

**ATHGO International “Information and Communication Technologies: Opportunities and Challenges in Landlocked Developing Countries”
International Symposium
Yerevan, Republic of Armenia
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RESOLUTION

QUESTION OF ICT DEVELOPMENT IN LANDLOCKED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration, resolution 55/2 adopted 8 September 2000, and resolution 57/295 of 4 March 2003, in which Member States pledged to financially and technically support the formation of a global partnership for development, and subsequently identified the need to establish a comprehensive United Nations information and communication technology (ICT) strategy, recognized the importance of global networks and stressed the implementation of training programs to ensure maximum use of technology in developing nations,

Guided by the additional challenges extant in Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) due to their geographic orientation, including small domestic markets physically isolated from the world economy, it is understood to be paramount to use ICTs to virtually connect their local markets to global ones, thus establishing a link that will reduce demands on both LLDCs and their transit countries regarding physical access,

Fully aware that many LLDCs do not possess the requisite infrastructure to take full advantage of ICT connectivity, it is nevertheless necessary to proceed with ICT development in areas already so equipped to handle it, while acknowledging attention still must be allocated to infrastructure and transit solutions such as outlined in the Almaty Programme of Action, {do we need to reference these kinds of things? I've noticed past resolutions that have a sort of bibliography}

Emphasizing the mandate for partnerships among public, private and civic sectors within individual states to ensure ICT programs are both appropriate to and cognizant of unique domestic demands,

Believing a state's own educated youth are a crucial and underutilized resource for advancing ICT presence, and one that can be depleted by a lack of opportunities for employment and career advancement within LLDCs,

Deeply convinced LLDCs should not remain bound by and dependent upon international intervention to maintain ICT program viability, but instead organizations providing ICT assistance should forge partnerships with national institutions and local communities to ensure ICT initiatives will create self-reliant and sustainable development, respectful of national identity, traditions and heritage and in avoidance of harmful cultural imperatives, by focusing on networks among LLDCs and self-perpetuating liberal economic growth,

1. *We call for* the establishment of a nationally coordinated network involving public, private and civil society under the mentorship and coordination of the United Nations Global Alliance for ICT Development (UN G@ID);

- a) This body should be sustained by a mixed financial system consisting of international, national and private sector funds;
 - b) Funding should be structured in a way that all parties have an equal voice in the designated goals for the fund, meaning there should be no connection between the amount of money contributed and voting share;
 - c) UNG@ID should assume mentoring responsibility in incubating these national bodies, grant legitimacy and provide valuable leadership and guidance from the experience of UNG@ID's inclusive, decentralized, multi-stakeholder network;
2. *We further recommend* the primary operational task of this body should be to implement a national volunteer program utilizing each country's own youth to educate rural and distant populations in ICTs;
- a) Volunteers are students pursuing or possessing higher education, are subject to a rigorous selection process, and intensive training program;
 - b) After comprehensive research, conducted by the parent body, a customized training curriculum is developed that addresses rural and distant populations' specific needs and offers ICT solutions to be introduced by volunteers
3. *We further encourage* follow-up actions to ensure future sustainability whereby ICT knowledge augmentation will perpetuate through continued training and certification of qualified individuals within the local population, and through the initiation of an international Business Development Initiative;
- a) Individuals showing the most aptitude throughout the training will be given additional instruction by the volunteer, culminating in certification as a local instructor to continue to advance ICT education within the population after the volunteers' departure;
 - b) The Business Development Initiative will be an international program for LLDC trained communities wherein individuals within the local population may utilize electronic resources to design and submit business plans for potential start-up grants to establish local businesses;
4. *We further support* continuous program enhancement through volunteer evaluation and an independent monitor measuring regional progress;
- a) Volunteers will be evaluated by both the parent organization and trainees within local populations to ensure effectiveness;
 - b) An independent monitoring agency or individual will be assigned within each country, subject to the approval of UNG@ID, to revisit trained populations at predetermined intervals to assess the permanent impact of ICT training, gather statistical data and conduct a cost-benefit analysis of the local economic impact of the program.