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| Summary: |
| Revisions to res 182 |
| Proposal: |
| For consideration |
| Background: |
|  |

RESOLUTION 182 (Dubai, 2014)

**The role and impact of telecommunications/information and communication**

**technologies in regard to climate change and**

**the protection of the environment**

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Busan 2014),

*recognizing*

*a)* Resolution 136 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the use of telecommunications and information and communication technologies (ICTs) for monitoring and management in emergency and disaster situations for early warning, prevention, mitigation and relief;

*b)* Resolution 73 (Rev Dubai 2012) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly, on ICTs and climate change;

*c)* Resolution 66 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC), on ICT and climate change;

*d)* Resolution 54 (Rev. Dubai 2014) of World Telecommunication Development Conference, on ICT applications;

*e)* Resolution 1307 adopted by the ITU Council at its 2009 session, on ICTs and climate change,

f)

g)

h)

*recognizing further*

*a)* § 20 of Action Line C7 (E-environment) of the Geneva Plan of Action of the World Summit on the Information Society (Geneva, 2003), calling for the establishment of monitoring systems using ICTs to forecast and monitor the impact of natural and man-made disasters, particularly in developing countries;

*b)* Opinion 3 of the 2009 World Telecommunication Policy Forum, on ICT and the environment, which recognizes that telecommunications/ICTs can make a substantial contribution to mitigating and adapting to the effects of climate change, and calls for formulating future inventions and efforts for effectively addressing climate change;

*c)* the outcomes of the United Nations Climate Change conferences held in Indonesia in December 2007 and in Copenhagen in December 2009;

*d)* the Nairobi Declaration on the Environmentally Sound Management of Electrical and Electronic Waste, and the adoption by the Ninth Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention of the Work Plan for the Environmentally Sound Management of E-waste, focusing on the needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition,

*considering*

*a)* that the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) estimated that global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions had risen by more than 70 per cent since 1970, having an effect on global warming, changing weather patterns, rising sea-levels, desertification, shrinking ice cover and other

long-term effects;

*b)* that climate change is acknowledged as a potential threat to all countries and Telecommunications/information and communication technologies can contribute to a global response;

*c)* Objective 5 of the Dubai Action Plan to “Enhance environmental protection, climate change adaptation and migration and disaster management efforts through telecommunications/Information and communication technologies

*considering*

*a)* that telecommunications/ICTs play an important and significant role through varied activities in monitoring, observing detecting, responding and mitigating the various threats to climate change and to disaster prediction and relief utilising innovative and sustainable activities presenting relatively low risk to the environment;

*b)* the role ITU can play in assisting Member States in the use of ICTs to monitoring, observing detecting, responding and mitigating the various threats to climate change and to disaster prediction and relief

*c)* that telecommunications/ICTs also contribute to climate change through emissions of GHG, a contribution which, although relatively small, will grow with the increased use of telecommunications/ICTs, and that the necessary priority must be given to reducing GHG emissions;

d) that the use of telecommunications/ICTs, provides increased opportunities to reduce GHG emissions generated by non-ICT sectors through the utilization of telecommunications/ICTs in ways that replace services or increase efficiency of the sectors concerned,

e) that technological benefits from the usage of telecommunications and Information and communication technology has resulted in increased demand and deployment

*bearing in mind*

*a)* that countries have ratified the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Protocol and have committed to reduce their emission levels of GHG to targets that are mainly set below their

1990 levels;

*b)* that the countries that have submitted plans in response to the Copenhagen Accord have specified which steps they are prepared to take to reduce their carbon intensity in the current decade,

*noting*

*a)* that there are other international bodies that are working on climate change issues, including UNFCCC, and that ITU should collaborate, within its mandate, with those entities;

*b)* that the development and deployment of telecommunication/information and communication technologies has resulted in innovative outcomes, including but not limited to better energy management, recognition of the contribution of all life-cycle of telecommunication/information and communication technologies on climate change, and the benefits that accrue from a comprehensive deployment of telecommunication/information and communication technologies

*resolves*

that ITU, within its mandate and in collaboration with other organizations, will:

1) continue and further develop best practice and guidance on all aspects of telecommunications/ICTs and climate change, and disaster management planning in order to contribute to the wider efforts being made by member states and the United Nations to contribute positively to further preventing and combatting the effects of climate change;

2) encourage energy efficiency of telecommunications/ICTs in order to reduce the GHG emissions produced directly by the telecommunication/ICT sector and indirectly by other sectors;

3) encourage the telecommunication/ICT sector to contribute, through its own improvement of energy efficiency and in the use of ICTs in other parts of the economy, to an annual reduction in GHG emissions;

4) promote awareness of the environmental issues associated with telecommunication/ICT equipment design and encourage the use of such equipment to promote energy efficiency

5) promote the use of materials in the design and fabrication of telecommunication/ICT equipment that contribute across the life-cycle of the equipment to a clean and safe environment;

6) promote the benefits that accrue to the environment and society from the use of sustainable telecommunication/information and communication equipment and services in bridging the standardisation gap

*instructs the Secretary-General,*

1)

2) to liaise with appropriate organisations in activities related to climate change, in order to avoid duplication of work and optimize the use of resources;

3) to report on the level that the ICT sector has contributed to the reduction of GHG emissions in other sectors through a reduction of their energy consumption by applying ICTs;

4) to continue taking appropriate measures within the Union to contribute to the reduction of the carbon footprint (e.g. paperless meetings, videoconferences, etc.);

5) to report annually to the Council and to the next plenipotentiary conference on the progress made by ITU on implementation of this resolution;

6) to submit this resolution and other appropriate outcomes of the ITU activities to meetings of relevant organizations, including UNFCCC, in order to reiterate the Union's commitment to sustainable global growth; and to ensure recognition of the importance of telecommunications/ICTs in mitigation and adaptation efforts as well as the critical role of ITU in this regard,

*instructs the Directors of the three Bureaux, within the purview of*

*their mandates*

to help in the promotion of best practice and guidelines:

– to improve the energy efficiency of ICT equipment

– to measure climate change and effects

– to mitigate the effects of climate change

– to adapt to the effects of climate change

- to enable telecommunications/information and communication technologies contribute to disaster prediction, mitigation and relief

*instructs the Director of the Development Bureau*

to combat climate change;

*instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization*

*Bureau*

1 to share the output of the lead ITU-T study group on ICTs and climate change (currently ITU-T Study Group 5), in collaboration with other bodies, in the development of methodologies to assess:

i) the level of energy efficiency in the ICT sector and the application of telecommunications/ICTs in non-ICT sectors;

ii) the complete lifecycle GHG emissions of telecommunication/ICT equipment, in collaboration with other relevant bodies, in order to establish best practice in the sector against an agreed set of metrics to enable the benefits of reuse, refurbishment and recycling to be quantified in order to help achieve reductions in GHG emissions both in the telecommunication/ICT sector and in the use of ICTs in other sectors;

2) to utilize the current Joint Coordination Activity on ICT and on climate change in specialist and specific discussions with other industries, drawing upon the expertise existing in other forums, industrial sectors (and their relevant forums) and academia in order to:

i) demonstrate ITU leadership in GHG reductions and energy savings in the ICT sector**;**

ii) ensure that ITU actively leads in the application of ICTs in other industries and contributes to the reduction in GHG emissions**,**

*invites Member States, Sector Members and Associates*

1) to continue to contribute actively to ITU on ICTs and climate change;

2) to continue or initiate public and private programmes that include ICTs and climate change, giving due consideration to relevant ITU initiatives;

3) to support and contribute to the wider United Nations process on climate change;

4) to take necessary measures to reduce the effects of climate change by developing and using more energy-efficient ICT devices, applications and networks and through the application of ICTs in other fields;

5) to promote recycling and reuse of telecommunication/ICT equipment;

6) to continue to support the work of ITU-R in remote sensing (active and passive) for environmental observation and other radio communication systems that can be used to support climate monitoring, disaster prediction, alerting and response in accordance with relevant resolutions adopted by radio communication assemblies and world radio communication conferences.