



American Model United Nations
International Telecommunication Union

ITU/II/3

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 Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social,
2 and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and all other relevant international
3 human rights instruments,

4 *Further reaffirming* the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which was adopted on 13
5 December 2006,

6 *Recalling* its resolutions 77/240 of 16 December 2022, 76/154 of 16 December 2021, and its previous relevant
7 resolutions, and relevant resolutions of the Human Rights Council and of the Economic and Social Council and its
8 functional commissions,

9 *Noting with appreciation* the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy,

10 *Emphasizing* the responsibility of this body to address persons with disabilities and their needs,

11 *Expressing concern* that persons with disabilities have equal access to telecommunication for receiving emer-
12 gency alerts, community announcements, and news coverage of current events,

13 *Recognizing* the importance that persons with disabilities have equal access to telecommunication for contact-
14 ing friends and family, as interpersonal relationships are a vital component of socialization and community-building,

15 *Reaffirming* that persons with disabilities, their families, educators, and medical professionals should always
16 be consulted regarding the implementation of accommodations and changes in the functionality of telecommunication,

17 *Recognizing* further that there is no singular interpretation of the definition of communication, and that it
18 can fall within any number of formats depending on the specific needs,

19 *Highlighting* the demand for universal standards of technology and communication provided to persons with
20 disabilities and the importance of facilitating a more equitable stream of information being exchanged, particularly
21 for a vulnerable community,

22 1. *Urges* all Member States to enforce existing resolutions and agreements that:

23 (a) Adapt government infrastructure and resources such as websites, phone lines, and other public
24 services to offer accommodating versions and forms, specifically those that can be read and completed equitably for
25 persons with disabilities that affect their sight, hearing, or any additional sensory or motor functions;

26 (b) Provide communication devices in public transit systems and roadways that can be utilized by
27 persons with disabilities, particularly those used for navigational and directional purposes;

28 (c) Assist programs in public education systems, specifically provide accommodations for students
29 with disabilities or train educators to assist those students;

30 2. *Requests* the General Secretariat of the International Telecommunication Union to create an International
31 Telecommunication Accommodation Fund through their general budget which will provide grants through an appli-
32 cation process to qualifying countries and purposes; upon receiving applications this process would be conducted by
33 and voted upon by Members of the International Telecommunication Union taking into account factors such as cost,
34 need, and other contexts; the grants may be dispersed to national or local governments by the recipient member;
35 these grants may be utilized for the purpose of funding:

(a) Website design and development pertaining to the alternate formats of government websites, forms, and phone lines, specifically for those constructed for the purpose of users with various disabilities;

(i) This can include but not be limited to audible narration, closed captioning, alternative color schemes, alternative text captioning, alternative navigational capabilities, and communication by video conferencing;

(b) Transportation and civil infrastructure relating to telecommunication, including publicly funded transit and roadways, specifically with the purpose of making public mobility more accessible for persons with disabilities; this can include but is not limited to;

(i) Intercom systems;

(ii) Electronic lights and other forms of digital communication devices;

(iii) Websites and mobile applications used for purchasing and navigating public transit;

(iv) Staff trained specifically to assist persons with disabilities;

(c) Accommodations within a public school system, specifically with the purpose of assisting students with disabilities to receive equitable resources for participating and comprehending education curriculums and materials; this can include and not be limited to;

(i) Alternative classroom environments for online testing and projects in;

(ii) Alternative coursework and methods of evaluation;

(iii) Educators trained specifically to assist students with disabilities on how to use accommodating telecommunication devices;

(iv) Providing specific learning tools and infrastructure targeted toward alleviating any disadvantages of having a disability;

3. *Decides* to create an accountability system within the purview of the International Telecommunication Union, specifically by requesting financial documents and evidence of implementation from appropriate members of both bodies regarding grants provided by the International Telecommunication Accommodation Fund;

4. *Requests* the ITU Secretariat to review the usage of funding that has been designated by the International Telecommunication Accommodation Fund:

(a) If misuse of funds is found, we recommend the ITU Secretariat submit a report to the appropriate United Nations body, so that they may respond to set United Nations standards on the misuse of said funding appropriately;

5. *Reminds* all Member States of their responsibility under the United Nations Charter to comply with the Declaration on the Rights of Disabled Persons and all other United Nations resolutions relevant to this matter.

Passed by consensus, with 1 abstentions