

**STRENGTHENING CITEL WITHIN THE OAS**

The Seventh Regular Meeting of the Assembly of the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL),

**CONSIDERING:**

- a) That telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICTs) are essential to accelerating social and economic development in the Americas and, consequently, to achieving the Strategic Initiatives of the Organization of American States (OAS) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set out in Resolution A/70/1 of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), “Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;”
- b) That the Inter-American Telecommunications Commission (CITEL), as the specialized entity in telecommunications and ICTs in the Americas, has effectively contributed to implementing the OAS mandates and initiatives, including through the public-private 2030 ICT Alliance for the Americas;
- c) That Resolution AG/RES. 2899 (XLVII-O/17) highlights the priority role of CITEL within the Organization of American States in the development of telecommunications/ICTs;
- d) That by Resolution AG/RES. 2702 (XLII-O/12), the OAS General Assembly urges CITEL to continue providing a forum for discussion, coordination and cooperation regarding telecommunications in the hemisphere and to maintain a high level of technical assistance and capacity building services for the Member States;
- e) That the development of telecommunications/ICT services promotes access to and appropriation of technologies, not only within the telecommunications/ICT industry, but also provides a tool that further facilitates social and economic development in all areas of people’s lives, such as education, health, and environmental protection).;
- f) That CITEL’s role as the prime telecommunications/ICT forum in the Americas is of singular importance in fostering public policy debates, promoting the deployment of telecommunications/ICTs and in developing a digital economy in the region;
- g) That the engagement and active participation of the telecommunications/ICT and other key stakeholders such as civil society, academia and the Internet technical community, greatly contributes to the work of CITEL and favors, inter-alia, the development of regulatory environments that promote competition, investment, entrepreneurship and innovation;

**RESOLVES:**

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<sup>1</sup> CITEL/doc. 556/18 rev. 3

1. To invite the General Assembly of the OAS to continue expressing its full support and commitment to CITELE in its role as the most important telecommunication/ICT forum in the Americas region;
2. To invite the General Assembly of the OAS to further reaffirm its commitment to the financial sustainability of CITELE;
3. To instruct the PCCs to take the necessary measures to enhance and increase the participation of Associate Members in the activities of CITELE;'
4. To invite the Permanent Council, through the Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Affairs (CAAP) to consider increasing the regular funds allocated annually to CITELE in the amount of USD 253.000, that corresponds to the salaries of two of the five staff members of the Secretariat of CITELE, currently paid by the Associate Members of CITELE, taking into consideration the critical role of telecommunications/ICTs in the achievement of the mandates and pillars of the OAS and the specific role to that effect undertaken by CITELE;
5. To request that the Chair of COM/CITELE submit to the OAS General Secretariat a detailed plan of CITELE activities to address and resolve the digital divide and connect the un-connected, making it clear that achieving those goals requires increased financial and human resources and the sustained commitment of OAS Member States;
6. Likewise, to call upon the OAS Member States to continue promoting investment in telecommunication infrastructure deployment, foster access to that infrastructure for social inclusion, and enhance international cooperation to support the interoperability and robustness of international telecommunications networks;
7. To encourage the OAS Member States to intensify their horizontal cooperation and exchange of information, experiences and best practices as regard telecommunications/ ICTs, with the support of the CITELE Secretariat;
8. To request that the CITELE Secretariat report to the General Assembly at its 49th regular session on this resolution, whose activities will be subject to the availability of funds in the Organization's program-budget and other resources.