



Closing the Technology Gap to Help Eradicate Poverty

The International Telecommunication Union,

Taking into account the previous resolutions submitted by the UN regarding the technology gap;

Fully recognizing that there is an existence of a technology gap;

Convinced that that the issue of digitalization is crucial to the developing world and the world as a whole;

Believing that the benefits of digitalisation outweigh its risks;

Deeply convinced that digitalization will contribute to globalization;

Holding that digitalization is a key aid in enforcing human rights;

Noticing that digitalization can provide a significant positive influence on combatting climate change;

Recognizing that an opening of markets via internet can have positive effects on all countries;

Understanding the technological disadvantages that many LEDCs face throughout history;

Acknowledging that the dynamic nature of communication technologies has to be actively tracked and has to react in accord;

Highlighting the major potential of new technology to combat poverty, re-enforce democracies, and open society as a whole;

1. *Affirms* that technological progress must occur through the collaboration of entities such as, but not limited to:
 - a. Governments,
 - b. Businesses,
 - c. Universities,
 - d. Research Institutes,
 - e. Civil society;
2. *Further proclaims* that universities and research institutes in MEDCs are responsible for the transfer of expertise to LEDCs through means such as, but not limited to:
 - a. Internships,
 - b. Exchange programs,
 - c. Research projects in the LEDCs,
 - d. Collaboration with partner universities and schools,
 - e. Apprenticeships for general public,
 - f. Digital literacy programs which reach:
 - i. those with immigrant background,

- ii. senior citizens,
 - iii. and low-income groups;
3. *Calls* for the funding of these measures to come from the creation of joint ventures in LEDCs, with the aim of:
 - a. Increasing financial gains for MEDCs and LEDCs,
 - b. Long-term development of local expertise,
 - c. Long-term development of local ICT infrastructure;
4. *Requests* all governments to encourage the establishment of favourable conditions for joint ventures to thrive, through collaboration and harmonization of legal documents;
5. *Requires* any joint ventures to pay its workers in LEDCs fairly and sufficiently, taking into account the domestic living wage;
6. *Ensures* the recipient states to maintain their sovereignty and the ultimate decision right over the choices and processes of the technology transfer and investment. For example, the duration and budget should be specified in advance and transparency should be maintained in all processes;
7. *Guarantees* fair competitive and transparent bidding processes for the donor entities to enter the recipient states' economic system in order to avoid the formation of a monopoly of the donor in the recipient market;
8. *Recommends* the establishment of an international body which:
 - a. Collaborates with governments to harmonize laws on:
 - i. Cartel laws,
 - ii. Consumer protection,
 - iii. Custom duties,
 - iv. Fair competition,
 - b. Performs annual evaluations of the aforementioned laws,
 - c. Proposes specific measures to improve levels of protection;
9. *Calls* for international decentralized pooling of telecommunications vendors and consumers to encourage competition, avoid surging monopolies and improve service level which:
 - a. Is in agreement with clause 9,
 - b. Lowers operating cost by equipment pooling,
 - c. Will improve global IT infrastructure;
10. *Supports* NGOs which make use of second hand digital devices to provide them to low income communities providing a functional recycling system at the end of the lifecycle of the device;
11. *Proclaims* the proposal to set up a wider circuit of internet and telephone communication reaching to all inhabited parts of all countries;
12. *Urges* developed countries with financial ability to support this proposal by investing in developing countries for them to have the possibility to undergo this project:
 - a. Countries will provide help at their discretion in the form of, manpower, infrastructure, human resources etc. and limited financial support;

13. *Emphasizes* that the new internet and phone lines would not disrupt natural ecosystems or tribes but be in harmony with them:
 - a. This will be done through measures that include, but are not limited to, the ones stated in the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (informally called the Espoo Convention);
 14. *Deeply* conscious of the complexity of implementing infrastructure in countries undergoing war, instability, conflict or any economic, political, humanitarian crisis:
 - a. A separate procedure will be implemented for these countries,
 - b. A summit of the UNHCR will join and it will be handled on a case to case basis;
 15. *Resolves* to remain actively seized on the matter;
 16. *Guarantees* the recipient and vendor states a periodic review process of the projects;
 17. *Encourages* the formation of a special ITU summit in 2025 to evaluate the progress made on this programme.
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