

**ADOPTION OF MEASURES TO ESTABLISH PROCEDURES FOR INSTALLING MINIMUM  
COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT AT TIMES OF NATURAL OF DISASTERS**

The XVI Meeting of Permanent Consultative Committee I: Telecommunications/Information and Communication Technologies,

**CONSIDERING:**

- a) That, in some countries of the Americas, there is a need to install minimum telecommunication equipment in the event of natural disasters;
- b) That the installation of adequate telecommunication equipment infrastructure in some countries is a long-term matter;
- c) That the natural phenomena of earthquakes and tsunamis cannot be forecast at a precise time and date;
- d) That climate change on Earth constitutes a prevailing and unforeseeable reality;
- e) That progress made in telecommunications/ICTs currently enable and facilitate ideal access to effective communication worldwide;
- f) That relief institutions such as fire brigades, civil defense, Red Cross, and radio amateurs must rely on an effective communication system to report natural disasters to international organizations at the time they occur and afterwards,

**RECOGNIZING:**

- a) That the Tampere Convention (Finland, 1998) calls on Administrations to install and establish telecommunication procedures for disaster mitigation and relief operations that have not yet been adopted by some of the countries of the Americas;
- b) That the Yokohama Plan of Action (1994) highlights telecommunications as a key factor in relief situations and emergencies, for the benefit of a safer world;
- c) That United Nations Resolution 51/194 advocates the introduction of a global humanitarian information system for the dissemination of reliable and timely information on emergencies and natural disasters;
- d) That International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Resolution 7 adopted at the World Telecommunication Development Conference (Buenos Aires, 1994) urges governments to take all the measures needed to facilitate the rapid deployment and effective use of telecommunication equipment for the purpose of mitigating the impacts of disasters and to suppress the regulatory obstacles to the development of telecommunications in relief operations;

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<sup>1</sup> CCP.I-TIC /doc. 1928/10

e) That ITU Resolution 36 adopted at the Plenipotentiary Conference (Rev. Antalya, 2006) recognizes the usefulness of new telecommunication technologies to warn and prevent disasters and recommends the suppression of regulatory obstacles to telecommunication equipment that could obstruct relief operations;

f) ITU Resolution 647 on “Spectrum management guidelines for emergency and disaster relief radiocommunication”, whereby Administrations, national regulatory authorities and relief operation agencies and organizations are assisted in their activities to prepare emergency communications, in conformity with the operating procedures provided for in disaster situations, by the transmittal of data on frequencies available in case of emergency;

g) That Recommendation PCC.III/REC. 24(VI-96) of CITEL recommends that each one of the countries of the Americas draw up a National Plan to provide emergency communication and that terrestrial mobile service resources be strengthened to help in disaster relief communications;

h) The work carried out by the Rapporteurship on the Use of Telecommunications for Disaster Relief and Prevention of CITEL’s Working Group on Development;

i) That there are other resolutions and recommendations on the deployment of terminals and others for the development of strategies to reduce the vulnerability of telecommunication infrastructure to natural disasters and to foster the use of all kinds and means of communication that can contribute to gaining access to communications in case of disaster;

#### **CONSIDERING:**

The most recent seismic movements and their increasing frequency and magnitude in the Americas, as in Chile, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Mexico, Peru, Puerto Rico and other countries,

#### **RECOMMENDS:**

1. That the Member States of CITEL consider adopting simple and effective procedures which, subject to the legal framework allowed for relief operations in response to emergencies and natural disasters, facilitate the free circulation and implementation of satellite terminals or any telecommunication equipment that each Administration might deem necessary in the event of natural disasters or emergencies.

2. That the companies holding public telecommunication concessions in the country of the disaster facilitate, to the extent possible, the infrastructure needed for relief operations in the event of natural disasters or emergencies.

3. That, in the case of border countries, essential facilities be granted to duly identified telecommunication technical experts, equipments and vehicles for relief assistance, or for the restoration of telecommunications in the neighboring country.

4. That every Administration have, in the central office of its relief and aid institutions, at least one (1) satellite phone and one (1) VSAT system.

#### **INSTRUCTS THE SECRETARIAT OF CITEL:**

To send the present Recommendation to the Member States.