American Model United Nations
International Telecommunication Union

ITU/II/2

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 *Recalling* the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy, released by the United Nations Secretary-General
2 in 2019, a high-level approach designed to increase the inclusion of persons with disabilities and special needs in
3 decision-making processes,

4 *Noting* the 2021 report from the United Nation Secretary-General regarding disability inclusion in the United
5 Nations systems, which includes a variety of strategies to increase the implementation of this technology at a state
6 level and measure their effectiveness,

7 *Reaffirming* the 2020 Roadmap for Digital Cooperation as it provides goals for increasing equity and access
8 in the digital world, with individuals with disabilities or special needs being a priority area,

9 *Reminding* nations of Resolution 175 mandating that the ITU improves information and communication
10 technology accessibility, including for persons with disabilities or special needs,

11 *Cognizant* that access to a digital life is a human right for all individuals, regardless of developmental level
12 and ability, and the benefits of providing assistive technology for this population in the areas of healthcare, education,
13 and the inclusion of these individuals in systemic or individual personal autonomy,

14 *Stressing* the continued negative effect on health and economic outcomes on persons with disabilities and
15 special needs, which were exacerbated during the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, for individuals
16 of this population who lacked access to assistive communication technology,

17 *Emphasizing* the inclusion of individuals with disabilities in 11 out of 17 of the 2030 Sustainable Developmen-
18 tal Goals, mainly focusing on factors that assistive and communication technology would have positive implications
19 for, such as education and employment,

20 *Deeply concerned* about the potential impact of incompatible telecommunication infrastructures and systems
21 between states in terms of medical care of persons with disabilities and persons with specialized needs,

22   1. *Urges* nations that have already taken steps toward the inclusion of individuals with disabilities or specific
23 needs to further advocate for these individuals:

24   (a) Inviting countries that have advanced on this issue to share beneficial information with those
25 that wish to extend their work on individuals with disabilities;

26   2. *Requests* the United Nations and individual Member States conduct research to understand the tech-
27 nological needs of citizens with disabilities, providing attention to income, physical and cognitive impairments, and
28 language preferences:

29   (a) Supports this initiative by offering information and procedures for countries to use as reference
30 when conducting research and surveys;

31   (b) Calls upon the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Secretariat to hold opportunities
32 for informative and open discussions between national leaders and individuals of populations of disabled people to
33 gain a better understanding of the needs, challenges, and opportunities of this initiative;

34   3. *Stresses* the need to increase the ITU's abilities to provide the detailed and comprehensive information
35 required to implement and improve technological accommodations for individuals with disabilities and special needs
36 to international leaders:

37   (a) Including the funding conditions, the functionality of various pieces of this technology, and the
38 forms of education that will be needed to support the successful implementation of these technologies;

39   (b) Encouraging increased accessibility to society through the development and distribution of in-
40 formation and communication aids;

41 4. *Emphasizes* the opportunity for members to work with leaders and advocates to locate applicable areas
42 of their budgets where this funding can be supported, such as education, healthcare, and public welfare:

43   (a) Integrating the promotion of digital education and skill training for children with disabilities to
44 help them increase social accessibility;

45 5. *Calls* for collaboration amongst Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) and member states, to establish
46 infrastructure to help provide disadvantaged countries with the means to produce and distribute resources to assist
47 their populations with disabilities:

48   (a) Allowing voluntary oversight within states and to allow for direct response to their populations;

49   (b) Encouraging the sharing of knowledge of systems and structures, while also keeping in mind
50 physical infrastructure;

51   (c) Respecting the unique circumstances and abilities of each state while making sure substantive
52 issues are addressed;

53 6. *Supports* the inclusion of states with fewer resources in discussions regarding accommodations for people
54 with disabilities and initiating equitable programs;

55 7. *Calls* for states to create initiatives and to expand on current initiatives in their national leadership to
56 lead in these measures and hold institutions accountable for implementing them;

57 8. *Expecting* that collaborative work among these states can occur while addressing this issue to ensure that
58 states at varying levels of development and holding differing perspectives are able to reach goals in a manageable
59 and respectful manner;

60 9. *Recommends* the implementation of a standardized infrastructure and software infrastructure between
61 national public medical institutions to ensure care can be maintained for persons with disabilities and persons with
62 specific needs.

Passed by consensus, with 0 abstentions