

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE SMART SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT MODEL INITIATIVE ADVISORY BOARD

1. Purpose of the Initiative

The Smart Sustainable Development Model (SSDM) Initiative Advisory Board is designed to provide strategic guidance to the leadership of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT). The Advisory Board helps to ensure that the Initiative remains true to its mission and is aligned with the Strategic Plan of the Development Sector (ITU-D) of the International Telecommunication Union.

The second cycle of the Advisory Board comes at a critical time when the international community has adopted the “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, 17 Sustainable Development Goals and their associated 169 targets. The future work of the SSDM Initiative Advisory Board would contribute to the ongoing efforts by the BDT to accompany countries on their development journey by linking the use of ICTs for development to disaster risk reduction and to management efforts.

The purpose of the SSDM Initiative is to:

1. Harness the potential of ICTs in socio-economic development and use the same technologies for saving lives in times of emergencies.
2. Link rural telecommunications/ICT development to both disaster risk reduction and management efforts.
3. Make optimal use of scarce and high cost resources such as satellite systems by putting in use unused satellite capacity.
4. Create ecosystems where investments made for deploying telecom infrastructures for economic development are also used for disaster response for public safety.
5. Ensure deployment of robust and resilient communication networks that continue to provide services in the immediate aftermath of disasters.
6. Avoid duplication in efforts by development partners (governments, private sector, inter-governmental organizations, etc.) focusing on either development only or disaster management only without taking into account the other. This reduces the cost of infrastructure investments for ICTs particularly in rural communities.

2. Advisory Board Members

Each year the Advisory Board will hold not more than two physical meetings at venues to be discussed and agreed to by the Board. Two teleconferences will be held to review progress,

address strategic questions, and plan for the coming year. The Advisory Board may also hold one or more additional conference calls at other times of the year as particular issues arise. Advisory Board Members are expected to join at least one of these calls per year.

Advisory Board Members' responsibilities include:

- i. Promoting the use of ICTs for social and economic development as well as for emergency communications and better disaster management.
- ii. Identifying strategic partnerships around a particular BDT project that furthers the aims of the SSDM Initiative.
- iii. Analyzing cross cutting issues, such as policy development, legislation, taxation, financing mechanisms, network deployment costs, sustainability of the networks that may be impeding the reach of ICTs and services to all layers of society.
- iv. Encouraging the adoption of policies, legislative and regulatory frameworks that facilitate and promote sustainable development through ICTs.
- v. Proposing and approving the creation of working groups that contribute to the implementation of the objectives of this Initiative.
- vi. Acting as a goodwill ambassador promoting programs and projects designed to achieve greater coverage of telecommunication services.
- vii. Identifying potential remedies and innovative solutions through crowdsourcing and collaboration.

3. Composition of the Advisory Board and Term of Membership

The Advisory Board shall be composed of eminent personalities from diverse backgrounds to provide the necessary mix of expertise for the effective functioning of the Advisory Board. The Members will serve on a pro bono basis, for a two-year term with the possibility of renewal for a second two-year term, if so invited.

The Chairmanship of the Advisory Board will be on a pro bono basis, for a two-year term. The Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) of ITU will hold the Vice-Chairmanship in order to ensure continuity. The BDT will provide the Secretariat for the Board.

The Advisory Board may set up Working Groups to prepare reports on projects and specific thematic issues.

4. Terms and Selection

Members of the Advisory Board serve in their individual capacity. At the second physical annual meeting of the Advisory Board, with support from the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau in his official capacity, the composition of the Advisory Board will be reviewed and recommendations made for additions or modifications. At that meeting new members will be appointed to the Advisory Board as necessary.