



ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES
Inter-American Telecommunication Commission

**VIII MEETING OF THE PERMANENT
CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE I:
PUBLIC TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICES
29 June – 3 July 1998
Cartagena de Indias, Colombia**

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FINAL REPORT

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FINAL REPORT
EIGHTH MEETING OF THE PERMANENT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE I: PUBLIC TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICES (PCC.I)

The Eighth Meeting of Permanent Consultative Committee I: Public Telecommunication Services was held in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, 29 June – 3 July 1998.

I. AGENDA

1. Approval of Agenda.
2. Establishment of the Working Groups of the Meeting.
3. Establishment of new Working Groups.
4. Presentation and Evaluation of Working Group and Ad Hoc Working Group Reports on:
 - a. Standards Coordination
 - b. Network Modernization and New Services
 - c. Certification Processes
 - d. Basic and Universal Telecommunications Services
 - e. Human Resource Development
 - f. Study of Global Information Infrastructure
 - g. Value-Added Services.
5. Conclusions, Resolutions and Recommendations of the Working Group and Ad Hoc Working Group Meetings on:
 - a. Standards Coordination.
 - b. Network Modernization and New Services
 - c. Certification Processes
 - d. Basic and Universal Telecommunications Services
 - e. Human Resource Development
 - f. Study of Global Information Infrastructure
 - g. Value-Added Services.
6. Analysis of results and activities connected with the ITU-T.
7. Results of the 1998 CITELE Assembly.
8. Results of the 1998 World Telecommunications Development Conference.
9. Other Matters.
10. Approval of the Summary Minutes of Plenary Sessions.
11. Approval of the Final Report.

II. MEETING AUTHORITIES

Chairman: Mr. Jose Fernando Bautista
Minister of Communications, Colombia

Alternate Chairman: Mr. Felix Castro
Chief of International Affairs
Ministry of Communications, Colombia

Executive Secretary: Mr. Roberto Blois Montes de Souza
Executive Secretary of CITEL, OEA

Drafting of the Final Report:

Chairman: Mr. William Poveda (Colombia)

Members: Ms. Jeanne Gellman (USA)
Mr. José Pirrone (Venezuela)
Ms. Maria Dolores Peña (Venezuela)
Mr. Eduardo Gabelloni (Argentina –
Telefónica de Argentina)
Mr. Eduardo Nasimento (Brazil - Siemens)
Mr. Gustavo Osorio Morales (Colombia)

III. RESOLUTIONS

PCC.I/RES. 44 (VIII-98)

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 1998 SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS (SOA) AND 1996 SENIOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS OFFICIALS MEETING COMMITMENTS ON UNIVERSAL SERVICE

The Eighth Meeting of Permanent Consultative Committee I: Public Telecommunication Services.

CONSIDERING

That 34 government in the 1998 Summit of the Americas (SOA) Plan of Action committed to promote the exchange of information and development of best practices guidelines for universal access/service through CITEL:

Action Item:

Governments will Promote, in cooperation with the private sector, the exchange and distribution of information concerning regulatory matters such as universal access/service, interconnection and the establishment of independent regulatory bodies, taking into account the commitments made in the World Trade Organization's Agreements on Trade in Basic Telecommunications Services (the GBT Agreement), developments in the Free Trade Area of the Americas process, and the Declaration and Plan of Action adopted by the 1996 Senior Telecommunications Officials Meeting held in Washington D.C. with a view to developing, wherever possible, and subject to national constraints, best practice guidelines and requesting when needed the assistance of CITEL, regional telecommunications organizations, the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and others as appropriate.

That action item 5.1 from the 1996 Senior Telecommunications Officials Plan of Action contained specific commitments on universal service;

That PCC.I/RES.36 (VI-97) urged CITELE to seek from its members before the next meeting of the WGBUS, written information on their universal service programs, and that more than seven countries have responded to the Margarita Island questionnaire contained in PCC.I/RES 36; and,

That a number of countries made excellent presentations on universal service programs at the Buenos Aires Seminar of PCC.I.

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT:

That many members of CITELE are developing or revising their universal access/service policies;

That efforts of all countries to put in place or improve universal access/service policies can be assisted by sharing information through CITELE;

That the World Trade Organization (WTO) commitments on Basic Telecommunications included the adoption of the Reference Paper which refers, inter alia, to universal service;

That PCC.I has a Working Group on Basic and Universal Service (WGBUS).

RESOLVES:

1. That PCC.I direct the WGBUS to develop voluntary universal service best practices guidelines for approval by PCC.I by the end of 1999 as mandate by the 1998 Summit of the Americas, recognizing that governments have the sovereign right to develop their own universal service policies. The development of these guidelines will be lead by the authorities of this working group with special assistance from the United States, Brazil, and a representative of the Caribbean. These guidelines should be developed following procedures similar to those used by the Ad Hoc Working Groups on Value-Added Services and Equipment Certification when they developed their guidelines.

2. That CITELE periodically report to the relevant SOA authorities on the progress it is making to implement the SOA commitments on universal service.

3. The point of contact for this initiative will be the Chairman of the Working Group on Basic and Universal Service.

PCC.I/RES. 45 (VIII-98)

**REGARDING A BOOK ON UNIVERSAL SERVICE IN THE AMERICAS
TO BE PREPARED JOINTLY BY CITELE AND BDT/ITU**

The Eighth Meeting of Permanent Consultative Committee I: Public Telecommunication Services,

IN VIEW OF:

The important changes experienced by the sector in the Americas, with permanent privatization and transformation processes;

The serious access problems verified in most countries of the region;

The role afforded to CITELE at the 1994 Presidential Summit in Miami, as the telecommunication policy-making organization in the Americas;

The provisions on Universal Service adopted at the 1996 Meeting of Senior Telecommunication Officials in Washington with respect to supporting CITELE, the ITU and other organizations;

The mandate CITELE gave to the Working Group on Basic and Universal Services, which implies an important number of tasks and responsibilities (PCC.I/RES.36-VI 97);

The agreement reached by governments at the recent Presidential Summit in Santiago to establish strategies for a regional telecommunication development plan, taking into account the need for universal access to basic telecommunication services;

WHEREAS:

Many countries gave excellent presentations on Universal Service programs, at the PCC.I Seminar held in Buenos Aires in April;

CITELE is obliged to supply all its members with information to every aspect of processes for change and the new mechanisms required in the region;

An agreement has been reached with the ITU Regional Office calling for the latter to engage the services of expert consultants, in order to present a draft of the Book on Universal Service in the Americas at the upcoming PCC.I meeting.

To comply with this objective, PCC.I must agree on the terms of reference for this work.

RESOLVES:

1. To approve preparation of the Book of Universal Service in the Americas, which will be developed jointly by CITELE and BDT/ITU.

2. To approve the terms of reference, which are outlined in the appendix as the minimum but not the only ones for the work in question, so they may be taken into account with respect to the job entrusted to the experts.

3. To entrust the Chairman of the Working Group on Basic and Universal Telecommunication Services to coordinate all preliminary work in conjunction with the PCC.I Chairperson and the Executive Secretary of CITELE.

INSTRUCTS:

The Executive Secretary, to carry out the foregoing mandate in conjunction with the ITU Regional Office.

APPENDIX

1. STATUS OF UNIVERSAL SERVICE IN THE AMERICAS

- It is proposed that collecting the data called for in Resolution 36 PCC-I/VI/97 be an objective so as to have a picture of the overall status of Universal Service in the Americas.
- Appraise replies and if necessary make a new questionnaire

2. W.T.O COMMITMENTS

- Appraise the commitments that CITEL members have with the W.T.O. and how this affects the development of Universal Service.

3. UNIVERSAL SERVICE IN THE AMERICAS

- Universal Service and Universal Access: Definitions, services covered, their scope and deadlines for redefining same.
- Teledensity, per-capita income, correlation in the Americas. Objectives
- Universal service beneficiaries: low income sectors, isolated communities, special groups such as handicapped, retired people etc. Schools, libraries and hospitals etc.
- Rural Telephony. Importance in the Americas, development alternatives
- Public Telephony, semi-public telephony, rural cabins, telecenters
- Special services. Telemedicine, services for the handicapped etc.
- Cost and financing of Universal Service obligations in the Americas.
- Rebalancing rates, access deficit, reform the international system for telecommunications commerce and financing methods taking into account that this may not discriminate among suppliers, and must be transparent and impartial in terms of market competition.
- Methodology for incorporating new services to Universal Service
- Internet: Whether or not to include it in Universal Service. Levels for those who should be guaranteed service

4. WORK PERFORMANCE

- This work may make use of the practices, documents and work of the UIT Development Sector.

PCC.I/RES. 46 (VIII-98)

**REQUEST TO COM/CITEL CHAIRMAN REGARDING THE
DRAFT INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION ON VALUE-ADDED SERVICES**

The Eighth Meeting of the Permanent Consultative Committee I: Public Telecommunications Services.

WHEREAS:

At the Summit of the Americas held in Miami on 9-11 December 1994, the Heads of State of the Hemisphere acknowledged that “the information infrastructure of a country - Telecommunications, Information Technology and Radio broadcasting – is essential in the political, economic, social and cultural development thereof and that the development needs for the information infrastructure in the Americas are immense”;

The Member states of the Inter-American Telecommunications Commission – CITEL – are committed to participating in the development of the “Action Plan of the Americas” approved at the meeting of Senior Telecommunications Government Officers held in Washington D.C. in September 1996, and in particular, further measures strengthening the links between CITEL and the regional and sub-regional Telecommunication organizations of the Americas in order to foster regional coordination and promote value added services;

At the above-mentioned Summit of the Americas in Miami, the governments of the region decided through CITEL “to prepare regional guidelines covering services rendered by the International Value-Added Network”;

The CITEL, at its meeting held in Tegucigalpa on 20-24 February 1995, set up an Ad Hoc Working Group on Value-Added Services through Resolution PCC.I/RES.9(II-95) in order to develop regional guidelines that foster the growth and expansion of Value-Added Services throughout the region;

At the meeting held in Brasilia, PCC.I resolved to approve the Draft Regional Guidelines for the provision of Value-Added Services through RES 25/96 presented by the Ad Hoc Working Group for consideration thereby;

The Senior Telecommunications Officials met in Washington D.C. on 25-26 September 1996, in compliance with the mandate handed down by the Summit of the Americas, and declared in item 8 that “efforts should be made to foster the adoption of concrete measures that would facilitate the implementation of the CITEL Guidelines for Value-Added Telecommunications Services and equipment certification, as well as the Coordinated Standards Documents issued by this Commission”;

The PCC.I at its meeting held on 24 March 1997 at Isla Margarita, Venezuela, extended the mandate of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Value-Added Services through RES 37/97 and that item (a) of the resolute section of the above-mentioned Resolution established as a mandate for the Group “the preparation of proposals that facilitate the implementation of these Guidelines”;

The Ad Hoc Working Group on Value-Added Services, at its meeting held in Asuncion, Paraguay in July 1997, approved the Draft Resolution submitted by the Chairperson of the Group in document

PCC.I-375/97 and the Draft Agreement on the Provision of Value-Added Services contained in Document PCC.I-381/97 and additionally agreed that the Chairperson would, when consulting the Legal Affairs Department of the OAS, include the necessary modifications in the text thereof, in order to present this Resolution to the consideration of PCC.I at its meeting scheduled for October 1997 at Foz de Iguacu, Brazil;

The Chairperson of the Ad Hoc Working Group consulted the Legal Affairs Department of the OAS regarding this matter which, having examined the working of the General Agreement on Trade in Services of the World Trade Organization, expressed its reservations with regard to the feasibility of celebrating the Inter-American Convention on Value Added Services, which comments are contained in Doc. PCC.I-472/97;

The PCC.I, in RES.43 (VII-97), decided to ask the CITELE Executive Secretariat to consult the World Trade Organization regarding the feasibility of OAS Member States signing the draft Inter-American Convention on Value Added Services, in view of the commitments acquired by OAS members that have signed the General Agreement on Trade in Services of the World Trade Organization;

The World Trade Organization, in letter ORG/590-1810 of 3 April 1998 replied to the note sent by the CITELE Executive Secretary;

In the mentioned communication, the World Trade Organization referred to the automatic application of the most-favored nation clause to other members of the World Trade Organization and the non-application of the exception contained in Article 5th of the General Agreement on Trade in Services with regard to “substantial sectorial coverage”;

KEEPING IN MIND:

That the OAS Legal Services Department sent an official letter to the CITELE Executive Secretary dated 14 October 1997. Here it advises considering an alternative that would allow countries of the region to attain the benefits sought via this agreement or convention but using a mechanism that is clearly compatible with Article 5th of the General Agreement on Trade in Services. This could be, submitting the CITELE final draft to the Chairperson of the Services Working Group that is working on the Free Trade Agreement of the Americas (FTAA) for consideration thereby and finally incorporating it as part of the telecommunications services sector, within the many service sectors covered by FTAA. The reason is that this latter agreement is compatible with Article 5th of the General Agreement on Trade in Services of the World Trade Organization;

ACKNOWLEDGING:

That CITELE Member states consider it is in their social and economic interest to develop the free market of Value Added Services, therefore PCC.I;

RESOLVES:

1. To ask the COM/CITELE Chairperson, respecting the pertinent formal procedures, to send the text of the Draft Inter-American Convention on Value-Added Services to the Chairman of the services work group of the Free Trade Agreement of the Americas so it may be incorporated into negotiations of the Telecommunications Services sector.

**DRAFT INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION ON
THE PROVISION OF VALUE-ADDED SERVICES**

The Member States of the Organization of American States (OAS):

WHEREAS:

The Inter-American Telecommunication Commission of the Organization of American States (CITEL) has drawn up Guidelines for the Provision of Value-Added Services through its Permanent Consultative Committee I: Public Telecommunication Services.

PURSUANT:

To the fact that the Member States consider that it is in their interests at both the social and economic levels to develop a free market for Value-Added Services based on the CITEL Guidelines.

HAVE AGREED THE FOLLOWING:

Article I

Definition of Value-Added Services

The Member States acknowledge and accept the particular definition of Value-Added Services established by the legislation of each of them and agree that the operators should comply with the corresponding definition when operating in the territory of each of them.

Article II

Standard of Treatment

Each Member State will grant the operators or providers of Value-Added Services non-discriminatory, transparent treatment with equal commercial opportunities. This treatment will be no less favorable than that which each Member State accords to its national operators or providers of Value-Added Services under similar circumstances.

Article III

Administrative Procedures

Each Member State will adopt administrative procedures for Value-Added Services based on reasonable and objective criteria and will apply them in a non-discriminatory, transparent and expeditious manner.

Each Member State will limit the information required under administrative procedures for Value-Added Services to that which is necessary for conformity to its national regulations and its international obligations.

Each Member State will facilitate and support the development of Value-Added Services through the simplification of its administrative procedures.

Article IV

Interconnection with the Public Network

Each Member State will adopt standards that ensure non-discriminatory, transparent treatment at fair and reasonable costs for interconnection with the public network in a manner that establishes equal opportunities and conditions for everyone, including the network operators and their subsidiary companies.

Each Member State will adopt standards that ensure that the operators or providers of Value-Added Services, whether they have their own networks or not, can obtain services and interconnect to the national and international public networks through leased national circuits under non-discriminatory terms and conditions.

Each Member State will allow the operators or providers of Value-Added Services to perform the switching, signaling and processing functions required to offer exclusively Value-Added Services and which use the proprietary protocols of their choice, in conformance with the national regulations of the Member States covering interconnection to the public network.

Article V

Terminal Equipment

Each Member State should allow the customers of the operators or providers of Value-Added Services to purchase and attach to the public network the terminal equipment of their choice, provided that such equipment complies with the national regulations, certification procedures, standards and homologation of the corresponding Member State.

Article VI

Rights of End-Users

Each Member State will comply with the provisions of this Convention without prejudice to the rights of end-users to receive fair treatment and adequate service from the operators and providers of Value-Added Services.

Article VII

Miscellaneous Provisions

Each Member State will provide the other Member States with all their regulations and administrative procedures related to the Provision of Value-Added Services.

The Member States will consult among themselves on request regarding their obligations under this Convention.

Article VIII

Relationship with other Conventions On Value-Added Services

This Convention will not curtail the provisions of Conventions that have been or will be signed by the Member States on this matter in future, whether bilateral or multilateral, or more favorable practices that may be adopted by such States.

Article IX

Signature

This Convention is open for signature by the Member States of the Organization of American States.

Article X

Ratification

This Convention is subject to ratification. The ratification instruments will be placed on deposit with the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States.

Article XI

Adherence

This Convention is open for adherence by any other State. The adherence instruments will be placed on deposit with the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States.

Article XII

Reservations

The Member States may formulate reservations regarding this Convention when approving, ratifying or adhering to it, wherever not compatible with the objective and purposes of the Convention with regard to one or more specific provisions thereof.

Article XIII

Entry into Effect

This Convention will enter into effect on the thirtieth day after the date of deposit of the ratification instrument. For each Member State that ratifies the Convention or adheres to it after having placed the ratification instrument on deposit, the Convention will enter into effect on the thirtieth day after the date on which such State deposited its instrument of ratification or adherence.

Article XIV

Withdrawal

This Convention will remain in effect indefinitely, but any of the Member States may withdraw from it. The withdrawal instrument will be placed on deposit at the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States. One year as from the date of deposit of the instrument of withdrawal, the Convention will no longer continue in effect for the withdrawing State, and will remain in force for the other Member States.

Article XV

Deposit of the Original Document

The original document of this Convention, whose Spanish, French, English and Portuguese texts are all equally valid, will be placed on deposit with the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States, which will forward a certified copy of this text for registration of publication to the Secretariat of the United Nations. The General Secretariat of the Organization of American States will advise the Member States of this Organization and the States that have adhered to the Convention of the signatures, deposits of instruments of ratification, adherence and withdrawal, as well as any reservations.

PCC.I/RES. 47 (VIII-98)

FINISHING UP OF WORK BY THE AD-HOC WORKING GROUP ON VALUE ADDED SERVICES

The Eighth meeting of the Permanent Consultative Committee I: Public Telecommunications Services.

CONSIDERING:

That CITEL, at its meeting held on Tegucigalpa from 20-24 February 1995, set up the Ad Hoc Working Group on Value Added Services through Resolution PCC.I/RES.9(II-95) in order to develop regional guidelines that foster the expansion and growth of Value Added Services throughout the region;

That, at the meeting held in Brasilia, PCC.I resolved to approve the Draft Guidelines for the provision of Value-Added Services through Resolution 25/96, presented by the Ad Hoc Working Group for consideration thereby;

That Senior Telecommunication Officials met in Washington D.C. on 25-26 September 1996 in compliance with the mandate handed down by the Summit of the Americas, and declared in item 8 “that efforts should be made to foster the adoption of concrete measures that would facilitate the implementation of CITEL guidelines for Value-Added Services and equipment certification, as well as the Coordinated Standards Documents issued by this Commission”;

That PCC.I, at its Meeting held on 24 March 1997 at Isla Margarita, extended the mandate of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Value-Added Services through Resolution 37/97 and that item (a) of the resolute part of the above-mentioned Resolution established as a mandate for the Group “the preparation of proposals that facilitate the implementation of these Guidelines”;

The working group prepared a draft Hemispheric Convention on Value Added Services which was approved by Resolution PCC.I/RES.43 (VII-97) in the meeting held in Foz de Iguazu, Brazil in October 1997;

This draft Convention gathers all the guidelines approved at the Meeting of Senior Officials held in Washington in September 1996;

That the working group agreed to ask the PCC.I plenary to recommend to the COM/CITEL Chairperson that the text of the Draft Convention be sent to the President of the Service Work Group of the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) so it will be incorporated into the negotiation on telecommunications services;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT:

That implementing this agreement within the framework of FTAA negotiations would facilitate the development of a free market for value-added services with the corresponding benefits for CITEL member countries;

Members of the working group consider that full compliance has been given to the mandate given at the PCC.I meeting held at Isla Margarita, Venezuela in March 1997;

RESOLVES:

1. To terminate the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Added-Value Services.
2. To charge Mr. Sergio Martinez of Colombia to follow-up carefully on the draft of the Inter-American Convention on Added Value Services in the FTAA negotiation process and ask him to submit the respective report to PCC.I plenary sessions.

PCC.I/RES. 48 (VIII-98) APPOINTMENT OF RAPORTEURS ON TELEMEDICINE AND TELE-EDUCATION

The Eight Meeting of the Permanent Consultative Committee I: Public Telecommunications Services:

CONSIDERING:

That governments are increasingly concerned with improving the capacity to deliver to their citizens the best medical care and the best educational facilities possible;

That the advances of telecommunications technology and its application in the fields of medicine and education combine to create a potential tool for the benefit of all the peoples of the Americas;

That some CITELE member countries are already undertaking efforts to develop, subject to their level of telecommunications infrastructure development, networks and applications for tele-medicine and tele-education;

That there exists a need, as stated in the Valetta Action Plan of the 1998 World Telecommunications Development Conference, to distribute information and quantitative analysis about actual tele-medicine and tele-education experiences; and

That varying levels of infrastructure and network development require alternate ways to deliver tele-medicine and tele-education.

RECOGNIZING:

That there are many national and international organizations that are willing to participate in and to contribute financial support to tele-medicine and tele-education pilot projects; and

That CITELE has limited financial and human resources and therefore can not provide this kind of assistance for the implementation of pilot projects.

RESOLVES:

1. Given the close relationship between tele-medicine and tele-education and the activities of the Working Group on Basic and Universal Services (WGBUS), these subjects will be dealt with by said group. The Chairman of the WGBUS will appoint a rapporteur for each of these subjects;

2. That the functions of the rapporteurs should include the following:

- a) To initiate and set up contacts with relevant organizations likely to provide financial, technical and/or other assistance to countries engaging in pilot projects;
- b) To keep in close contact with and draw upon the expertise of these organizations as well as PCC.III, the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), and local and sub-regional telecommunications entities with a view toward recommending steps and regulations that could assist in implementing tele-medicine and tele-education services in the region;
- c) To produce and make publicly-available a reference document which will include an inventory of the hardware and software available in tele-medicine and tele-education applications and a list of such projects in the region;
- d) To receive and present to the plenary of the WGBUS the petitions made by the countries willing to become the site for the development of a pilot project to be accomplished with the assistance of financial and technical counterparts for the distinct purpose of testing combinations of selected applications under varying generic types of existing telecommunications links. Any country selected will be required to provide:
 - i. At least partial funding of the project;

- ii. An inventory of the relevant medical and/or educational facilities available in the country for the eventual selection of sites to become part of the pilot project;
- iii. A corresponding inventory of the telecommunications infrastructure that matches the selected sites to act as the point of contact between the selected country and the technical and financial counterparts of the project, but the rapporteur will have no project management nor funding responsibilities;
- e) To act as the point of contact between the selected country and the will technical and financial counterparts of the project, but the rapporteur have no project management nor funding responsibilities.
- f) To work with selected countries to produce a guide covering hardware-software packages that could be applied under pre-defined telecommunications links, that have been duly tested and analyzed, and that may be considered as **GENERIC SOLUTIONS**.

3. That the rapporteurs shall keep the Working Group on Basic and Universal Services informed, so that it can proceed, in close contact with the Working Group to Study Global Information Infrastructure, to evaluate, at some time in the future, whether or not it is necessary to establish an Ad Hoc Working Group to Study the Implementation of Applications.

PCC.I/RES. 49 (VIII-98)

WORK PLAN OF THE WORKING GROUP ON HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT 1998-1999 WORKING PERIOD

The Eighth Meeting of Permanent Consultative Committee I: Public Telecommunication Services,

CONSIDERING:

That Resolution PCC.I/RES.1 (I-94) calls for the creation of a Working Group on Human Resource Development;

That CITELE RES.18(II-98) for the continuation of the mandate of the Working Group on Human Resource Development;

RESOLVES:

1. To adopt the attached 1998-1999 work plan for the Group on Human Resource Development.
2. The WGHRD shall submit revisions of the attached work plan to PCC.I for consideration.

**WORKING GROUP ON HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
WORK PLAN
1998-1999 PERIOD**

INTRODUCTION:

The Chairman of the Working Group on Human Resource Development has put together a work plan for the 1998-1999 period, as per the mandate given to the group.

Implementation of this plan demands that priorities be revised continuously, in order to keep abreast of new opportunities and changing circumstances. Consequently, the Plan will be reviewed regularly by the WGHRD.

OBJECTIVES:

In accordance with the mandate outlined in Resolution PCC.I/RES.1 (I-94): Establishment of the Working Group on Human Resource Development, whereby the WGHRD is created, the following objectives are set up:

1. Identify and promote specific training courses designed to meet the needs and priorities of CITEL members;
2. Identify organizations, institutes and training centers capable of providing adequate training;
3. Identify and promote scholarships, supplements and other financial resources to facilitate participation in human resource training;
4. Identify and circulate information on available programs and training infrastructure;
5. Do so particularly at the regional centers to help update the White Book.

ACTIVITIES:

1. Prepare an annual report that includes the following items:
 - A summary of training programs offered by the regional centers.
 - Identification of special training needs and what regional centers must do to meet these needs
 - Up-to-date information on scholarships and financial resources available for training courses
 - Use of relevant information in this report to help update the White Book.
2. Discuss ways to urge operators, the academic sector and other official institutions to organize programs for human resource training in the sector (to comply with Resolution CITEL RES.18(II-98))
3. Publicize the procedures an organization must complete to be acknowledged by CITEL as a regional center.

4. Promote the creation of a home page on the Internet, with information on regional centers, training courses, scholarships, directories, etc.
5. Collaborate with CITELE training coordinators, in order to complete the Work Plan.
6. The Working Group will carry out its activities primarily at the meetings programmed by PCC.I and through available means of communication.

PCC.I/RES. 50 (VIII-98)

ESTABLISHMENT OF A RAPPORTEUR WORKING GROUP ON MOBILE ROAMING

The VIII meeting of the Permanent Consultative Committee I: Public Telecommunications Services:

CONSIDERING:

That globalization has made it desirable for users of telecommunications services to be able to obtain them anywhere, notwithstanding the geographic location of said users;

That mobile telecommunications should make it possible to provide coverage and automatic roaming, throughout the Americas;

That to secure automatic roaming, when technically feasible, there must be interconnection and commercial agreements among American operators;

That fraudulent activities are clearly on the rise throughout the region, and that the losses from cellular and PCS fraud for operators and administrations can discourage the development of commercial roaming agreements;

FURTHER CONSIDERING:

That development of compatible numbering plans at both the national and international level is necessary to provide automatic roaming service on mobile communications networks; and likewise

That it is vital to take steps to share best practices and implement common anti-fraud mechanisms that offer security, investment protection and peace of mind to both mobile service providers and their customers;

RECOGNIZING:

That the Seventh Meeting of PCC.I adopted Decision PCC.I/DEC.10 (VII-97) encouraging administrations to adopt ITU-T Recommendation E.212 that supports numbering plans for international roaming;

That the Second Regular Meeting of the CITELE Assembly adopted CITELE RES.25 (II-98) that encouraged PCC.I and PCC.III to continue their work to enable roaming throughout the Americas;

RESOLVES:

1. To establish a rapporteur group under the Working Group on Standards Coordination to address issues related to Mobile Roaming in the Americas.
2. That the rapporteur for this group will be Dr. Elsa Uriburu, of Telecom Personal (Argentina).
3. That the rapporteur should immediately begin to address topics related to Mobile Roaming in the Americas by undertaking studies including but not limited to:

A. NUMBERING

- a) Identification of international fora in which operators could participate, if deemed appropriate, to address numbering issues related to international roaming;
- b) Evaluation of approaches being used on a national and international level for the administration of mobile numbering plans that facilitate roaming;
- c) Establishment of liaison opportunities with experts in the ITU-T Study Groups addressing numbering issues to identify numbering problems in the Americas and their solutions that can be addressed at a national and/or international level.

B. FRAUD

- a) Examining current and future approaches to fraud prevention that could be complied with by operators in the region, including but not limited to:
 - The use of negative exchange format and frequency, taken as being all terminals declared stolen, destroyed, *etc.*;
 - The use of mechanisms in each country to determine the customer profile before licensing the cellular service;
- b) Identification of solutions implemented in the countries of the region and the effectiveness of these approaches for reducing losses due to fraud;
- c) Examining ways to encourage operators to adopt approaches and techniques for the development of a unified anti-fraud system in the region, including the possible provision of real-time anti-fraud control mechanisms during roaming;
- d) Examining opportunities for cooperation among operating entities and government authorities to reduce and prevent fraud over mobile networks.

PCC.I/RES. 51 (VIII-98)

AGENDA, VENUE AND DATE OF THE NINTH PCC.I MEETING

The Eighth Meeting of Permanent Consultative Committee I: Public Telecommunications Services

RESOLVES:

1. To hold the IX Meeting of PCC.I in Colombia from 16-20 November 1998.
2. To approve the attached draft agenda for the IX Meeting of PCC.I

APPENDIX

DRAFT AGENDA FOR THE IX MEETING OF PCC.I

1. Approval of Agenda.
2. Establishment of the Working Groups of the Meeting.
3. Presentation and Evaluation of Working Group and Ad Hoc Working Group Reports on:
 - a. Standards Coordination;
 - b. Network Modernization and New Services;
 - c. Certification Processes;
 - d. Basic and Universal Telecommunications Services;
 - e. Development of Human Resources;
 - f. Study of Global Information Infrastructure.
 - g. International Telephone Services Accounting Rates
4. Conclusions, Resolution and Recommendations of the Working Group and Ad Hoc Working Group Meetings on:
 - a. Standards Coordination;
 - b. Network Modernization and New Services;
 - c. Certification Processes;
 - d. Basic and Universal Telecommunications Services;
 - e. Development of Human Resources;
 - f. Study of Global Information Infrastructure.
 - g. International Telephone Services Accounting Rates
5. Other Matters.
6. Approval of the Summary Minutes of Plenary Sessions.
7. Approval of the Final Report.

IV. RECOMMENDATIONS

PCC.I/REC. 3 (VIII-98)

URGING THE MEMBER STATES TO PARTICIPATE MORE ACTIVELY IN THE WORK OF THE G-3 AND THE ITU FOCUS GROUP

The Eighth Meeting of Permanent Consultative Committee I: Public Telecommunication Services.

WHEREAS:

Resolution PCC.I/RES.33(VI-97) calls for the study and drafting of options and guidelines that can be used by the CITELE member states to aid the transition to cost accounting rates in a way that is coherent with ITU recommendations and other international commitments, as well as the objectives of universal service;

Resolution PCC.I/RES.40(VII-97) indicates the Ad Hoc Working Group on Accounting Rates shall include, in its deliberations, accounting rate matters relevant to the ITU Forum;

The ITU has established several working groups to study accounting rates;

For more than five years, the efforts of member states to orient accounting rates on the basis of cost have been coordinated with those of the rest of the world.

The ITU has conducted nine case studies on how the transition to cost accounting rates will affect the developing countries:

ACKNOWLEDGING:

The necessity of encouraging the work of the ITU-T Sector so as to ensure that the interests of all the countries are represented in the final decision adopted to provide for the transition mechanism and the subsidiary mechanisms to be recognized by the ITU-T to terminate calls.

RECOMMENDS:

1. The member states participate more in the work of ITU Study Group Three on accounting rates, particularly the work currently being developed by the Focus Group to establish a transition mechanism that will bring us closer to costs.

2. A briefing be given during the ninth meeting of PCC.I to explain the importance of the Focus Group and to indicate how countries can join, so as to ensure the active participation of each CITELE member country.

INSTRUCTS:

The Executive Secretary to circulate this recommendation among the CITELE Member States, and to request the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Accounting Rates to prepare the informative session for the ninth meeting of PCC.I, as per the second item in the recommending section of this resolution.

IV. DECISIONS

PCC.I/DEC.10 (VIII-98)

PROPOSED PROCEDURE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A WORKING PLAN

The Eighth Meeting of PCC.I: Public Telecommunication Services,

WHEREAS:

The terms of reference corresponding to the Group (PCC.I/RES.39(VII-97) devoted to studying the GII provide for the implementation of minimum conditions for development of the same in the Americas.

The working plan contained in document (PCC.I/RES.39 (VII-97) stipulates that the conditions for implementation should be developed through studies on applications.

The working plan provides for a study of service network models and existing service networks.

These studies should help to identify items that might pertain to the jurisdiction of other CITEL groups. The necessary adjustments should be coordinated with these groups, so they lead to the creation of minimum conditions for the GII.

DECIDES:

1. To use the procedures contained in Recommendation ITU-Y.120, as the basis for the Group's work.

2. To require CITEL's Members to submit specific topics to be considered for the definition of the Information Infrastructure of the Americas, such as:

- Regulatory Requirements
- Content Requirements
- National Needs

PCC.I/DEC.11 (VIII-98)

APPOINTMENT OF A RAPPORTEUR ON ELECTRONIC COMMERCE AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IN THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP TO STUDY GLOBAL INFORMATION INFRASTRUCTURE

The Eighth Meeting of PCC.I: Public Telecommunication Services,

DECIDED:

1. To appoint a Rapporteur on Electronic Commerce and Community Development to perform the following duties:

- Gather and summarize information on Electronic Commerce and Community Development in the region, which can be used to propose guidelines to the WGSGII concerning best practices in Electronic Commerce and Community Development that can be used to draft preferred policies in this respect.
- Gather, summarize and propose technical guidelines to the WGSGI for national diagnoses to assess problems that might hamper Electronic Commerce
- Encourage CITELE members and associate members to share their points of view and experiences on the subject of Electronic Commerce and Community Development
- Place the information compiled by the rapporteur at the disposal of CITELE members who are involved with implementing Electronic Commerce and Community Development applications

2. The rapporteur on Electronic Commerce and Community Development shall work with the Member States and associate member states of PCC.I on policy issues and contents concerning Electronic Commerce and Community Development.

3. A representative of Mexico shall be the rapporteur on Electronic Commerce and Community Development.

PCC.I/DEC.12 (VIII-98)

ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTERCONNECTION RAPPORTEUR IN THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON GLOBAL INFORMATION INFRASTRUCTURE

The Eighth Meeting of PCC.I: Public Telecommunication Service,

DECIDED:

1. To appoint an Interconnection Regulation Rapporteur (IRR) for the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Study of the Global Information Infrastructure (WGSGII) with the following functions:

- Compile and summarize the interconnection practices of the region with the goal of proposing to the Ad Hoc Working Group on Global Infrastructure best-practice guidelines on interconnection regulation that will promote the development of optimal interconnection policies by the end of 1999.
- Encourage CITELE Members and Associate Members, especially regulators, to share views and experiences with regards to developing and implementing interconnection policies; and,
- Make the information collected by the rapporteur available to CITELE Members who are working to develop and enforce interconnection policies.

2. The IRR will work, with the participation of PCC.I Member States and Associate Members, on policy, tariff and non-discrimination issues related to interconnection.

3. The IRR will consider input and consult with the Working Group on Standards Coordination (WGSC) and the Ad Hoc Working Group on Accounting Rates in order to avoid duplication of CITELE efforts on interconnection regulation.

4. By the end of 1999, the IRR must make a recommendation to the Chairman of the WGSGII on whether it is necessary to establish an Ad Hoc Working Group or Working Group on Interconnection Policy. The Chairman of the WGSGII will then consult with the Chairman of the WGSC on whether to present such a proposal to PCC.I.

5. The IRR will be a representative from the United States.

PCC.I/DEC.13 (VIII-98)

“ESTABLISH A REPORTEUR GROUP ON MRA TO TAKE ACTION ON ITEMS B and C OF THE WORKING PLAN 1998-2001 OF THE AD-HOC WORKING GROUP ON THE CERTIFICATION PROCESS”

The VIII meeting of the PPC.I decided to establish a “**rapporteur group on MRA**” under the Ad Hoc Working Group on Certification Process to take actions on items b and c from the work plan of this Ad Hoc Working Group. The Ad Hoc Working Group nominates Mr. Andrew Kwan of Canada as rapporteur.

The proposed plan for the rapporteur group is as follows:

First, to gather information on the terminology, regulatory process and MRA’s, used by CITELE Members in the telecommunication regulatory area, in order to reach a common understanding of the terms, processes and definitions to be used in the development of a guidelines for MRA’s among the countries of CITELE. An informative document with the results of this activity will be published to allow all Members and Associated Members of CITELE to benefit from it.

Second, to review, and if necessary, to submit a proposal to update the existing CITELE certification guidelines..

Third, to develop a guidelines or framework for the development of MRA among the countries of CITELE.

Fourth, to develop a proposed text for an MRA on telecommunications equipment for the CITELE Member States, to be reviewed and approved by PCC.I.

The proposed coverage of the guidelines or framework of MRA is as follows:

- Telecommunications terminal equipment and other equipment subject to telecommunications regulation including wireline and wireless equipment.
- It will be a multilateral agreement/arrangement for Mutual Recognition of Conformity Assessment and NOT an agreement on harmonization of standards and regulations.
- The harmonization of standards and regulations could be considered in the longer term after the MRA has been developed.
- It will deal with all technical regulations concerning Conformity Assessment for mandatory requirements of Electro-Magnetic Compatibility (EMC), Electrical Safety, Terminal

Attachment and Radio Transmitters. Close liaison with PCC.III will be kept during the development of the guidelines or framework of MRA since radio transmitters are included in the coverage of the MRA.

The rapporteur group will meet during the Ad Hoc Working Group on Certification Process meetings , and progress its work by e-mail and fax, in order to complete its work by the year 2000.

The rapporteur group must keep the chairman of the Ad Hoc Working Group on certification process informed at all times and give him a copy of all actions and documents.

Invites all Members and Associate Members of CITEL to actively participate in the work of this rapporteur group on MRA by contacting the Rapporteur, Mr. Andrew Kwan (kwan.andy@ic.gc.ca)

INSTRUCTS:

The Executive Secretary to send this Decision to COM/CITEL asking whether or not it considers pertinent to notify same to the Body responsible for FTAA work, as one of the specific business facilitation measures to be completed before the end of this century. This is intended to avoid the duplicity of work on the development of the MRA text for telecommunications equipment.

PCC.I/DEC.14 (VIII-98)

INVITATION TO THE ASSOCIATE MEMBERS TO GRANT SCHOLARSHIPS FOR HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

The VIII Meeting of PCC.I decided to invite CITEL Associate Members who have facilities for technical training and instruction in telecommunications and related areas in the Americas region to do their utmost to provide officials from CITEL member administrations with scholarships to attend the courses and/or seminars they offer. The meeting furthermore decided to instruct the Executive Secretary will be instructed to receive proposals to this effect and to find an appropriate way to grant scholarships and handle applications from the administrations in a fair and impartial manner.

VI. LIST OF THE BASIC DOCUMENTS RESULTING FROM THE SEVENTH MEETING OF PCC.III: RADIOCOMMUNICATIONS

Summary Minutes of the Opening Session, PCC.I-622/98
Summary Minutes of the First Plenary Session, PCC.I-623/98.
Summary Minutes of the Second Plenary Session, PCC.I-642/98rev.1
Summary Minutes of the Third Plenary Session, PCC.I-644/98
Summary Minutes of the Fourth Plenary Session and Closing Session, PCC.I-646/98
List of Documents, PCC.I-567/98 rev.1.
List of Participants, PCC.I-558/98 rev.1.
Final Report, PCC.I-645/98