

# World Telecommunication Development Conference 2022 (WTDC-22)

Final Report



**ITUWTDC**

KIGALI2022

6-16 June 2022

Kigali, Rwanda



## EUROPE REGIONAL INITIATIVES

### EUR1: Digital infrastructure development

**Objective:** To facilitate the attainment of Gigabit connectivity through resilient and synergistic infrastructure development and an enabling environment, ensuring ubiquitous coverage.

#### Expected results

Assistance to the countries in need in the following areas:

- 1) Development and updating of plans and feasibility studies for the deployment of ubiquitous resilient high-speed connectivity with all relevant components including legislation, standards, organizational set-up, capacity building and cooperation mechanisms, as needed.
- 2) Assessment of dynamics, challenges and opportunities in respect of the roll-out of such connectivity, and sharing of best practices and case studies on the various above-mentioned aspects through the organization of regional workshops, conferences or webinars.
- 3) Sharing of guidelines on collaborative regulation between the telecommunication sector and other synergistic sectors such as energy, railway and transportation.
- 4) Mapping of ubiquitous infrastructure and services, fostering harmonization of approaches across the region and taking into account infrastructure-sharing approaches applied by countries, including the development of broadband mapping systems for broadband networks and related facilities and promoting innovative solutions for meaningful connectivity.
- 5) Initiatives on the wider deployment of broadband information and communication technology (ICT) services and contributing to environmental sustainability.
- 6) Initiatives to raise the level of awareness and education of citizens on new and emerging telecommunications/ICTs and topics such as human exposure to electromagnetic fields originating from wireless radio systems.

## EUR2: Digital transformation for resilience

**Objective:** To facilitate the digitalization processes of services in different sectors (agriculture, health, government, education), including those of public administrations, in order to ensure greater resilience in responding to critical situations, including the challenges of pandemics.

### Expected results

Assistance to the countries in need in the following areas:

- 1) Creating an experience- and knowledge-exchange platform between countries.
- 2) Developing technical and service infrastructure (data centres, networks, secure gateways, authentication, interoperability, standards and metadata) as well as capacity building within the national administrations and institutions.
- 3) Fostering the development of and increase in types of online transactional services, including applications for administration-to-administration and administration-to-customer services.
- 4) Building the capacities necessary for accelerating the process of national and regional digitalization, through the development of national strategies and dedicated programmes.
- 5) Raising public trust through security enhancements in e-government services, digitization processes and awareness-raising campaigns, including promotion of application-based solutions for e-government by national administrations and other institutions.
- 6) Identifying areas for improvement and key horizontal factors for the successful implementation of e-government services and digitalization, such as secure and accessible digital identification, tools for data analysis, integrating workflow solutions, approach to re-use of data, and fostering their development.

## EUR3: Digital inclusion and skills development

**Objective:** To facilitate equitable access to information and communication technologies (ICTs) and necessary digital skills for all groups of society, including persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs, as well as women and youth, in order to take advantage of telecommunications/ICTs.

### Expected results

Assistance to the countries in need in the following areas:

- 1) Leveraging digital accessibility for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs as a priority for the countries, and supporting them through the creation and updating of strategies and policies, taking into account regional or global standards, capacity building, fostering innovation, monitoring the implementation of digital accessibility, and creating new partnerships or strengthening existing ones such as "Accessible Europe – ICT for All".
- 2) Improving gender equality in all groups in the telecommunication/ICT sector and beyond by providing opportunities for collaboration, maximizing impact and supporting the setting up of new projects and the scaling up of successful ongoing projects.
- 3) Meaningful empowerment, engagement and participation of youth in the telecommunication/ICT sector and beyond, and creating new career schemes and opportunities.
- 4) Assessment of national and regional approaches for digital-skills development, elaboration of national and regional strategies or action plans, development of necessary digital skills, knowledge and literacy programmes, and providing support for educators.
- 5) Building and/or strengthening partnerships with the private sector, regional and subregional organizations, United Nations system organizations, academia and other possible stakeholders for the benefit of digital inclusion in the European region and globally.

## EUR4: Trust and confidence in the use of telecommunications/ information and communication technologies

**Objective:** To support the deployment of resilient infrastructure and secure services allowing all citizens, especially children, to use telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICTs) in their daily lives with confidence.

### Expected results

Assistance to the countries in need in the following areas:

- 1) Providing regional platforms and tools for building human capacities to enhance trust and confidence in the use of telecommunications/ICTs, including establishing common approaches to cybersecurity capacity building for European countries with a cross-sectoral cybersecurity-skills curriculum and guidelines promoting skills related to multiple sectors, such as law, psychology, social sciences, economics, security and risk management, diplomacy and interdisciplinary skills.
- 2) Sharing national and regional best practices and case studies, conducting surveys on enhancing confidence and trust in the use of ICTs, including training, and creating other opportunities for sharing knowledge and experience.
- 3) Elaborating or reviewing national cybersecurity strategies, including the promotion of online safety, ensuring multistakeholder engagement (government, children and young people, parents, guardians and educators, industry and connectivity providers, research and academia, non-governmental organizations, law enforcement, health, and social services).
- 4) Setting up or improving the capabilities of national computer security incident response teams (CSIRTs) and the corresponding networks to support these CSIRTs in cooperating with each other.
- 5) Conducting simulation or educational exercises such as cyberdrills or other events at the national and regional levels in cooperation with international and regional organizations, and assisting countries in developing tools through synergies and resource optimization.

- 6) Creating a safer online environment for children and young people through raising awareness and education about cybersecurity, implementation and promotion of the Guidelines on Child Online Protection and other educational resources, encouraging governments to identify risks and vulnerabilities for children in cyberspace, and promoting media literacy in respect of cybersecurity.

## EUR5: Digital innovation ecosystems

**Objective:** To foster environments that are conducive to innovation and entrepreneurship through systemic approaches based on digital telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICTs), aimed at closing the growing digital innovation divide in the region.

### Expected results

Assistance to the countries in need in the following areas:

- 1) National digital innovation strategies and policies, country profiles and reviews, and sectoral innovation assessments to provide an accurate assessment of digital innovation gaps.
- 2) Capacity-building and knowledge-sharing platforms such as regional innovation forums, open innovation competitions and ecosystem development training to empower stakeholders.
- 3) Ecosystem-building initiatives and projects such as technology sandboxes and programmes supporting tech start-ups and entrepreneurship to create concrete impact.
- 4) Promoting multistakeholder and multisectoral partnerships between and within different ecosystems, for sustainability and scale-up.
- 5) Fostering inclusion by sharing, twinning best practices and connecting different ecosystems, with special attention to gender and youth.

## RESOLUTION 17 (Rev. Kigali, 2022)

### **Implementation of and cooperation on approved regional initiatives at the national, regional, interregional and global levels<sup>1</sup>**

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Kigali, 2022),

*recalling*

- a) Resolution 34 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on assistance and support to countries in special need for rebuilding their telecommunication sector;
- b) Resolution 135 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on ITU's role in the durable and sustainable development of telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICTs), in providing technical assistance and advice to developing countries<sup>2</sup> and in implementing relevant national, regional and interregional projects;
- c) Resolution 157 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on strengthening of the project execution and project monitoring functions in ITU;
- d) Resolution 21 (Rev. Kigali, 2022) of this conference, on coordination and collaboration with regional organizations;
- e) Resolution 32 (Rev. Hyderabad, 2010) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC), on international and regional cooperation on regional initiatives;
- f) Resolution 52 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) of WTDC, on strengthening the executing agency role of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D), which emphasized the importance of establishing partnerships between the public and private sectors as an efficient way of implementing sustainable ITU projects, and of utilizing locally available expertise in executing ITU projects at regional or country level;

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<sup>1</sup> An initiative shall take the form of an all-embracing heading under which a number of projects can be included, leaving it to each region to define these.

<sup>2</sup> These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition.



*g)* the mechanism for cooperation at regional and international level to implement the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

*considering*

*a)* that telecommunications/ICTs are one of the most vital elements for the growth of national economies and protection of the environment;

*b)* that, in order to achieve the objectives of the developing countries, new policy approaches may be required to meet the challenges of growth, in both qualitative and quantitative terms;

*c)* that developing countries are increasingly experiencing the need for knowledge of fast-developing technologies and the associated policy and strategic issues;

*d)* that ITU-D is an appropriate platform for the exchange of experiences and best practices on development of the telecommunication/ICT sector;

*e)* the vital importance of cooperation among Member States, ITU-D Sector Members and Associates for the implementation of regional initiatives;

*f)* the satisfactory and encouraging results achieved by projects which have received international cooperation support under an initiative of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT);

*g)* that telecommunication networks and services for sustainable development are an essential element for national development and improving the social, economic, financial and cultural situation of Member States;

*h)* the need to coordinate and harmonize efforts to develop telecommunication infrastructure at the national, regional, interregional and global levels;

*i)* that the leadership of the ITU Member States is needed to outline a unified national vision of a connected society that is comprehensive of all stakeholders;

*j)* the commitment of the ITU Member States to promote access to ICTs at affordable prices, paying special attention to the least favoured segments;

*k)* the importance of the telecommunication/ICT sector and its contribution to the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals,

*recognizing*

- a) that developing countries and countries participating in regional initiatives are at different stages of development;
- b) that, given the resources at the disposal of developing countries, it is an important task for ITU, as the United Nations specialized agency on telecommunications, to help these countries meet the requirements cited in *considering c)* above;
- c) the need, therefore, to exchange experiences on telecommunication development at the regional, interregional and global level in order to support these countries;
- d) that ITU and regional organizations share common beliefs that close cooperation can promote regional telecommunications/ICTs in order to support these countries;
- e) that there is a continued need for ITU, using its regional and area offices, to cooperate more closely with regional and subregional organizations, including regional organizations of regulators, in order to support these countries;
- f) the important role of ITU's regional and area offices in achieving effective cooperation with regional organizations,

*taking into account*

- a) the vital importance of telecommunication development initiatives endorsed by all regional development conferences, and by the preparatory meetings preceding this conference;
- b) that there is a lack of funding from the United Nations Development Programme and other international financial institutions, impeding the implementation of such initiatives;
- c) the satisfactory and encouraging results achieved by activities of this kind, which have helped cooperation in the creation of telecommunication networks;
- d) that some Member States' national policies and regulations may pose constraints on the implementation of such initiatives;
- e) the important role of the Partner2Connect (P2C) digital coalition for developing global and regional activities/projects related to digital transformation,

*noting*

- a) Resolution 73 (Rev. Kigali, 2022) of this conference, on the ITU Academy training centres, which aims to assist the membership with capacity building and development;
- b) that the relevant regional organizations play a prominent and important role in supporting the developing countries in areas such as regional cooperation and technical assistance activities;
- c) the development of cooperation and technical assistance activities among regional and subregional organizations of regulators,

*resolves*

- 1 that BDT, including through the ITU regional offices, should strengthen its relations with regional and subregional organizations, through ongoing cooperation to stimulate the mutual exchange of experience and assistance with the implementation of the regional initiatives, making the utmost use of available BDT resources, its annual budget and surplus income from ITU Telecom events;
- 2 that BDT continue to actively assist the developing countries in elaborating and implementing the regional initiatives which are specified in the Kigali Action Plan;
- 3 that BDT provide an estimate breakdown for cash and/or in-kind contribution items for the implementation of projects under the regional initiatives, and their value in the proposed budget for the projects, taking into consideration *recognizing a)* above;
- 4 that the budget allocation for the implementation of the regional initiatives shall be individualized in the budget of the Sector to be executed by BDT, discriminating between funds for ongoing projects and funds for new projects, divided by region;
- 5 that Member States should consider contributing in kind and/or in cash to the budget foreseen for implementation of these initiatives and the realization of other projects foreseen within the framework of these initiatives at the national, regional, interregional and global levels;
- 6 that BDT should continue to actively conclude partnerships with Member States, ITU-D Sector Members, financial institutions and international organizations in order to sponsor implementation activities for these initiatives;

7 that BDT should assist in the implementation of these initiatives at the national, regional, interregional and global levels, integrating as far as possible those initiatives that have the same content or objectives, taking into consideration the Kigali Action Plan;

8 that BDT, through the ITU regional offices, should provide information accumulated during the implementation of regional initiatives in each region (outcomes, stakeholders, financial resources used, and so on) to the Member States and regional telecommunication organizations, so as to capitalize on the experience and leverage the outcomes, which might be replicated in order to save time and resources when setting up and designing projects in the other regions, using the portal for the execution of projects in the six official languages of the Union;

9 that BDT should present progress reports to the regional development forums (RDFs) on the implementation of the regional initiatives, including, *inter alia*, outcomes, stakeholders and financial resources used,

*appeals to international financial organizations/agencies, equipment suppliers and operators/service providers*

to contribute, fully or partially, to financing these approved regional initiatives,

*instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau*

1 to take all necessary measures for promoting and implementing these approved regional initiatives at the national, regional, interregional and global levels, and in particular the similar initiatives agreed at international level;

2 to ensure that BDT actively coordinates, collaborates in and organizes joint activities in areas of common interest with regional telecommunication organizations and training institutions, and takes into consideration their activities, as well as providing them with direct technical assistance;

3 to issue an appeal at the annual Global Symposium for Regulators and in the RDFs for worldwide and regional support for the implementation of these regional initiatives;

4 to support ITU regional offices with the required human and financial resources for them to have a role in monitoring the implementation of the initiatives approved in their regions, identify the impact of these regional initiatives, considering the possible benefits at the national level, in collaboration with countries served by these regional initiatives, and submit an annual report to the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group and the ITU Council on the implementation of this resolution;

5 to continue to promote the dissemination to other regions of the results of projects implemented under regional initiatives;

6 that an annual meeting be held in each region, dedicated to discussing the regional initiatives and projects for each region and mechanisms for implementation of the initiatives adopted and to making known the needs of the different regions, and that an RDF may be held in conjunction with the annual meeting for each region;

7 to promote, by possible means, the holding of consultations with the Member States in each region before implementing and executing approved initiatives in a timely fashion, in order to agree on priorities, suggest strategic partners, means of financing in kind and/or in cash and other issues, thereby promoting a participatory, inclusive process of meeting the goals;

8 in consultation and coordination with the Directors of the Radiocommunication and Telecommunication Standardization Bureaux, to promote the joint work of the three Sectors in order to provide suitable, efficient, agreed assistance for Member States to implement the regional initiatives;

9 to ensure that BDT facilitates the active involvement of regional and subregional telecommunication organizations in the different phases of project management established by ITU, as well as in forging partnerships and resource mobilization, with a view to effectively advancing the implementation of regional initiatives,

*requests the Secretary-General*

1 to continue special measures and programmes to develop and promote activities and regional initiatives, in close cooperation with regional and subregional telecommunication organizations, including regulators, and other related institutions;

- 2 to make every possible effort to encourage the private sector to take actions to facilitate cooperation with Member States in these regional initiatives, including countries with special needs;
- 3 to continue to work closely with the coordination mechanism established in the United Nations family and the five United Nations regional commissions;
- 4 to bring this resolution to the attention of the Plenipotentiary Conference with a view to securing adequate financial resources in the budget to fulfil the approved regional initiatives.