

**COM/CITEL DEC. 119 (XLI-23)<sup>17</sup>**

**FORWARDING THE DRAFT RESOLUTION TO THE OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY “THE KEY ROLE OF THE INTER-AMERICAN TELECOMMUNICATION COMMISSION (CITEL) IN ADVANCING TELECOMMUNICATIONS/INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES”**

The 41 Meeting of the Permanent Executive Committee of CITEL, COM/CITEL,

**DECIDES:**

1. To forward the attached draft resolution to the OAS General Assembly for consideration and approval.
2. To attach this draft resolution to the Annual Report for 2023 to be presented by CITEL to the OAS General Assembly.
3. To instruct the Executive Secretary of CITEL to take the steps necessary to implement the mandate contained in this decision.

**ANNEX I TO DECISION COM/CITEL DEC. 119 (XLI-23)**

**DRAFT RESOLUTION TO THE OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**THE KEY ROLE OF THE INTER-AMERICAN TELECOMMUNICATION COMMISSION (CITEL) IN ADVANCING TELECOMMUNICATIONS/INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES**

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING:

Resolution AG/RES. 3000 (LIII-O/23), “The Key Role of the Organization of American States in Advancing Telecommunications/Information and Communication Technologies through the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL),” adopted on June 22, 2023; AND

Resolution AG/RES. 3011 (LIII-O/23), “Program-Budget of the Organization for 2024,” adopted on June 22, 2023, as regards the mandates relating to CITEL;

NOTING resolution CITEL/RES. 80 (VII-18), “Strengthening CITEL within the OAS,” adopted by the Seventh Regular Meeting of the Assembly of CITEL, in which CITEL invites the OAS General Assembly to renew its commitment to the financial sustainability of CITEL; and

CONSIDERING:

That telecommunications and information and communication technologies (ICTs) are key enabling tools for social, economic, cultural, and environmental development and, therefore, for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

That CITEL is the specialized agency of the OAS for telecommunications and ICTs and, as such, effectively contributes to the implementation of the four OAS pillars and the mandates and initiatives of the Summits of the Americas, to which end it has encouraged, along with the region’s political leaders, actions such as the launch of the public-private initiative 2030 ICT Alliance for the Americas, calls for

greater investment in broadband infrastructure, the promotion of broadband access in the interest of social inclusion, and the Rural Women's Alliance – Empowering Rural Women Through ICTs;

That, reflecting its unique membership-based role and its ability to bring together academia, the private sector, the technical community, and government, CITEL promotes the interests of the entire Hemisphere at the World Telecommunication and Radiocommunication Assemblies and Conferences of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) through the adoption of Inter-American proposals;

That, according to the ITU, to date one-third of the region's population does not have access to broadband connectivity, and that it is important to continue strengthening CITEL as the crucial arena for cooperation in communications and ICTs in the Americas, most particularly in its role in the debate of and reaching agreement on digital inclusion, the development of telecommunication infrastructure, radio spectrum use, and the creation of an enabling environment for investment in ICTs;

That Resolution AG/RES. 2966 (LI-O/21) "Initiatives for the expansion of telecommunications/information and communication technologies in rural, unserved and underserved areas", proposed by CITEL, has generated great interest in the Member States of the OAS, and that the Secretariat of CITEL is carrying out technical support for its implementation in Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Panama, and Paraguay. Similarly, steps are being taken to implement it in other States of the Americas;

That it is necessary to improve coverage and identify the development of models to bridge the digital divide, with CITEL making recommendations for the expansion of telecommunications/ICTs in rural areas and in unserved or underserved areas;

That CITEL has undertaken actions in coordination with the ITU, CTU, and COMTELCA to improve communications and response capabilities with a view to building resilience to disasters and emergency situations in the region; and

That, having assessed the positive results of the work it has been doing, it is necessary to guarantee the financial sustainability of CITEL in order to ensure that it is equipped with the tools required to continue with its work and to implement its 2022–2026 Strategic Plan in line with the Organization's Comprehensive Strategic Plan,

#### RESOLVES:

1. To encourage member states to intensify horizontal cooperation and the exchange of information, experiences, and best practices among them in the area of telecommunications and information and communication technologies (ICTs), with the support of the Executive Secretariat of the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL).
2. To encourage member states to implement activities in their countries and in the region with the aim to advance in the strengthening of telecommunications/information and communication technologies as key drivers of sustainable development, and to invite them to participate in the various activities organized by CITEL.
3. To reaffirm that CITEL plays a fundamental role in facilitating and promoting digital inclusion and transformation, and the sustainable development of telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICTs) in support of the fundamental pillars of the Organization of American States (OAS).

4. To request that, in the draft Program-Budget for 2024 for its consideration by the Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Affairs and adoption by the General Assembly, the OAS General Secretariat continue taking into account the financial needs of CITEI in keeping with Resolution CITEI/RES. 80 (VII-18), adopted at the Seventh Regular Meeting of the Assembly of CITEI, and with Resolution AG/RES. 3011 (LIII-O/23), "Program-Budget of the Organization for 2024," adopted at the fifty-third regular session of the OAS General Assembly, so that the Commission can continue fulfilling its goals and mission and optimize its operation.
5. To request that the Secretariat of CITEI report to the OAS General Assembly, during its fifty-fifth regular session, on the implementation of this resolution, whose execution will be subject to the availability of financial resources in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.