VII MEETING OF THE PERMANENT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE I: PUBLIC TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES 13-17 October 1997 Foz do Iguaçu, Brazil

FINAL REPORT
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I. **AGENDA**

1. Approval of Agenda.
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
   g. International Telephony Services Accounting Rates
   h. Value Added Services.
5. 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
   g. International Telephony Services Accounting Rates
   h. Value Added Services.
6. Analysis of results and activities connected with the ITU-T.
9. Other Matters.
10. Approval of the Summary Minutes of Plenary Sessions.
11. Approval of the Final Report.
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 : Mrs. María Rosa Sequeira Velardez (Brazil)
Participants : Mr. José Miguel Paz (Honduras)
Mr. Gary Fereno (USA)
Ms. Nancy Eskenazi (USA)
Mr. José Brett (Venezuela)
Mr. José Pirrone (Venezuela)
Mr. José C. Guerra (Venezuela)
Secretary : Mr. William Moran (CITEL)

III. RESOLUTIONS

PCC.I/RES 39 (VII-97)
AMENDMENT TO THE MANDATE OF THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON THE STUDY
OF THE GLOBAL INFORMATION INFRASTRUCTURE

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

CONSIDERING:

That the view of the members of the Ad Hoc Group on the Study of the Global Information Infrastructure is that there is:

The need for economic integration and access to services;

The need to establish information access and exchange; and
That Global Information Infrastructure, based as much as possible on international standards, is the mechanism which facilitates the execution of the aforementioned points.

RESOLVES:

That the Ad Hoc Group will have:

1. As an ASSIGNMENT:

To create the conditions necessary for the countries of the Americas to be able to develop the Global Information Infrastructure and enjoy its benefits.

2. As TERMS OF REFERENCE (GOALS / SCOPE):

   a) To implement the conditions necessary for the member countries to establish the minimum information infrastructure considered necessary to develop the Global Information Infrastructure in the Americas, and further the penetration of telecommunication services in the region.

   b) To identify and develop, in stages, guidelines relating to network and service interconnection in the Americas by applying finely-tuned standards in the region.

   c) To maintain suitable interaction with CITEL's Working Group on the Human Resources Development.

   d) Interaction with other global and regional groups which work on the development of a Global Information Infrastructure.

3. As a WORK PLAN:

   a) To define the Information Infrastructure in the Americas (IIA) and its objectives.

   b) To further development, in stages, of the Information Infrastructure in the Americas (IIA), based on studies which adopt the method of focusing on applications, endeavoring to identify the characteristics and effects thereof at every level.
c) To analyze service network models using the concepts of Global Information Infrastructure and which may act as an example for the implementation thereof in the Americas.

d) To identify the elements in the activity programs of CITEL’s IIA program-related Working Groups, and coordinate with such Groups the necessary adaptations for ensuring that essential IIA elements be discussed.

e) To create a home page with the result of the Group’s work and, at the same time, facilitates speedy location of the different organizations which work on the Information Infrastructure of the Americas (IIA) or on the Global Information Infrastructure (GII).

f) A Seminar to be held on GII at a forthcoming PCC.I.

g) Prepare studies on the region’s networks with a view to their interconnection and interoperability for the formation of the Information Infrastructure in the Americas (IIA).

h) Analyze the effects of electronic transactions in the development of the IIA.

i) Further the participation of CITEL members in the different organizations working on the Global Information Infrastructure.

j) Foster the use of electronic document handling in order to accelerate information exchange between the different members of the Group.

To carry out the aforementioned Work Plan, all members of the Group will work together with the chairman to approve points 1, 5 and 6 no later than at the next PCC.I meeting. The Plan’s other points should be completed in two years time at the latest.

**PCC.I/RES. 40 (VII-97): ACCOUNTING RATES**

The Seventh Meeting of the Permanent Consultative Committee I: Public Telecommunication Services;

**CONSIDERING:**

The current work of WGARITS and the importance of the issues being developed through the fourth colloquia on Accounting Rates.
The major on going discussions in the multilateral fora of ITU relative to Study Group 3 of the Standardization Sector; the proposed Case Studies on impacts of accounting rates transitions on developing countries; the convening of an ITU informal meeting of a group of experts on Accounting Rates Reform; the agenda for the Second World Telecommunications Policy Forum.

The decisions of the Senior Telecommunications Officials in September 1996, in the Plan of Action and Declaration of Principles, to encourage CITEL Members to work towards cost based accounting rates.

RESOLVES:

1. That the Ad-Hoc Working Group on Accounting Rates continue to function beyond the October 1997 meeting of PCC.I.

2. That the chairman of PCC.I include in its report to COM/CITEL a summary of the activities of WGARITS.

3. That the Ad-Hoc Working Group includes in its deliberations the continuing Accounting Rates issues relating to various ITU Fora.

PCC.I/RES. 41 (VII-97): ACCOUNTING RATES

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

CONSIDERING:

That technological development has yielded alternative ways of accessing international telephone traffic through non-conventional systems (call-back, refiling, and so forth), which have resulted in a competitiveness and contributed to a traffic imbalance in the market of international telecommunications services.

That this competitiveness exerts pressure toward reduction of accounting rates.
That it is healthier for international trade and development of telecommunications to establish the price of telecommunications services as a function of costs.

That the FCC has issued two important regulations pertaining to the issue of accounting rates, which are the Accounting Rate Flexibility Order, aimed at providing flexibility to American carriers to negotiate alternative settlement arrangements; and the International Settlement Rate Benchmark Order aimed at lowering accounting rates which directs American carriers to negotiate settlement rates with foreign carriers at or below a set benchmark.

That the ITU has recommended principles and procedures under which accounting rates for international telecommunications services should be established (Recommendation D.140).

KEEPING IN MIND:

That the ITU has established working groups to study tariffs (TAS, TAF and TAL).

RESPECTING:

The countries sovereign right to establish their own national policies regarding telecommunications; and;

ACKNOWLEDGING:

The countries' right to determine that telecommunications constitute a national resource.

RESOLVES:

1. That all actions must lead toward the establishment of a regime of accounting rates for the provision of international services in accordance with ITU Recommendation D.140.

2. That reference accounting rates for international telecommunications services should be based on the multilateral processes of the ITU including the studies conducted by the working groups created by the ITU.
3. That when a country considers it necessary to subsidize universal service in part through accounting rates, then this subsidy amount should be clearly identified in a transparent, non-discriminatory, and equitable (competitively neutral) manner and a dead line for its elimination must be defined; considering that countries have a legitimate right to subsidize the telecommunications services they deem of national interest.

4. That countries that use settlement payments/accounting rates for universal service should consider using additional funding sources.

5. To take into account the recommendations and guidelines proposed by the CITEL Ad Hoc Working Group on Accounting Rates.

6. To urge CITEL to request that its members use bilateral and/or multilateral negotiations, which ever is deemed most appropriate, to define matters related to accounting rates; consequently unilateral decisions and pronouncements are not acceptable in relation to matters on accounting rates.

COMMON UNDERSTANDINGS ON THE RESOLUTION

The following clarifies common understandings on certain resolves of the attached Resolution:

RESOLVES 3: Universal subsidies principles:

a) Transparency in universal service means that universal service costs, regulatory rules and processes will be transparent (i.e. publicly available).

b) Non-discrimination and equity (competitive neutrality) in universal service funding means there will not be discrimination based on facilities or services, country of origin, customers (e.g. public vs. closed user group), technology used (e.g. switched vs. packet, wired versus wireless), type of service (e.g. data vs. voice, switched vs. private line), and/or routing used to deliver service.

c) Universal service funding mechanisms should also take into account the continuity, stability and viability of the international network, which means they must:

-- Include reasonable (economically rational) return on facilities/services used;

-- Recognize changing industry structure and cost (shifts, reductions, efficiencies);
-- Recognize technology changes and applications; and,

-- Recognize trends in globalization, privatization and competition.

RESOLVE 5: This resolve is understood to mean that CITEL Members and Associate Members are encouraged to follow the provisions of this resolution.

PCC.I/RES.42(VII-97)
RELATING TO THE RECOMMENDATION ON THE ACCOUNTING RATES ISSUE TO THE ITU

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

WHEREAS:

OAS/CITEL Working Group on Accounting Rates considered the concept of the Termination Fee defined as the price chargeable by an authorized telecommunications operator to a customer (another telecommunications operator) for the supply of services in terminating an IMTS. It is denominated in terms of U$S or SDR per minute charge.

The Termination Fee concept includes:

1. The four components of the D-140 ITU recommendation - cost of transmission and switching facilities, national network extension and other related costs measured on the basis of the firms' expenses;

2. Reasonable period of transition (within the optimum capacity of a country);

and it may include:

3. An additional cost factor to provide for universal service in addition to other funding resources.

OAS / CITEL Working Group on Accounting Rates supports the concept detailed above.
NOTING:

The importance of the concept to CITEL Administrations; and

The desire that this proposal be considered at the ITU Study Group 3 meeting in December 1997.

RESOLVES:

1. That the Termination Fee Concept which was tabled and discussed in the Working Group as an alternative to the current accounting rate system be submitted to the Secretary-General of the ITU.

2. That PCC.I considers further that the concept of a termination fee, as tabled and discussed by the Working Group on accounting Rates may be presented by CITEL members in their individual capacity as members of the Standardization Sector of the ITU, at its meeting of Study Group 3 in December 1997.

3. That Member States attending this meeting may associate their names with the Termination Fee Concept at this Plenary.

4. All other interested administrations should, by November 10th notify the Executive Secretary of their intent to associate their administration with this proposal before it is transmitted to the ITU.

5. That while the deadline indicated in this resolution needs to be strictly followed in order to expedite dispatch of the proposal, member states may still associate their names at any time prior to and during the ITU Study Group 3 meeting in December 1997.

INSTRUCTS:

1. The Executive Secretary to forward this Resolution to all CITEL Administrations not participating in this meeting no later than October 24th 1997 with a request for them to review the Resolution and consider associating their administrations’ name with the Resolution.
2. The Executive Secretary to submit the Concept of Termination Fee as agreed to in this Meeting as a document (as at Resolution 1) to the Secretary General of the ITU by November 15th 1997.

3. The Executive Secretary to send to the Secretary-General of the ITU an addendum listing countries that associate their names with the Concept of Termination Fee contained in this Resolution before the December Meeting in 1997.

PCC.I/RES.43 (VII-97)
REQUEST TO THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

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

WHEREAS:

That at the Summit of the Americas held in Miami on 9 - 11 December 1994, the Heads of State of the Hemisphere acknowledged that "the Information Infrastructure of a country - Telecommunications, Information Technology and Broadcasting - is an essential component in the political, economic, social and cultural development thereof and that the development needs for the information infrastructure in the Americas are immense."

The Member states of the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission – CITEL are committed to participating in the development of the “Action Plan of the Americas” approved at the Meeting of Senior Telecommunications Government Officers held in Washington, D.C. in September 1996, and in particular, to further measures strengthening the links between CITEL and the regional and sub-regional organizations of the Americas in order to foster regional coordination and promote value-added services.

That at the above-mentioned Summit of the Americas in Miami, the governments of the region decided through CITEL “To prepare regional guidelines covering services rendered by the International Value-Added Network”.

That CITEL, at its meeting held in Tegucigalpa on 20 - 24 February 1995, set up the Ad Hoc Group on Value-Added Services through Resolution PCC.I/RES.9(II-95) in order to develop regional guidelines that foster the expansion and growth of Value-Added Services throughout the region.
That at the meeting held in Brasilia, the PCC.I resolved to approve the Draft Guidelines for the provision of Value-Added Services through Resolution 25/96 presented by the Ad Hoc Group for consideration thereby.

That the Senior Telecommunications Officials met in Washington, D.C. on 25 - 26 September 1996 in compliance with the mandate handed down by the Summit of the Americas, and declared in Item 8 "That efforts should be made to foster the adoption of concrete measures that would facilitate the implementation of the CITEL Guidelines for Value-Added Services and equipment certification, as well as the Coordinated Standards Documents issued by this Commission."

That the PCC.I, at its Meeting held on 24 March 1997 at Isla Margarita, extended the mandate of the Ad Hoc Group on Value-Added Services through Resolution 37/97 and that item a) of the resolutive section of the above-mentioned Resolution establishes as a mandate for the Group "the preparation of proposals that facilitate the implementation of these Guidelines."

That the Ad Hoc Working Group on Value-Added Services at its meeting held at Asuncion, Paraguay in July this year approved the Draft Resolution submitted by the Chairperson of the Group in document PCC.I-375/97 and the "Draft Agreement on the Provision of Value-Added Services contained in Document PCC.I-381/97 and additionally agreed that the Chairperson would, when consulting the Legal Affairs Department of the OAS, include the necessary modifications in the text thereof, in order to present this Resolution to the consideration of the PCC.I at its meeting scheduled for October 1997 at Foz de Iguacu, Brazil.

That the Chairperson of the Ad Hoc Group consulted the Legal Affairs Department of the OAS regarding this matter which, having examined the wording of the General Agreement on Trade in Services of the World Trade Organization, expressed its reservations with regard to the feasibility of celebrating the Inter-American Convention on Value-Added Services, which comments are contained in Doc.PCC.I-472/97.

WHEREAS:

The Member States of the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission - CITEL are committed to participating in the development of the “Action Plan of the Americas” approved at the Meeting of Senior Telecommunications Government Officers held in Washington D.C. in September 1996, and in particular, to further measures strengthening the links between CITEL and the regional and
sub-regional organizations of the Americas in order to foster regional coordination and promote value-added services.

Consequently, the PCC.I:

RESOLVES:

1. Having consulted the Legal Affairs Department of the OAS, the Committee feels a need to express its concern regarding the provisions covered under the General Agreement on Trade in Services, which contains provisions that are apparently incompatible with the adoption of this type of Agreement under the auspices of CITEL.

2. In particular, we ask the Executive Secretariat of CITEL to request the World Trade Organization to provide answers to the following queries:

   a) Is it possible for the CITEL / OAS Member States to sign regional or sub-regional agreements on regional Telecommunication Services?

   b) Please advise us of the most expeditious manner of signing regional agreements in the Telecommunication Sector, in view of the rapid pace of changes under way and the importance thereof to the global development of other services.

   c) Can the expression “substantial sectorial coverage” in Article V of the General Agreement on Trade in Services be applied to one specific sector, such as Telecommunications?

   d) Is it possible to sign the Inter-American Convention on Value-Added Telecommunication Services (see the attached text of the Agreement prepared by Ad Hoc Group of CITEL), taking into consideration the General Agreement on Trade in Services? If so, under what conditions may such a Convention be signed?
DRAFT INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION ON
THE PROVISION OF VALUE-ADDED SERVICES

The Member States of the Organization of American States (OAS):

WHEREAS:

The Inter-American Telecommunication Commission of the Organization of American States (CITEL) has drawn up Guidelines for the Provision of Value-Added Services through its Permanent Consultative Committee I: Public Telecommunication Services.

PURSUANT:

To the fact that the Member States consider that it is in their interests at both the social and economic levels to develop a free market for Value-Added Services based on the CITEL Guidelines.

HAVE AGREED THE FOLLOWING:

Article I
Definition of Value-Added Services

The Member States acknowledge and accept the particular definition of Value-Added Services established by the legislation of each of them and agree that the operators should comply with the corresponding definition when operating in the territory of each of them.

Article II
Standard of Treatment

Each Member State will grant the operators or providers of Value-Added Services non-discriminatory, transparent treatment with equal commercial opportunities. This treatment will be no less favorable than that which each Member State accords to its national operators or providers of Value-Added Services under similar circumstances.
Article III

Administrative Procedures

Each Member State will adopt administrative procedures for Value-Added Services based on reasonable and objective criteria and will apply them in a non-discriminatory, transparent and expeditious manner.

Each Member State will limit the information required under administrative procedures for Value-Added Services to that which is necessary for conformity to its national regulations and its international obligations.

Each Member State will facilitate and support the development of Value-Added Services through the simplification of its administrative procedures.

Article IV

Interconnection with the Public Network

Each Member State will adopt standards that ensure non-discriminatory, transparent treatment at fair and reasonable costs for interconnection with the public network in a manner that establishes equal opportunities and conditions for everyone, including the network operators and their subsidiary companies.

Each Member State will adopt standards that ensure that the operators or providers of Value-Added Services, whether they have their own networks or not, can obtain services and interconnect to the national and international public networks through leased national circuits under non-discriminatory terms and conditions.

Each Member State will allow the operators or providers of Value-Added Services to perform the switching, signaling and processing functions required to offer exclusively Value-Added Services and which use the proprietary protocols of their choice, in conformance with the national regulations of the Member States covering interconnection to the public network.
Article V
Terminal Equipment
Each Member State should allow the customers of the operators or providers of Value-Added Services to purchase and attach to the public network the terminal equipment of their choice, provided that such equipment complies with the national regulations, certification procedures, standards and homologation of the corresponding Member State.

Article VI
Rights of End-Users
Each Member State will comply with the provisions of this Convention without prejudice to the rights of end-users to receive fair treatment and adequate service from the operators and providers of Value-Added Services.

Article VII
Miscellaneous Provisions
Each Member State will provide the other Member States with all their regulations and administrative procedures related to the Provision of Value-Added Services.

The Member States will consult among themselves on request regarding their obligations under this Convention.

Article VIII
Relationship with other Conventions
On Value-Added Services
This Convention will not curtail the provisions of Conventions that have been or will be signed by the Member States on this matter in future, whether bilateral or multilateral, or more favorable practices that may be adopted by such States.

Article IX
Signature
This Convention is open for signature by the Member States of the Organization of American States.
Article X
Ratification

This Convention is subject to ratification. The ratification instruments will be placed on deposit with the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States.

Article XI
Adherence

This Convention is open for adherence by any other State. The adherence instruments will be placed on deposit with the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States.

Article XII
Reservations

The Member States may formulate reservations regarding this Convention when approving, ratifying or adhering to it, wherever not compatible with the objective and purposes of the Convention with regard to one or more specific provisions thereof.

Article XIII
Entry into Effect

This Convention will enter into effect on the thirtieth day after the date of deposit of the: ratification instrument. For each Member State that ratifies the Convention or adheres to it after having placed the … ratification instrument on deposit, the Convention will enter into effect on the thirtieth day after the date on which such State deposited its instrument of ratification or adherence.

Article XIV
Withdrawal

This Convention will remain in effect indefinitely, but any of the Member States may withdraw from it. The withdrawal instrument will be placed on deposit at the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States. One year as from the date of deposit of the instrument of withdrawal, the Convention will no longer continue in effect for the withdrawing State, and will remain in force for the other Member States.
Article XV
Deposit of the Original Document

The original document of this Convention, whose Spanish, French, English and Portuguese texts are all equally valid, will be placed on deposit with the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States, which will forward a certified copy of this text for registration of publication to the Secretariat of the United Nations. The General Secretariat of the Organization of American States will advise the Member States of this Organization and the States that have adhered to the Convention of the signatures, deposits of instruments of ratification, adherence and withdrawal, as well as any reservations.

IV. RECOMMENDATIONS

PCC.I/REC. 2 (VII-97)
CITEL/PCC.I TELECOMMUNICATIONS FORUM

The Seventh Meeting of the Permanent Consultative Committee I: Public Telecommunication Services;

CONSIDERING:

That a number of the working groups have identified the desireability of holding specific seminars/workshops to explore future activities in the areas of network modernization, telecommunication equipment conformity assessment and certification processes, basic and universal services and the global information infrastructure, intelligent networks, and telecommunication network management.

RECOMMENDS:

That PCC.I utilize the schedule time of the next meeting to sponsor a Telecommunications Forum that will incorporate seminars/workshops covering the various topics of network modernization, telecommunication equipment conformity assessment and certification processes, basic and universal services and the global information infrastructure, intelligent networks, and telecommunication network management.

The establishment of an Ad Hoc Group with the mandate to organize the seminars/workshops, select speakers and publicize the event.
That the Ad Hoc Group present to the Chairman of PCC.I a draft program of activities for the telecommunications forum, prior to 15 November 1997, so that the scheduling of this forum may be taken into account at the COM/CITEL meeting in December which will prepare a draft schedule of activities for 1998.

That Mr. Alberto Zetina of Ericsson Mexico be appointed as the Forum Coordinator to be assisted by one coordinator from each of the six areas to prepare the program for the Telecommunications Forum. The six individuals are:

- Mr. Jaime Blanco of Ericsson Brazil for TNM;
- Mr. R. Sanatan of the CTU for Network Modernization;
- Mr. Jose Pirrone of Venezuela for the GII;
- Mr. Wm. McCrum of Canada for Certification Processes;
- Mr. Hector Carril of Telecom Argentina for Basic and Universal Services, and
- Mr. Tim Rinker of Lucent for Intelligent Networks.

V. DECISIONS

PCC.I/DEC 9 (VII-97)
REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON NETWORK MODERNIZATION AND NEW SERVICES

The Seventh Meeting of the Permanent Consultative Committee I decided to instruct the Executive Secretariat to circulate the Report of the Working Group on Network Modernization and New Services contained in document PCC.I-442/97 to the Member States and Associate Members of CITEL, encouraging them to send their comments and urging the Member States that did not send a reply to the Questionnaire on Network Modernization and New Services, to do so as soon as possible. A copy of the questionnaire shall also be sent to those Member States, which have not yet forwarded their replies. These replies are to be sent to the Chairman of the Working Group on Network Modernization

Mr. Rodrick Sanatan
Secretary General
Caribbean Telecommunications Union
17 Queens Park West
Port –of– Spain
Tel: (868) 628 –3185
Fax: (868) 628 –6037
Email: cturion @ tstt.net.tt
PCC.I/DEC.10(VII-97)
USE IN THE AMERICAS OF THE INTERNATIONAL MOBILE STATION IDENTITY (IMSI)

At the Seventh PCC.I Meeting, the draft sent by PCC.III on its decision PCC.III/DEC.22(IX-97) relating to the use in the Americas of the International Mobile Station Identity (IMSI) was analyzed.

After the document was studied and discussed, and considering that the IMSI application in the Americas will facilitate the International Roaming service between wireless networks in the region.

PCC.I agrees with the document submitted by PCC.III and maintains that the administrations should adopt Rec. E.212 of ITU-T and foster the use of the IMSI between its mobile network operators.

Mr. Javier Camargo is instructed to submit this Decision to the next PCC.III meeting, and to inform the meeting that PCC.I will start working on the issues related to the management of IMSI in the Americas.

VI. LIST OF BASIC DOCUMENT

Summary Minutes of the First Plenary Session, PCC.I-450/97rev.1
Summary Minutes of the Second Plenary Session, PCC.I-491/97
List of Documents, PCC.I-406T/97 rev. 3
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Report of the Working Group on Network Modernization and and New Services, PCC.I-483/97
Report of the Working Group on Basic and Universal Telecommunications Services, PCC.I-490/97