



Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT)

Second Meeting of the Telecommunication
Development Advisory Group (TDAG)
Geneva, 13-14 September 1999

Document TDAG-2/18-E
13 September 1999
Original: English only

Note by the Director

Draft Decisional Element on TDAG's consideration of agenda item 6.

1. WRC regional-level preparatory actions to be reflected in the operational Plan:
 - the meeting was informed of a meeting in Cairo, from September 27 to 29, which will deal with WRC preparations. Proposal was also put forward that there should also be preparatory meetings for the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly to be held in 2000.
2. Increase the use of TELECOM Surplus funds for infrastructure development activities:
 - It was proposed that Administrations, and not only Sector Members, be invited to identify potential projects. Indeed, the BDT should provide Administrations with an overview of this particular programme, which will emphasize, amongst other things, the procedures and criteria which determine which projects go ahead or not. The Director of the BDT also explained that, in the future, ITU Regional Offices will be identifying potential projects, as well as implementing these projects. The meeting noted that some projects had already been submitted for consideration by the Regional office in Cairo.
3. Clarification of the definition of Centers of Excellence
 - The meeting noted that the term Center of Excellence should probably be changed, because it could leave the impression that other very good training institutions could not achieve the status of excellence referred to in the Center of Excellence concept. It was also noted that the mandate and purposes of the Centers of Excellence should not be restricted to one region in particular, given that there are 4 different Center of Excellence initiatives underway. Specific references to Africa in this item should be deleted, as the concept described in the document is more generic, and applies to all regions. The meeting further noted that a new type of partnership was required to implement the Center of Excellence concept, which would commit various training institutes, the BDT, and external partners to join forces in addressing the most urgent training needs of developing countries.

4. Clarification of the nature of Handbooks, and analysis of their overall dissemination:
 - The meeting noted that the matter of handbooks, for which developing countries expressed a strong interest, had been addressed by Study group 2, and that the matter would be discussed later on in the agenda. The importance was also stressed for BDT volumes to be issued in the Union's official languages.
5. Enhancement of the participation of private sector from developing countries:
 - The meeting noted that the general subject of developing country participation had been raised in both Study Group meetings, and that the matter would be discussed later on in the agenda. This matter will also be submitted to the TDAG Sub-Group on the Private Sector, which will be meeting immediately following the TDAG meeting.
6. Other matters:
 - The meeting noted that the BDT Operational Plan and list of upcoming BDT meetings and events is now on the WEB. Finally, Mr. David Mellor advised the participants that his Sub-Group on Human Resources will report on its activities to the next TDAG.