I T U INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION

Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT)

Seventh Meeting of the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG) Geneva, 16-18 January 2002	**Document TDAG-7/23-E 4 February 2002 Original: English**

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SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS

OF THE

SEVENTH MEETING OF THE TELECOMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT
ADVISORY GROUP (TDAG)
Geneva, 16-18 January 2002

Chairman: Mr T. Zeitoun (Canada)

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1 Opening of the meeting

1.1 The **Chairman** opened the meeting at 0945 hours on Wednesday, 16 January 2002 and welcomed all participants.

1.2 The **Secretary-General of ITU** stressed the need for affordable services in order to bridge the digital divide. Once political leaders and industry made a strong commitment to provide affordable services, the divide would surely be bridged. There was a demand for telecommunications in the developing world from people who were waiting for the price to become affordable. Industry must act to meet those needs.

1.3 ITU was promoting the United Nations World Summit on the Information Society, the aim of which was to draw up a declaration of principles and a concerted plan of action for the information society, based upon the development of a common understanding and shared vision. The World Telecommunication Development Conference 2002 (WTDC-02) was the first in a series of major events leading up to the World Summit on the Information Society in late 2003 and 2005, and culminating in the United Nations Year for the Digital Divide in 2004. The present meeting was the last opportunity for TDAG to give strategic advice and insights to the Director of BDT on what would be the first world telecommunication development conference in the new millennium.

1.4 The **Director of BDT** said that the present meeting would deal with topics related to WTDC-02, and he looked forward to receiving TDAG's advice and comments on them. Most of the reports submitted to the meeting would be presented to the conference, and he invited members of TDAG to take those reports into account as they finalized their preparations for the conference. He also sought the guidance of TDAG on the reports that he would be submitting to WTDC-02 as Director of the BDT.

1.5   During five regional preparatory meetings, the three previous meetings of TDAG, as well as meetings of the TDAG Subgroup and a recent coordination meeting, the BDT had tried to engage the ITU-D membership in a constructive dialogue which, it was hoped, would facilitate discussions during WTDC-02.

2   Approval of the summary of conclusions of the sixth meeting of TDAG (Document TDAG-7/2)

2.1   The **representative of BDT** drew attention to the altered dates of the meetings of TDAG and the TDAG Subgroup dealing with private sector issues (§ 17.3 of Document TDAG-7/2).

2.2   Referring to the discussion on the replacement of ITU-D study groups by project management groups, two speakers considered that § 6.5.2 of Document TDAG-7/2 gave the erroneous impression that views were equally divided. In fact, all developing countries had opposed the change, while only three European administrations had supported it.

2.3   The summary of conclusions of the sixth meeting of TDAG in Document TDAG-7/2 was **approved**.

3   ITU-D reform issues (Documents TDAG-7/6(Rev.1) and TDAG-7/16)

3.1   TDAG **noted** Document TDAG-7/6(Rev.1) which provided information on the Council's decisions concerning recommendations on ITU reform related to ITU-D.

3.2   Regarding a proposal by Qatar for the establishment of an exclusive sector for policy and regulatory issues (Document TDAG-7/16), TDAG **agreed** that the topic was outside its competence, taking the view that the proposal would have to be submitted to an appropriate forum in order to be discussed.

4   Input to ITU-D draft strategic plan (Document TDAG-7/5)

4.1   The **Director of BDT** presented Document TDAG-7/5 which had been prepared to assist members of TDAG to provide input to the drafting of the ITU strategic plan for the period 2003-2007. He explained that WTDC-02 would draw up an operational plan for the Development Sector, which ideally should be based on the strategic plan. But the strategic plan would be approved by the Plenipotentiary Conference, which would take place after WTDC-02.

4.2   In discussing the contribution that TDAG might make to the preparation of the strategic plan, it was recognized that the Council had responsibility for preparing a draft strategic plan for submission to the Plenipotentiary Conference, but that No. 215E of the Convention and Resolution 71 (Minneapolis, 1998) envisaged inputs from TDAG, as well as from Member States and Sector Members.

4.3   TDAG **agreed** to establish an open group, under the chairmanship of Mr Perrone (Brazil), to prepare a draft strategic plan for ITU-D, suitable for inclusion in the strategic plan of the Union, in time to be submitted to the informal group of the Council, chaired by Mrs Heceta, which was to draft an ITU strategic plan for consideration by the Council in 2002.

4.4   **Mr Perrone** (Brazil) said that the group would review relevant documents and the Valletta Action Plan. He would be pleased to receive comments, with a view to producing a report early in March 2002.

5 Progress report on BDT initiative for financing telecommunication development (Document TDAG-7/15)

5.1 The progress report on the BDT initiative for financing telecommunication development (Document TDAG-7/15), provided in response to a request by the sixth meeting of TDAG, was **noted**.

6 Gender issues (Document TDAG-7/18)

6.1 The **Secretary of the Task Force on Gender Issues** gave a presentation on gender and the digital divide (Document TDAG-7/18), outlining the aims and activities of the Task Force and recommending the conversion of the Task Force into a permanent structure of ITU-D, as well as the establishment of an ITU Gender Unit with full-time professional gender expertise.

6.2 Many participants welcomed the activities of the Task Force and hoped to see further progress towards gender equity within ITU, in particular by reflecting gender issues in the Constitution and Convention and by empowering women to participate in strategic planning.

6.3 The **Director of BDT** said that concerns for gender equity applied equally to ITU and its membership. If the Task Force achieved its goals, there would be no need for a permanent structure to deal with gender issues.

6.4 TDAG expressed unanimous support for the work of the Task Force on Gender Issues and encouraged the Director of BDT to follow up its recommendations.

6.5 One speaker pointed out that, in a situation of zero growth budget, it was unhelpful of TDAG to advise the Director of BDT to establish a new structure, without suggesting where the funds to do so might be found. One way of making funds available would be to assign more activities to regional offices and to reduce the number of staff at headquarters dealing with regional matters.

7 ITU-D study group issues (Documents TDAG-7/9, TDAG-7/10+Add.1, TDAG-7/11, TDAG-7/12, TDAG-7/13, TDAG-7/14 and TDAG-7/17)

Human resources development (Documents TDAG-7/9 and TDAG-7/14)

7.1 Commenting on the proposal in Document TDAG-7/9, forwarded by ITU-D Study Group 2 to TDAG, for a biannual interregional event to debate human resources development issues, two speakers endorsed the idea and stressed that future meetings should be held in countries that would grant visas to participants from developing and, in particular, least developed countries.

7.2 The proposal for the Director of BDT to coordinate biannual interregional events to discuss human resources development issues (Document TDAG-7/9) was **noted**.

7.3 As agreed at the sixth meeting of TDAG, the United Kingdom had prepared a draft resolution on human resources development in future study periods (Document TDAG-7/14), proposing the appointment of a contact person to liaise with the BDT on human resources development activities.

7.4 The draft resolution was widely supported in principle, although comments were made doubting the adequacy of a single person to carry out the task and stressing the need for a clear role

for the human resources development experts currently working in ITU, questioning whether the posting of information only on a website would be sufficient, highlighting the need to involve the different regions in human resources development activities, calling for the use of six languages for the suggested symposiums, and emphasizing the importance of responding to the human resources development needs of Sector Members as well as of Member States.

7.5   The **representative of the United Kingdom** said that the text of the draft resolution had been drawn up in consultation with the BDT and, having the support of the CEPT group of countries, had been included in the European common proposals submitted for consideration by WTDC-02, to meet the deadline for submission of documents. The United Kingdom would welcome any comments with a view to amending the text during the conference in order to achieve consensus.

Structure and working methods of the ITU-D study groups (Documents TDAG-7/10+Add.1 and TDAG-7/11)

7.6   The **Chairman of the Group on the structure and working methods of the ITU-D study groups** introduced the final report of the Group in Document TDAG-7/10, noting that the report was similar in substance to the draft considered by the previous meeting of TDAG. The **Vice-Chairman of the Group on the structure and working methods of the ITU-D study groups** added that the matters raised in the report would be open for discussion at WTDC-02. The report had been circulated to Member States and Sector Members, and only one comment had been received, from Peru, as contained in Addendum 1 to Document TDAG-7/10. While there had been no agreement on the application of an alternative procedure for the approval of recommendations, the Group had decided to produce a draft resolution on the topic (Attachment 3 to Document TDAG-7/10), and it was up to the present meeting of TDAG to decide whether or not to forward that draft resolution to the conference.

7.7   One speaker questioned the wisdom of forwarding to the conference a draft resolution on which TDAG could not agree, and two participants said that the alternative approval procedure required further discussion. The **Director of BDT** said that it would be preferable to submit an approved text to the conference for consideration.

7.8   One participant, observing that the Group had not recommended the replacement of ITU-D study groups by project management groups, suggested that TDAG as well as ITU-D study groups should be able to establish focus groups.

7.9   Following a suggestion by the **Chairman**, TDAG **decided** not to forward the draft resolution on the alternative approval procedure (Attachment 3 to Document TDAG-7/10) to the conference.

7.10   TDAG **endorsed** the proposals in Attachments 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6 to Document TDAG-7/10 for submission to WTDC-02.

7.11   The comments by Peru in Addendum 1 to Document TDAG-7/10 were endorsed. In particular, several speakers supported Peru's proposal to enhance the participation of developing countries. While recognizing BDT's efforts to enhance participation of developing countries, and acknowledging that handbooks might be helpful, there was a need to find practical mechanisms to increase the participation of developing countries in conferences. It was further pointed out that promoting the participation of developing countries, for example by providing fellowships or seminars, was primarily a question of financing and was hampered by a zero-growth budget.

7.12   The **Director of BDT** observed that activities to enhance the participation of developing countries had to be seen to be efficient in order to attract more funds. For example, after participating in training courses, fellows should return home and give training courses.

7.13   TDAG **noted** Addendum 1 to Document TDAG-7/10 and the support for enhancing the participation of developing countries.

7.14   Several speakers voiced disagreement with the proposal by the Chairman of Study Group 1 on the working methods of Study Group 1 (Document TDAG-7/11). Doubt was also expressed about the competence of the Chairman of Study Group 1 to submit such a proposal to the conference.

7.15   TDAG **agreed** not to discuss the proposal by the Chairman of Study Group 1 on the working methods of Study Group 1 (Document TDAG-7/11).

Proposal for a new Question 16/2: Network planning tools (extending the ITU PLANITU competence) (Document TDAG-7/12)

7.16   The meeting had before it a proposal from the International Teletraffic Congress for a new Question 16/2 on network planning tools (extending the ITU PLANITU competence), drafted after the most recent meeting of Study Group 2.

7.17   The **Director of BDT** said that the proposal raised the fundamental matter of the flexibility of Questions over a study period. The **representative of BDT** added that the "new generation networks" referred to in the proposal did not refer to specific networks. The proposal aimed to enable PLANITU to cover evolving network structure, and to provide timely assistance to countries by meeting their planning needs in a changing environment.

7.18   In the ensuing discussion, the following points were made:

•   The proposal would cover dimensioning problems related to voice data networks, such as telephone networks, and would be helpful in achieving universal access.

•   Developed countries, as well as developing countries, needed software for new services, for example to optimize planning for IMT-2000.

•   WTDC-02 might consider a pilot project on a handbook dealing with new generation networks, to meet the need to provide up-to-date information to developing countries. Ensuring that handbooks were up to date was a major problem and assigning responsibility for handbooks to project management groups might offer a solution.

•   Much urgent work needed to be accomplished in preparing handbooks of a technical nature before embarking on a subject ("new generation networks") that was not yet well defined. The proposal nevertheless highlighted an opportunity for ITU-D to cooperate with ITU-R and ITU-T in order to reach a clearer understanding of the evolution of converged networks.

•   IP was emerging as a channel for data transfer and the BDT structure should react to the new environment in order to offer timely support to developing countries and thereby contribute to bridging the digital divide.

- While the upgrading of PLANITU was desirable, the scope of "new generation networks" would need to be defined in relation to ITU-D. The topic was probably outside the competence of ITU-D.

7.19   TDAG **agreed** that the wide range of views expressed on the proposal for a new Question on network planning tools (Document TDAG-7/12) should be noted and forwarded to WTDC-02.

Draft proposal on preparation of training courses in teletraffic engineering (Document TDAG-7/13)

7.20   The draft proposal by the International Teletraffic Congress was supported.

7.21   TDAG **noted** the draft proposal on preparation of training courses in teletraffic engineering (Document TDAG-7/13).

Proposal for a new Question on preparation of a handbook for developing countries on basic methodologies for calculating national spectrum fees (Document TDAG-7/17)

7.22   The proposal by Eritrea for a draft new Question on preparation of a handbook for developing countries on basic methodologies for calculating national spectrum fees was welcomed.

7.23   Attention was, however, drawn to work currently under way in ITU-R and to the undesirability of having the same Question dealt with in two different Sectors. It was further pointed out that the topic was also of interest to developed countries and the suggestion was made that the handbook should deal with methodologies for calculating national spectrum fees, rather than being limited to "basic methodologies", and should focus on VHF and UHF.

7.24   The proposal by Eritrea for a draft new Question on preparation of a handbook for developing countries on basic methodologies for calculating national spectrum fees (Document TDAG-7/17) was **noted**.

8   Draft report on the analysis of the telecommunication and ICT environment (Document TDAG-7/8)

8.1   The following comments were made on the input to the draft report on the telecommunications environment analysis (Document TDAG-7/8), submitted to TDAG for information:

- The document went beyond the scope of ITU.

- Information and communications technologies (ICT) should be defined in order to be able to situate the role of ITU in the broad field of ICT.

- The document defined the problems faced by least developed countries, but the challenge remained of determining how ITU could tackle those problems without duplicating the role of UNDP and the World Bank.

- With regard to resources allocated to least developed countries, there was a glaring gap between planned resources and those actually available.

• The document gave the erroneous impression that there was a vacuum in Africa, whereas in reality there were many successful local initiatives (for example, prepaid technologies and community access via mobile) which demonstrated that investment followed users.

• The document did not reflect the many initiatives in Arab countries.

8.2 TDAG agreed that Document TDAG-7/8 should be amended in the light of such comments, which should be submitted via the ITU-D website.

9 Report of the Chairman of the Coordination Meeting for the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-02) (Document 6 of the Coordination Meeting)

9.1 The **representative of BDT**, presenting the report of the Chairman of the Coordination Meeting for WTDC-02 (Document 6 of the Coordination Meeting), explained that the consolidated draft report of the outcome of the five regional preparatory meetings, prepared by the Coordination Meeting, was submitted to the present TDAG meeting in Document TDAG-7/20 and would be annexed to the report of the Coordination Meeting. The document produced by the Coordination Meeting on the draft structure and working methods of WTDC-02 would also be annexed to the report of the Coordination Meeting, and was submitted to the present TDAG meeting as Document TDAG-7/3.

9.2 Two speakers said that although the Coordination Meeting held on 14 and 15 January 2002 had been intended to draft a consolidated report on the basis of the reports of five regional meetings, it had instead transformed itself into a planning meeting for WTDC-02. The output of the Coordination Meeting could therefore not be considered as having been accepted, since some potential participants had been attending a parallel meeting. The report should be presented under the responsibility of the chairman of the Coordination Meeting.

9.3 Several speakers stressed that the report of the chairman of the Coordination Meeting should remain as it stood. The Coordination Meeting had approved its agenda and had worked hard to reach consensus on its output documents.

9.4 The **Chairman** said that TDAG was not in a position to change the report of the Coordination Meeting but confirmed that the concerns raised would be reflected in the report of the present meeting.

10 Report of the TDAG Subgroup dealing with private sector issues (Document TDAG-7/22 + Annex 1)

10.1 The **Chairman of the TDAG Subgroup dealing with private sector issues** presented the draft minutes of the seventh meeting of the Subgroup (Document TDAG-7/22), noting that the minutes would be submitted to the next meeting of the Subgroup for approval. She also presented the contribution of the Subgroup to WTDC-02, as contained in Annex 1 to Document TDAG-7/22, comprising the terms of reference and purpose of the Subgroup (§ 1), notes on the outcomes of Subgroup meetings (§ 2), a summary of private sector activities (§ 3), and recommendations from the Subgroup to WTDC-02 (§ 4). Details of the seventh meeting of the Subgroup would be added to the document. She explained that the activities and recommendations of the Subgroup presented in the document fulfilled the terms of reference and purpose of the Subgroup. In § 4.4, the second paragraph of the suggested terms of reference for the Working Group on the Role of the Private

Sector at WTDC-02 should be amended to read: "to recommend how private sector issues, perspectives and specific programmes can be incorporated in ITU-D work programmes".

10.2   The minutes of the seventh meeting of the Subgroup prompted the following comments:

•   BDT should work more closely with associates.

•   Extending BDT activities to potential members would result in unmanageably large participation.

•   The implied criticism concerning a delay in making available the work of the ITU-D Group of Experts on IP Telephony was unjustified.

•   The official language of Tunisia, one of the WSIS host countries, was Arabic, although French was also used.

•   The Subgroup had exceeded its mandate in discussing WTDC-02 (§ 11 of Document TDAG-7/22) and regulatory concerns (§ 13 of Document TDAG-7/22).

10.3   Recognizing that it was not for TDAG to amend the minutes of the Subgroup, the meeting agreed to pursue its discussion on the basis of the report of the Subgroup (Annex 1 to Document TDAG-7/22).

10.4   Many speakers expressed support for the activities and recommendations of the Subgroup, as listed in Annex 1 to Document TDAG-7/22.

10.5   TDAG **agreed** that Annex 1 to Document TDAG-7/22 should form the basis of a contribution of TDAG to WTDC-02. In particular, Sections 1-3 should constitute the report of the Subgroup on its activities in accordance with its terms of reference. The first part of Section 4, dealing with challenges, should be considered as information for the Director of BDT. The recommendations for structural changes to the Subgroup, the programmatic suggestions for the BDT, and the discussion of Sector Member participation in WTDC-02, contained, respectively, in §§ 4.2, 4.3 and 4.4, should be discussed by TDAG and, where consensus was reached, should become recommendations of TDAG to be forwarded to the Director of BDT for submission to WTDC-02, should he consider it appropriate. Part of Section 4.4 should be included in a revised version of Document TDAG-7/3.

10.6   In discussing Annex 1 to Document TDAG-7/22, the following points were made:

•   The summary of private sector activities (Section 3) should include a listing of partnership projects.

•   The list of challenges (§ 4.1) focused on what the private sector wanted but should be balanced with an indication of what the private sector was willing to contribute. The views were those of the Subgroup and should not be considered as recommendations.

•   Regarding the programmatic suggestions (§ 4.3), emphasis should be placed on the need to add value for Member States and to find mechanisms for transfer of technology to small companies through incubator projects.

•   With regard to Sector Member participation in WTDC-02 (§ 4.4), it was recalled that Sector Member representatives had been appointed to committee chairmanships in the past.

Some speakers felt that there was no reason to mention a possibility that was established in the Constitution. Others considered that it was valid to draw attention to the matter, and suggested that the text should read: "Sector Member representatives should continue to be appointed committee chairmanship …".

10.7   The contribution of the TDAG Subgroup dealing with private sector issues (Annex 1 to Document TDAG-7/22) was **noted**.

11   Proposed WTDC-02 structure and working methods (Document TDAG-7/3)

11.1   The **representative of BDT** presented the note by the Director of BDT on preparation for WTDC-02 (Document TDAG-7/3), recalling that the document had been revised by the Coordination Meeting.

11.2   The **Chairman of the TDAG Subgroup dealing with private sector issues** pointed out that the Subgroup had also discussed the structure and working methods of WTDC-02, as reflected in the minutes of the Subgroup's seventh meeting (Document TDAG-7/22), and she suggested that the Subgroup's views should also be taken into account. Several speakers supported that suggestion.

11.3   One participant observed that the conference itself would decide on its structure and working methods, which would be discussed by the heads of delegation, supported by the Secretary-General of ITU and the Director of BDT.

11.4   The **Chairman** said that it would be useful for the Director of BDT to hear the views of TDAG on the matter, and he invited comments on Document TDAG-7/3.

11.5   One speaker questioned whether the Working Groups of the Plenary would be entitled to make recommendations.

11.6   The **Chairman of the TDAG Subgroup dealing with private sector issues** suggested that the terms of reference of the Working Group of the Plenary on the role of the private sector should be amended to read:

"To determine appropriate actions for greater private sector participation in using and developing project and investment opportunities in developing countries.

To incorporate private sector issues, perspectives and specific programme in ITU-D work programmes 2003-2006 and liaise properly with relevant committees for appropriate action."

11.7   With regard to the handling of statements, she suggested that some selected private sector representatives should be invited to make statements, and that the secretariat should draw up a corresponding list of Member States and selected Sector Member speakers. With regard to the time-limit for policy statements, she recalled that the Subgroup had suggested three minutes, rather than five minutes. The Subgroup had furthermore recommended that the conference should consider appointing representatives of the private sector as committee chairmen, as allowed under No. 28B of the Constitution. Several speakers endorsed those comments.

11.8   With regard to interpretation (§ 8), it was suggested that the question of interpretation for ad hoc groups should be left open in order to allow for flexibility and efficiency. Some participants

considered that, if there were to be three working groups of the Plenary, it would not be possible to provide interpretation in six languages for all Plenary, committee and working group of the Plenary meetings, while remaining within the budget of the conference.

11.9   One participant, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that he could tolerate not having interpretation into six languages for the meetings of working groups of the Plenary. He stressed that, in choosing chairmen and vice-chairmen, the conference should bear in mind least developed countries.

11.10   Recalling the discussion in the Subgroup, one speaker said that a report should be prepared to facilitate the discussion during the special session on bridging the digital divide. The **Director of BDT** said that he would immediately take steps to act upon that excellent suggestion.

11.11   It was further suggested that a document on the structure of the conference and the consolidated report of the regional meetings should be published as preparatory documents for WTDC-02.

11.12   In the ensuing discussion, the following points were made:

•   Bearing in mind that Document TDAG-7/3 dealt with proposed arrangements for WTDC-02, the text should reflect suggestions rather than directives (for example, the phrase "shall conduct its work" should be avoided).

•   It would be acceptable to suggest that Sector Members should act as chairmen or vice-chairmen, but not to call for private sector chairmen or vice-chairmen, as "private sector" was not defined.

•   The suggested page limit for proposals or contributions should be considered as indicative and should not be applied retroactively to documents already submitted.

•   The Director of BDT should take steps to prevent the distribution of extraneous documentation (for example, advertising material).

•   Member States and Members of the Development Sector should be informed immediately of the extended deadline for the submission of proposals or contributions.

11.13   In discussing the organization of WTDC-02 (Section II), one speaker stressed that Committee 4 should deal with the seven topics, as well as the six programmes of the Valletta Action Plan, and especially rural communications development. The **Director of BDT** said that the seven topics would be covered in the TDAG report and would be open for discussion in Committee 4. The suggestion was made that special working groups might be set up to deal with those topics, if there were numerous contributions on them.

11.14   With regard to the working groups of the Plenary, the need for liaison with the committees and the Plenary meetings was stressed. It was pointed out that any liaison on the part of the working groups would be governed by the mandate given to them by the Plenary meeting. With regard to the terms of reference of the working groups, it was suggested that the Working Group of the Plenary on the role of the private sector should deal with the participation and role of the private sector, while the Working Group of the Plenary on gender issues should recommend how gender issues could be incorporated in the ITU-D work programmes 2003-2006.

11.15   Replying to requests for information by several speakers, the **representative of BDT** confirmed that every effort would be made to translate documents received after the deadline into six languages, the **Head**, **Department of Conferences**, said that electronic access to documents (keyboards and software) would be available in all six languages, and the **Director of BDT** said that a CD ROM would be available at the beginning of the conference, containing all documents submitted by the deadline.

11.16   With regard to the draft programme of the conference (Section III), one speaker pointed out that the last day of the conference (27 March 2002) fell on Passover, and he suggested that in setting the dates of future conferences, account should be taken of the dates of Passover and Yom Kippur. Another speaker observed that, except for the first day of conference, the working schedule would be set by the conference itself.

11.17   TDAG **agreed** that Document TDAG-7/3 should be revised in the light of the comments made.

12   BDT consolidated report on the outcome of the regional preparatory meetings (Document TDAG-7/20)

12.1   With regard to the draft consolidated report on the outcome of the regional preparatory meetings (Document TDAG-7/20), concern was expressed that there was no mention of the Yaounde Declaration and that reference was made to specific systems in discussion migration from second to third generation networks.

12.2   The **Chairman** pointed out that the summary report of the preparatory meetings was reported to TDAG for information only.

12.3   TDAG **noted** the draft consolidated report (Document TDAG-7/20).

13   Draft report of TDAG to WTDC-02 (Document TDAG-7/4)

13.1   The **representative of BDT** explained that Document TDAG-7/4 contained a preliminary draft of the report of TDAG to WTDC-02, which would be completed to reflect the conclusions of the seventh TDAG meeting and by adding appropriate annexes.

13.2   The draft report of TDAG to WTDC-02 (Document TDAG-7/4) was **noted**.

14   International Telecommunication Regulations (Document TDAG-7/19)

14.1   TDAG **noted** Document TDAG-7/19 but considered that the topic of the document (the International Telecommunication Regulations) was not within its mandate.

14.2   The **Director of TSB** stressed the willingness of ITU-T to cooperate with ITU-D.

15   Report of the Group of Experts on IP Telephony (Document TDAG-7/21)

15.1   TDAG **noted** the report of the Group of Experts on IP Telephony (Document TDAG-7/21).

16   Date of the next meeting

16.1   It was suggested that TDAG should meet for two days prior to the Plenipotentiary Conference in 2002.

17   Scheduling of WTDC in relation to the Plenipotentiary Conference

17.1   The **Director of BDT** said that the development of ITU-D operational plans would be facilitated if WTDCs were to be held after plenipotentiary conferences, as the operational plan could then be drawn up in the light of an approved strategic plan for the Union. Furthermore, a director of BDT, newly elected at the Plenipotentiary Conference, would be responsible both for assisting in drawing up the operational plan and in implementing that plan.

17.2   Several speakers considered that the idea put forward by the Director of BDT was interesting and merited further consideration. It was, however, recognized that the matter was complex.

18   Expression of appreciation to Mr Eberhard Roegner (DETECON)

18.1   The **Director of BDT** thanked Mr Roegner for his support and advice during a long association with ITU.

18.2   **Mr Roegner** (DETECON) said that, having worked for 45 years in telecommunications in some 120 countries, he was more than ever convinced of the need to set achievable targets for telecommunications development.

18.3   On behalf of TDAG, the **Chairman** wished Mr Roegner a happy and active retirement.

19   Closure of the meeting

19.1   The **Director of BDT** thanked the Chairman for his excellent leadership and the members of TDAG for their valuable advice.

19.2   After the usual exchange of courtesies, the **Chairman** closed the meeting at 1730 hours on Friday, 18 January 2002.

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