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# **AM-RDC/92 FOLLOW-UP MEETING**

**MONTEVIDEO ( URUGUAY )**

**25 - 26 September 1992**

## **FINAL REPORT**



**INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION**

## MINUTES OF THE BDT WORKING MEETING

The meeting, held on 25 and 26 September 1992, was attended by Mr. Domenico Stagliano and Mr. Juan Zavattiero of the ITU, the focal points for Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Uruguay and the United States of America, and by Mr. Rafael Alé representing AHCET.

Mr. Luis Peluffo representing Uruguay was elected Chairman. An evaluation of the follow-up work for implementing the Resolutions of the Acapulco Declaration produced the following results:

**Resolution AM-RDC/92 No. 1: "Regional mechanism for telecommunication policy"**

It was agreed to hold a round table on telecommunication policy within the framework of the third meeting of PTC I, to be held at Tegucigalpa (Honduras). Both the ITU and the OAS should encourage participation in the round table not only among service providing agencies but, above all, by the governmental authorities of the different countries, drawn from the executive, legislative and judicial areas so as to ensure that the political decision-making levels are alerted to the need for adequate regulatory measures.

Each country represented at the meeting is to be set a task with a view to preparing a "Blue Book" on telecommunication policies. A working group was set up, comprising Brazil, Chile, Honduras and the United States, to draft the topics to be discussed both at the round table and in the "Blue Book". The topics themselves are listed in the Annex, together with the work schedule. The "Blue Book" will be submitted to Governments through the OAS General Secretariat for broad dissemination.

**Resolution AM-RDC/92 No. 2: "BDT regional telecommunications programme for rural areas and low-income strata"**

A working group comprising Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Honduras and Mexico was set up to draft a joint ITU/BDT-CITEL work plan for establishing the regional programme (see Annex).

The ITU was informed of the work done by CITEL PTC I to follow up the Resolution, e.g. the establishment of the Working Group on Rural Telecommunications and the preparation of a work plan on the subject.

In connection with training, AHCET is supporting the holding of a seminar on new technologies applied to rural telecommunications, to be held at San Pedro Sula (Honduras) from 26 to 28 October.

**Resolution AM-RDC/92 No. 3: "BDT Working Group on Telecommunications Development Indicators"**

This group held its first meeting in Brasilia (Brazil) from 22 to 24 September 1992 to start work on implementing the Resolution. Given the importance of the subject, emphasis was placed on the need for the countries of the Region to collaborate with the Working Group.

**Resolution AM-RDC/92 No. 4: "Monitoring, evaluation and progress review (follow-up)"**

This Resolution is being broadly implemented.

**Resoution AM-RDC/92 No. 5:            "BDT Regional Programme for the Caribbean Sub region"**

Since the meetings of CITEL and the CTU were scheduled for the same dates, it was decided to hold a special meeting of focal points at Port of Spain (Trinidad and Tobago) for the Caribbean countries.

The Resolution is to be dealt with at the next meeting of focal points, which it is hoped will also be attended by the countries of the Caribbean.

**Resolution AM-RDC/92 No. 6:            "Creation of a favourable investment climate"**

It was decided that the round table referred to in connection with Resolution AM-RDC/92 No. 1 should also include all the topics mentioned in this Resolution as being necessary for creating a favourable investment climate. A number of financing agencies should be invited to participate in the round table.

**Resolution AM-RDC/92 No. 7:            "Utilization of the radioelectric spectrum for mobile services and broadcasting"**

Through its PTCs II and III, CITEL is broadly considering the content of the Resolution and, as part of the follow-up, the ITU is conducting a cycle of frequency management seminars like the one to be held in Trinidad and Tobago from 16 to 30 October 1992.

**Resolution AM-RDC/92 No. 8:            "Harmonization of telecommunication systems of the Americas"**

Since the OAS adopted this Resolution in June 1992, CITEL PTC I is developing specific work plans for dealing with it through the Network Modernization Group.

**Resolution AM-RDC/92 No. 9:            "Interconnection of existing and future telecommunication networks in Region 2"**

In this connection the Chairman of PTC I spoke of the work being done through the Ad hoc Working Group: PTC I-T1 (United States) has been discussing specific topics such as wireless communications, Signalling System No. 7 and the ISDN. An appeal was made for all countries to collaborate more actively in the Group's work and it was announced that there will be changes in its procedures to draw in the Latin American private sector and international agencies engaged in standardization work. Brazil and Mexico outlined the positive results achieved by their countries for harmonizing standards with the active participation of the private sector.

The ITU proposed that seminars should be held on specific aspects of standardization, and undertook to provide experts.

**Resolution AM-RDC No. 10:            "Human resource strategic planning"**

A number of countries of the Region were reported to be working on computer-based training and distance learning. Brazil made an offer to the other countries of technical advice for developing human resource strategic planning projects, inviting them to courses and to participate in the seminar on advanced instructional planning, to be held in Brasilia on 21 and 22 October 1992.

Since both CITEL and AHCIET have prepared separate forms for collecting data for the "White Book" Project, it was suggested that the AHCIET experts, who are already starting their compilation missions, should add the CITEL form to their own.

CITEL and AHCiET coordinated their procedures for analysing and processing the data.

AHCiET announced that a training forum was to be held at Santa Cruz de la Sierra (Bolivia) from 26 to 28 October 1992; under a decision taken by the Plenary meeting, the forum is to provide the framework for a coordination meeting between the AHCiET-CITEL Working Groups to work out a series of recommendations on training in the Region. The ITU/BDT, CITEL and all other interested agencies were invited to attend that meeting.

It was stressed in Plenary that all training initiatives should take into account the impact of the dynamic growth in telecommunications on the human resource sector.

The meeting noted the multiple tasks being performed by the ITU for implementing the Resolution, particularly in the fields of computer-based training and distance learning.

**ANNEXO 1 / ANNEX 1**

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## ANNEX 2

### TOPICS

#### "BLUE BOOK"

#### CITEL/UIT

1. Basic instrument for national telecommunications (legislation).  
Possible characteristics of a telecommunications legislation.  
Sector structure  
Regulatory body
2. Competition versus monopoly.  
Natural monopoly.  
Facilities based competition.  
Competition utilizing monopoly facilities.  
Barriers to entry
3. Liberalization and Privatization.  
National ownership criteria
4. Regulation and Deregulation.  
Reasons for regulating.  
Protection of the users.  
Price and Tariff policies
5. Administrative Procedures.
  - need for the stability of rules.
  - public participation in the rule-making process
  - importance to attract private investment.
  - strong and independent regulatory organ.
6. The role of the Legislative and Judiciary
  - a flexible law to accommodate advances in technology and services.

- procedures for appeals regarding the application of the law.

7. Methods of granting licenses

- comparative method.
- lottery.
- auction

Administrative burden and the selection of the best.

8. The Public/Social interest and standards for its application.

9. Prerequisites for the private sector entry in telecommunications

- stability of rules.
- independent regulatory organ.
- opportunities for private sector participation on rule-making.
- possibilities of judicial review

10. Policy matters regarding mass media services.

ownership.

freedom of expression.

consequences of the finite spectrum availability.

11. Experience in CITELE countries (Regulation, Deregulation, Liberalization and Privatization)

12. Other topics.

ING - TELECOMMUNICATIONS POLICIES  
SCHEDULE

1. Experts prepare a first draft of the "Blue Book" (march /93).
2. Round table in Honduras (PTC-I). Presentation of the experience of countries in telecommunication policies and discussion of the draft "Blue Book" (May /93).
3. Revision of the "Blue Book", incorporating the results of the Round Table (September /93).
4. Adoption of the final text of the "Blue Book"-"Possible Telecommunications Policies" CITEL/ITU and its presentation in a Round Table (November /93).

### ANNEX 3

#### **PROPOSAL ON BDT/PTC.I COORDINATION FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A REGIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS PROGRAM FOR RURAL AREAS AND LOW INCOME STRATA**

##### **CONSIDERING:**

Resolution AM-RDC/92 N° 2, adopted by the American Regional Telecommunications Development Conference held in Acapulco, which in its "resolves" 1° requests the BDT to establish within nine months a Regional Telecommunications Program for Rural Areas and Low Income Strata, with the cooperation of regional and sub-regional governmental telecommunications organizations.

Resolution COM/CITEL Res. 144 (XXV-92), adopted at the XXV Meeting of the Permanent Executive Committee of CITEL, COM/CITEL, which in its "resolves" 1° entrusted PTC:I with the implementation of Resolution AM-RDC/92 N° 2.

Resolution PTC.I/Res.3 (I-92) adopted at the First Meeting of PTC.I held in San Pedro Sula, Honduras, in June, 1992, on the establishment of a working group on Rural Communications, including in its Action Plan the following topics:

- a) General aspects of the status of rural telecommunication in the region.
  - Present situation of rural telecommunications.
  - Study of specific cases.
  - Future Development of Programs.
- b) Technical aspects.
  - Existing Network Infrastructure.
  - Compatibility of the Infrastructure.
  - Identification of appropriate technologies.
- c) Economic Considerations
  - Identification of financial sources.
  - Feasibility studies.
  - Cost-Benefit Study.
- d) Relation with BDT in the development of the regional telecommunications program for rural areas.

**PROPOSES:**

1. That, in order to comply with Resolution AM-RDC/92 N° 2, BDT should coordinate with PTC.I, and particularly with the Working Group on Rural Communications, the establishment of a Regional Telecommunications Program for Rural Areas and Low Income Strata, based on the action plan contained in Resolution PTC.I/Res.3(I-92), and on the resolutions to be adopted at the Second Meeting of PTC.I in Montevideo, Uruguay, in September, 1992.
2. That the advisor to be engaged by BDT for supporting the preparation and development of the program should carry out his functions along the guidelines jointly established by BDT and CITEL through PTC.I.
3. That the above mentioned working program should be submitted for its consideration at the Third Meeting of PTC.I to be held in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, in May, 1993.