and participate in accordance with the contest rules.

THEMES TO BE DEVELOPED

Selection of the theme to be developed in the essay should be confined to one or more of the 17 MDGs and their respective targets², properly aligned with the goals of CITEL, so when selecting the theme, we recommend taking into account CITEL's 2014-2018 Strategic Plan, according to the following strategic objectives:³

1. Encourage the development of interoperable telecommunication/ICTs in the Americas, including infrastructure, services, equipment and devices
2. Promoting initiatives to expand the use/adoption/penetration of telecommunication/ICTs in the Americas
3. Fostering inclusiveness and affordability of telecommunication/ICTs and reducing the digital divide in the Americas
4. Promoting the development of a harmonized telecommunication/ICTs environment in the Americas

ESSAY FORMAT

Works will consist of unpublished, original, personally developed essays, predominantly containing the critical thinking and purpose of the authors based on their own thinking and judgment, and supported with strong arguments that defend their position or viewpoint on the chosen theme, and not an exposé on the ideas and opinions of others.

² The 17 ODS, including their 169 targets, can be seen at: <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/>

³ These can be seen at: https://www.citel.oas.org/en/SiteAssets/About-Citel/CITEL%20STRATEGIC%20PLAN%202014-2018_i.pdf.

Written in Spanish and/or English.

The essay structure must contain the following elements:

- General theme to be analyzed, following those set forth in these rules
- Title
- Contents
- Introduction or presentation
- Development of thematic contents (with footnotes)
- Conclusions
- References
- Attachments (if any)

Include a summary of at most two pages.

Essays must have a minimum of 10 pages and a maximum of 20, in addition to the cover page, table of contents, summary, references, and appendices (if any). Use Times New Roman 12 points, a line spacing of 1.5, and top, bottom and side margins of 2.54 cm).

EVALUATION APPROACH:

Essays will be evaluated by the Evaluation Panel, based on 100 points allotted among the following:

- a) Compliance with all requirements and submission criteria. Documentation and works must meet the terms, conditions, and criteria set forth in these rules. (5 points)
- b) Originality and truthfulness. Essays should be innovative, creative proposals grounded on verifiable data and information and should address the theme of analysis proposed in these rules. (15 points)
- c) Analysis and argumentation. The ability to build and argue the main ideas that support the author's viewpoint. (20 points)
- d) Adherence to the national or regional level. Essays should address issues or cases related to your community, country or region. (10 points)
- e) Inclusion of empirical research or innovation proposal. Essays should include some empirical research that contributes to meeting the target or verifying the hypothesis proposed, or else include innovative proposals related to the theme of the essay. (35 points)
- f) Critical approach. Proper handling of quotations and references consulted. (5 points)
- g) Clarity, composition and spelling. Coherence and consistency in the development of ideas and arguments, and proper management of syntax and spelling. (10 points)

EVALUATION PANEL AND PRIZE:

The Evaluation Panel shall be made up of one representative for each of the chairs of Permanent Consultative Committee I (PCC.I) and Permanent Consultative Committee II (PCC.II), one representative of COM/CITEL, and the Executive Secretary of the CITEL who will serve as Chair of the Panel.

The Evaluation Panel shall assess predefined criteria and highlight the quality, originality and contents of each work. It may declare this contest void if it decides that no essays meet the conditions of its rules.

The Panel shall decide with a simple majority and, in case of a tie, the Panel Chair shall have the casting vote. The Panel's decision shall be final. Evaluation of the works shall not be private information that shall not be shared with the participants after the contest is closed.

The award for the best essay remains to be defined by the Chair of COM/CITEL and the Secretariat of CITEL, according to the jury's evaluation and the criteria defined for that purpose.

Will be awarded an invitation to attend the meeting of the Committee Permanent Consultative with which the essay topic is related.

KEY DATES:

Contest launch date	February 1, 2016
Registration deadline (CITEL website).	May 31, 2016
Deadline for essay submission in digital format (to the CITEL institutional contact)	August 1, 2016
Evaluation dates (JURY):	August 2 – August 30
Winner announcement date:	September 1-10

ACCEPTANCE OF THE RULES:

Mere participation in the contest implies acceptance of these rules.

PARTICIPATION FORM:

Those interested should complete the information described in the form below before March 1, 2016. When completing the form, participants undertake to accept the terms and conditions set forth in the rules and guidelines for the contest process.

After completing the form, you will receive a confirmation email. If a participant does not receive the confirmation email, please contact the CITEL Secretariat at: citel@oas.org.

DATA FOR THE FORM

Participant data:

Name:

Surname:

Nationality:

Pseudonym:

Degree studying for:

University name:

Year of study:

Date studies were completed (if applicable):

Address:

Contact telephone:

Email-1:

Optional email-2:

Essay title:

Overall goal of essay:

Executive summary (400 words):

Country, province and city: