



**DRAFT DECLARATION OF SANTO DOMINGO**

**February 13, 2014**

We, the representatives of the member states of the Organization of American States (OAS), gathered at the Sixth Regular Meeting of the Assembly of the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL), held in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, from February 10 to 13, 2014,

**BEARING IN MIND:**

- a) The importance of renewing our commitment to achieving the development targets and objectives, including the Millennium Development Goals;
- b) That the Heads of State and Government, at the Sixth Summit of the Americas, defined “access to and use of ICTs,” “integration of physical infrastructure in the Americas,” and “disaster risk reduction and management” as three of the five main mandates of the Sixth Summit of the Americas, and that these are integral parts of the core mandate of CITEL;
- c) That the Agenda for Connectivity in the Americas and Plan of Action of Quito identify the contribution of ICTs to education, health, employment, culture, and economic development, among others; and
- d) That the Heads of State, Ministers, [tr.] heads of regional organizations, and high-level representatives of the private and academia sectors, at the Connect Americas Summit, held in 2012, reaffirmed the importance of the inclusion of the many stakeholders on issues such as broadband infrastructure, digital inclusion, and Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs)’ role in public safety,

**CONSIDERING:**

That the OAS General Assembly:

- a) Established CITEL in 1994 as an autonomous and decentralized entity to serve as the OAS’ leading advisory body in all matters relating to telecommunications/ICT in the Hemisphere;
- b) In its resolution AG/RES. 2702 (XLII-O/12), instructs CITEL “*to remain a forum for dialogue, coordination, and cooperation in the telecommunication area in the Hemisphere and to maintain a high level in providing technical assistance and capacity-building in the member states ....*”;
- c) In its resolution AG/RES. 2765 (XLIII-O/13), emphasized that the core competencies of CITEL in the field of ICTs, such as assistance in bridging the digital divide; regional and international cooperation; and radio spectrum management are of crucial importance in building the Information Society; and urged CITEL to promote the development, coordination, and implementation of strategies, as applicable, to expand the use of ICTs, with support from the private sector and social actors of the

[capitalized in resolution 2765- tr.]Hhemisphere, in accordance with commitments undertaken at the Sixth Summit of the Americas;

d) In its resolution AG/RES. 2765 (XLIII-O/13) refers to the fact that CITELE will promote the preparations of the Americas for the 2014 World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-14), the 2014 ITU Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-14), and the 2015 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-15), as well as the 2016 World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA-16); and

e) That CITELE is recognized by the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference (Resolution 58 (Guadalajara, 2010)) as the principal regional telecommunication organization of the Americas,

#### **RECOGNIZING:**

a) That active participation in the “digital economy” through the advent of telecommunications/ICTs is essential in promoting economic growth, competitiveness, and access to knowledge through information, contributing to the eradication of poverty and the integration of all countries;

b) That telecommunications/ICTs are the most efficient and effective instruments in enabling ample access for all to information and education and in allowing for freedom of speech and expression, which are essential components to the promotion of democracy, the defense of human rights, the assurance of security and the fostering of integral development and prosperity in the hemisphere, the four pillars of the Organization of American States (OAS);

c) That CITELE’s activities on telecommunication/ICTs during 2010-2014 term have directly contributed to the implementation of the four pillars the OAS;

d) That public policies must be adopted that are aimed at resolving the problems that affect our people, in particular women, utilizing information and communications technologies as a means of implementing those policies, in accordance with the 2013 Santo Domingo Consensus of the XII Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean”;

e) That telecommunication/ICTs are essential components of early warning disaster prevention and disaster risk reduction systems, and that telecommunication/ICTs can greatly improve the efficiency and effectiveness of disaster management and mitigation; and

f) That CITELE approved 13 inter-American proposals for the 2010 World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-10), seven inter-American proposals for the 2010 ITU Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-10), more than 200 inter-American proposals for the 2012 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-12), 14 inter-American proposals for the 2012 World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA-12), and 39 inter-American proposals to the World Conference on International Telecommunications (WCIT-12),

#### **DECLARE:**

1. That we reaffirm our support to CITELE as the leading intergovernmental organization of the OAS in all matters relating to telecommunications/ICTs;

2. That, in order to fulfill its mandate, purposes and objectives, CITELE is fully dependent on and cannot exist as it is without the annual regular fund budget from the OAS;

3. That CITELE must strive, within its mandate, to directly contribute to the implementation of the four pillars of the OAS;

**AGREE:**

1. To strengthen CITELE's role as the principal intergovernmental organization entity for telecommunications and information and communication technologies (ICTs).

2. To identify, promote and implement measures aimed at ensuring the financial and operational sustainability of CITELE.

3. To promote greater participation by the Member States and associate members comprising CITELE, promoting the incorporation of new actors related to the telecommunications/ICT sector.

4. To promote, in the framework of CITELE, the drafting of recommendations and best practices/principles that promote issues for the benefit of telecommunication service users.

5. To strengthen cooperation in formulating strategies for the development and deployment of broadband in order to promote connectivity and the social, economic, and cultural development of our peoples.

6. To devote special attention to the most disadvantaged, remote, and/or hard-to-access populations, persons with disabilities, older persons, women, children, indigenous peoples, with the aim of digital inclusion, and ensuring that telecommunications/ICT facilitate their development.

7. To promote cooperation within the Organization of American States (OAS) with the aim of optimizing resources and strengthening the coordination of telecommunication/ICTs related projects.

8. To foster and strengthen regulatory frameworks that promote competition, investment, innovation, users' rights, and public-private partnerships.

9. To identify measures to promote the affordability and transparency of international roaming services, focusing especially on the realities and needs of border areas.

10. To promote the most effective ways to support regional cooperation to enhance cybersecurity and to protect children on the Internet.

11. To promote the development of strategies that recognize telecommunications/ICT infrastructure as a determining factor in natural disaster prevention and mitigation, rescue and relief, and reconstruction actions;

12. To promote access to broadband in order to reduce the technological gap among and within societies of the Hemisphere, placing special emphasis on the reduction of costs of international Internet connectivity for landlocked developing countries and small developing island States.

13. To promote the interconnection of international networks through national and regional traffic exchange points to improve quality and increase connectivity, and network resilience, promoting competition and the reduction of international telecommunication interconnection costs.

14. To promote the creation of local content that facilitates growing use of broadband access, promoting cultural exchange and the digital inclusion of all peoples.

15. To strengthen CITEL's training program, which is conducted in coordination with Regional Training Centers, the Center of Excellence for the Americas of the International Telecommunication Union, the private sector, and regional and subregional organizations, through the use of advanced education and research networks and the establishment of Caribbean networks, and with other civil society entities;

16. To continue strengthening cooperation and collaboration with other pertinent regional and subregional organizations in the telecommunications/ICT area in the Americas and with organizations outside the region.

In witness whereof, the delegates of the OAS member states participating in the Sixth Regular Meeting of the Assembly of the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission hereby adopt this Declaration in the city of Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, on February 13, 2014.

<b>Argentina</b>	<b>Brazil</b>
<b>Canada</b>	<b>Colombia</b>
<b>Costa Rica</b>	<b>Dominican Republic</b>
<b>El Salvador</b>	<b>Guatemala</b>
<b>Haiti</b>	<b>Honduras</b>
<b>Jamaica</b>	<b>Mexico</b>
<b>Nicaragua</b>	<b>Panama</b>
<b>Paraguay</b>	<b>Peru</b>
<b>United States of America</b>	<b>Uruguay</b>
	<b>Venezuela</b>