



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

ITU/II/1

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 *Reaffirming* the principles and objectives of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with  
2 Disabilities, which recognizes the rights of persons with disabilities, including the right to access information and  
3 communication on an equal basis with others,

4 *Acknowledging* the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and its Inter-Agency  
5 Standing Committee guidelines on the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action,

6 *Keeping in mind* the fundamental human right of persons with disabilities to access information and com-  
7 munication technologies, as enshrined in Article 6 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

8 *Acknowledging* the third edition of the Accessible Europe Forum in 2021 during its Presidency of the Council  
9 of the European Union, which is a component of the International Telecommunication Union's (ITU) regional initia-  
10 tive for Europe, where it focused on how crucial it is for stakeholders to work together to improve Information and  
11 Communication Technologies (ICT) accessibility and remove obstacles for people with disabilities and other special  
12 needs groups,

13 *Recognizing* the importance of fostering inclusivity in telecommunications to ensure that persons with dis-  
14 abilities have equal opportunities to access medical benefits, engage in entrepreneurship, and participate in leadership  
15 opportunities,

16 *Understanding* that providing job opportunities for persons with disabilities, including those who require  
17 medical prosthetics, contributes not only to their economic empowerment but also fosters a more inclusive and diverse  
18 workforce, benefiting society as a whole,

19 *Emphasizing* the interconnectedness between health and employment, understanding the need for medical  
20 prosthetics facilitates to improve health outcomes, subsequently enhancing an individual's ability to participate in  
21 the workforce and contribute meaningfully to society,

22 *Emphasizing* the intersectionality of disability and employment, recognizing that supporting job opportuni-  
23 ties for persons with disabilities, including those utilizing medical prosthetics, requires comprehensive strategies that  
24 address both physical and societal barriers,

25 *Recognizing* the efforts of companies, like Global Disability Innovation (GDI) Hub's Innovate Now, in funding  
26 local technology start-ups aimed at bettering assistive technology and increasing accessibility of said technology,

27 1. *Endorses* investment in the digital economy working with the public and private sector in order to  
28 encourage social entrepreneurship and accessibility in education, job opportunities, and health:

29 (a) Strives to create more opportunities for individuals with mobility issues by creating remote jobs  
30 through the digital economy, expanding the use of telehealth, and increase access to education since computer usage  
31 allows for further assistive technologies to be used;

32 (i) Fostering economic independence and inclusion in the business sector;

33 (ii) Encourages governments and private sectors to establish programs that provide financial support,  
34 training, and mentorship specifically tailored to persons with disabilities seeking to start or expand  
35 their entrepreneurial ventures;

36 (iii) Urges businesses and governments to adopt inclusive employment practices, ensuring that per-  
37 sons with disabilities have equal opportunities for leadership roles within organizations and en-  
38 trepreneurship;

39 (iv) Urges Member States to enact and enforce legal protections that prevent discrimination against  
40 persons with disabilities in telecommunication services, employment, and entrepreneurial activities;

41 (v) Once again collaborating alongside various public and private industries, similar to that of the  
42 British Emergency Action in Russia and the Republics (BEARR) Trust that works to build the  
43 economy as well as the healthcare industry and the Association of People with Disability who have  
44 experience with collaboration across sectors and advocacy for disabled persons;

45 2. *Encourages* educational institutions to integrate telecommunication technology training into curricula,  
46 ensuring that persons with disabilities have the skills necessary to leverage technology for medical benefits, en-  
47 trepreneurship, and leadership opportunities:

48 (a) *Calls* for the establishment of public-private partnerships to encourage investment in research  
49 and development of innovative technologies that enhance telecommunication accessibility for persons with disabilities;

50 (b) *Further requests* the ITU agency to invest in the research and development of accessible telecom-  
51 munication technologies for persons with disabilities;

52 (c) *Endorses* member states to provide technological resources to persons with disabilities in primary  
53 school to effectively educate and assist integration into society;

54 3. *Urges* Member States to develop initiatives to increase healthcare accessibility, including:

55 (a) Implementation of telehealth programs that provide persons with disabilities access to medical  
56 consultations, therapy, and health-related information, ensuring their well-being and reducing barriers to healthcare;

57 (b) The development and promotion of accessible communication platforms and tools that facilitate  
58 effective participation in professional and entrepreneurial activities for persons with disabilities;

59 (c) Providing medical prosthetics facilitates improved health outcomes, subsequently enhancing an  
60 individual's ability to participate in the workforce;

61 4. *Recommends* that all states work with international organizations through the aforementioned digital  
62 economy to create private sector incentives to support research, development, and innovation in accessible telecom-  
63 munication and ICT solutions, with a focus on affordability and availability to all by:

64 (a) Requesting the creation of applications where the accessibility of local public transportation can  
65 be reported to;

66 (i) Local, as well as regional, governments to ensure that inclusion systems are consistent across a  
67 larger geographic region;

68 (ii) Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO);

69 (b) Recommends working alongside businesses within individual member states to ensure that ac-  
70 cessible technology can be accessed within an individual country by;

71 (i) Promoting local development of accessible technology at an affordable cost;

72 (ii) Providing tax incentives to businesses who work alongside local governments;

73 (iii) Calls upon states to establish and strengthen mechanisms for monitoring and enforcement of  
74 accessibility standards, including periodic audits of telecommunication and ICT services, to ensure  
75 compliance and to address accessibility barriers effectively;

76 5. *Suggests* the use of electronic waste recycling, especially in Member States with the means to do so, and  
77 refurbishment to further increase the affordability of ICT technology:

78 (a) Utilizing pre-existing electronic waste programs and noting the large amounts of electronic waste  
79 currently residing in many developing nations;

80 (b) Striving to redistribute/refurbish all functioning electronics that have been recycled or thrown  
81 away;

82 (c) Distributing these ICTsto individuals within states on the basis of need, with regions having  
83 been recognized as severely lacking in ICTs being prioritized first;

84 (d) Making use of the provisions of technical rehabilitation devices previously established by the  
85 ITU to help disabled persons better utilize ICTs and assistive technologies;

86 6. *Encourages* international collaboration to encourage the sharing of resources:

87 (a) Acknowledging the importance of trade as many nations import over 90 percent of their ICTs;

88 (b) Identifying the necessity of some nations for increased electronic waste resources;

89 7. *Requests* that Member States work through existing programs, like United Nations Educational, Scientific  
90 and Cultural Organization’s (UNESCO) ICT program, to fight social exclusion and build capacities for inclusive  
91 technology and accessible content:

92 (a) Through adding auditory and visual aids to information;

93 (b) Allowing for varying standards based on a state’s capabilities;

94 (i) Secures state sovereignty online;

95 (ii) Recognizes that each member state has different infrastructure and capabilities in the techno-  
96 logical sphere;

97 (c) Working in efforts to combat the societal inclusivity of persons with disabilities through accessible  
98 fronts;

99 (i) Recommends domestic policy to help combat hate speech on all fronts;

100 8. *Urges* Member States to work with organizations like GDI Hub’s Innovate Now, to boost technology  
101 sectors on global and local scales, by:

102 (a) Integrating universal design concepts into the creation of digital content, software, and hardware;

103 (b) Facilitating the interaction and access of people with disabilities to digital content through;

104 (i) Voice recognition software;

105 (ii) Braille displays;

106 (iii) Descriptive and resizable text options;

107 (iv) Screen readers;

108 (v) Closed captions;

109 (vi) Sign language interpreters;

110 9. *Urges* Member States to tailor accessibility solutions to fit the infrastructural and architectural needs of  
111 each individual country:

112 (a) Recognizes that developed countries will require amendments to current infrastructural and  
113 architectural codes to increase accessibility, as well as new conceptions of infrastructural and architectural code so  
114 as to implement accessibility.

Passed by consensus, with 1 abstentions