



**ORGANIZACION DE LOS ESTADOS AMERICANOS
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES**

**Comisión Interamericana de Telecomunicaciones
Inter-American Telecommunication Commission**

**DECLARATION OF BUENOS AIRES ¹
March 14, 2018**

We, the representatives of the Member States of the Organization of American States (OAS), gathered at the Seventh Regular Meeting of the Assembly of the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL), held in Buenos Aires, Republic of Argentina, from March 13 to 15, 2018,

BEARING IN MIND:

- a) That CITEL is an entity of the Organization of American States (OAS), specializing in telecommunications and information and communication technologies (ICTs);
- b) That renewing our commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; the achievement of the sustainable development goals (SDGs); the Lines of the Action of the World Summit for the Information Society (WSIS); and the 2030 ICT Alliance for the Americas is a priority;
- c) That the Heads of State and Government, at the Seventh Summit of the Americas, recognized that it is necessary to facilitate equitable, plural, broad, and reliable access to ICTs for the purpose of promoting and building new forms of public participation and expanding *access to broadband to bridge the digital divide*;
- d) That the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-17) of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) recognized, in the Declaration of Buenos Aires, the key role that telecommunications/ICTs perform in various sectors such as health, education, agriculture, governance, finance, postal services, transportation, energy, trade, disaster risk reduction and management, climate change mitigation, and adaptation to the latter;
- e) That the Heads of State, Ministers, heads of regional organizations, and high-level representatives of the private and academia sectors, at the Connect Americas Summit, held in 2015, reaffirmed the importance of the inclusion of the many stakeholders on issues such as broadband infrastructure, digital inclusion, and the role of ICTs in public safety,

CONSIDERING:

- a) That the General Assembly of the OAS, 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 region and to maintain a high level in providing technical assistance and capacity-building in the Member States;
- b) That, in its Resolution AG/RES. 2899 (XLVII-O/17), the General Assembly of the OAS also recognizes that CITEL has effectively contributed to implementing the mandates and initiatives of the Summits of the Americas, including the launch of the initiative of the 2030 ICT Alliance for the Americas and the call for higher investments in broadband infrastructure and the promotion of access to it for social inclusion, promoting greater international cooperation that would guarantee security and the soundness of telecommunication networks;

¹ CITEL/doc.555/18 rev. 2

c) That the Plenipotentiary Conference of the ITU, by means of Resolution 58 (Rev. Busan, 2014), recognized CITELE as the principal regional organization for telecommunications/ICTs in the Americas; and

d) That the WTDC-17 adopted the Regional Initiatives for the Americas, which are closely related to CITELE's Strategic Plan for 2018-2021 and, as a result, the goals and activities that said Commission will be promoting in the region,

RECOGNIZING:

a) That telecommunications/ICTs are the most efficient instruments in enabling 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 region;

b) That CITELE's activities on telecommunication/ICTs directly contribute to the implementation of the four pillars the OAS: democracy, rights, security, and development;

c) That it is necessary to adopt public policies that are aimed at resolving the problems that affect our people, in particular women and girls, persons with disabilities and other persons with specific needs, utilizing ICTs as a means for achieving these objectives;

d) That active participation in the digital economy as a result of the advent of telecommunications / ICTs is essential to promote inclusive economic growth, competitiveness, and access to knowledge on the basis of information, contributing to the elimination of poverty and the integration of all countries;

e) That telecommunication/ICTs are essential components of early warning systems for disaster prevention, mitigation, and response and that telecommunication/ICTs contribute to diminishing their impacts and to relief and recovery operations; and

f) That CITELE carries out important regional coordination work for the participation of its members in ITU Advisory Groups and Study Groups by drafting and submitting inter-American contributions (IACs) and in ITU World Conferences and Assemblies by drafting and submitting inter-American proposals (IAPs),

DECLARE:

1. Our commitment to the capacity building of CITELE as the entity of the OAS specialized in all matters relating to telecommunications/ICTs and to the ultimate goal of promoting the sector's development in the Americas;

2. That, in order to fulfill its strategic lines, targets, and objectives, CITELE is fully dependent on the annual regular fund budget from the OAS, essential for its functioning;

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

TO THIS END, WE AGREE:

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

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

sustainability of CITEL.

3. To promote greater participation by the Member States and associate members, such as the telecommunications/ICT industry, the academia, relevant organization of the civil society or others related to telecommunications/ICT or Internet sector in the work of CITEL
4. To promote, in the framework of CITEL, the drafting of recommendations and best practices on the protection and supervision of the rights of users and consumers of telecommunications/ICTs and the enforcement of their rights.
5. To strengthen cooperation in the drafting of strategies for the deployment of infrastructure and the development of telecommunications/ICT services and applications with the aim to improve connectivity and the social, economic, cultural and environmental development of the Americas.
6. To promote continuous innovation in technology that meets the standards of interoperability in order to promote new and better services.
7. To foster the correct use and development of network capacities and secure an efficient management and administration of the radio spectrum.
8. To foster regulatory frames that facilitate public investment and private investment, in addition to public-private partnerships in pursuit of the improvement of quality and diversity of telecommunication/ICT services, with emphasis on remote and underserved areas.
9. To devote special attention to the vulnerable groups and those with specific needs, the indigenous peoples, remote, and/or hard-to-access populations, with the aim of increasing digital inclusion and with the possibility to include the participation of communities in the deployment of their networks.
10. To motivate regional digital inclusion actions for society that would enable closer proximity with, dissemination, and broadcasting of information, as well as orientation and training courses and digital education spaces, as the means to bridge the digital divide
11. To promote cooperation within the OAS with the aim of optimizing human and financial resources, as well as strengthening the coordinate on of telecommunication/ICTs related projects.
12. To encourage measures to promote greater transparency, affordability and elimination of additional charges to the end-user of international roaming services, focusing especially on the realities and needs in border areas.
13. To promote the most effective ways to support regional cooperation to build confidence and security in the use of telecommunications/ICTs, strengthen cybersecurity, the protection of personal data, the safe and responsible use of ICTs, and the online protection of children, in coordination with other relevant bodies of the Organization.
14. To promote cooperation for taking regional measures that would contribute to reduce the theft and tampering of mobile devices and enhance user security.
15. To promote the development of strategies that recognize telecommunications/ICT infrastructure as a determining factor in prevention, mitigation, relief, and reconstruction actions in emergency and/or disaster situations.
16. To promote access to broadband in order to reduce the digital divide in the region, placing special

emphasis on the reduction of costs of international Internet connectivity for landlocked developing countries and small developing island States.

17. To promote the interconnection of networks through traffic exchange points to increase connectivity, and network resilience, promoting the reduction of international interconnection costs.

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

19. To strengthen CITEI'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.

20. To continue strengthening cooperation with other regional and subregional organizations in the telecommunications/ICT area in the Americas as well as other organizations outside the region.

21. To promote the development of a regional digital market, facilitating trade for persons and businesses through safe and reliable digital infrastructure and services.

22. To promote the deployment of infrastructure and regional and international collaboration to move forward with the creation of services and applications relative to the Internet of Things and smart communities and cities.

In witness whereof, the delegates of the OAS Member States participating in the Seventh Regular Meeting of the Assembly of the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission hereby adopt this Declaration in the city of Buenos Aires, Republic of Argentina, on March 14, 2018.

Argentina	Bahamas
Barbados	Belize
Brazil	Canada
Colombia	Costa Rica
Dominican Republic	Ecuador
El Salvador	Mexico
Nicaragua	Panama
Paraguay	Peru
Trinidad & Tobago	United States of America
	Uruguay