



*American Model United Nations*  
**International Telecommunication Union**

ITU/I/5

SUBJECT OF RESOLUTION: Telecommunication/information and communication technology accessibility for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs

SUBMITTED TO: The International Telecommunication Union

*The International Telecommunication Union,*

1 *Taking into account* the measures established by the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities  
2 (CRPD),

3 *Recognizing* the importance of aiding persons with disabilities and specific needs,

4 *Recognizing* the importance of increasing the ability of persons with disabilities to participate in the economy  
5 of their respective Member States,

6 *Affirming* the work of Member States that have already been working to improve quality of life for their  
7 citizens with disabilities or specific needs through the implementation of assistive technology,

8 *Welcoming* the innovation of private corporations worldwide that have improved the lives of those with  
9 disabilities and specific needs by creating assistive technologies,

10 *Understanding* the complex state of relations between the United Nations and its Member States with  
11 international corporations and the need for formal relationships to be established to bridge the gaps between them,

12 1. *Urges* Member States to adopt regulations that improve access to information and communication tech-  
13 nologies (ICTs) for individuals living with disabilities that should consist of, but not to be limited to:

14 (a) Requiring manufacturers of information and communication equipment to ensure that their  
15 equipment is fully accessible and usable by persons with disabilities whenever possible, which includes accessibility  
16 measures such as;

17 (i) An installed narrator program with the capacity to narrate text in all nationally recognized  
18 languages;

19 (ii) An installed magnifier and high contrast display option to aid those with visual impairments;

20 (iii) Closed captioning features;

21 2. *Recommends* that Member States improve access to broadband networks through:

22 (a) The subsidization of broadband infrastructure projects, which should;

23 (i) focus on rural areas which are especially vulnerable to lacking broadband access;

24 (ii) Consist of subsidies to private organizations that are participating and expanding broadband  
25 infrastructure and should consist of complete government funding of projects if possible when no  
26 incentive for private organizations to expand broadband infrastructure in areas with this need exists;

27 (iii) Include the lowering of tariffs on imported network-related equipment to further remove barriers  
28 to private organizations expanding broadband networks;

29 (iv) Include the funding of requisite infrastructure, such as electrical power grids;

30 (b) The creation of a publicly owned and operated broadband network that will;

31 (i) Provide high-speed broadband access to government offices, libraries and other publicly operated  
32 institutions, which are frequently visited, so that these institutions can act as designated electronic  
33 access centers by providing free or affordable access to broadband networks;

- 34 (ii) Provide public access Wi-Fi networks;
- 35 (iii) In its construction, employ an open contracting process that will improve competition and make
- 36 the allocation of funds for network construction more cost-effective and efficient;

37 3. *Encourages* Member States to adopt policies that incentivize private corporations to increase research,

38 development and implementation of accessibility technologies, particularly in the areas of:

39 (a) Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology on the Internet of Things (IoT), such as but

40 not limited to;

- 41 (i) Smart home technology;
- 42 (ii) Solutions for persons with visual impairments, such as body, micro and nano sensors;
- 43 (iii) Solutions for persons with physical impairments, such as body sensors and actuators, neurochips
- 44 and exoskeletal technology;

45 (b) Internet accessibility measures for the websites of corporations, such as but not limited to;

- 46 (i) Image descriptions and alternative tags for persons with screen readers;
- 47 (ii) Increased clickable ranges;
- 48 (iii) Accessibility guides for the measures taken on those websites;

49 4. *Establishes* a council composed of experts in the field of assistive technology appointed by the Inter-

50 national Telecommunication Union (ITU), overseen by the ITU, that fosters formal relationships between private

51 companies and the United Nations to expedite the process of implementing current and future technologies that

52 provide accessibility to persons with disabilities or specific needs by:

53 (a) Expediting the process of implementing current and future technologies that provide accessibility

54 to persons with disabilities or specific needs;

55 (b) Increasing the efficacy of information sharing between the global private sector and the United

56 Nations, allowing for more efficient policy formation;

57 (c) Creating a framework to allow for optional development of technology and energy infrastructure

58 in developing Member States by United Nations partnered and approved private companies to be determined by the

59 council, with approval based on;

60 (i) Their current investment in assistive technologies;

61 (ii) Their current investment in the development of accessible broadband networks;

62 5. *Encourages* Member States to recognize and assist in the relationships formed by the council and assist

63 in the implementation of technologies developed through these relationships;

64 6. *Recommends* the establishment of a formal accessibility rating index for private organizations that will:

65 (a) Act as a centralized body under the control of the ITU;

66 (b) Rate corporations according to their commitment to ensuring their services and technologies are

67 accessible to persons with disabilities and specific needs by considering factors, such as but not limited to;

68 (i) Their current investment in assistive technologies;

69 (ii) Their current investment in the development of accessible broadband networks.

Passed by consensus, with 3 abstentions