



American Model United Nations
International Telecommunication Union

ITU/I/1

SUBJECT OF RESOLUTION: Facilitating digital inclusion initiatives for indigenous peoples

SUBMITTED TO: The International Telecommunication Union

The International Telecommunication Union,

1 *Noting* that, according to the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), there are more than 476 million
2 indigenous people around the world, spread across 90 countries and representing 5,000 different cultures,

3 *Emphasizing* that participating parties have previously established the United Nations Declaration on the
4 Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP),

5 *Acknowledging* the uneven distribution of indigenous populations between States,

6 *Understanding* that indigenous communities are notoriously left behind in telecommunication advancement,

7 *Recognizing* that a key landscape for initiatives on infrastructural development can be found in rural com-
8 munities throughout various nations, and the place of the ITU's Radio communications sector is essential,

9 *Recalling* previous content passed by the ITU at the World Telecommunication Development Conference
10 (WTDC) in Istanbul, 2002 and the ITU's Plenipotentiary Conference in Guadalajara, 2010, the goals of which were
11 to assist indigenous people in information and communication technology and to facilitate digital inclusion initiatives,

12 *Focusing* on the countries' needs for the basic development of several key items of built infrastructure as
13 a base for future development of telecommunication technologies, as discussed in the United Nations' Sustainable
14 Development Goals (SDG) for 2030 (DESA 2023),

15 *Recognizing*, on this point, specific goals of note to be SDG7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), 9 (Industry,
16 Innovation and Infrastructure), 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), and 12 (Responsible Consumption and
17 Production), that collectively establish a dedication to mindful development under this resolution's intentions for
18 infrastructure, such as renewable energy sources and recycled materials sourcing for the construction of radio towers,
19 power lines and banks,

20 *Considering* the pervasive issue of language accessibility at the crossroads of indigenous populations' concern
21 in developing educational infrastructure through the introduction of ITU Development sector training programs, as
22 these issues become relevant in the face of built infrastructure's introduction to communities,

23 1. *Declares* that the expansion and development of infrastructure for the pursuit of information and com-
24 munication technologies is a critical aspect to facilitate increased access for indigenous populations:

25 (a) Ensuring the autonomy of indigenous populations is maintained while recognizing the potential
26 cultural significance of remaining isolated from the development of Information and Communications Technology;

27 (b) Calling upon the ITU agency to send a communication liaison directly to indigenous groups to
28 discuss their desire for involvement before beginning any active changes in that community's territory;

29 (c) Requesting the ITU's Secretariat agency enact these aforementioned values in agency activities;

30 2. *Calls* for the Secretariat of the ITU to work towards the prioritized and timely investment in basic
31 infrastructure, such as power lines, fiber-optic cables, cell towers, data centers, server centers, and satellites:

32 (a) Reminds participating parties of their responsibilities for making these developments sustainable
33 under the purview of the aforementioned United Nations Sustainable Development goals for 2030;

34 (b) Encourages a goal for countries in this environment to reach widespread broadband internet
35 access for all residents, with an emphasis on indigenous communities' inclusion, by 2033;

36 (c) Further recommends the integration of local indigenous communities during construction of
37 aforementioned infrastructures by drawing upon the available manpower of local populations as contractors, as well
38 as the ICU agency opting to purchase local resources for construction when available;

39 (d) Considers it desirable that ITU representatives not leave the new infrastructure until a group
40 from the local community is trained and educated on the construction and technological innovation necessary to
41 facilitate and maintain the infrastructures procedures independently;

42 3. *Urges* participating parties to specifically invest in creating digital literacy initiatives through the ITU
43 secretariat directed towards providing better access to educational materials and resources for indigenous populations
44 on the development of telecommunication systems:

45 (a) Expresses hope that, as participating parties craft these infrastructural education initiatives,
46 they prioritize beginning research towards the inclusion of a myriad of languages in telecommunications systems,
47 whether that be general minority languages or those of indigenous populations;

48 (b) Encourages the ITU Development sector to create and enact educational initiatives based on
49 ITU Standardization research to promote the knowledgeable use of technology and access to the internet, while
50 strengthening indigenous participation in digital spaces;

51 (c) Urges members to prioritize access to technology in education sectors throughout these initiative
52 processes, as protection of indigenous peoples and their understanding of new infrastructure is a deep value to the
53 ITU and the United Nations;

54 4. *Invites* the voluntary combined collaboration between the public and private sectors in conjunction with
55 Intergovernmental Organizations (IGOs) and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) for the purpose of organizing
56 and facilitating community involvement, especially as it pertains to indigenous populations, when willing, all and all
57 working towards the development of telecommunications in developing participating parties.

Passed by consensus, with 0 abstentions