

**TECHNICAL NOTEBOOK ON “BROADBAND FOR SOCIAL INCLUSION
AND THE ROLE OF NATIONAL BACKBONE NETWORKS”**

The XXVI Meeting of Permanent Consultative Committee I: Telecommunications/Information and Communication Technologies (PCC.I),

RECOGNIZING:

- a) That the purpose of the Rapporteurship on Broadband for Universal Access and Social Inclusion is to study aspects associated with the universal access of broadband services to promote adequate policies and a regulatory framework to achieve its availability to the whole population and thus to reduce the digital divide;
- b) That a digital divide currently exists within the Member States and throughout the Region that leads to the exclusion of the benefits of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) of populations in remote areas or those of difficult access, as well as of individuals in general due to economic, cultural or educational differences and to gender, age or different types of disability;
- c) That barriers can be identified that impede broadband services from being extended to the whole population;
- d) That aspects to be studied include those concerning coverage, lack of development of National or Regional Backbone Networks, affordability, availability, service quality and non-discrimination in an effort to reduce the digital divide in Member States and the region with respect to the most developed countries;
- e) That it is necessary for Member States to join forces in order to have comparable information on Broadband Plans, specifically for universal access, advances in the development of National or Regional Backbone Networks and the legal and regulatory framework with respect to the expansion of broadband services to remote and rural areas and those of difficult access and/or to vulnerable populations currently excluded from the service or that access with poor quality service;
- f) That this requires sharing information on the development of Broadband Projects for Social Inclusion, measurement indicators and their results, disaggregated by sex when possible, and coverage of National Backbone Networks, among others, to enable Member States to identify and take advantage of best practices in the region, as well as to promote initiatives or improvements in the development of projects in their countries;
- g) That it is in the interest of Member States to learn about the impact that Broadband Plans have had on social inclusion and equality, including gender equality, in an effort to propose solutions for new undertakings,

CONSIDERING:

- a) That the Terms of Reference of the Rapporteurship on Broadband for Universal Access and Social Inclusion call for the study of aspects that promote social inclusion through the development of National Broadband Plans;

¹ CCP.I-TIC/doc. 3599/15 rev.1

- b) That Member States need to be able to share information on policies, initiatives, legal and regulatory frameworks corresponding to the development of broadband projects for social inclusion, emphasizing in the plans and programs the guarantee of universal access to public telecommunication and ICT services to populations residing in rural or remote areas and to vulnerable groups;
- c) That sharing this information will allow Member States to gain knowledge of the experience of their counterparts with respect to the best policies for addressing the problem of exclusion of dispersed, remote or unserved individuals living in poverty or with disabilities;
- a) That PCC.I has already prepared Technical Notebook CCP.I-TIC/doc. 3199p21/14 (from the XXIV meeting of PCC.I) about “Policies for the development of broadband in the region of the Americas”, which monitored the Broadband Plans of the countries in the Region until 2013,

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT:

- a) That it would be beneficial for Member States to have centralized information on all measures being developed and adopted in the different entities and organizations with respect to the expansion of Broadband Coverage for Social Inclusion and the development of National Backbone Networks specifically;
- b) That one of the objectives of the Rapporteurship on Broadband for Universal Access and Social Inclusion is to enable Member States to have access to the necessary tools to implement activities for the purpose of reducing the digital divide both within Member States and the region as a whole;
- c) That monitoring the policies adopted by Member States to achieve universal access to broadband services and ICTs is part of the Work Plan of the aforementioned Rapporteurship;
- d) That the exchange of experiences, compilation of studies, consultancies and reports on the results of social inclusion initiatives are the first steps to assess best practices and recommend corresponding actions as needed,

RESOLVES:

1. To approve the creation of a Technical Notebook on “Broadband for social inclusion and the role of national backbone networks” to provide updated, detailed information concerning the policies, projects, norms, studies and other measures of interest developed, as well as the results achieved by OAS/CITEL Member States.
2. To appoint the Administration of Peru as the Coordinator of this Notebook, represented by Mr. Carlos Sanchez Tarnawiecki, Rapporteur of the Rapporteurship on Broadband for Universal Access and Social Inclusion, who will collect the contributions submitted by Member States and Associate Members, organize seminars, workshops or other events and regularly update the Technical Notebook.
3. To approve the Table of Contents of the Technical Notebook included in Annex.
4. To request that the Secretariat of CITEL distribute this Resolution to the Administrations in order to begin the data collection process.
5. To encourage Member States and Associate Members to provide content for the Technical Notebook in an effort to share information and to draft future reports on this topic.

ANNEX TO RESOLUTION PCC.I/RES. 241 (XXVI-15)

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TECHNICAL NOTEBOOK

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1. Studies on barriers that impede the inclusion of unserved populations or individuals who are excluded or discriminated against for geographic, economic, social or cultural reasons.
2. Methodologies and development of indicators for the monitoring and evaluation of broadband service coverage for social inclusion and the dissemination of results.
3. Projects to develop National or Regional Backbone Networks to achieve the inclusion of underserved populations or those without service.
4. Projects to develop broadband for social inclusion in countries of the region: target population, project objectives, financing model, alternative technologies or technological strategies, targets, investment returns, achieved or expected results and monitoring indicators.
5. Studies on the social and economic impact of broadband services and ICTs on the development of populations in rural and remote areas and of vulnerable groups (children, women, disabled individuals and ethnic minorities, among others).