INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION

Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT)

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

Document TDAG-2/3-E
26 August 1999
Original: English

Note by the Director

TDAG-1 FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS
FOR IMPLEMENTATION BEFORE NEXT TDAG

The following action points have been identified following the first meeting of TDAG. After each action point, the actual follow-up is reported.

1.   Submission of BDT action-related information on Palestine.

            Deadline: 31 May 1999

This action has been implemented and reported to Council as indicated in document TDAG-2/7

2.   Elaboration by Ad-Hoc Group on Performance Indicators of more precise indicators consistent with programme objectives and action budget allocated.

            Deadline: 30 July 1999

Many suggestions have been received for improving the performance indicators. They have been introduced in the current operational plan to the extent practical and will be implemented in the operational plan 2000.

3.   Circulate quarterly performance assessment of Operational Plan to ITU-D Members.

            Deadline: Ongoing

ITU-D operational planning is now fully computerized.

The database called the **VAP system** includes elements requested by PP-98 for operational planning.

The latest new functionality added to the system is the assessment of implementation which enables comparison of the outputs to be made with annual objectives and performance indicators.

The first draft report will be prepared by the end of December 1999.

4.   WRC regional-level preparatory action(s) to be reflected in the Operational Plan.

No action is envisaged by ITU-R this year, but an African regional level preparatory meeting is foreseen in 2000.

5.   Elaboration of guidelines for private sector participation.

            Deadline: 31 August 1999

Guidelines are in the process of being developed, and will be submitted to the next meetings of the TDAG Subgroup on private sector issues, and TDAG itself.

6.   Widen scope and add methods for introducing new services to rural areas.

        Deadline: 29 October 1999

A number of documents/video/CD-ROM are being prepared such as:

- a brochure on universal access and rural development

- a publication providing an overview of telecentre initiatives around the world

- a video on telecentres

- a CD-ROM containing training material and papers given at various seminars

- a rural telecom handbook

- a case study on the Canadian access points

- an evaluation of the Telecom Development Symposium Recommendation implementation

Some of the above will be available for Telecom-99.

Additionally, Focus Group 7 work is proceeding smoothly (see point 15 below)

7.   Improve working methods at TDAG meetings and ensure that BDT focal points are directly addressed during these meetings.

        Deadline: Ongoing

BDT staff will be requested to respond themselves on issues for which they are responsible. At the close of any agenda items specific conclusions of the discussion will be indicated; and document TDAG-2/4 proposes a new format for TDAG reports.

8.   Increase the use of Telecom surplus for infrastructure development. Invite ITU-D Sector Members to help identify projects with focus on LDCs.

        Deadline: Ongoing

The Steering Committee of the TELECOM Surplus Programme decides on the allocation of funds for projects to be implemented within this Programme. Infrastructure Development is one of the four components of the Programme, to which an amount of 4 million Swiss Francs has been allocated. Of this amount, 2.3 million is currently being used for two projects in Africa, Afritel and Indaftel. The remaining 1.7 million has yet to be earmarked for any specific infrastructure development project. The assistance of Sector members in identifying additional infrastructure development projects would be most welcome.

9.   Upon request from ITU-D Member(s), provide more detailed information on the Operational Plan such as "action objectives, expected partnerships, dates and contact persons, etc."

        Deadline: Ongoing

The BDT provides ITU-D Sector Members with detailed information by phone, fax and email upon their request.

Indication of the contact person for individual meetings is regularly entered in the Schedule of Meetings and published on the external Web.

However, the experience has shown that the flow of information on meetings should be further improved : availability of invitation letters for global and regional activities on the Web etc.

10.   TDAG advised the BDT Director to submit a proposal to Council with better strategic arguments on RTDC matters. Analyse option of two-day extension of WTDC to encompass RTDC matters.

        Deadline: 14 May 1999

The Director did as advised by TDAG.

11.   Modify Questions 16/1 and 13/2 according to the agreement reached at TDAG-1.

        Deadline: 31 May 1999

Done. The new definition of the questions is published in the Study Groups' documents 1/010 Rev1 and 2/019 Rev1

12.   Clarify the definition of Centres of Excellence.

        Deadline: 31 May 1999

The mandate and purposes of one Center of excellence have been defined as follows:

- serve as focal point for training, professional development, research and information on matters related to African telecommunications;
- train policy makers and regulators in the development of national sector policies and regulations;
- train high level corporate managers in the management of telecommunications networks and services;
- train frequency managers in the management of frequency spectrum in its policy, regulatory and technical aspects;
- provide training on selected issues of advanced telecommunication and information technology, telecommunication financing and multilateral trade agreements;
- provide capability for the development and harmonization of telecommunications standards in Africa, including support for African participation in world telecommunication standardization fora;
- serve as focal point for regional and global information society initiatives in Africa;
- provide capability to formulate and implement pilot projects demonstrating the application of information and communication technology in specific fields of importance to Africa;
- provide consultancy to governments and private sector interests on matters of concern to African telecommunications;
- provide facilities for conferences, seminars and colloquia to discuss and disseminate information on African telecommunications issues;

13.   Clarify the nature of Handbooks and analyse their overall dissemination.

        Deadline: 31 August 1999

Handbooks serve different purposes depending on the subject matter and the user. Also some of the information presented may become rapidly obsolete. As a result, the best strategy is to offer a range of presentation formats depending on the subject matter and the intended users, i.e. on paper, on diskette or CD-ROM, and on-line. The possibility of making a wider use of these various formats is under study.

14.   Modify guidelines for the work of ITU-D Study Group rapporteurs as agreed at TDAG-1.

        Deadline: 30 June 1999

Done. The new version of the Rapporteurs' guide has already been distributed to the Study Groups' meetings under documents 1/043 and 2/059.

15.   With reference to mechanisms to promote the development of new telecom technologies for rural applications, ensure better coordination, review objectives and time schedule of relevant focus group.

        Deadline: Ongoing

A meeting of Focus Group on Topic 7 (FG7) was held on June 16, 1999 in Geneva. The attributes and implementation of the FG7 Web site together with on line Rural Application Case Library were

reviewed. An interim report on the work of FG7 will take place during Study Group 2 meeting in September 1999. (The Web site will also be demonstrated during this meeting). A research assistant has been hired and will join BDT on September 1, 1999. The final report to Study Group 2 is confirmed to be available in September 2000.

16. Elevation to working party status of the TDAG Sub-Group on Private Sector and enhance participation of private sector from developing countries.

Starting date: 30 June 1999

Not implemented yet.

17. Reduce volume of documents/cost of translation.

Deadline: Ongoing

Document TDAG-2/XXX outlines the issues and proposes guidelines for action by BDT.

18. Undertake further consultations and finalize election of TDAG vice-chairpersons.

Deadline: 14 May 1999

Done.

19. Dates of next TDAG meeting: 20-24 September 1999, Salle B, second basement ITU Tower.

Dates have been modified to 13-14 September to avoid overlap with other important meetings

20. Update the list of TDAG participants and forward to them by e-mail advance information on forthcoming VAP-related actions.

Deadline: Ongoing

Participation in TDAG is open to all Member States and ITU-D Sector Members. The most practical way of informing the membership generally has been found to be posting the updated Operational Plan and the updated list of events on the ITU-D Website.

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