FINAL REPORT

(Item on the Agenda: 16)

(Document submitted by the Secretariat of CITEL)
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FINAL REPORT

35 MEETING OF THE PERMANENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF CITEL (COM/CITEL)

The 35 Meeting of the Permanent Executive Committee of CITEL (COM/CITEL) was held in Mar del Plata, Argentina, on December 17 to 19, 2018.

1. AGENDA

1. Adoption of agenda and schedule.
2. Establishment of meeting committees:
   2.1 Committee for Drafting the Final Report.
   2.2 Committee for Preparing the Operations Plan.
3. Report by the Chair of COM/CITEL.
4. Reports from the Chairs of the Permanent Consultative Committees.
5. Reports from the COM/CITEL Working Groups:
   5.1 Coordination Center for the Development of Human Resources
   5.2 Working Group on the Strategic Plan of CITEL
   5.3 Working Group to Prepare for the Meetings of the ITU Council
   5.4 Conference Preparatory Working Group to Address Regional Preparations for World Conferences and Meetings.
   5.5 Working Group on Financial Sustainability of CITEL.
   5.6 Ad-hoc group on “Resolutions, Decisions and Recommendations of the CITEL Assembly and COM/CITEL”
6. Approval of the annual report on the activities of CITEL.
7. 2018 CITEL financial report.
8. Report of the activities of the Secretariat of CITEL, particularly regarding the support of projects for the development of telecommunications/ICT in the Americas.
12. Study of OAS General Assembly resolutions affecting CITEL.
14. Date, agenda, and venue of the next meeting.
15. Other business.
16. Adoption of the minutes and Final Report of the meeting.

1 COM/CITEL doc. 187/18 rev. 1
II. AUTHORITIES OF THE MEETING

Chair of COM/CITEL: Mrs. Silvana Giudici
Alternate Chair of COM/CITEL: Mr. Agustín Garzón
Alternate Vice-President of COM/CITEL: Mr. Franklin Merchán
Executive Secretary of CITEL: Mr. Oscar León

FINAL REPORT DRAFTING COMMISSION:

Argentine Republic: Ms. Agustina Brizio
Uruguay: Ms. Adriana Bauzá
United States of America: Mr. Jonathan V. Siverling

PARTICIPANTS:

a. Member States of COM/CITEL:
   Argentina, Bahamas, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, United States of America, El Salvador, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay.

b. Associate Members of CITEL:
   United States of the America: GSMA, Internet Society (ISOC), Viasat Inc.

c. Guests:
   Cullen International
III. RESOLUTIONS

COM/CITEL RES. 297 (XXXV-18)

COURSE PROGRAM OF CITEL FOR THE YEAR 2019

The 35 Meeting of the Permanent Executive Committee of CITEL, COM/CITEL,

CONSIDERING:


b. That, in the framework of the Professional Development Program for 2019, the Regional Training Centers of CITEL shall be submitting proposals for courses by December 28, 2018 at the latest; and

c. That the results of the Competition of the OAS Professional Development Scholarship Program are not as yet available, nor is there any information about the budget available for scholarships in 2019,

ACKNOWLEDGING:

That, through the Regional Training Centers of CITEL and the Center of Excellence of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), effective training on telecommunications/ICT is enabled,

RESOLVES:

1. To empower CITEL’s Coordination Center for the Development of Human Resources, in coordination with the CITEL Secretariat, to: (a) select, on the basis of the budget available for scholarships, the higher training priority courses of the member states; (b) schedule the dates for the courses to comply with the rules of the Department of Human Development, Education, and Employment of the General Secretariat of the OAS; and c) to increase or re-allocate the amounts of the scholarships provided.

2. To establish that, when the Department of Human Development, Education, and Employment of the General Secretariat of the OAS invites applications to the OAS Professional Development Scholarship Program for 2019, CITEL’s Coordination Center shall participate in those cases where the institutes are interested in sharing the costs pertaining to the scholarships in accordance with the conditions of the OAS.

3. To hold virtual sessions on topical issues of telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICT).

4. To urge the Administrations to submit applicants for the scholarships that shall be offered for the program of courses for 2019 in order to take advantage of the opportunities being provided.

2 COM/CITEL doc. 193/18 rev. 1
5. To thank the Department of Human Development, Education, and Employment of the General Secretariat of the OAS for the continued and outstanding support provided for the dissemination of CITEL courses and to urge it to give the utmost priority to scholarships that are granted in coordination with the CITEL Secretariat, taking into account that telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICT) have been recognized as supporting the integral and sustainable development of the Americas, under the principles of universality, equity, and affordability.

6. To thank the ITU Regional Office for the Americas, which through the Centers of Excellence of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the ITU Academy has substantially built up its cooperation with the CITEL Secretariat, leading to a considerable increase in the number of courses, training, and scholarships for CITEL member states in 2018, as can be observed in the “Report of the Coordination of the Working Group on Human Resources Development for 2018.”

7. To thank the offer of “Cullen International” for the award of complete onsite training scholarships for the year 2018 to a total of two (2) applicants of the CITEL member states, in its academic headquarters in Belgium, in courses of interest to CITEL and within Cullen’s specialties, such as telecommunications, digital economy, and other relevant topics. All of the above in line with the academic goals of Cullen to train the scholarship holders in key concepts and keep them updated in the new developments.

8. To thank the offer of “Internet Society (ISOC)” to strengthen CITEL’s efforts in terms of scholarships and training by granting between 100 and 150 scholarships for the year 2019 in courses of interest to CITEL/OAS member states, in response to its commitment to the 2030 ICT Alliance for the Americas and in line with its goal.

9. To instruct the Executive Secretary of CITEL:
   a. To support as required CITEL’s Coordination Center for the Development of Human Resources.
   b. To ensure the dissemination of these courses as widely as possible.
   c. To develop, with CITEL’s Regional Training Centers, training activities on telecommunications/ICT, in accordance with the priorities of CITEL’s Permanent Consultative Committees, in order to meet the region’s needs, using for that purpose the resources from CITEL’s Seed Fund. He is especially instructed to look for synergies and the development of courses in 2019 to promote the broader participation of the countries of Central American and the Caribbean.

The 35 Meeting of the Permanent Executive Committee of CITEL, COM/CITEL,

CONSIDERING:

a. That through Resolution CITEL/RES. 79 (VII-18) of the VII Regular Meeting of the Assembly of the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL), the Strategic Plan of CITEL 2018-2022 was adopted;

b. That the aforementioned Resolution established the Working Group on the Strategic Plan of CITEL for the period 2022-2026 and the building of relevant indicators for the follow-up and assessment of the fulfilment of the Plan 2018-2022;

c. That for the new working period 2018-2022 it is considered appropriate to designate the officers of the Working Group on the Strategic Plan of CITEL.

RESOLVES:

1. To designate the Administration of Argentina as Chair of the Working Group on the Strategic Plan of CITEL for the period 2018-2022 and the Administrations of Brazil, Colombia and Dominican Republic as Vice Chairs.

2. To appoint Mr. Guillermo Clemente (gclemente@enacom.gob.ar) of the Administration of Argentina as Chair and Ms. Amparo Arango (aarango@indotel.gob.do) of the Administration of the Dominican Republic, Mr. Franklin Merchan (fmerchan@mintic.gov.co) of the Administration of Colombia and Mr. Mario Canazza (marioca@anatel.gov.br) of the Administration of Brazil as Vice Chairs of the Working Group on the Strategic Plan of the CITEL;

3. To revoke Resolutions: COM/CITEL RES. 161 (XIII-03) and COM/CITEL RES. 280 (XXXI-15).

MONITORING AND EVALUATION INDICATORS OF THE PCCs

The 35 Meeting of the Permanent Executive Committee of CITEL, COM/CITEL,
CONSIDERING:

a. That, by means of Resolution CITEL/RES. 79 (VII-18) of the Seventh Regular Meeting of the Assembly of the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL), the CITEL Strategic Plan for the years 2018-2022 was approved.

b. That in the above mentioned Resolution the following was established: the Working Group for the preparation of the CITEL Strategic Plan for the years 2022-2026 and the building of relevant indicators for monitoring and evaluating the fulfillment of the 2018-2022 Plan.

c. That in the Strategic Plan of the Organization of American States (OAS) Objective Indicators were established for which CITEL is responsible.

d. That said Indicators must be ratified and rectified within the Executive Committee of CITEL, for which it is necessary to have CITEL`s Indicators that come from its own Strategic Plan.

RESOLVES:

1. To request the Permanent Consultative Committees (PCCs), through their Chairs, that in their first meetings of the year 2019 they complete works relevant to their Work Plans, relating them to CITEL goals under the Strategic Plan and establish relevant Indicators.

2. To request the CITEL Executive Secretary to issue the relevant communications to fulfill the mandate of this Resolution.

COM/CITEL RES. 300 (XXXV-18)⁵

ADOPTION OF THE OPERATIONS PLAN FOR 2019

The 35 Meeting of the Permanent Executive Committee of CITEL, COM/CITEL,

CONSIDERING:

a) The program-budget and draft calendar of meetings considered at the sessions of the Meeting of COM/CITEL; and

b) The information on the situation of Associate Members presented by the Secretariat of CITEL,

⁵ COM/CITEL doc. 217/18 rev. 3
RESOLVES:

1. To adopt the calendar of meetings for 2019/2020 contained in Annex 1 hereto.

2. To approve the draft program-budget for 2019 attached hereto as Annex 2.

3. To instruct the Executive Secretary of CITEL to inform the Member States of any change in the circumstances affecting the budget for 2019 approved.

ANNEX I TO RESOLUTION COM/CITEL RES. 300 (XXXV-18)

DRAFT CALENDAR OF CITEL FOR 2019-2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meeting</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Place</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cluster of Council Working Groups</td>
<td>28 January to 1 February 2019</td>
<td>Geneva, Switzerland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Session of the Conference Preparatory Meeting for WRC-19 (CPM19-2)</td>
<td>18 to 28 February 2019</td>
<td>Geneva, Switzerland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33 Meeting of PCC.II</td>
<td>8 to 12 April 2019</td>
<td>Mexico</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34 Meeting of PCC.I</td>
<td>29 April to 3 May 2019</td>
<td>Peru</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cluster of Council Working Groups</td>
<td>5 to 7 June 2019</td>
<td>Geneva, Switzerland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019 ITU Council</td>
<td>10 to 20 June 2019</td>
<td>Geneva, Switzerland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OAS General Assembly</td>
<td>26 to 28 June 2019</td>
<td>Medellin, Colombia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34 Meeting of PCC.II</td>
<td>12 to 16 August 2019</td>
<td>Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cluster of Council Working Groups</td>
<td>9 to 20 September 2019</td>
<td>Geneva, Switzerland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35 Meeting of PCC.I</td>
<td>16 to 20 September 2019</td>
<td>El Salvador</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radiocommunication Assembly 2019 (RA-19)</td>
<td>21 to 25 October 2019</td>
<td>Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working Group for the Preparation of CITEL for Regional and World Radiocommunication Conferences (WRC-19)</td>
<td>27 October to 22 November 2019</td>
<td>Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Radiocommunication Conferences (WRC-19)</td>
<td>28 October to 22 November 2019</td>
<td>Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Event Description</td>
<td>Dates/Location</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>36 Meeting of COM/CITEL</td>
<td>4 to 6 December 2019, Argentina</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cluster of Council Working Groups**</td>
<td>3 to 14 February 2020 // 10 to 21 February 2020, Geneva, Switzerland</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36 Meeting of PCC.I</td>
<td>Third week of April 2020, Peru</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35 Meeting of PCC.I</td>
<td>To be determined, Mexico</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cluster of Council Working Groups**</td>
<td>4 to 8 June 2020, Geneva, Switzerland</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020 ITU Council</td>
<td>9 to 19 June 2020, Geneva, Switzerland</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37 Meeting of PCC.I</td>
<td>Third week of August 2020, Paraguay</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cluster of Council Working Groups**</td>
<td>7 to 18 September 2020 // 21 September to 4 October 2020, Geneva, Switzerland</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36 Meeting of PCC.I</td>
<td>To be determined, El Salvador</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA-20)</td>
<td>Last quarter of 2020, To be determined</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37 Meeting of COM/CITEL</td>
<td>2 to 4 December 2020, Argentina</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **CITEL Meetings**
- **ITU Meetings**
- **Other Meetings**

** to be confirmed by ITU
### ANNEX II TO RESOLUTION COM/CITEL RES. 300 (XXXV-18)

#### ESTIMATED BUDGET FOR THE INTER-AMERICAN TELECOMMUNICATION COMMISSION (CITEL) YEAR 2019

(Amount in US$)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>REGULAR FUND</th>
<th>REGULAR FUND</th>
<th>SPECIFIC FUNDS</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>RF OAS</td>
<td>CITEL-MEETINGS</td>
<td>SF PCC.I</td>
<td>SF PCC.I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>INCOME</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OAS Regular Fund (Personnel)</td>
<td>472,600</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>472,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OAS Regular Fund (Non Personnel)</td>
<td>178,700</td>
<td>54,400</td>
<td></td>
<td>233,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specific Funds Income of the PCC.I</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>186,600</td>
<td>186,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specific Funds Income of the PCC.II</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>337,980</td>
<td>337,980</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL INCOME</strong></td>
<td>651,300</td>
<td>54,400</td>
<td>186,600</td>
<td>337,980</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **EXPENDITURES**       |              |              |              |         |              |
| **Secretariat of CITEL** |              |              |              |         |              |
| Salaries of 3 Staffs   |              |              |              |         |              |
| [Paid by the OAS Regular Fund] | 472,600      |              |            | 472,600  |
| Performance Contracts (CPRs) of 2 Consultants (Paid by the OAS Regular Fund) | 120,000      |              |            | 120,000  |
| 50% Salaries 2 Staffs  |              |              |              |         |              |
| [Contribution Specific Funds of PCC.I (US$)] |            |              | 126,650    | 126,650  |
| 50% Salaries 2 Staffs  |              |              |              |         |              |
| [Contribution Specific Funds of PCC.II (US$)] |            |              | 126,650    | 126,650  |
| **Administrative Expenditures Regular Fund (See attached Table)** |              |              | 47,400     | 47,400   |
| **Total Secretariat’s Expenditures:** |              |              | 0           | 126,650  | 126,650   | 893,300  |

| **CITEL’s Meeting and Activities** |              |              |              |         |              |
| 34 Meeting of PCC.I |              |              | 29,975      | 29,975  |
| 35 Meeting of PCC.I |              |              | 29,975      | 29,975  |
| 33 Meeting of PCC.II |              |              | 75,000      | 75,000  |
| 34 Meeting of PCC.II |              |              | 75,000      | 75,000  |
| 36 Meeting of COM/CITEL |              |              | 13,400      | 13,400  |
| **Basic activities of the Secretariat of CITEL** |              |              | 30,000      | 30,000  |
| **Additional Resources for the Strategic Plan (Resol. COM/CITEL/RES. 266 (XXI-15))** |              |              | 41,000      | 31,330  | 72,330 |
| **Total Meeting and Activities Expenditures** |              |              | 0           | 54,400   | 59,950     | 211,330  | 325,680  |

<p>| <strong>Other Expenditures</strong> |              |              |              |         |              |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Support from the Secretariat to Meetings and International Representations</th>
<th>11,300</th>
<th></th>
<th>11,300</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Other Expenditures</td>
<td>11,300</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL - EXPENDITURES</td>
<td>651,300</td>
<td>54,400</td>
<td>186,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL INCOME - TOTAL EXPENDITURES</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# PROJECTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES FOR 2019 (US$)

## SECRETARIAT REGULAR FUND

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenses</th>
<th>Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Documents</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equipment</td>
<td>800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supplies</td>
<td>700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postage</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone, Fax</td>
<td>800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Server Maintenance</td>
<td>2,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAN-Internet</td>
<td>4,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAN-Printer</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Translation Costs (*)</td>
<td>23,830</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Courier/S&amp;H charges</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AD&amp;D Insurance</td>
<td>350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Webex</td>
<td>970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Software licenses (annual payment)</td>
<td>10,450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VPN</td>
<td>1,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>47,400</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(*): Annual Report

- **Annual Report**: 3,500
- **Secretariat**: 20,330

**Total**: 23,830
## PCC-I DRAFT BUDGET - 2019

### SPECIFIC FUNDS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SF PCC.I</th>
<th>Associate Personnel</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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</tbody>
</table>

### INCOME

- **OAS Regular Fund (Non-Personnel)**
- **Balance PCC.I Specific Funds**
- **Income - Specific Funds of PCC.I**
  - 186,600
- **Voluntary Contributions**

**TOTAL INCOME:**

<p>| | |</p>
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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>186,600</td>
<td>186,600</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### EXPENDITURES

- **CITEL Secretariat**
- **Staff Salaries: US$**
  - [Contribution SF of PCC.I]
    - 126,650

**Total Secretariat Expenses:**

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>126,650</td>
<td>126,650</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **CITEL’s Meetings and Activities**
  - 34 Meeting of PCC.I
    - 29,975
  - 35 Meeting of PCC.I
    - 29,975
  - Basic activities of the Secretariat of CITEL
    - 0
  - Additional Resources for the Strategic Plan (Resol. COM/CITEL/RES. 266 (XXXI-15))
    - 0

**Total CITEL’s Meetings and Activities:**

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>59,950</td>
<td>59,950</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

- **Other Expenditures**
  - 0

**TOTAL EXPENDITURES:**

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>186,600</td>
<td>186,600</td>
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</table>

**TOTAL INCOME - TOTAL EXPENDITURES:**

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## PCC-II DRAFT BUDGET - 2019

### (US$)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPECIFIC FUNDS</th>
<th>SF PCC.II</th>
<th>Associate Personnel</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>INCOME</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REGULAR FUND (Non-Personnel)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Balance Specific Funds PCC.II</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Income - Specific Funds of PCC.II</td>
<td>337,980</td>
<td></td>
<td>337,980</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voluntary Contributions</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL INCOME:</strong></td>
<td>337,980</td>
<td>337,980</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

| **EXPENDITURES**               |           |                     |       |
| CITEL's Secretariat            |           |                     |       |
| Staff Salaries: US$            |           |                     |       |
| Staff Salaries (50% by 2)      | 126,650   | 126,650             |       |
| [Contribution SF of PCC.II (US$)] |         |                     |       |
| **Total Secretariat Expenditures:** | 126,650 | 126,650             |       |

| **CITEL's Meetings and Activities** |           |                     |       |
| 33 Meeting of PCC.II             | 75,000    | 75,000              |       |
| 34 Meeting of PCC.II             | 75,000    | 75,000              |       |
| Basic activities of the Secretariat of CITEL | 30,000 | 30,000              |       |
| Additional Resources for the Strategic Plan (Resol. COM/CITEL/RES. 266 (XXXI-15)) | 31,330 | 31,330              |       |
| **Total CITEL's Meetings and Activities:** | 211,330   | 211,330             |       |

| **Other Expenditures**          |           |                     |       |
| **Total Other Expenditures**    | 0         | 0                   |       |
| **TOTAL EXPENDITURES**          | 337,980   | 337,980             |       |
| **TOTAL INCOME - TOTAL EXPENDITURES:** | 0         | 0                   |       |
COM/CITEL RES. 301 (XXXV-18)\(^6\)

DRAFT AGENDA, SITE AND DATE FOR THE 36 MEETING OF COM/CITEL

The 35 Meeting of the Permanent Executive Committee of CITEL, COM/CITEL,

RESOLVES:

1. To hold the 36 Meeting of COM/CITEL from December 4 to 6, 2019 in Argentina.

2. To approve the draft agenda for the 36 Meeting of COM/CITEL attached to the present Resolution.

ANNEX TO RESOLUTION COM/CITEL RES. 301 (XXXV-18)

DRAFT AGENDA

1. Adoption of agenda and schedule.
2. Establishment of meeting committees:
   2.1 Committee for Drafting the Final Report.
   2.2 Committee for Preparing the Operations Plan.
3. Report by the Chair of COM/CITEL.
4. Reports from the Chairs of the Permanent Consultative Committees.
5. Reports from the COM/CITEL Working Groups:
   5.1 Coordination Center for the Development of Human Resources
   5.2 Working Group on the Strategic Plan of CITEL
   5.3. Working Group to Prepare for the Meetings of the ITU Council
   5.4 Conference Preparatory Working Group to Address Regional Preparations for World Conferences and Meetings.
   5.5 Working Group on Financial Sustainability of CITEL
   5.6 Ad-hoc group on “Resolutions, Decisions and Recommendations of the CITEL Assembly and COM/CITEL”
6. Approval of the annual report on the activities of CITEL.
7. 2018 CITEL financial report.
8. Report of the activities of the Secretariat of CITEL, particularly regarding the support of projects for the development of telecommunications/ICT in the Americas.

\(^6\) COM/CITEL doc. 206/18
12. Study of OAS General Assembly resolutions affecting CITEL.
14. Date, agenda, and venue of the next meeting.
15. Other business.
16. Adoption of the minutes and Final Report of the meeting.

**COM/CITEL RES. 302 (XXXV-18)**

**SUBMISSION OF THE DRAFT RESOLUTION TO THE OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**“HEMISPHERIC EFFORTS TO COMBAT THE USE OF STOLEN, LOST OR TAMPERED MOBILE TERMINAL EQUIPMENT”**

The 35 Meeting of the Permanent Executive Committee of CITEL, COM/CITEL,

**CONSIDERING:**

a) Decision **PCC.I/DEC. 284 (XXXIII-18)**, approved at the 33 Meeting of the Permanent Consultative Committee I: Telecommunications/ICT (PCC.I), whereby the draft resolution of **“HEMISPHERIC EFFORTS TO COMBAT THE USE OF STOLEN, LOST OR TAMPERED MOBILE TERMINAL EQUIPMENT”** was sent for consideration and approval by COM/CITEL.

**RESOLVES:**

1. To approve the draft resolution "HEMISPHERIC EFFORTS TO COMBAT THE USE OF STOLEN, LOST OR TAMPERED MOBILE TERMINAL EQUIPMENT" proposed by PCC.I, contained in Annex 1 as an integral part of this resolution.

2. To forward to the OAS General Assembly the draft resolution “HEMISPHERIC EFFORTS TO COMBAT THE USE OF STOLEN, LOST OR TAMPERED MOBILE TERMINAL EQUIPMENT”, Annex 1, for its approval and remittance to the Member States of the Organization of American States.

**ANNEX I TO RESOLUTION COM/CITEL RES. 302 (XXXV-18)**

**DRAFT RESOLUTION FOR THE OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**“HEMISPHERIC EFFORTS TO COMBAT THE USE OF STOLEN, LOST OR TAMPERED MOBILE TERMINAL DEVICES”**

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7 COM/CITEL doc. 218/18 cor. 1
The GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

GIVEN both “CITEL’s Technical Report on the use of stolen, lost or tampered mobile terminal devices” (CP/doc. xxxx/18), as well as COM/CITEL’s Conceptual Framework through which this Resolution was submitted for consideration to the Permanent Council;

CONSIDERING:

The positive impact of mobile telecommunications and the technological developments it entails has meant an increase in the penetration of smart mobile devices, which in turn has brought about a dramatic increase in device theft, in life threatening assaults and crimes resulting in injured victims, turning this into a domestic and regional citizen safety concern with deep social repercussions;

The Judiciary and law enforcement authorities, who are combating this and other crimes, have identified the actions of international criminal organizations devoted to this illegal activity, which has become a lucrative business and a way to maintain communications anonymous;

Given the efforts and progress made internally in each of the Member States to combat this crime, the illegal traffic of stolen devices and parts has increased across borders;

Technological measures, such as blocking both domestic and international mobile networks in stolen devices, are dependent on the devices’ security ID, which the criminals proceed to tamper with so as to reintroduce those devices in the market, thus rendering security measures less effective;

BEARING IN MIND:

that the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission - CITEL recognizes the seriousness of this issue, especially in connection with the social repercussions of mobile device theft, it has issued a document on “Regional Measures against Mobile Terminal Device Theft”, within the framework of its 19 Meeting of the Permanent Consultative Committee COM/ CITEL I (Telecommunications/ Information and Communications Technologies) - PCC.I in September 2011: Resolution PCC.I/RES.189 (XIX-11). In said Resolution, among other measures, the PCC urges Member States to include provisions in their regulations to ban the activation and use of IDs reported as stolen or lost, or devices from illegal origin, included in domestic, regional or international lists;

RECOGNIZING:

The efforts and progress made by the Member States, the industry (mobile manufacturers and carriers/ operators) and the Judiciary and law enforcement authorities to combat mobile device theft and tampering or duplication;

The progress made in exchange of information on and blocking of stolen devices, with partial success among Member States, using technology and databases provided by the industry; and
The fact that there are applications available to enable users to protect their personal information and render the devices useless, in case of theft or loss.

**TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THAT:**

The exchange of information on stolen or lost mobile devices, and the possibility to block them in mobile networks in all Member States is key to mitigate the consequences of this issue;

Tampering or duplication of stolen or loss devices’ unique IDs evades blocking and generates an impact on manufacturers, importers, traders and users of genuine equipment, and therefore high device security standards are required to prevent such tampering, as well as to detect and block/blacklist those devices with tampered or duplicated IDs.

It is necessary for users to adopt applications that protect their information, and enable them to render their devices useless in order to block access to internet networks and other uses.

Additionally to these technological measures, it is necessary for law enforcement, customs and Judiciary authorities to be part of this action to prevent use, sale, imports and exports of stolen, lost or tampered/duplicated devices.

**RESOLVES TO:**

1. Urge Member States to exchange information, block stolen or lost mobile devices that have been reported in other states, and include provisions in their regulations to ban the activation or use of such devices.

2. Invite Member States to work together with the industry in order to increase adoption of anti-theft applications among users and to promote measures and requirements to improve device security against tampering of its unique identifier.

3. Invite Member States to implement processes to detect and control mobile devices with tampered or duplicated identifiers.

4. Urge Member States to strengthen their regulatory frameworks and judicial/law enforcement actions to combat imports, exports, sale or use of stolen, lost, tampered or duplicated devices.

5. Invite Member States and industry stakeholders to collaborate and assist other Member States in the adoption and strengthening of measures to combat the use of stolen, lost, tampered or duplicated devices.

6. Urge Member States, through their CITEL Administrations, to submit biannual reports on this specific matter. These reports shall be analyzed by the relevant CITEL Groups, and as a result of this effort, a chapter on this matter will be included in CITEL’s Annual Report, highlighting the following: a) The numbers on theft and life threatening assaults or incidents with injured victims; b) Technology advances that are being implemented to discourage these crimes; and, c) Regulatory measures and/or government policies passed or adopted to support public or private efforts on this issue.
COM/CITEL RES. 303 (XXXV-18)\(^8\)

RECOMMENDATION TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE OAS FOR THE RENEWAL OF THE APPOINTMENT OF THE CURRENT EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF CITEL

The 35 Meeting of the Permanent Executive Committee of CITEL, COM/CITEL,

CONSIDERING:

a) That the post of Executive Secretary is of critical importance for the functioning of CITEL;

b) That the current contract of the Executive Secretary of CITEL with the General Secretariat of the OAS expires on September 21st, 2019;

c) That article 17 of the CITEL By-Laws established the role of COM/CITEL regarding the selection process of the Executive Secretary of CITEL, becoming responsible, among others, of defining the profile, as well as the selection criteria of the candidate to occupy such position;

d) That the Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS), taking into consideration the three candidates proposed by COM/CITEL in the year 2015, and in accordance with the General Standards to Govern the General Secretariat of the OAS, decided to appoint Oscar Giovanni León Suárez as executive Secretary of CITEL;

TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION:

a) That COM CITEL considers management continuity as important, as well as the initiatives developed over the last four years by the current Executive Secretary.

b) That the knowledge, experience and management skills of the current Executive Secretary have led to an improvement in the work of the CITEL Secretariat and all the Committees;

WHEREAS:

a) That the projects presented by the current Executive Secretary and adopted by the COM CITEL, as for example the 2030 ICT Alliance for the Americas, signed on June 14th, 2016 in the Dominica Republic by Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) companies and the General Secretariat of the OAS with goals for the year 2030, require continuity and adequate knowledge thereof so as to ensure the achievement of the goals set;

RESOLVES:

To kindly request the Secretary General of the OAS, taking into account the provisions of this Resolution, to consider the renewal of the Contract to the current Executive Secretary of CITEL for a period of four years.

\(^{8}\) COM/CITEL doc. 216/18 rev. 1
FACILITATING ACCESS TO AND INFORMATION ON CITEL’S DOCUMENTS,
RESOLUTIONS, DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The 35 Meeting of the Permanent Executive Committee of CITEL, COM/CITEL,

CONSIDERING:

1. That Resolution COM/CITEL RES. 292 (XXXIII-17), FACILITATING ACCESS TO AND INFORMATION ON DOCUMENTS, RESOLUTIONS, DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF CITEL marked the beginning of activities and work to meet the goal of facilitating access to and information on the documents, resolutions, decisions, and recommendations of CITEL;

2. Decision PCC.II/DEC. 202 (XXXI-18) approved by the 31st meeting of PCC.II, which established the Adhoc Group on "PCC.II Resolutions, Decisions and Recommendations" to conduct that task;

3. Decision PCC.I/DEC. 287 (XXXIII-18) approved by the 33rd meeting of PCC. I, which established the Adhoc Group on "PCC.I Resolutions, Decisions and Recommendations" to conduct that task;

4. That, due to the nature of this work, recommendations from the work carried out by the PCCs and by the Secretariat of CITEL have been taken into account; and that work is still ongoing in this regard to meet the goals and complete this task satisfactorily,

RESOLVES:

1. To update and make functional the search mechanism for CITEL’s documents, Resolutions, Decisions and Recommendations on the CITEL website.

2. To maintain updated webpages on the Assembly, COM/CITEL, PCC.I and PCC.II websites with the following information on all Resolutions, Decisions and Recommendations:
   - Name of the Committee (Assembly, COM/CITEL, PCC.I or PCC.II),
   - Number of the meeting,
   - Country hosting the meeting,
   - City hosting the meeting,
   - Date the meeting started,
   - Date the meeting ended,
   - Year in which the meeting was held,
   - Identification of the final report document in Spanish,
   - Identification of the final report document in English,
   - Type of instrument (RES, REC, DEC),
   - Instrument number,
   - Identification of the instrument in Spanish,
3. To establish a COM/CITEL Ad-hoc group on “Resolutions, Decisions and Recommendations of the CITEL Assembly and COM/CITEL” with the mandate to elaborate in 2019 a list of all Resolutions, Decisions and Recommendations of the CITEL Assembly and COM/CITEL, including all the information described in RESOLVES 2;

4. To appoint Mr. Mario Canazza (marioca@anatel.gov.br) from the Administration of Brazil as Chair of this group, with support from the Chair of PCC.I and the Chair of PCC.II.

5. To entrust COM/CITEL ad-hoc group the “Resolutions, Decisions and Recommendations of the Assembly and COM/CITEL:

1. To carry out and conclude their work in 2019, including proposals on the status of each Resolution, Decision and Recommendation, and inform the 36 Meeting of COM/CITEL;

2. To coordinate with PCC.I and PCC II the implementation of this Resolution.

6. To entrust the Secretariat of CITEL:

1. To update the search mechanisms on the CITEL website;

2. To update the Assembly, COM/CITEL, PCC.I and PCC.II webpages after every meeting with information on the approved/suppressed Resolutions, Decisions and Recommendations;

3. To transmit this Resolution to the PCCs;

7. To instruct PCC.I and PCC.II:

1. Based on Resolution CITEL / RES. 87 (VII-18) of the Assembly:
   - To publish as part of the final report on its regular and special meetings an updated list of its RES/DEC/REC that have been revoked;
   - To cooperate with the CITEL Secretariat in updating the list of RES/DEC/REC of each Committee on CITEL’s website;

2. To elaborate a list of all PCC.I/PCC.II Resolutions, Decisions and Recommendation, including all the information described in RESOLVES 2;

3. To submit their final reports to the 36 meeting of COM/CITEL on the conclusion of their work on this issue, containing the table of PCC.I/PCC.II Resolutions, Decisions and Recommendations, and proposals on the status of each Resolution, Decision and Recommendation;

8. To revoke resolution COM/CITEL RES. 292 (XXXIII-17).
The 35 Meeting of the Permanent Executive Committee of CITEL, COM/CITEL,

CONSIDERING:

a) That, through Resolution and COM/CITEL RES.140 (XII-02), established the general coordination for the development of human resources,

RESOLVES:

1. To appoint Mr. Oscar Alberto Messano (email: omessano@gmail.com) from the Administration of Argentina as Chairman of General Coordination for the Development of Human Resources.

2. To revoke the following resolutions: COM/CITEL RES. 284 (XXXII-16) and COM/CITEL RES.272 (XXXII-16)
IV. DECISIONS

COM/CITEL DEC. 100 (XXXV-18)\textsuperscript{11}

DEVELOPMENT OF INDICATORS FOR CITEL'S STRATEGIC PLAN FOR 2018-2022

The 35 Meeting of the Permanent Executive Committee of CITEL, COM/CITEL,

DECIDES:

1. To instruct the Working Group on the Strategic Plan of COM/CITEL to continue their work virtually to prepare the indicators for the 2018-2022 Strategic Plan and to determine the Target Indicators for the OAS Strategic Plan under CITEL’s responsibility as per the following schedule:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Virtual Meeting Dates</th>
<th>Deadline to receive Contributions/Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st Meeting: February 26, 2019</td>
<td>February 19, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Meeting: March 26, 2019</td>
<td>March 19, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd Meeting: May 9, 2019</td>
<td>May 2, 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>4th Meeting: June 11, 2019</td>
<td>June 4, 2019</td>
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2. To invite the Member States and Associate Members of CITEL to send their contributions, comments and inputs to the Chair of Working Group, Mr. Guillermo Clemente (gclemente@enacom.gob.ar) with a copy to the CITEL Secretariat (citel@oas.org), and to participate in the virtual sessions pursuant to the provisions of Article 79 of the CITEL Regulations.

3. To revoke the decisions COM/CITEL DEC. 41 (XIV- 04), COM/CITEL DEC. 55 (XVIII- 06) and COM/CITEL DEC. 66 (XX-08).

COM/CITEL DEC. 101 (XXXV-18)\textsuperscript{12}

SUPPORT OF CITEL TO THE NOMINATION OF MR. LWANDO BBUKU FROM THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA AS CHAIRMAN OF THE EXPERT GROUP ON THE ITRS

The 35 Meeting of the Permanent Executive Committee of CITEL, COM/CITEL,

DECIDES:

\textsuperscript{11} COM/CITEL doc. 221/18 rev. 2
\textsuperscript{12} COM/CITEL doc. 215/18 rev. 2
1. To support the nomination of Mr. Lwando Bbuku from the republic of Zambia as Chairman of the Expert Group on the ITRs to be reconvened by the Secretary-General of the ITU;

2. To request the Executive Secretary of CITEL to transmit this Decision to the attention of the Secretary-General of the ITU, to the Heads of the Regional Telecommunication Organizations (RTOs) including CEPT, APT, RCC, ATU and the Arab Group, to the Director General of the Zambia Information and Communications Technology Authority and to the Chairmen of PCC.I and PCC.II.

**COM/CITEL DEC. 102 (XXXV-18)**

**WORK PLAN OF THE WORKING GROUP TO PREPARE FOR THE MEETINGS OF THE ITU COUNCIL**

The 35 Meeting of the Permanent Executive Committee of CITEL, COM/CITEL,

**DECIDES:**

1. To call a virtual meeting of Working Group to prepare for the meetings of the ITU council on Tuesday January 15 to coordinate the participation of CITEL in the meetings of the working groups of the ITU Council to be held in Geneva, Switzerland on January 28 to February 1, 2019.

2. To entrust the Chair to develop a schedule of virtual meetings in order to coordinate participation of CITEL in the meetings of the ITU Council 2019 to be held in Geneva, Switzerland on June 10 to 20, 2019.

3. To request CITEL Executive Secretary to inform all of the member states and associate members, via a circular letter any communication he may receive from the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) related to the ITU Council meeting of 2019 and of the meetings of the working groups.

**COM/CITEL DEC. 103 (XXXV-18)**

**FORWARDING THE DRAFT RESOLUTION TO THE OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**THE UNDERLYING ROLE OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES/TELECOMMUNICATIONS THROUGH THE INTER-AMERICAN TELECOMMUNICATION COMMISSION (CITEL)**

The 35 Meeting of the Permanent Executive Committee of CITEL, COM/CITEL,

**DECIDES:**

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13 COM/CITEL doc. 220/18 cor. 1
14 COM/CITEL doc. 211/18 rev. 4
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 2018 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. 103 (XXXV-18)

DRAFT RESOLUTION OF THE OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY


THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

ACKNOWLEDGING:

Resolution GA/RES. 2917 (XLVIII-O/18), “The Underlying Role of the Organization of American States in the Development of Information and Communication Technologies/Telecommunications through the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL)” approved on 4 June, 2018; and,

Resolution GA/RES. 1 (LIII-E/18), “Program-Budget of the Organization for the year 2019” approved on 20 October, 2018 regarding the mandates related to CITEL;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT Resolution CITEL/RES. 80 (VII-18) regarding the “Strengthening of CITEL within the OAS” approved by the Seventh Ordinary Meeting of the CITEL Assembly through Resolution CITEL/RES. 80 (VII-18) in which CITEL invites the OAS General Assembly to confirm its commitment with CITEL’s financial sustainability; and

CONSIDERING

That telecommunications and information and communication technologies (ICTs) are key tools to promote social, economic, cultural and environmental development and thereby for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

That CITEL is the OAS institution specialized in 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 for which end it has encouraged, along with the political leaders of the region, actions such as the launching of the public-private 2030 ICT Alliance for the Americas, the call for larger investments in broad band infrastructure and the campaign for access to broad band aimed at
improving social inclusion, as well as Alliance of Rural Women – Empowering rural women through ICT;

That, reflecting the unique membership based role and ability to bridge academia, private sector, technical community and government, CITEL advanced whole of hemisphere interests at the 2018 International Telecommunications Union (ITU) Plenipotentiary Conference through the incorporation of the 87% of its Inter-american proposals in the resolutions adopted as well as in the elections obtaining the Radiocommunications an Development of Telecommunications Bureaux for the region;

That according to ITU to date, one third of people in the region have no access to broadband connectivity, it is important to continue strengthening CITEL as the essential setting for cooperation in the field of communications and ICTs in the Americas, and in particular as a place to discuss and reach agreements on digital inclusion, development of telecommunication infrastructure, use of the radio-electric spectrum and creation of a setting to facilitate investment in ICTs;

That efforts made to facilitate the process of transition from analog to digital television (DTT) and the allocation of the digital dividend taking into account mutual compatibility among broadcasting and mobile stations in the VHF and UHF bands within Central America and the Caribbean laid the groundwork for spectrum coordination and future collaboration;

That actions were undertaken by CITEL in coordination with ITU, CTU, and COMTELCA to improve communications and response capabilities to build resilience to disasters and emergency situations in the region, and

That having assessed the positive results of the work that has been done, it has become necessary to ensure CITEL’s financial sustainability to guarantee that it will count with the tools required to continue with its tasks and to manage to implement its 2018-2022 Strategic Plan in line with the organization’s Integral Strategic Plan,

RESOLVES:

1. To encourage the Member States of OAS to intensify horizontal cooperation and the exchange of information, experiences and good practices among them, regarding telecommunications and information and communication technologies (ICTs), with the support of the Executive Secretariat of CITEL.

2. To encourage the Member States of OAS to implement activities in their countries and in the region to advance connectivity and broadband access as a fundamental driver of sustainable development.

3. Request the General Secretariat of the OAS to continue taking into account, when preparing the draft program-budget for the year 2020 for the consideration of the Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Affairs and its adoption by the General Assembly in its LIV extraordinary period of sessions, the financial needs of CITEL, in accordance with Resolution CITEL/RES. 80 (VII-18) adopted in the VII ordinary meeting of the CITEL Assembly and with Resolution GA/RES. 1 (LIII-E/18), “Program-Budget of the Organization for 2019” adopted in the LIII extraordinary period of sessions of the General Assembly of the OAS, so that it can continue meeting its goals, mission and optimize its operations.

4. Request the CITEL Secretariat to inform the L ordinary period of sessions of the General Assembly of the OAS about the implementation of the present resolution, whose execution will depend
on the availability of financial resources in the program – budget of the Organization and of other resources.

COM/CITEL DEC. 104 (XXXV-18)\textsuperscript{15}

SUBMISSION OF RURAL WOMEN’S ALLIANCE EMPOWERING RURAL WOMEN THROUGH ICTs TO PCC.I AND PCC.II

The 35 Meeting of the Permanent Executive Committee of CITEL, COM/CITEL,

**DECIDES:**

1) To submit to the 34 Meeting of the Permanent Consultative Committee I: Telecommunications/ICT (PCC.I) and to the 33 Meeting of the Permanent Consultative Committee II: Radiocommunications (PCC.II) the text of Rural Women’s Alliance – Empowering Rural Women through ITCs which was subscribed in Mar del Plata, Argentina, on December 17, 2018 in order to analyze, within the framework of their capacities, the best way to contribute in the quest to achieve said goals.

2) To request that both Committees report to COM/CITEL on the progress of the implementation of the Alliance.

ANNEX I TO DECISION COM/CITEL/DEC. 104 (XXXV-18)

RURAL WOMEN’S ALLIANCE
EMPOWERING RURAL WOMEN THROUGH ICTs

*Mar del Plata, Argentina, December 17, 2018*

The Member States of the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL) of the Organization of American States (OAS), Associate Members of a Permanent Consultative Committee of CITEL and other information and communication technologies (ICTs) organizations and companies, and the Secretariat of CITEL, hereby declare as follows:

According to the ITU, in 2016 approximately 3.9 billion people were still without access to the Internet; in the Americas, the rate was one third of the population.\textsuperscript{16}

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), in 2015 the rural population of Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) was just over 129 million across 33 countries, representing nearly 21% of the total population.\textsuperscript{17} Of that total, almost half are women; of those women, nearly 20% are from indigenous communities.

\textsuperscript{15} COM/CITEL doc. 214/18
\textsuperscript{17} http://www.fao.org/3/a-i7916s.pdf
Women make up nearly 43% of the agricultural workforce in developing countries and, if they had the same access to production resources as men, could increase their production yields by 20% to 30%.

The gender gap in Latin America today keeps access to ICTs out of reach for 49% of the 149 million women in the region\(^\text{18}\) with average or low income.

The World Economic Forum indicated that although a lot of work has been focused on closing this gap, even greater efforts will be required to accelerate the process since, at the current rate, it would take 79 years to close the gap in Latin America and the Caribbean.\(^\text{19}\)

Therefore, aware of both this situation and the fact that ICTs can drive economic, political and social empowerment, and constitute the foundation for the proliferation of education and health, among other things, adequate hardware that enables connectivity in remote or underserved areas is necessary.

Considering the foregoing, we are concerned about the current gap in access to and use of ICTs by women in rural areas. As such, we have decided to join forces to contribute to the empowerment of women through the mass use of ICTs to meet their specific and strategic needs.

We hereby underscore the importance of rural women as key agents in the development of regional economies and the relevance of their central positioning in policies and projects since, as stated by UN Women, empowering them is key not only to the well-being of individuals, families and rural communities, but also to overall economic productivity.

In this regard, the Secretary General of the United Nations, inaugurating the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW62), highlighted that achieving gender equality is the greatest human rights challenge of our time. Along the same lines, the Executive Director of UN Women stated that women, especially in rural areas, need connectivity and innovative tools in addition to access to financial and other services.

In analyzing the gender gap in the region in greater detail, it cannot be overlooked that among affected women, those who live in rural areas are at a disadvantage not only when it comes to access to and use of ICTs given their status as women, but also as compared to the access enjoyed by women in urban areas.

One of the main stumbling blocks in the development of plans that would equip rural women with tools is the lack of attention given to the issue, which is why they are not addressed in a large number of public policies or private initiatives, leading to scarce access to production resources: rural women receive only 10% of production resources and 5% of technical assistance.

Similarly, the lack of skills and confidence to use digital technologies is another stumbling block that rural women must overcome; added to lower literacy rates, this lack of digital skills limits rural women’s opportunity to use existing resources found on the Internet.\(^\text{20}\)

Within the framework of CITEL, the Buenos Aires Declaration recognized the need to adopt public policies aimed at resolving the issues that affect our people, in particular women and girls, by focusing on improving the quality and diversity of ICT services, primarily in remote or underserved areas, in accordance with the Objectives of the 2018-2022 Strategic Plan.


In this regard, we believe it is necessary to create this Alliance and answer the call of UN Women, commemorating the International Day of Rural Women on October 15 – the theme of which was “Sustainable infrastructure, services and social protection for gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls” – to forge ahead with improvements to ICT-related public services and infrastructure for this sector of the population.

For all these reasons, we undertake to:

- recognize rural women as part of the underdeveloped population which still needs to be equipped with connectivity and the skills required to benefit from ICT tools to further their development, autonomy and empowerment.
- promote actions designed to enhance connectivity in rural areas and access to new technologies, thereby shrinking the gender gap in said areas.
- promote policies that promote that the Internet is safe for the use of women and girls.
- join forces and identify strategic partners to help empower women in rural areas through capacity-building and digital services that enable them to flourish, using ICTs as a platform.
- develop strategies that make use of ICTs as facilitators of the economic empowerment and greater independence of rural women.
- develop an action plan, the backbone of which is the deployment of infrastructure, capacity-building, technological access and promotion of entrepreneurship and other activities, in accordance to the plans and programs of each country by making intensive and innovative use of ICTs, promoting best practices in community networks that address the specific needs of each community, with special emphasis on those developed and managed by women in rural or underserved areas.
- continue projects that aim to promote gender equality and the shrinking of inequality gaps in the information society.
- disseminate this undertaking with the objective of garnering more supporters who share its guidelines and will collaborate in the achievement of its objectives.

To do so, the undersigned parties will join forces to empower rural women in the Americas by, for instance:

- promoting programs that provide connectivity to rural, remote and underserved areas.
- establishing sustainable community network projects that are run by women, wherever possible and whenever relevant in coordination with operators.
- developing training on the digital ecosystem for women and girls in rural areas, focused on driving the growth of economies and productive processes in these areas.
- encouraging ICT training in said areas, making it possible to pass on lessons to other women.
- developing area-based repositories with local content that that integrates information on the promotion of women and girls empowerment through ICTs can be used by the community.
- promoting the dissemination of best practices in public policies that cause an impact on the rights of rural women as regards their development, autonomy and empowerment;
- training women entrepreneurs in the identified areas for commercial development through ICTs.

Signed on December 17, 2018 in Mar del Plata, Republic of Argentina.
V. LIST OF DOCUMENTS

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