

VI MEETING OF THE PERMANENT CONSULTATIVE  
COMMITTEE I: PUBLIC  
OEA/Ser.L/XVII.4.1  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES  
10-14 March, 1997  
Porlamar, Isla Margarita, Venezuela

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**FINAL REPORT**

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## I AGENDA <sup>1</sup>

1. Approval of Agenda.
2. Constitution of the Working Groups of the Meeting.
3. Presentation and Evaluation of Working Group and *Ad Hoc* Group Reports on:
  - a. Standards Coordination
  - b. Network Modernization and New Services
  - c. Certification Processes
  - d. Basic and Universal Telecommunications Services
  - e. Development of Human Resources
  - f. Study of Global Information Infrastructure.
4. Presentation and Evaluation of the Report of the Joint Working Group on Legal Affairs and Administrative Procedures of the PCC.I, PCC.II and PCC.III.
5. Considerations regarding the Resolution COM/CITEL RES.31(IV-96) "to urge PCCs and joint working groups to take prompt action on certain items in the senior Telecommunications Officials (STO) Plan of Action.
6. Future of the PCC.I Working Groups and *Ad Hoc* Groups.
7. Conclusions, Resolutions and Recommendations of the Working Group and *Ad Hoc* Group Meetings on:
  - a. Standards Coordination
  - b. Network Modernization and New Services
  - c. Certification Processes
  - d. Basic and Universal Telecommunications Services
  - e. Development of Human Resources
  - f. Study of Global Information Infrastructure
8. Analysis of results and activities connected with the ITU-T.
9. Preliminary Plans for the 1998 CITEL Assembly.
10. Preparations for the 1998 World Development Conference.
11. Preparations for the Seminars on the GII, Interconnection and Value-added Services.
12. Other Matters.
13. Agenda, Venue and Date of the Seventh Meeting of the PCC.I.
14. Approval of the Minutes of the Plenary Sessions

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<sup>1</sup> The Working Group on the Human Resources did not meet

## **II. AUTHORITIES OF THE MEETING**

Chairman : Mr. Gilberto Aquino  
Vice Chairman : Mr. Thomas Plevyak  
Executive Secretary : Mr. Roberto Blois

### **Drafting Group for the Final Report**

Coordinator : Mr. José Pirroni of Venezuela  
participants : Mr. Robert Leafloor of Canada  
Mr. Edward Malloy of the United States  
Mr. John Prince of Trinidad and Tobago  
Mr. José Miguel Paz of Honduras

## **III. RESOLUTIONS**

### **PCC.I/RES 33 (VI-97)**

#### **ESTABLISHMENT OF AN AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON ACCOUNTING RATES OF INTERNATIONAL TELEPHONY SERVICE**

The Sixth Meeting of Permanent Consultative Committee I: Public Telecommunications Service,

#### **CONSIDERING**

That the established order in relations between international telephony service correspondents is derived from the regulations of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU);

The provisions in the regulations, recommendations and initiatives of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU);

That an important role has been defined for CITEL regarding standardization, development, policy, and regulation issues in regional telecommunications, and that it is the appropriate forum for studying and solving problems arising in that field, particularly if the problem acquires particular characteristics in region;

That Administrations are establishing national telecommunication policies aimed at the universalization of the basic telephony service;

That the correspondent agencies of the region, acting in the framework of the regulations set by their Administrations, are developing significant expansion plans to reach

the required penetration and service quality objectives;

That it is necessary to maintain international order in the region so that liberalization processes already under way can be met in accordance with that established by its national authorities, with no external interference, with due respect to national sovereignty.

That COM/CITEL RES.31 (IV-96) urged PCC.1 to help CITELE implement the STO Plan of Action item 5.7 which included the following commitments:

ii) "Promote policies that include interconnection safeguards, cost-oriented rates, equitable access charges and account settlement rates that stimulate demand for telecommunication services and foster competition.

iii) Share, when appropriate, information and views on accounting rates. Work together, when appropriate, on issues relating to the movement of accounting rates towards costs in a spirit of mutual respect between parties."

That the level of development of the existing telecommunications infrastructure in each individual country in the region should be taken into account, as well as the social, economic and financial peculiarities affecting the development of said infrastructure.

#### **RESOLVES:**

1. To set up an *Ad Hoc* Working Group on International Telephone Service Accounting Rates (WGARITS) to study the situation of said rates in view of the changes occurring in the sector on the world level, and recommend actions to be executed in the Region, taking account of the regulations, recommendations, and initiatives of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) on accounting rates and the need to advance towards achieving the objective of universal service by every specific country.

2. That the WGARITS be the principal entity within CITELE to work on the items of the STO Action Plan on accounting rates and their impact on the development of the sector, taking into account the commitment to "share, when appropriate, information and points of view on account rates. Work together, when appropriate, on matters connected with moving towards cost-based accounting rates, in a spirit of mutual respect among the parties" and "that, in trying to bring about the objectives of this declaration (Declaration of Principles of the STO Meeting), the specific difficulties facing the smallest economies in the hemisphere should be taken into account".

3. To study and draw up options and guidelines that can be used by CITELE members to help in making the transition to cost-based accounting rates in such a way that is in line with ITU recommendations and other international commitments and with universal service objectives.

4. To designate Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ of Trinidad and Tobago as Chairman of the WGARITS.

5. To designate Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ of Mexico and Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ of Argentina as Vice Chairman.

**PCC.I/RES 34 (VI-97)**

**EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF THE WORKING GROUP  
ON THE MODERNIZATION OF NETWORKS AND NEW SERVICES**

The Sixth Meeting of the Permanent Consultative Committee I: Public Telecommunications Services;

**NOTING:**

That Resolution COM/CITEL RES.32(IV-96), urges the PCCs and the Joint Working Groups to take immediate action with respect to certain items in the Action Plan for the Americas.

**CONSIDERING:**

The importance for CITEL Member Countries to share a common strategic mission of fostering Economic Development, Continental Integration and the Modernization of Telecommunication Infrastructure.

That certain items contemplated in the Action Plan for the Americas could be dealt with by the Working Group on Modernization of Networks and New Services.

**RESOLVES:**

1. That the Working Group on Modernisation of Networks and New Services should assess the flexibility of networks to adapt to changes and innovations taking place in telecommunications markets and technology, which would enhance approaches to the global information society.

2. That such activities will encourage the participation of administrations, other appropriate institutions and the private sector, which would, inter alia, consider means to develop optimal technological networks

**PCC.I/RES.35 (VI-97)**

**EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF THE AD HOC GROUP  
ON CERTIFICATION PROCESSES**

The Sixth Meeting of the Permanent Consultative Committee I: Public Telecommunications Services.

**NOTING:**

That Resolution COM/CITEL RES.32(IV-96), urges the PCCs and the Joint Working Groups to take immediate action with respect to certain items in the Action Plan for the Americas.

**CONSIDERING:**

The importance for CITEL Member Countries to undertake a joint strategic mission to foster Economic Development, Continental Integration and the Modernization of Telecommunication Infrastructure.

That certain items considered in the Action Plan for the Americas could be dealt with by the Ad Hoc Group on Certification Processes.

That by means of Resolution PCC.I/RES.30 (V-96), CITEL Guidelines on Equipment Certification were approved.

**RESOLVES:**

That, on the topic of Telecommunications Equipment Certification, the Ad Hoc Group on Certification Processes execute the following activities:

- a) Prepare proposals that facilitate implementation of the guidelines approved in Resolution PCC.I/RES.30 (VI-96);
- b) Encourage interaction between regional and sub-regional telecommunications bodies in the region of the Americas and CITEL, with the purpose of promoting the exchange of information and facilitating co-ordination within the region in the area of equipment certification;
- c) Promote studies with countries of the region, with a view to preparing documents that could be useful as reference material for preparing agreements or arrangements in the area of equipment certification.

**PCC.I/ RES 36 (VI-97)**

**IMPLEMENTATION OF COM/CITEL RES.31(IV-96) BY PCC. I's  
WORKING GROUP ON BASIC AND UNIVERSAL SERVICES  
AND BY CITEL MEMBERS**

The Sixth Meeting of the Permanent Consultative Committee I: Public Telecommunications Services.

**NOTING THAT:**

COM/CITEL RES..31(IV-96) called on PCC.I to follow-up on the following action items and commitments in the STO Plan of Action: 5. 1: I, ii, iii, iv; 5.2: ii, iii; 5.3.; 5.7: I, ii, iii; and 5.10: I, ii, iii, iv, v.

That PCC.I has a Working Group on Basic and Universal Services (WGBUS) and that the following action items assigned to PCC-I for follow-up are relevant to the WGBUS:

*5.1 Promote measures to meet in a timely manner the demand for all telecommunications services at reasonable rates, and seek universal access and service.*

*Commitments:*

*The telecommunications authorities undertake to seek to:*

- i) Promote the establishment of mechanisms for increasing telephone service density and coverage in rural and for low-income groups.*
- ii) Devise specific policies concerning rural telecommunications, such as investment, subsidies and the use of market mechanisms or other applicable national models.*
- iv) Seek adoption of regulatory frameworks that increase the availability of all services and universal service.*

**TAKING INTO ACCOUNT**

That some countries in the Americas have in place, or are planning, programs to foster universal service.

That many countries in the Americas are privatizing and encouraging competition to emerge in their telecommunications markets as part of their efforts to foster rapid development of telecommunications networks and to increase access to telecommunications.

The efforts of all countries to put in place or improve universal service programs can be assisted by sharing information in CITEL.

Among the issues critical to universal service programs are how each country defines universal service in terms of specific services, how universal service funds are raised and distributed, use of appropriate technology and the impact of privatization and competition on universal service.

That the recently concluded World Trade Organization (WTO) commitments on Basic

Telecommunications included the adoption of the Reference Paper which refers, inter alia, to universal service.

The work being carried out by the ITU, based mainly on the implementation of the Buenos Aires Action Plan, to promote basic telephone universal service in the American Region.

## **RESOLVES**

1. That the WGBUS become an active forum for sharing information, comparing experiences, taking note of trends, identifying key issues and discussing universal service programs in the Americas.

2. To seek from CITELE members before the next meeting of the WGBUS, written information on whether they have universal service programs in place. CITELE members that have universal service programs are requested to provide, in a concise manner, the following information: (a) description and purpose of universal service programs, including how they define universal service; (b) description of any ongoing efforts to revise universal service programs; (c) statistics on the number of telephones and telephone penetration rates (current data and historical data since 1990); (d) description of how universal service programs have increased or are designed to increase the number of telephones or telephone penetration rates (if possible with relevant statistics); (e) description of how universal service programs have improved or are designed to improve access to special services (for example emergency services); (f) amounts and sources of universal service funds that have been or will be raised (cross-subsidies, general taxes, special taxes, etc.); (g) amounts of universal service funds that have been or will be allocated and description of how funds are allocated (cross-subsidies, competitive-bidding, etc.); (h) description of whether funds are allocated in a manner to target specific companies, communities, rural areas, low income individuals, etc; and, (i) any other information relevant to universal service programs.

3. The WGBUS will, as soon as possible, discuss issues related to policy options concerning rural telecommunications and the provision of telephone service for low income group, such as investment, subsidies use of appropriate technology and the use of market mechanisms or other applicable national models.

4. The WGBUS will coordinate its work with other PCCs.

## **INSTRUCTS**

1. The Executive Secretariat of CITELE to send, a letter from the Chairman of PCC.I reminding and urging all CITELE members to provide by September 1, 1997, the written information detailed in point 2 of this resolution at the next meeting of the WGBUS.

2. The Executive Secretariat to inform PCC.III at its next meeting of this resolution and request PCC.III to name a coordinator that can work with the WGBUS on the possible use

of radiocommunications technology for universal services, especially in rural areas and for low-income groups.

### **PCC.I/RES.37 (VI-97)**

#### **EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF THE AD HOC GROUP ON VALUE-ADDED SERVICES**

The Sixth Meeting of the Permanent Consultative Committee I: Public Telecommunication Services.

#### **NOTING:**

That Resolution COM/CITEL RES.31(IV-96), urges the PCCs and the Joint Working Groups to take immediate action with respect to certain items in the Action Plan of the Summit of the Americas.

The Declaration of the Senior Telecommunications Official recognition of the specific challenges of the smaller economies of the Region.

That the principles of the Guidelines for the provision of Value Added Services are established within the limits of the multilateral trade regime of the WTO

#### **CONSIDERING:**

The importance for CITEL Member Countries to undertake joint strategic action to foster Economic Development, Hemispheric Integration and the Modernization of the Telecommunication Infrastructures.

That certain items contemplated in the Action Plan of the Summit of the Americas could be dealt with by the Ad Hoc Group on Guidelines for Value-Added Services.

That through Resolution PCC.I/RES.25(IV-96), Regional Guidelines for the provision of Value-Added Services were approved.

#### **RESOLVES:**

That the Ad Hoc Group on Value-Added Service accomplish the following activities:

- a) Prepare proposals that facilitate the implementation of these Guidelines;
- b) Identify and stimulate measures of assistance for all Member States of the Region to be enabled to utilise the Guidelines.

c) Encourage interaction between regional and sub-regional telecommunications bodies in the region of the Americas and CITEI, with the purpose of promoting the exchange of information and facilitating co-ordination within the region in the area of value added services.

d) Promote studies with a view to preparing documents that could be useful as reference material for preparing agreements or arrangements in the area of value added services.

### **PCC.I/RES 38 (VI-97)**

#### **AGENDA, VENUE AND DATE OF THE SIXTH MEETING OF THE PCC.I**

The Sixth Meeting of Permanent Consultative Committee I: Public Telecommunications Services,

#### **RESOLVES:**

That the Seventh Meeting of the PCC.I will be held in Brazil, from 13 to 17 October 1997, in accordance with the draft Agenda found in the Annex.

### **ANNEX**

#### **DRAFT AGENDA**

#### **VII MEETING OF THE PERMANENT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE I: PUBLIC TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES 13 to 17 October 1997 - Brazil**

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Constitution of the Working Groups of the Meeting
3. Presentation and Evaluation of Working Group and *Ad Hoc* Group Reports on:
  - a. Standards Coordination
  - b. Network Modernization and New Services
  - c. Certification Processes
  - d. Value Added Services

- e. Basic and Universal Telecommunications Services
  - f. Development of Human Resources
  - g. Study of Global Information Infrastructure
  - h. International Telephony Services Accounting Rates
4. Presentation and Evaluation of the Report of the Joint Working Group on Legal Affairs and Administrative Procedures of the PCC.I, PCC.II and PCC.III.
  5. Considerations regarding the Fourth Meeting of Steering Committee
  6. Future of the PCC.I Working Groups and *Ad Hoc* Groups
  7. Conclusions, Resolutions and Recommendations of the Working Group and *Ad Hoc* Group Meetings on:
    - a. Standards Coordination
    - b. Network Modernization and New Services
    - c. Certification Processes
    - d. Value Added Services
    - e. Basic and Universal Telecommunications Services
    - f. Development of Human Resources
    - g. Study of Global Information Infrastructure
    - h. International Telephony Services Accounting Rates
  8. Analysis of results and activities connected with the ITU-T
  9. Preliminary Plans for the 1998 CITELE Assembly
  10. Preparations for the 1998 World Telecommunications Development Conference
  11. Other Matters
  12. Approval of the Minutes of the Plenary Sessions.

#### **IV. DECISIONS**

**PCC.I/DEC 6 (VI-97)**

## **REVIEW OF THE TERMS OF REFERENCE AND WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE GLOBAL INFORMATION INFRASTRUCTURE GROUP**

The Sixth Meeting of Permanent Consultative Committee I decided to instruct the Chairman of the Working Group on the Study of Global Information Infrastructure to present to the forthcoming meeting of PCC.I a revised version of the Terms of Reference and Work Programme for the Group, taking into consideration the Action Plan for the Americas for the purpose of initiating the Americas Information Infrastructure (All).

The Chairman of the Group shall circulate the project among the CITEI Member States and Associate Members sufficiently in advance of the next meeting in order to allow allowing the aforementioned members to formulate their respective comments.

### **PCC.I/DEC 7 (VI-97)**

#### **Distribution of CSD**

The VI Meeting of Permanent Consultive Committee I: Public Services decided that the Executive Secretariat of CITEI should send to CITEI Members, Associate Members, Regional and Sub-Regional Standards Organizations in the Americas and for information to the ITU and ETSI the CSD's contained in the following resolutions PCCI/RES.14 (III.95), PCCI/RES.19 (III-95), PCCI/RES.20 (III-95) PCCI/RES.26 (V-96) and PCCI/RES.24 (V.96).

### **PCC.I/DEC 8 (VI-97)**

#### **GMPCS SERVICES**

The Sixth Meeting of Permanent Consultative Committee I: Public Telecommunication Services decided that the Executive Secretary of CITEI should forward Recommendation 22 of PCC.III entitled "Considerations on the Regulation of GMPCS" (PCC.III/REC.22(VI-96) to all the members of PCC.I, requesting them to:

- (1) Consider the policy elements of the Rules of Procedure approved at the ITU World Telecommunications Policy Forum in October 1996;
- (2) Consider the terms of the Draft Memorandum of Understanding drawn up during the Forum and modified in February 1997; and
- (3) Consider if the implementation of these satellite systems will result in additional work programs for the working Group on Standards Coordination.

## **V. LIST OF BASIC DOCUMENT**

Summary Minutes of the First Plenary Session, CCP.I-356/97 rev.1

Summary Minutes of the Second Plenary Session, CCP.I-364/97

List of Documents, CCP.I-296/97 rev. 1

List of Participants CCP.I-297/97 rev. 1

Final Report CCP.I-362/97 rev.1