|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Regional Preparatory Meeting  for WTDC-17 for Americas (RPM-AMS)** | P:\SUP\Logos\Post-150th Anniv\ITU-logo-UNblue.jpg | |
| **Asuncion, Paraguay, 22-24 February 2017** | | |
|  |  | |
|  | **Document** **RPM-AMS17/****32-E** | |
| **8 February 2017** | |
| **Original:** **English/Spanish** | |
|  | | |
| **Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL)** | | |
| CITEL WORKING DOCUMENT: PRELIMINARY DRAFT ITU-D ACTION PLAN | | |

|  |
| --- |
| **Priority area::**  Strategic Plan, Action Plan, Declaration  **Summary:**  CITEL working documents - Preliminary Draft ITU-D Action Plan  **Expected results:**  Present this contribution as a working document of CITEL, which contains the action plan to be reviewed and discussed during RPM.  **Reference:**  Original version: Spanish (submission No. 1586) |

**Compiled text that includes comments from Paraguay and United States of America**

PRELIMINARY DRAFT ITU-D ACTION PLAN 2018-2021

**Paraguay’s Proposal**

Paraguay Administration wishes to refer to the document entitled "Preliminary Draft ITU-D Action Plan to be considered at WTDC-17" (TDAG16-21/CG-OL-SPOPD/4-E - Contribution 4) of TDAG Correspondence Group on the Strategic, Operational Plan and the Declaration and present its first comments to it.

First, we agree generally with what is stated in paragraph 1.1 “World Summit for the Information Society (WSIS), UN Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) and ITU Connect 2020 Agenda, within the context of the XXX Action Plan”. And especially, we believe that “the UN System is called to engage in interagency coordination toward a coherent and more effective joint effort, taking always into consideration that the WSIS, the UN SDGs and the ITU Connect 2020 are processes initiated and agreed among Member States”

In this regard, we recall that the General Assembly of the United Nations, through its Resolution A/RES/69/137 has endorsed the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024 adopted at the Second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, held in Vienna from 3 to 5 November 2014.

This Vienna Programme of Action has set Priorities, one of them being Priority 2 "Development and maintenance of infrastructure" where its subsection (b) refers to "Energy and information and communications technology infrastructure".

The stated priority is in line with the SDOs, especially with the "Objective 9: Industry, innovation, infrastructure" and WSIS Action Lines, including C2 "Information and communication infrastructure: and essential foundation for an inclusive information society" and C6 "Enabling environment".

ITU should then join the efforts of the entire United Nations system to comply with the Vienna Action Plan, within the mandate given by its members and according to its core competencies and expertise.

In this regard, within the Objective 4 “Inclusive Digital Society: Foster the development and use of telecommunications/ICTs and applications to empower people and societies for socio-economic development and environmental protection", its Output 4.1 “Products and services on concentrated assistance to LDCs, SIDS and LLDCs and countries with economies in transition", as indicated in the document, must make a firm commitment to fulfilling the commitments under the Vienna Plan of Action (2014) for Landlocked Developing Countries (LDCs), the Istanbul Programme of Action (2011) for Least Developing Countries (LDCs) and the Samoa Pathway (2014) for Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

**USA’s Proposal**

The United States welcomes the opportunity to submit proposed edits to the Americas Regional Preparatory Meeting (RPM) regarding the preliminary draft ITU-D Action Plan 2018-2021.

These edits aim to: 1) more closely align the proposed ITU-D Objectives, Outputs and Outcomes with principles of results based management; 2) clarify the ITU’s role related to the WSIS Action Lines and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as well as ITU-D’s role in contributing to their implementation; 3) consolidate all Outputs relating to the regulatory aspects of the enabling environment within Objective D.3; and 4) remove performance indicators for each objective.

The United States recognizes the ongoing efforts of the BDT to adopt principles of results based management over the past study cycle. The edits proposed in this contribution aim to continue those efforts by ensuring the ITU-D Objectives, Outputs and Outcomes provide specific, measurable targets.

The United States also recognizes the important role of telecommunications/ICTs in implementing the WSIS Action Lines and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. This contribution highlights the continued relevance of the WSIS Action Line framework, the ways in which implementation of that framework supports the achievement of the SDGs, as well as the ITU-D’s role in that process.

This contribution also proposes moving the Outputs relating to frequency planning and assignment, spectrum management, radio monitoring and the transition from analogue to digital broadcasting to Objective D.3. The purpose of this proposed change is to better align all outputs relating to the Objective on the Enabling Environment. The contribution thus proposes moving these Outputs without deleting any related text.

Finally, the United States’ contribution proposes deletion of performance indicators for each Objective. The items included as performance indicators are activities that will be carried out by ITU-D Membership rather than the BDT. Therefore, tallying the success of countries does not necessarily performance of the BDT. Further, the lack of performance indicators in the corresponding/predicate Strategic Plan makes it difficult to adopt them in the Action Plan. As such, the United States proposes deleting the performance indicators from the ITU-D Action Plan 2018-2021.

**PART C**

**Buenos Aires Action Plan**

**Section 1 – Introduction**

1. **Introduction**

The Buenos Aires Action Plan aims to provide a simple, comprehensive but functional instrument for the achievement of the strategic Objectives of ITU‑D, underpinned by agreed Outcomes, through the implementation of Outputs.

The ITU‑D strategic plan includes four objectives and 14 related outcomes. The Buenos Aires Action Plan follows a results-based structure, in which outcomes are identified for the objectives. Outcomes provide an indication as to whether the objective is being achieved.

Outputs are all the products and services ITU‑D will develop and deliver to members through the implementation framework agreed in this Buenos Aires Action Plan in order to achieve the related ITU‑D strategic objectives and will be specified in the rolling ITU-D Operational Plan each year.

The Buenos Aires Action Plan, specifically its programmes, regional initiatives and Study Group Questions will further contribute to the implementation of ITU resolutions and recommendations relevant to the mandate of ITU-D, including the ITU Connect 2020 Agenda, the World Summit for the Information Society (WSIS) action lines and Sustainable Development Goals and Targets.

The Buenos Aires Action Plan delineates the ITU‑D mandate for the period 2018-2021, and may be updated or modified by the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG) to reflect changes in the telecommunication/information and communication technology (ICT) environment and/or as a result of the performance evaluation to be conducted each year. The Buenos Aires Action Plan structure follows the structure of the strategic plan, so as to ensure a consistent planning hierarchy and linkage across the different planning tools and instruments within ITU (strategic, financial and operational planning).

* 1. **World Summit for the Information Society (WSIS), UN Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) and ITU Connect 2020 Agenda, within the context of the Buenos Aires Action Plan**

The Buenos Aires Action Plan is designed to provide a mechanism to achieve the Objectives of the ITU-D, in line with the outcomes of WTDC 17.

ITU-D Objectives are part of the ITU Strategic Plan and are aligned with the role that ITU plays within the framework of the WSIS, as well as with the “Connect 2020” agenda endorsed by ITU Membership through Resolution 200 at the Plenipotentiary conference in Busan.

Furthermore, the ITU Strategic Plan reaffirms the role of ITU (and consequently ITU-D) as part of the United Nations system in contributing to a transformative post-2015 development agenda (Annex 1 to Resolution 71 – Busan 2014).

Also, the WSIS+10 High-Level Event, in its WSIS+10 Vision for WSIS Beyond 2015, highlights that: "ICTs will play a critical role in achieving the sustainable development goals. Taking into account the ongoing dialogue on the Post-2015 Development Agenda (MDG review process) and the WSIS implementation process, all stakeholders have indicated the necessity of increased interaction between both processes in order to ensure that efforts across the UN system are coherent and coordinated to achieve maximum and sustainable impact”.

The interrelation is therefore clear between WSIS, UN SDGs, and Connect 2020 Agenda: while they have emanated from different processes inside and outside ITU, they share a common greater goal in achieving sustainable development, leveraging on key enablers such as ICTs.

In this perspective, ITU-D, through the implementation of the Buenos Aires Action Plan, supports the WSIS, UN SDGs and Connect 2020 related processes, and contributes to the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines and achieve of the goals and targets of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the ITU Connect 2020 Agenda.

However, in doing so, ITU-D must operate within the mandate given by ITU Membership and according to its core competencies and expertise. As mentioned above, the UN System is called to engage in interagency coordination toward a coherent and more effective joint effort Moreover, ITU-D and its membership must operate within the framework established by ITU Council for implementing the WSIS Action Lines and SDGs. As established by Council Resolution 1332, the WSIS framework is the foundation through which the ITU helps achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

However, in doing so, ITU-D must operate within the mandate given by ITU Membership and according to its core competencies and expertise. As mentioned above, the UN System is called to engage in interagency coordination toward a coherent and more effective joint effort, taking always into consideration that the WSIS, the UN SDGs and the ITU Connect 2020 are processes initiated and agreed among Member States, and as such they belong to the Membership in terms of execution and accountability. These actions further contribute in fulfilling other commitments made by the system, such as the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024 adopted at the Second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing countries.

The ITU-D and its bureau (BDT), would facilitate the transfer of know-how (e.g. through the ITU-D Study Groups) and implement programmes and Regional initiatives as per this Buenos Aires Action Plan, acting as catalyst and convener and in doing so will support Member States’ efforts towards the implementation of the relevant WSIS Action Lines and Connect 2020 Agenda towards achieving the SDGs.

1. **Structure of the Buenos Aires Action Plan**

The Buenos Aires Action Plan follows a results-based structure based on the objectives of the ITU‑D contribution to the ITU strategic plan. It is organized as follows:

For each of the objectives, the following information is provided:

* Title of the objective
* Outcomes and related performance indicators
* Outputs and related implementation frameworks including, as relevant
  + Programmes
  + Regional initiatives
  + Study Group Questions
* References to relevant:
  + PP resolutions
  + WTDC resolutions and recommendations
  + WSIS action lines
  + Sustainable Development Goals and Targets.

As mentioned in Paragraph 1.1 the Buenos Aires Action Plan is aligned with the ITU Connect 2020 Goals, agreed at the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference in 2014:

* Goal 1: Growth – Enable and foster access to and increased use of telecommunications/ICTs
* Goal 2: Inclusiveness – Bridge the digital divide and provide broadband for all
* Goal 3: Sustainability – Manage challenges resulting from telecommunication/ICT development
* Goal 4: Innovation and partnership – Lead, improve and adapt to the changing telecommunication/ICT environment;

These goals are clearly cross cutting and permeate almost all activities described in the Buenos Aires Action Plan. As such no specific reference is made in each of the objectives.

ITU‑D will implement the Outputs (development of product and services) through the programmes, regional initiatives and Study Group Questions.

These Outputs that will also contribute to the implementation of relevant WSIS action lines, WTDC resolutions and recommendations and Sustainable Development Goals and Targets. The guidelines in § 4 below will apply to all elements of the implementation framework.

The products and services to be developed by study groups will be defined in the work plan of each study group Question.

1. **Definitions of programmes, regional initiatives and study groups** 
   1. **Programmes**

Programmes provide a coordination mechanism among all elements of the implementation framework and are responsible for assisting the membership to develop products – such as model policies, regulations, strategies, plans, frameworks, procedures, guidelines, manuals, toolkits and learning-management systems; economic and financial mechanisms; network and frequency planning tools, and spectrum-management tools; conformity assessment and interoperability testing guidance; research and analysis of relevant trends, including through reports, case studies, benchmarks and websites; collection and sharing of relevant best practices and technical standards; data and resource collection and dissemination; database development and development of other online resources, such as learning platforms and portals; and capacity-building materials, – and for providing these products for use by members.

In addition, programmes provide services to members, such as capacity building, legal, policy, regulatory and technical advice, providing platforms to foster cooperation among and exchanges between members and partners on relevant issues and raising awareness among members on key issues and trends. The products and services developed by programmes can be for use by members on a national, sub regional, regional or global basis.

Programmes can be implemented in partnership with other organizations, including Sector Members, Academia, non-governmental organizations, other United Nations agencies and networks to leverage the impact of the products and services developed under the programme.

* 1. **Regional initiatives and other projects**

Regional initiatives are intended to address specific telecommunication/ICT priority areas, through partnerships and resource mobilization to implement projects. Under each regional initiative, projects are developed and implemented to meet the region's needs. The products and services to be developed through regional initiatives, in order to achieve related objectives and outcomes under the ITU‑D contribution to the ITU strategic plan, will be identified in relevant project documents.

In fulfilling the Union's dual responsibility as a United Nations specialized agency and executing agency for implementing projects under the United Nations development system or other funding arrangements so as to facilitate and enhance telecommunication/ICT development, ITU‑D offers, organizes and coordinates technical cooperation assistance through regional initiatives and projects.

* 1. **Study group Questions**

ITU‑D study groups are responsible for developing reports, guidelines and recommendations based on input received from the membership for review by their members. Information is gathered through surveys, contributions and case studies, and is made available for easy access by the membership using content-management and web-publication tools. The study groups examine specific task-oriented telecommunication/ICT questions of priority to ITU-D Membership, to support them in achieving their development goals.

Outputs agreed on in the ITU‑D study groups, and related reference material, are used as input for the implementation of policies, strategies, projects and special initiatives in Member States. These activities also serve to strengthen the shared knowledge base of the membership. Sharing of topics of common interest is carried out through face‑to-face meetings, online e‑forums and remote participation, in an atmosphere that encourages open debate and exchange of information as well as input from experts on the topics under study. The products to be developed under study group Questions will be defined in the work plan of each study group Question.

1. **Implementation framework guidelines**

The programmes, regional initiatives, Study Group Questions, Resolutions and Recommendations encompassed in the Buenos Aires Action Plan implementation framework comprise the outputs, or products and services, which the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) develops to support Member States and Sector Members in achieving the objectives of the ITU‑D contribution to the ITU strategic plan..,.

The Outputs will also contribute to the implementation of relevant WSIS action lines, assisting efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and related targets.

When undertaking actions under programmes, regional initiatives, study group Questions, Resolutions and Recommendations, BDT should continue to work in close cooperation with Member States and Sector Members. Moreover, close coordination should be ensured among all elements of the implementation framework, in order to ensure coherence and consistence, as well as optimizing the utilization of resources.

All elements of the Buenos Aires Action Plan implementation framework should be guided by the following implementation framework guidelines.

* 1. **Coordination within ITU**

For each relevant element of the Buenos Aires Action Plan Outputs, the Director of BDT should liaise with the ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU‑R), the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU‑T) and the General Secretariat, as appropriate and as needed, including through the internal coordination mechanisms established by ITU, such as the ITU Intersectoral Coordination Task Forces and the WSIS Task Force.

* 1. **Coordination with study groups**

Each output identifies relevant study Questions. Actions under programmes, regional initiatives and projects shall, whenever possible, seek close interaction and systematic cooperation with related study group Questions adopted under WTDC Resolution 2 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017). Relevant programmes and regional initiatives will provide input to related study Questions, including through written contributions based on the results of implementation of the programmes and regional initiatives, as well as through workshops, seminars and other activities on related topics. Regional directors will provide information to the study Questions on relevant ITU projects in the region. Likewise, the work undertaken under related study Questions will be used by the relevant programmes. ICT accessibility for persons with disabilities and a gender perspective will be incorporated into all relevant study Questions. The work of the study groups will seek to reduce duplication across study Questions.

* 1. **Coordination and communication with ITU-D membership**

As the ITU is a membership driven organization, BDT will continue to develop products and services to enhance membership and its engagements in ITU-D programmes, regional initiatives, projects, Study Groups and many other activities. In particular, the ITU‑D Sector Membership Portal will continue to be improved to facilitate information-dissemination and sharing and maximize networking and partnership opportunities.

Promotional activities are key to enhancing awareness and understanding of the work of ITU‑D and to keeping the ITU membership, the media and the general public informed about the Sector’s activities. Tools include the ITU‑D website, new media and various communication products, such as videos, newsletters, information kits, brochures, featured articles and fact-sheets.

"ITU‑D Flash", the Sector’s newsletter, will continue to be produced and distributed to ITU-D members on a quarterly basis, and success stories on how ITU‑D makes a difference in people's lives will continue to be featured on the ITU-D website. BDT will also strengthen its presence on social media to promote success stories and activities.

BDT will continue to launch promotional campaigns to promote successful projects. These campaigns involve the production of leaflets, press releases and web content, as well as the organization of press conferences and panel discussions.

BDT will also continue to implement its internal communications strategy, through the organization of staff-meetings and the production of the Director’s monthly letter to keep staff members informed of the activities of the Sector.

* 1. **Mainstreaming the empowerment of women and girls and persons with disabilities in all outputs of the Buenos Aires Action Plan**

The inclusion of a gender perspective and ICT accessibility for persons with disabilities, including age-related disabilities, should be ensured in the implementation of all relevant outcomes of WTDC-17. BDT will also ensure that each ITU‑D programme, project or activity takes into account the use of telecommunications/ICTs for youth and women's empowerment as well as telecommunication/ICT accessibility for persons with disabilities, including age-related disabilities.

* 1. **Partnerships**

BDT will continue to develop partnerships with a wide range of stakeholders, including other United Nations agencies, and endeavour to mobilize resources from funding agencies, international financial institutions, ITU Member States and ITU‑D Sector Members and other relevant partners. In executing projects, available local and regional expertise should be taken into account.

BDT will extend its reach towards potential Academia members and partners by proposing activities such as scientific and academic publications in partnership with Member States, Sector Members, Associates, and Academia, and other relevant stakeholders.

[USA ADD]Information on partnership activities, including those in which BTD plays a catalytic role, should continue to be updated on a dedicated page on the website, including summaries of projects that BDT has assisted parties in elaborating, and of resources generated an expended. This webpage should also include information on upcoming projects and on how interested parties may obtain additional information.

**Buenos Aires Action Plan**

**Section 2 – Objectives and outputs**

**Objective 1 – Coordination: Foster international cooperation and agreement on telecommunication/ICT development issues**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Outcomes** | **[USA SUP]** | **Outputs (Products and services)** |
| Enhanced review and increased level of agreement on the draft ITU-D contribution to the draft ITU strategic plan, the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC) Declaration, and the WTDC Action Plan | [USA SUP] | 1.1 - World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC) and WTDC final report  1.2 - Regional preparatory meetings (RPMs) and final report of the RPMs  1.5 - Enhanced awareness of regional coordination, including Regional Development Forums (RDFs) |
| Assessment of the implementation of the Action Plan, and of the WSIS Plan of Action | [USA SUP] | 1.3 - Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG) and reports of the TDAG for the BDT Director and for WTDC |
| Enhanced knowledge-sharing, dialogue and partnership among Member States, Sector Members, Associates, Academia and other stakeholders on telecommunication/ICT issues | [USA SUP] | 1.4 – Study Groups and guidelines, recommendations and reports of Study Groups  1.6 – Partnership platforms, product and services |

**Output 1.1**

**World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC) and WTDC final report**

1. **Background and Implementation framework**

Held every four years, the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC) is a high-level platform for Member States to development priorities, strategies and action plans to guide the work of ITU-D over the following four-year period. WTDC is a direct service to members that provides the pre-eminent high-level forum for discussion, information sharing and consensus building on telecommunication/ICT developmental technical and policy issues. A final report is produced by each WTDC. It includes the following items:

* Declaration;
* Contribution to the draft ITU strategic plan for the forthcoming relevant timeframe;
* Action plan

1. **References to WTDC Resolutions, WSIS Action Lines and Sustainable Development Goals**

**PP and WTDC resolutions and recommendations**

The implementation of PP Decisions 5, 13, PP Resolutions 25, 71, 72, 77, 131, 135, 139, 140, 151, 154, 165, 167 and all WTDC Resolutions will support Output 1.1 and will contribute to the achievement of Outcome 1.1

**WSIS action lines**

The implementation of the WSIS Action Lines C1 and C11 will support the Output 1.1 and will contribute to the achievement of Outcome 1.1

**Sustainable Development Goals and Targets**

Output 1.1 will contribute to the achievement of the following UN SDGs: 1, 3, (target 3.d), 5, 10, 16 (targets 16.5, 16.6, 16.8), 17 (targets 17.9, 17.16, 17.17, 17.18, 17.19)

**Output 1.2**

**Regional Preparatory Meetings (RPMs) and final reports of the RPMs**

1. **Background and Implementation framework**

WTDC, through Resolution 31 (Rev. Dubai, 2014), instructs the Director of BDT to organize, within the financial limitations, one regional development conference or preparatory meeting per region for each of the six regions (Africa, Americas, Arab States, Asia-Pacific, CIS and Europe), in a reasonable time-frame, prior to the last meeting of TDAG and before the next WTDC, avoiding overlap with other relevant ITU-D meetings, and making full use of the regional offices to facilitate such conferences or meetings.

Regional Preparatory Meetings are direct services to Members and are organized to achieve greater regional coordination and engage early on Members in the WTDC preparation process. They also seek to identify issues, at the regional level, that need to be addressed to foster the development of telecommunication/information and communication technologies (ICTs), taking into account the expression of pressing needs facing Member States and Sector Members of the region. The RPMs are expected to identify top priority areas, which are essential for the telecommunication/ICT development of countries of the region. A final report is produced by each RPM. It covers the following items:

* Identification of priority areas;
* Topics for ITU‑D future work (including working methods and Study Group questions) linked to the identified priority areas;
* Priority setting for the Regional Initiatives;
* Identification of Regional Initiatives for the Region

1. **References to WTDC Resolutions, WSIS Action Lines and Sustainable Development Goals**

**PP and WTDC resolutions and recommendations**

The implementation of PP Decisions 5, 13, PP Resolutions 25, 71, 135, 140, 165, 167 and all WTDC Resolutions will support Output 1.2 and will contribute to the achievement of Outcome 1.1

**WSIS action lines**

Output 1.2 will support the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines C1 and C11 and will contribute to the achievement of Outcome 1.1

**Sustainable Development Goals and Targets**

Output 1.2 will contribute to the achievement of the following UN SDGs: 1, 3, (target 3.d), 5, 10, 16 (targets 16.5, 16.6, 16.8), 17 (targets 17.9, 17.16, 17.17, 17.18, 17.19)

**Output 1.3**

**Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG) and reports of the TDAG for the BDT Director and for WTDC**

1. **Background and Implementation framework**

TDAG prepares a report for the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau indicating action in respect of the following items:

* Working procedures;
* Cooperation and coordination with the Radiocommunication Sector, the Telecommunication Standardization Sector and the General Secretariat;
* Guidelines for the work of study groups;
* Progress in the implementation of the programme of work;
* Implementation of the operational plan of the preceding period ;

Furthermore, TDAG prepares a report for the World Telecommunication Development Conference on the matters assigned to it in accordance with No. 213A of this Convention and transmits it to the Director for submission to the conference.

1. **References to WTDC Resolutions, WSIS Action Lines and Sustainable Development Goals**

**PP and WTDC resolutions and recommendations**

The implementation of PP Decisions 5, 13, PP Resolutions 25, 71, 135, 140, 151, 154, 165, 167, WTDC Resolutions 9 and 10 will support Output 1.3 and will contribute to the achievement of Outcome 1.2

**WSIS action lines**

Output 1.3 will support the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines C1 and C11 and will contribute to the achievement of Outcome 1.2

**Sustainable Development Goals and Targets**

Output 1.3 will contribute to the achievement of the following UN SDGs: 1, 3, (target 3.d), 5, 10, 16 (targets 16.5, 16.6, 16.8), 17 (targets 17.9, 17.16, 17.17, 17.18, 17.19)

**Output 1.4**

**Study Groups and guidelines, recommendations and reports of Study Groups**

1. **Background and Implementation framework**

ITU-D study groups provide an opportunity for all Member States, Sector Members, Associates and Academia to share experiences, present ideas, exchange views and achieve consensus on appropriate strategies to address ICT priorities. ITU-D study groups study questions and are responsible for developing reports, guidelines and Recommendations based on input received from the membership. Information is gathered through surveys, contributions and case studies, and is made available for easy access by the membership using content-management and web-publication tools.

Each ITU-D study group prepares a report indicating the progress of work and presents draft new or revised recommendations for consideration by the WTDC.

Pursuant to WTDC Resolution 2 (Rev. Dubai, 2014), the mandate of Study Group 1 is to study the “Enabling environment for the development of telecommunications/ICTs”, and of Study Group 2 to study “ICT applications, cybersecurity, emergency telecommunications and climate-change adaptation”. The working procedures to be followed by the ITU-D study groups are set out in WTDC Resolution 1 (Rev. Dubai, 2014).

1. **References to WTDC Resolutions, WSIS Action Lines and Sustainable Development Goals**

**PP and WTDC resolutions and recommendations**

The implementation of PP Decisions 5, 12, PP Resolutions 70, 166, 167 and 188, WTDC Resolutions 1, 2, 5, 9, 21, 30, 37, 59, 61 and 71 will support Output 1.4 and will contribute to the achievement of Outcome 1.3

**WSIS action lines**

Output 1.4 will support the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines C1 and C11 and will contribute to the achievement of Outcome 1.3

**Sustainable Development Goals and Targets**

Output 1.4 will contribute to the achievement of the following UN SDGs: 1 (target 1.b), 3 (target 3.d), 5, 10, 16 (targets 16.5, 16.6, 16.10), 17 (targets 17.9, 17.16, 17.17, 17.18).

**Output 1.5**

**Enhanced awareness of regional coordination, including Regional Development Forums (RDFs)**

1. **Background and Implementation framework**

Regional Development Forums provide an opportunity for high-level dialogue between the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) and decision-makers of ITU Member States and Sector Members. They serve as a platform for assessing strategic orientations that may have an impact on BDT’s regional work plan in between world telecommunication development conferences (WTDCs). In this context, these forums will report on the activities of the Dubai Action Plan, with particular emphasis on regional initiatives in order to get feedback from membership to adjust BDT’s work in each region of the world.

1. **References to WTDC Resolutions, WSIS Action Lines and Sustainable Development Goals**

**PP and WTDC resolutions and recommendations**

The implementation of all WTDC Resolutions will support Output 1.5 and will contribute to the achievement of Outcome 1.1

**WSIS action lines**

Output 1.5 will support the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines C1 and C11 and will contribute to the achievement of Outcome 1.1

**Sustainable Development Goals and Targets**

Output 1.5 will contribute to the achievement of the following UN SDGs: 1, 3, (target 3.d), 5, 10, 16 (targets 16.5, 16.6, 16.8), 17 (targets 17.9, 17.16, 17.17, 17.18, 17.19)

**Output 1.6**

**Partnership platforms, products and services**

1. **Background and Implementation framework**

Developing and strengthening partnerships with the view of mobilizing resources is vital for ITU-D given its mandate with the growing volume and variety of its initiatives, including the regional initiatives, projects and activities to promote sustainable telecommunication/ICT development.

To this end, partnerships and cooperation with diverse stakeholders, including other United Nations agencies, international and regional organizations, ITU Member States, ITU-D Sector Members, Associates, Academia and other relevant partners, from developed and developing countries, are necessary to enhance resource mobilization and support ITU-D in the implementation of the outcomes of the WTDC. Various platforms, services and products are made available by BDT to enhance partnerships.

1. **References to WTDC Resolutions, WSIS Action Lines and Sustainable Development Goals**

**PP and WTDC resolutions and recommendations**

The implementation of PP Resolution 135 and 140 and WTDC Resolutions 17, 30, 32, 53 and 71 will support Output 1.6 and will contribute to the achievement of Outcome 1.3

**WSIS action lines**

Output 1.6 will support the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines C1 and C11 and will contribute to the achievement of Outcome 1.3

**Sustainable Development Goals and Targets**

Output 1.6 will contribute to the achievement of the following UN SDGs: 1 (target 1.a), 17 (targets 17.3, 17.16 and 17.17)

**Objective 2 – Secure telecommunications/ICTs: Building confidence and security in the use of telecommunications/ICTs**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Outcomes** | **[USA SUP]** | **Outputs (Product and services)** |
| Strengthened Member States capacity to make available additional interoperable resilient telecommunication / ICT infrastructure and services, including broadband, and bridging the digital standardization gap, . | [USA SUP] | .1 – Enhanced awareness and capability of Member States with regard to telecommunication/ICT infrastructure and services, including broadband, bridging the digital standardization gap, conformance and interoperability |
| Strengthened Member States capacity to effectively respond to cyber threats and develop national cybersecurity strategies and capabilities, including through capacity building efforts and enhanced engagement, information exchange, and know-how transfer among Member States and with relevant players. | [USA SUP] | 2.2 – Enhanced awareness and capability of Member States in building confidence and security in the use of telecommunications/ICTs |
| Strengthened Member States capacity to use telecommunication/ICT for disaster risk reduction and emergency telecommunications. | [USA SUP] | 2.3 – Enhanced awareness and capability of Member States in the use of telecommunications/ICTs for Disaster risk reduction and emergency situations |

**Output 2.1**

**Enhanced awareness and capability of Member States with regard to telecommunication/ICT infrastructure and services, including broadband, bridging the digital standardization gap, and conformance and interoperability**

1. **Background**

Infrastructure is central for enabling universal, sustainable, ubiquitous and affordable access to ICTs and services for all.

The ICT sector is characterized by rapid change in technological platforms for telecommunications, information delivery, broadcasting and computing. The deployment of common broadband, including through mobile and fixed infrastructures for multiple telecommunication services and applications and the evolution to all IP-based wireless and wired next-generation networks (NGNs) and their evolutions open up opportunities but also imply significant challenges for developing countries

1. **Implementation framework**

**Programme: Telecommunication/ICT network infrastructure and services**

The objective of this programme is to assist ITU Member States and ITU-D Sector Members and Associates in maximizing the use of new technologies for the development of their information and communication infrastructures and services and building global Telecommunication/ICT infrastructure though partnership, bridging the digital standardization gap (BSG), Conformance and Interoperability and Spectrum Management programmes.

Main areas of work include:

**Next-generation networks including ICT Networks for Smart Grids**

The architecture of information and communication infrastructures is continuously changing to accommodate new requirements for a growing number of ICT-enabled services and applications, along with evolution to next-generation networks (NGN) and further evolutions.

Activities will be focused on:

* providing assistance to Member States on deployment and migration of their existing networks to NGN and further evolutions;
* assisting countries in planning the introduction and continuous adoption of new network elements and applications by making use of specialized planning tools;
* assisting countries in the digitization of analogue networks and in applying affordable wired and wireless technologies, including interoperability of ICT infrastructure;
* assisting countries in maximizing the use of new technologies for the development of telecommunication / ICT networks including Smart Grids infrastructure and services;
* providing assistance to Member States on deployment of Next-generation ICT networks (NGN) and further evolutions into Smart Grids.

**Broadband networks: Wired and wireless technologies, including IMT**

The introduction of different broadband technologies can increase bandwidth and connectivity. It is therefore important to provide developing countries with an understanding of the different technologies available for broadband using both wired and wireless technologies for terrestrial and satellite telecommunications, including International Mobile Telecommunications (IMT).

Activities will be focused on:

* providing assistance to developing countries in their medium- to long-term planning for the implementation and development of national ICT broadband network plans;
* collecting and disseminating information and analyses on the current status of broadband backbone and submarine cables, in order to assist members in network planning, avoiding duplication of efforts and resources and disseminating information on different countries' experiences with the use of different technologies and services. This is including the creation of an online Interactive Transmission Map related to national backbone worldwide connectivity (Optical Fibres, Microwaves, Submarine Cables, Satellite Earth Stations) as well as of other key metrics of the ICT sector;
* promoting Internet exchange points (IXPs) as a long-term solution to advance connectivity, and supporting ITU members with deployment of/transition to IPv6-based networks and applications, in collaboration with relevant expert organizations.

**Rural communications**

Rural populations will need to be provided with telephony and broadband access, by connecting remote areas to the broadband core networks. Choosing efficient, cost-effective and fast deployment technologies – whether wired or wireless networks – will improve accessibility.

The focus in this area can be summarized as follows:

* providing information on available technologies for access, backhaul and source of power supply to bring telecommunications to rural, unserved and underserved areas;
* implementing projects on public/community broadband access points focusing on the provision of ICT services and applications through suitable technologies, including satellite, and business models which achieve financial and operational sustainability;
* disseminating information on the latest technologies and best practices through methods such as publications, symposia, seminars and workshops, taking into account the outputs of related ITU-D study group activities.

**Bridging the Standardization Gap**

Increasing the knowledge and capacity of developing countries for the effective application/implementation of standards (Recommendations) developed in ITU-T and ITU-R is fundamental for bridging the standardization gap.

The focus in this area will be:

* to promote and coordinate activities in the regions to support the implementation of the relevant standards tailored to developing country needs;
* organize, coordinate and provide necessary assistance to the activities of standardization Committees in the regions also through the organization of capacity building events;
* provide the necessary assistance to the regional groups of ITU study groups;
* provide assistance to the regional telecommunication organizations for the setting-up and management of regional standardization bodies.

**Conformance and interoperability (C&I)**

Availability of high-performing and interoperable products accelerates widespread deployment of infrastructure, technologies and associated services, granting people access to the information society regardless of location or choice of device.

Conformance with international standards and interoperability, i.e. the ability of equipment from different vendors to successfully communicate between them, can help avoid costly market battles over different technologies.

The focus of BDT on this area will be as follows:

* cooperation with international organizations, industry and Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs) as well as Accreditation Bodies, considered as key element for the success of the ITU C&I programme;
* educating technicians, policy-makers and businesses on the importance of C&I procedures and testing, mobilizing the resources required to implement regional and national C&I programmes, in cooperation with other relevant regional and international organizations;
* providing assistance to developing countries in the establishment of national, regional or subregional C&I programmes, and conducting assessment studies for facilitating the establishment of common conformance and interoperability regimes at national, regional and subregional level through the implementation of Mutual recognition agreements/arrangements (MRAs);
* preparing guidelines on this process which outline the technical and human resources required and the international standards to be applied.

[USA SUP]I

* o
* c
* p

**Relevant regional initiatives**

|  |
| --- |
| Region |
| **AFR Region** |
|  |
| **AMS region** |
|  |
| **ARB Region** |
|  |
| **ASP Region** |
|  |
| **CIS Region** |
|  |
| **EUR Region** |
|  |

**Study group Questions**

|  |
| --- |
| Study Group X Questions |
|  |

1. **References to WTDC Resolutions, WSIS Action Lines and Sustainable Development Goals**

**PP and WTDC resolutions and recommendations**

The implementation of PP Resolutions 32, 33, 34, 64, 101, 123, 125, 126, 127, 130, 131, 127, 135, 137, 139, 140, 159, 160, 161, 176, 177, 180, 188, 193, 197, 199, 200, 203 and WTDC Resolutions 9, 10 11, 15, 17, 18, 20, 21, 30, 32, 33, 35, 37, 47, 50, 52, 57, and 62 will support Output 2.1 and will contribute to the achievement of Outcome 2.1

**WSIS action lines**

Output 2.1 will support the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines C1, C2, C3, C9 and C11 and will contribute to the achievement of Outcome 2.1

**Sustainable Development Goals and Targets**

Output 2.1 will contribute to the achievement of the following UN SDGs: 1 (targets 1.4, 1.5), 3 (targets 3.8, 3.d), 5 (target 5.b), 8 (target 8.2), 9 (targets 9.1, 9.a, 9.c), 10 (target 10.c), 11 (targets 11.5, 11.b), 16 (target 16.10), 17 (targets 17.6 and 17.7)

**Output 2.2**

**Products and services on Enhanced awareness and capability of Member States in building confidence and security in the use of telecommunications/ICTs**

1. **Background**

Information and communication technologies (ICTs) are integral to the economic and social development of all nations as well as to the development of the information society. Security is an essential element of the operation and use of ICTs and requires that all persons involved be aware of security and take action appropriate to their role.

As the use of ICT continues to grow, cybersecurity and combating the transmission of email spam continues to be a priority among members. During the last four years, the ITU-D continued to work in this area.

BDT undertook many activities that offer development assistance to members and encourage cooperation among members, while Q-3/2 developed products and materials to support countries in developing national cybersecurity capabilities, to convene experts, and to contribute to ongoing information sharing on best practices. The Question also identified key areas of common concern as well as gaps, based on contributions to a compendium and a survey, respectively.

1. **Implementation framework**

**Programme: Cybersecurity**

The main purpose of this programme is to support the ITU membership, in particular developing countries, in building trust and confidence in the use of ICTs.

Cybersecurity efforts should take into account the global, transnational nature of cyber threats.

The programme should seek in all cases to collaborate within ITU, in particular with ITU-T SG 17and ITU-D SG2 Question 3, as well as with all relevant organizations involved in building trust and confidence in the use of ICTs.

To this end, calling upon the breadth of the community in order to realizing broad partnerships will be one of the main enablers to achieve the programme’ s purpose.

The programme will:

* Support ITU Member States in the development of their national and/or regional cybersecurity strategies;
* assist ITU Member States in establishing national cybersecurity capabilities such as Computer Incident Response Team (CIRTs) to identify, manage and respond to cyber threats, and participate in cooperation mechanisms at the regional and international level;
* organize cyberdrills at national and regional level, to strengthen institutional cooperation and coordination among the key actors and stakeholder;
* establish a culture of cybersecurity by sharing good practices;
* support Member States in raising cybersecurity awareness, building their cybersecurity capacity and improving their cybersecurity posture;
* contribute to worldwide efforts in cybersecurity capacity building;

**Relevant regional initiatives**

The following regional initiatives will contribute to Outcome 2.2, consistent with WTDC Resolution 17 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017)

|  |
| --- |
| Region |
| **AFR Region** |
|  |
| **AMS region** |
|  |
| **ARB Region** |
|  |
| **ASP Region** |
|  |
| **CIS Region** |
|  |
| **EUR Region** |
|  |

**Study group Questions**

The following study group Questions will contribute to Outcome 2.2

|  |
| --- |
| Study Group X Questions |
|  |

1. **References to WTDC Resolutions, WSIS Action Lines and Sustainable Development Goals**

WTDC resolutions and recommendations

The implementation of PP Resolutions 71, 101, 130, 174, 179 and WTDC Resolutions 17, 21, 30, 32, 45, 50, 52, 67, 69 and 80 will support Output 2.2 and will contribute to the achievement of Outcome 2.2

**WSIS action lines**

Output 2.2 will support the implementation of the WSIS Action Line C5 and will contribute to the achievement of Outcome 2.2

**Sustainable Development Goals and Targets**

Output 2.2 will contribute to the achievement of the following UN SDGs: SDG 4, 9, 11 and 16

**Output 2.3**

**Enhanced awareness and capability of Member States in the use of telecommunications/ICTs for disaster risk reduction and emergency situations**

1. **Background**

Countries throughout the world are experiencing increased numbers of natural and man-made disasters, with a disproportionate impact on developing countries. LDCs, SIDS and LLDCs are particularly vulnerable to the impact that disasters can have on their economies and infrastructures, and such countries often lack the capacity to respond to disasters.

The critical importance of using telecommunications/ICTs to respond to these devastating phenomena is widely recognized.

Because of the role telecommunications/ICTs play in all phases of a disaster – preparedness, response, rehabilitation/recovery – it is important to develop disaster telecommunications preparedness plans and strategies, including taking account of the need for resilient and redundant infrastructures and systems as part of disaster risk reduction and early warning.

In line with WTDC Resolution 34 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) many countries have benefited from this outcome. In the preparedness phase, ITU partners with countries and sector members to implement early warning systems in the most affected areas.

Disasters often extend beyond the borders of a State, and effective disaster management may involve the deployment of efforts by more than one country in order to prevent loss of human life and regional crisis. Prior coordination and collaboration among disaster-management experts, including governments, the private sector, international organizations and non-governmental organizations, before disasters increases the probability of saving human life when rescue operations are conducted and thereby mitigates the consequences of a disaster.

Member States should take account of a diverse range of telecommunication/ICT solutions that are appropriate and commonly available for disaster response and mitigation, including those provided by amateur radio services and satellite and terrestrial network services/facilities, taking into account persons with disabilities and specific needs.

1. **Implementation framework**

**Programme: Emergency telecommunications**

The programme will benefit the Member States in many fronts:

* providing assistance to countries in the development of national emergency telecommunication plans;
* Building the capacity of Member States to help strengthen and expand ICT-based initiatives for providing medical (e-health) and humanitarian assistance in disasters and emergencies;
* ensuring thatPromoting best practices for the incorporation of disaster-resilient features in telecommunication networks and infrastructure, conducting post disaster damage assessments and reconstruction and rehabilitation of telecommunications infrastructure;
* making ICT-based solutions temporarily available to members, in coordination with the UN humanitarian communications entities including the Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC), including wireless and satellite-based technologies, in order to establish basic communications during and following disasters and emergencies;
* promoting regional and international cooperation for easy access to, and sharing of, information for disaster management, and exploring modalities to enable participation of all countries with economies in transition;
* promoting technical cooperation and enhancing the capacity of countries, particularly LDS, SIDS and LLDCs, to utilize ICT tools;
* identifying best practices for the use of active and passive space-based sensing systems for the purpose of disaster prediction, detection and mitigation;
* contribute to the implementation of WSIS Action Line C7 and thereby the achievement of Goal 13 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals.

**Relevant regional initiatives**

The following regional initiatives will contribute to Outcome 2.3, consistent with WTDC Resolution 17 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017)

|  |
| --- |
| Region |
| **AFR Region** |
|  |
| **AMS region** |
|  |
| **ARB Region** |
|  |
| **ASP Region** |
|  |
| **CIS Region** |
|  |
| **EUR Region** |
|  |

**Study group Questions**

The following study group Questions will contribute to Outcome 2.3

|  |
| --- |
| Study Group X Questions |
|  |

1. **References to WTDC Resolutions, WSIS Action Lines and Sustainable Development Goals**

**PP and WTDC resolutions and recommendations**

The implementation of PP Resolution 36, 136 and WTDC Resolutions 34 will support Output 2.3 and will contribute to the achievement of Outcome 2.3

**WSIS action lines**

Output 2.3 will support the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines C2 and C7 and will contribute to the achievement of Outcome 2.3

**Sustainable Development Goals and Targets**

Output 2.3 will contribute to the achievement of the following UN SDGs: 1 (target 1.5), 3 (target 3.9), 5 (target 5b), 11 (target 11b), 13 (targets 13.1, 13.2, 13.3)

**Objective 3 – Enabling Environment: Foster communications and cooperation among regulators for sustainable telecommunication/ICT development**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Outcomes** | **[USA SUP]** | **Outputs (Product and services)** |
| Strengthened capacity of Member States to understand and improve policy, legal, and regulatory frameworks conducive to development of telecommunications/ICTs |  | 3.1 –Enhanced awareness and capability of Member States with regard to Telecommunication/ICT policy and regulation, as appropriate, including policies to promote innovation, as well as frequency planning and assignment, spectrum management and radio monitoring |
| Strengthened Member States capacity to produce high-quality, internationally comparable ICT statistics based on agreed standards and methodologies | [USA SUP] | 3.2 – Enhanced understanding by policymakers and other stakeholders of current telecommunication/ICT trends and developments based on high-quality, internationally comparable telecommunication/ICT statistics and data analysis |
| Improved human and institutional capacity of ITU Membership to tap into the full potential of telecommunications/ICTs | [USA SUP] | 3.3 – Enhanced awareness and capability of Member States in human and institutional capacity building |
| Strengthened ITU Membership capacity to integrate telecommunication/ICT innovation in national development agenda | [USA SUP] | 3.4 – Improved cooperation in sharing public information about telecommunication/ICT innovation  3.5 – Enhanced awareness and capability of Member States in the transition from analogue to digital broadcasting and in post-transition activities, and effectiveness of implementation of prepared guidelines. |

**Output 3.1**

**Products and servicesEnhanced awareness and capability of Member States with regard to telecommunication/ICT policy and regulation, as appropriate, including policies to promote innovation, as well as frequency planning and assignment, spectrum management and radio monitoring**

1. **Background**

In evolving towards a digital economy, an enabling environment for ICTs is increasingly recognized as critical for social and economic growth and competitiveness of countries. The ICT sector and the surrounding ecosystem is evolving rapidly and there is an even greater need for inclusive dialogue, cooperation and collaboration, including with other sectors where ICTs are bringing value. A sound and clear policy and regulatory environment that also considers the needs of other sectors is needed to ensure that all can benefit from ICT services.

1. **Implementation framework**

**Programme: Policy and regulatory framework**

This programme aims to support ITU membership in creating an enabling legal, policy and regulatory environments conducive to the development of telecommunications /ICTs in a digital economy, strengthening communication and collaboration with other sectors such as those in charge of health, education, energy and finance to leverage the cross-sectoral nature of ICTs on economic and social development, and ensuring that all can benefit from ICTs by building sound policy and regulatory frameworks.

The programme seeks to benefit from an extensive collaboration within ITU, in particular with ITU-D SG1 and SG2, ITU-R SGs and ITU-T SGs as well as with all relevant organizations where ICTs have an impact and bring value.

To this end, providing up to date regulatory and policy data, research and analysis and holding an inclusive dialogue with the wider ICT community and across the sectors realizing broad partnerships will be one of the main enablers to achieve the programme’ s purpose.

The programme will:

* provide ITU Members with the tools to keep informed of current developments with regard to the policy, legal, and regulatory frameworks as well as market developments in the ICT sector and the digital economies it enables;
* support ITU Member States in defining, elaborating, implementing and reviewing transparent, coherent and forward looking strategies, policy, legal and regulatory frameworks as well as in moving towards evidence-based decision-making at the national and regional level in order to implement meaningful solutions and reforms to stimulate competition, investment and innovation, and foster global, regional and national ICT markets and ensuring affordable access for all to ICTs and the digital economy;
* provide tools and platforms to ITU-D Sector Members for an inclusive dialogue and enhanced cooperation among national and regional regulators, policy-makers and other telecommunication/ICT stakeholders as well as with other sectors of the economy on topical policy, legal, regulatory and market issues to help countries achieve a more inclusive information society and to raise national awareness about the importance of an enabling environment to allow digital empowerment and inclusion in a Smart connected society;
* provide institutional and human capacity building and technical assistance to ITU-D Sector Members on topical policy, legal, regulatory, as well as on economic and financial issues and market developments;
* convene a Global Forum for discussing global trends in regulation for ITU-D Sector Members and other national and international stakeholders, through organizing the Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR).
* c
* pe
* pe

**Relevant regional initiatives**

The following regional initiatives will contribute to Outcome 3.1, consistent with WTDC Resolution 17 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017)

|  |
| --- |
| Region |
| **AFR Region** |
|  |
| **AMS region** |
|  |
| **ARB Region** |
|  |
| **ASP Region** |
|  |
| **CIS Region** |
|  |
| **EUR Region** |
|  |

**Study group Questions**

The following study group Questions will contribute to Outcome 3.1

|  |
| --- |
| Study Group X Questions |
|  |

1. **References to WTDC Resolutions, WSIS Action Lines and Sustainable Development Goals**

**PP and WTDC resolutions and recommendations**

The implementation of PP Resolutions 21, 22, 102, 135, 138, 139, 174, 188, 191, 195, 196, 201 and WTDC Resolutions 8, 17, 22, 23, 30, 32, 37, 48, 64, 71, 77, 78 and 79 and Recommendations ITU-D 15 and ITU-D 16 will support Output 3.1 and will contribute to the achievement of Outcome 3.1

**WSIS action lines**

Output 3.1 will support the implementation of the WSIS Action Line C6 and will contribute to the achievement of Outcome 3.1

**Sustainable Development Goals and Targets**

Output 3.1 will contribute to the achievement of the following UN SDGs: 2 (target 2.a), 4 (target 4.4), 5 (target 5.b), 8 (targets 8.2, 8.3), 9 (targets 9.1, 9.c), 10 (target 10.3), 11 (targets 11.3, 11.b), 16 (targets 16.3, 16.6, 16.7, 16.10, 16.b), 17 (targets 17.6, 17.14, 17.16)

**Output 3.2**

**Products and services on telecommunication/ICT statisticsEnhanced understanding by policymakers and other stakeholders of current telecommunication/ICT trends and developments based on high-quality, internationally comparable telecommunication/ICT statistics and data analysis**

1. **Background**

With the growing recognition of ICTs as a driver for sustainable development, and as more and more people join the global information society and high-speed communication networks become an indispensable infrastructure, the tracking and measurement of developments in telecommunications/ICTs remain as relevant as ever. ITU is recognized all over the world as the main source of internationally comparable data and statistics on telecommunications/ICTs. The statistical standards, definitions and methodologies developed by ITU are widely used by countries in their production of telecommunication/ICT statistics. Reliable, comprehensive and comparable statistics are indispensable to identify progress and gaps, track information-society developments at the national and global levels and support government and industry in making informed and strategic decisions to ensure equal access, use and impact of telecommunications/ICTs. They are indispensable for monitoring progress towards achievement of global development goals, such as the SDGs, the WSIS Action Lines, and the ITU Strategic Goals included in the Connect 2020 Agenda.

While the availability of comparable telecommunication/ICT statistics has considerably improved in recent years, major data gaps remain, in particular in developing countries, and in covering important areas such as measuring broadband speed and quality, international Internet bandwidth, investment and revenue in the ICT sector, household access to ICTs, individuals' use of ICTs, or gender equality in access and use of ICTs and access to ICTs by persons with disabilities. Countries are therefore encouraged to produce high quality data based on internationally agreed standards and methodologies, which illustrate national digital divides as well as the efforts made through various programmes to close the gap, showing, as much as possible, the social and economic impact.

1. **Implementation framework**

**Programme: BDT data and statistics**

The main objective of the programme on data and statistics is to support the ITU membership in taking informed policy and strategic decisions based on high-quality, internationally comparable ICT statistics and data analysis.

The programme on ICT data and statistics will ensure that ITU maintains its global leadership as the main source of international ICT data and statistics, taking into consideration new and emerging trends. This will be done by delivering the following services and products:

* collecting, harmonizing and disseminating data and official statistics on the information society using a variety of data sources and dissemination tools, such as the World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators (WTI) Database, the ICT Eye ITU online portal, the UN Data portal and others;
* identifying new and emerging data sources, in particular those related to big data and the Internet of Things, and explore the feasibility of using such data for producing new indicators or improving existing ones;
* analyzing ICT trends and producing regional and global research reports, such as the Measuring the Information Society Report as well as statistical and analytical briefs;
* benchmarking information society developments and clarifying the magnitude of the digital divide (using tools such as the ICT Development Index and the ICT Price Basket) and measuring the impact of ICTs on sustainable development and the gender digital divide;
* developing international standards, definitions and methodologies on ICT statistics, in close cooperation with other regional and international organizations, in particular the members of the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development, for consideration by the United Nations Statistical Commission;
* providing a global forum for discussing information society measurements for ITU members and other national and international stakeholders, through organizing the World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Symposium (WTIS) and its related statistical expert groups;
* encouraging Members States to bring together different stakeholders in government, academics and civil society in raising national awareness about the importance of production and dissemination of high quality data for policy purposes;
* contributing to the monitoring of internationally agreed goals and targets, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the WSIS Action Lines as well as the targets included in the ITU Strategic Plan and the Connect 2020 Agenda, and developing related measurement frameworks;
* maintaining a leading role in the global Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development and its relevant Task Groups;
* providing capacity building and technical assistance to Member States for the collection of ICT statistics, in particular by means of national surveys, through the delivery of training workshops and the production of methodological manuals and handbooks.

**Relevant regional initiatives**

The following regional initiatives will contribute to Outcome 3.2, consistent with WTDC Resolution 17 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017)

|  |
| --- |
| Region |
| **AFR Region** |
|  |
| **AMS region** |
|  |
| **ARB Region** |
|  |
| **ASP Region** |
|  |
| **CIS Region** |
|  |
| **EUR Region** |
|  |

**Study group Questions**

The following study group Questions will contribute to Outcome 3.2

|  |
| --- |
| Study Group X Questions |
|  |

1. **References to WTDC Resolutions, WSIS Action Lines and Sustainable Development Goals**

**PP and WTDC resolutions and recommendations**

The implementation of PP Resolutions 70, 131, 179 and 200 and WTDC Resolutions 8, 30 and 37 will support Output 3.2 and will contribute to the achievement of Outcome 3.2

**WSIS action lines**

ICT Statistics are relevant to the monitoring of the implementation of all WSIS Action Lines of the Geneva Plan of Action and are referred to in paragraphs 112-119 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, as well as paragraphs 70 of the Outcome Document of the High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Overall Review of the Implementation of WSIS Outcomes.

**Sustainable Development Goals and Targets**

ICT Statistics are relevant to the monitoring of the implementation of all SDGs and are referred to in paragraphs 48, 57, 74-76, 83 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

**Output 3.3**

**Products and services on Enhanced awareness and capability of Member States with regard to human and institutional capacity building**

1. **Background**

Capacity building continues to be a cross-cutting issue that informs and augments the overall ITU-D mission. ICT-based education and training aimed at enhancement of human potential to leverage ICTs and improve individual livelihoods is particularly fundamental for developing countries. This will help them to improve skills and enable them to establish and develop their national e-strategies for sustainable development. Therefore, research undertakings and development of specialized training programmes in membership priority areas is required.

Furthermore, introduction of telecommunications/ICTs into education and human resources development for all groups is needed. This requires cooperation and partnerships between countries and broad stakeholders’ participation. The partnerships should include among others, academia, experienced professionals and experts as well as organizations with relevant expertise in capacity building activities.

1. **Implementation framework**

**Programme: Capacity Building**

The programme seeks to develop necessary capacity building policies, strategies in telecommunications/ICT and guidelines and deliver them to members, especially in developing countries, in order to assist them in enhancing and strengthening their human and institutional capacity and setting up national programmes. It will raise awareness among governmental and private sector decision-makers on the importance of capacity building. The programme will also undertake necessary steps in order to develop standards for ITU human capacity building activities.

The programme will implement a wide scope of capacity building interventions. Emphasis is given to trainingas a core capacity building tool forenhancing the capacity of ITU-D members, especially in developing countries, in order to apply ICTs effectively. Under this programme online learning and face-to-face learning opportunities (both synchronous and asynchronous), as well as blended solutions, will be provided for all stakeholders who would like to enhance their professional knowledge and skills. Delivering and promoting "train the trainer" activities to support ICT instructional and institutional sustainability will also play an important role in programme implementation.

The programme will:

* continue to encourage establishment of cooperative partnerships in multi-stakeholder fashion with all stakeholders specializing in ICT education, training and development activities;
* continue to engage qualified and experienced experts from the academia, private sector, government as well as international organizations in order to build human and institutional capacity and facilitate their involvement in capacity building activities;
* continue developmentof high-level training materials undertaken in collaboration with ITU subject matter experts, partners from the academia, research institutions and other organizations, who will ensure their quality control;
* ensure that there is continued enhancement of the ITU Academy portal and related services. The programme will also support development of documented administrative and technical procedures to ensure quality control of materials made available on the ITU Academy portal. It will also make possible provision of training resources and materials for sharing and recycling through the ITU Academy portal with all stakeholders;
* continue to promote and support Centres of Excellence network and Internet Training Centres as important and indispensable components of ITU capacity building;
* taking into account demonstrated value in terms of providing practical skills and hands-on learning, the programme will continue to organise knowledge-sharing platforms - fora for discussions on the impact and use of telecommunications/ICTs for education, lifelong learning, skills development and other capacity building components. These fora will also be important sources of information exchange, sharing of best practices and consensus building that bring together ITU-D members and other national and international stakeholders. Periodic regional and global meetings, workshops and seminars will also be organized;
* promote and support researchon and analysis of the latest sector trends and priorities thorough regular surveys and data collection. This will help to identify needs of the membership and provide required solutions;
* promote linkages between educational institutions and the ICT sector to ensure that graduates are better matched with sector needs.

All these capacity building products and services will assist the membership at a global, regional, sub-regional or national level. This will also contribute to the implementation of relevant activities and projects.

**Relevant regional initiatives**

The following regional initiatives will contribute to Outcome 3.3, consistent with WTDC Resolution 17 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017)

|  |
| --- |
| Region |
| **AFR Region** |
|  |
| **AMS region** |
|  |
| **ARB Region** |
|  |
| **ASP Region** |
|  |
| **CIS Region** |
|  |
| **EUR Region** |
|  |

**Study group Questions**

The following study group Questions will contribute to Outcome 3.3

|  |
| --- |
| Study Group X Questions |
|  |

1. **References to WTDC Resolutions, WSIS Action Lines and Sustainable Development Goals**

**PP and WTDC resolutions and recommendations**

The implementation of PP resolutions 25, 71, 72, 137, 139, 140, 169, 176, 188, 189, 197, 199, 202 and WTDC Resolutions 73, 40, 11, 17, 35, 37, 38, 56, 48, 55, 56, 58, and 67 will support Output 3.3 and will contribute to the achievement of Outcome 3.3

**WSIS action lines**

Output 3.3 will support the implementation of the WSIS Action Line C4 and will contribute to the achievement of Outcome 3.3

**Sustainable Development Goals and Targets**

Output 3.3 will contribute to the achievement of the following UN SDGs: 1 (target 1.b), 2 (target 2.3), 3 (targets 3.7, 3.b, 3.d), 4 (targets 4.4, 4.7), 5 (targets 5.5, 5.b), 6 (target 6.a), 12 (targets 12.7, 12.8, 12.a, 12.b), 13 (targets 13.2, 13.3, 13.b), 14 (target 14.a), 16 (target 16.a), 17 (targets 17.9, 17.18)

**Output 3.4**

**Products and services onImproved cooperation in sharing public information about telecommunication/ICT innovation**

1. **Background**

Innovation has been recognized as a powerful engine for development to address social and economic challenges and navigate global challenges for policy makers and citizens alike.

1. **Implementation framework**

**Programme: Innovation**

This programme is to support ITU-D memberships to foster ICT entrepreneurship and increased ICT innovation in the ICT ecosystem, while encouraging empowerment of grassroots key stakeholders and creating new opportunities for them in the ICT sector. There is also need to continue building a culture of innovation in the ITU-D membership to foster ICT entrepreneurship, ICT SMEs, startups creation and scale-up

This programme is to identify new policy-coherent (e.g. bottom-up and demand) approaches to ICT innovation, based on best practices, to be integrated into national development agendas, to identify needs, and deliver initiatives and projects with these new approaches.

The programme can deliver via such activities as:

* conducting update to ICT policies with new pillars based on innovation and entrepreneurship and to bridge gaps in the ecosystem with concrete activities (e.g. linking global ecosystems, fostering local ecosystem);
* developing high impact projects from the various stakeholder groups with new approaches (e.g. innovative bottom up in ICT centric Innovation ecosystem);
* creating mechanisms to foster new partnerships and initiatives that support upscale of ICT centric innovation activities, e.g. innovative partnership facilitation for funding of projects, and/or new instruments other than traditional project funding and delivery mechanisms, etc.;
* developing mechanisms to reach, engage, support, and nurture ICT centric innovation ecosystems with diverse stakeholders groups.

**Relevant regional initiatives**

The following regional initiatives will contribute to Outcome 3.4, consistent with WTDC Resolution 17 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017)

|  |
| --- |
| Region |
| **AFR Region** |
|  |
| **AMS region** |
|  |
| **ARB Region** |
|  |
| **ASP Region** |
|  |
| **CIS Region** |
|  |
| **EUR Region** |
|  |

**Study group Questions**

The following study group Questions will contribute to Outcome 3.4

|  |
| --- |
| Study Group X Questions |
|  |

1. **References to WTDC Resolutions, WSIS Action Lines and Sustainable Development Goals**

**PP and WTDC resolutions and recommendations**

The implementation of PP Resolution 200 and WTDC Resolutions 17, 71 will support Output 3.4 and will contribute to the achievement of Outcome 3.4

**WSIS action lines**

Output 3.4 will support the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines C1, C2, C3, C4, C5, C6, C7, and C11 and will contribute to the achievement of Outcome 3.4

**Sustainable Development Goals and Targets**

Output 3.4 will contribute to the achievement of the following UN SDGs: 1 (targets 1.1, 1.2, 1.4, 1.a, 1.b), 2 (target 2.a), 3 (targets 3.8, 3.a, 3.b), 4 (targets 4.1, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5, 4.6, 4.7, 4.a), 5 (targets 5.1, 5.5 ,5.a, 5.b, 5.c), 9 (targets 9.a, 9.b), 12 (target 12.7), 16 (targets 16.7, 16.8, 16.10, 16.b), 17 (targets 17.3, 17.6, 17.7, 17.8, 17.16 and 17.17)

**Output 3.5**

**Enhanced awareness and capability of Member States in the transition from analogue to digital broadcasting and in post-transition activities, and the effectiveness of implementation of prepared guidelines**

1. **Background**
2. **Implementation framework**

I

* o

**Relevant regional initiatives**

The following regional initiatives will contribute to Outcome 3.5, consistent with WTDC Resolution 17 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017)

|  |
| --- |
| Region |
| **AFR Region** |
|  |
| **AMS region** |
|  |
| **ARB Region** |
|  |
| **ASP Region** |
|  |
| **CIS Region** |
|  |
| **EUR Region** |
|  |

**Study group Questions**

The following study group Questions will contribute to Outcome 3.4

|  |
| --- |
| Study Group X Questions |
|  |

1. **References to WTDC Resolutions, WSIS Action Lines and Sustainable Development Goals**

**PP and WTDC resolutions and recommendations**

The implementation of PP Resolutions 135, 140 and 200 and WTDC Resolutions 9, 10, 30, 32, 35 and 37 will support Output 3.5 and will contribute to the achievement of Outcome 3.4

**WSIS action lines**

Output 3.5 will support the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines C2 and C9 and will contribute to the achievement of Outcome 3.4

**Sustainable Development Goals and Targets**

Output 3.5 will contribute to the achievement of the following UN SDGs: 1 (target 1.4), 8 (target 8.2), 9 (targets 9.1, 9.a, 9.b, 9.c), 11 (target 11.4), 12 (target 12.8), 16 (target 16.10)

**Objective 4 – Inclusive Digital Society: Foster the development and use of telecommunications/ICTs and applications to empower people and societies for socio-economic development and environmental protection**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Outcomes** | **[USA SUP]** | **Output**  **(Products and services)** |
| Improved capacity building to increase the use of telecommunications/ICTs in Least Developed Countries (LDCs), small island developing states (SIDS) and landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) and countries with economies in transition  Improved access to, including access of landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) to international high-capacity fibre optic cables and high-bandwith networks, and use of telecommunication/ICT in Least Developed Countries (LDCs), small island developing states (SIDS) and landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) and countries with economies in transition | [USA SUP] | 4.1 – Enhanced public-private partnerships to foster the development of telecommunications/ICTs with concentrated assistance to LDCs, SIDS and LLDCs and countries with economies in transition |
| Improved ITU Membership capacity to leverage ICT applications, including mobile, in high-priority areas (e.g. health, agriculture, commerce, governance, education, finance) | [USA SUP] | 4.2 – Improved availability of information on ICT applications |
| Strengthened ITU Membership capacity to develop strategies, policies and practices for digital inclusion, especially people with specific needs | [USA SUP] | 4.3 – Improved availability of information on digital inclusion for people with specific needs |
| Enhanced ITU Membership capacity to develop ICT strategies and solutions on climate-change adaptation and mitigation | [USA SUP] | 4.4 – Improved availability of information on, and capacity in connection with, ICT climate-change adaptation and mitigation |

**Output 4.1**

**Products and services onEnhanced public-private partnerships to foster the development of telecommunications/ICTs with concentrated assistance to LDCs, SIDS and LLDCs and countries with economies in transition**

1. **Background**

IWTDC Resolution 16 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) and Resolution 30 (Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on special measures for LDCs, SIDS, LLDCs and countries with economies in transition, which highlight the role of ICTs as enablers of national socio-economic development, provide BDT with a mandate to pay special attention to these categories of countries through concentrated assistance.

ITU assistance to the least developed countries (LDCs) goes back to 1971, when the Union accorded special assistance to LDCs through the implementation of relevant plenipotentiary conference resolutions. In 2002, direct assistance to LDCs was delivered for the first time to a small group of countries on a biennial basis. This assistance facilitated monitoring and evaluation of the impact made by the concentrated assistance to beneficiary countries. In 2006, the programme was expanded to include Small Island developing states (SIDS) and emergency telecommunications.

In 2010, WTDC (Hyderabad, 2010) approved the inclusion of landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) and countries with economies in transition in this programme. Every decade, the United Nations holds a special conference on LDCs, SIDS and LLDCs. For the decade 2004-2014, the fourth United Nations Conference on LDCs was held in Turkey in 2011, and adopted the Istanbul Programme of Action. In 2014, the third international conference on SIDS will be held in Samoa in September, and the ten-year review of the Almaty Plan of Action for LLDCs will be carried out in November 2014.

Output 4.1 will deliver targeted and highly differentiated assistance to countries with specific needs, including LDCs, SIDS, LLDCs and countries with economies in transition, in a number of priority areas.

BDT is committed to fulfilling its mandate and striving to reach its commitments under the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA), 2011 in regard to ICTs for LDCs, the Samoa Pathway for SIDS (2014) and the Vienna Plan of Action (VPoA) for LLDCs (2014).

1. **Implementation framework**

**Programme: Concentrated assistance to LDCs, SIDS and LLDCs**

This programme will provide concentrated assistance to Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Landlocked Developing Countries (LDCs), Sendai framework for disaster risk reduction, the WSIS, and the agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development Goals.

The programme will:

* provide quality and timely delivery of assistance for the general socio-economic development of countries in special needs through telecommunications/ICTs, focusing on their specific needs for the development of broadband infrastructure, ICT applications and cybersecurity, policy and regulatory frameworks and human capacity building;
* promote an inclusive universal access to telecommunications/ICTs, provide capacity building assistance in disaster prediction, preparedness, adaptation, monitoring and mitigation to LDCs, SIDS, and LLDCs based on their priority needs;
* assist these categories of countries to achieve internationally agreed goals, such as the WSIS Action Lines and the 2030 Agenda for the Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Istanbul plan of action for LDCs, the Samoa Pathway for SIDS and the Vienna programme of action for LLDCs.

**Relevant regional initiatives**

The following regional initiatives will contribute to Outcome 4.1, consistent with WTDC Resolution 17 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017)

|  |
| --- |
| Region |
| **AFR Region** |
|  |
| **AMS region** |
|  |
| **ARB Region** |
|  |
| **ASP Region** |
|  |
| **CIS Region** |
|  |
| **EUR Region** |
|  |

**Study group Questions**

The following study group Questions will contribute to Outcome 4.1

|  |
| --- |
| Study Group X Questions |
|  |

1. **References to WTDC Resolutions, WSIS Action Lines and Sustainable Development Goals**

**PP and WTDC resolutions and recommendations**

The implementation of PP Resolution 30 and WTDC Resolutions 16 will support Output 4.1 and will contribute to the achievement of Outcome 4.1

**WSIS action lines**

Output 4.1 will support the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines C2, C6 and C7 and will contribute to the achievement of Outcome 4.1

**Sustainable Development Goals and Targets**

Output 4.1 will contribute to the achievement of the following UN SDGs: 1 (targets 1.4, 1.5), 3 (target 3.9), 7 (target 7.b), 8 (target 8a), 9 (targets 9a, 9b, 9c), 11 (target 11.5), 13 (target 13b), 17 (targets 17.8, and 17.18)

**Vienna Programme of Action**

Output 4.1 will contribute to the achievement of Priority 2 (b) Energy and communications technology infrastructure Objectives (c) and (d).

**Output 4.2**

**Products and servicesImproved availability of information on ICT applications**

1. **Background**

ICT and particularly Mobile technology hold the most transformative power of our time. It has the capacity to connect even the most isolated communities to sources of information and services that can have direct impact on their livelihoods and quality of life. Services delivered via phones and Internet are critical to generating social impact in different life aspects.

Despite the rapid expansion of telecommunication and mobile technologies, many people around the world still remain away from the reach of the digital revolution. Many of the digital innovations have not yet achieved economically sustainable scale and are accessible only to a fragment of those who need them most.

In light of the continued relevance of the WSIS Action lines, as well as the adoption of the new Sustainable Development Goals, mainstreaming digital innovations in all sectors is unavoidable if we are to achieve those goals by 2030. All people particularly at the Bottom of the Pyramid (BOP) should have affordable access through smart devices to key information and life-enhancing services critical for sustainable development. This would require much more than just infrastructure – extending access must be accompanied by the availability of relevant ICT applications and services to extend access to digital education, healthcare, agriculture, energy and financial and commercial services.

1. **Implementation framework**

**Programme: ICT applications**

The main purpose of this programme is to support the ITU membership, in collaboration and partnership with other United Nations organizations and the private sector, in fostering the use of telecommunications/ICTs in the various facets of information-society development, in particular in underserved and rural areas, and for sustainable development and attaining the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and implementing the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Action Lines.

The programme will:

* elaborate national strategic planning frameworks and associated toolkits for selected ICT applications and services, through public-private partnerships with organizations with expertise in these domains. These frameworks and toolkits facilitate the elaboration of national sectoral e strategies and build capacity among the ITU membership to articulate national visions, objectives, strategies, action plans and performance indicators to support the implementation of large scale ICT applications and services that leverage existing infrastructure more effectively. This will result in effective harnessing of ICTs to better serve socio-economic development;
* support the deployment of ICT/mobile applications to improve the delivery of value added services in high-potential areas like e-health including mobile health, education, agriculture, governance, energy, mobile payment, etc., and to demonstrate and introduce the most suitable ICT utilization and applications to solve the existing challenges in sustainable development. The programme will act as a catalyst by launching appropriate partnership platforms – involving public and private partners – in order to foster the deployment of innovative ICT applications;
* onduct detailed studies and facilitate the sharing of knowledge and best practices on various ICT applications, particularly using broadband, mobile communication, and new technology advances and innovations, with the aim of improving citizens' access to value added services in areas like health, education, agriculture, governance, etc., and taking into consideration the means available for implementation (whether wireline, wireless, terrestrial, satellite, fixed, mobile, narrowband or broadband).

**Relevant regional initiatives**

The following regional initiatives will contribute to Outcome 4.2, consistent with WTDC Resolution 17 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017)

|  |
| --- |
| Region |
| **AFR Region** |
|  |
| **AMS region** |
|  |
| **ARB Region** |
|  |
| **ASP Region** |
|  |
| **CIS Region** |
|  |
| **EUR Region** |
|  |

**Study group Questions**

The following study group Questions will contribute to Outcome 4.2

|  |
| --- |
| Study Group X Questions |
|  |

1. **References to WTDC Resolutions, WSIS Action Lines and Sustainable Development Goals**

**PP and WTDC resolutions and recommendations**

The implementation of PP Resolution 139, 183, 201, WTDC Resolutions 17, 21, 30, 32, 37, 50, 52, 53 and 54 will support Output 4.2 and will contribute to the achievement of Outcome 4.2

**WSIS action lines**

Output 4.2 will support the implementation of the WSIS Action Line C7 and will contribute to the achievement of Outcome 4.2

**Sustainable Development Goals and Targets**

Output 4.2 will contribute to the achievement of the following UN SDGs: 2 (targets 2.1, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5), 3 (targets 3.1, 3.2, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 3.a, 3.7), 4 (targets 4.1, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5, 4.c), 6 (targets 6.1, 6.4, 6.5), 7 (targets 7.1, 7.2, 7.3), 11 (targets 11.2, 11.6)

**Output 4.3**

**Products and servicesImproved availability of information on digital inclusion for people with specific needs**

1. **Background**

Digital inclusion means ensuring the accessibility of telecommunications/ICTs and the use of telecommunications/ICTs for social and economic development, especially for people with specific needs. Despite the increasing deployment of telecommunication/ICT networks, equipment and applications, many people remain excluded from the information society. Furthermore telecommunications/ICTs are not exploited to promote economic and social development of women and girls, persons with disabilities, including age-related disabilities, youth, children and Indigenous Peoples, who have specific needs that must be addressed to enable them to use and leverage telecommunications/ICTs.

1. **Implementation framework**

**Programme: Digital inclusion**

This programme aims to promote digital inclusion by supporting members to provide training on a range of digital skills, from digital and web literacy to more advanced ICT skills. Ideally, youth and children develop these skills where they are incorporated into national education plans and where schools are connected to the Internet, equipped with ICTs and staffed by teachers trained to impart such skills. However, these skills can also be developed out of the formal school context, including through public, private and social entrepreneurship community and national skills development programmes, as well as through self-paced online and mobile learning opportunities.

Once equipped with telecommunication/ICT skills, people with specific needs can harness the power of telecommunications/ICTs for their empowerment, including employment, entrepreneurship and lifelong learning. This is especially timely in the face of global youth unemployment and the gender divide in telecommunication/ICT skills development.

In addition to skills provision, persons with disabilities, including age related disabilities, require accessible telecommunications/ICTs in which barriers to their use have been removed. Legal, policy, regulatory and business practices can be implemented to ensure that accessible telecommunications/ICTs are widely available and affordable for persons with disabilities in ITU Member States.

Digital inclusion of all people for social and economic development requires comprehensive national digital inclusion policies, strategies and guidelines, including for digital skills development, updated telecommunications/ICTs policy, regulatory and universal access/service frameworks, as well as national broadband plans that promote accessibility and the digital inclusion of people with specific needs.

This programme will:

* raise awareness among members of the need for and importance of promoting digital inclusion;
* conduct research and share finding on digital inclusion practices and trends with members;
* develop digital skills training materials and/or promote partnerships to share existing digital skills training materials with members for use in their community and national digital skills development programmes; and
* develop digital inclusion policies, strategies and guidelines, advice members and provide training to members on digital inclusion policies, strategies and guidelines, including on accessible telecommunications/ICTs for persons with disabilities and aging populations and the development of telecommunications/ICTs in indigenous communities.

**Relevant regional initiatives**

The following regional initiatives will contribute to Outcome 4.3, consistent with WTDC Resolution 17 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017)

|  |
| --- |
| Region |
| **AFR Region** |
|  |
| **AMS region** |
|  |
| **ARB Region** |
|  |
| **ASP Region** |
|  |
| **CIS Region** |
|  |
| **EUR Region** |
|  |

**Study group Questions**

The following study group Questions will contribute to Outcome 4.3

|  |
| --- |
| Study Group X Questions |
|  |

1. **References to WTDC Resolutions, WSIS Action Lines and Sustainable Development Goals**

**PP and WTDC resolutions and recommendations**

The implementation of PP Resolutions 70, 175, 184 and 198, and WTDC Resolutions 11, 17, 21, 30, 32, 37, 46, 50, 52, 55, 58, 68 and 76 will support Output 4.3 and will contribute to the achievement of Outcome 4.3

**WSIS action lines**

Output 4.3 will support the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines C2, C3, C4, C6, C7 and C8 and will contribute to the achievement of Outcome 4.3

**Sustainable Development Goals and Targets**

Output 4.3 will contribute to the achievement of the following UN SDGs: 4 (targets 4.3, 4.4, 4.5), 5 (targets 5.5, 5b), 8 (targets 8.2, 8.3, 8.5, 8.6, 8b), 10 (target 10.2), 17 (target 17.17)

**Output 4.4**

**Products and servicesImproved availability of information on, and capacity in connection with, ICT climate-change adaptation and mitigation**

1. **Background**

In line with resolution 34 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) on the role of telecommunications/ICTs in disaster preparedness, early warning, rescue, mitigation, relief and response, which notes the importance for humankind of ITU publications relating to this area of activity; and Resolution 182 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary conference on the role of telecommunications/information and communication technologies in regard to climate change and the protection of the environment.

1. **Implementation framework**

**Programme: Climate change adaptation and mitigation**

This programme will assist Member States in particular LDCs, SIDS, LLDCs and countries with economies in transition to:

* improve the use of Information and Communication Technologies to reduce the impact of climate change through the development of information systems, assessments and observations;
* enhance capacity of Member States in formulating comprehensive strategies and measures for providing assistance to developing countries on the use of ICTs to help mitigate and respond to the devastating effects of climate change;
* adopt metrics and common standards for evaluating the environmental impact of the use of telecommunications/ICTs, as well as the positive contribution telecommunications/ICTs can make to the broader economy;
* facilitate Member States' participation in bilateral, regional and global research, assessments, monitoring and mapping of climate impacts, and development of response strategies;
* take into account the impact of e waste when evaluating the contributions of telecommunications/ICTs to greenhouse gas (GHG) emission;
* develop of e-waste policy;
* develop standards-based monitoring and early-warning systems linked to national and regional networks;

**Relevant regional initiatives**

The following regional initiatives will contribute to Outcome 4.4, consistent with WTDC Resolution 17 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017)

|  |
| --- |
| Region |
| **AFR Region** |
|  |
| **AMS region** |
|  |
| **ARB Region** |
|  |
| **ASP Region** |
|  |
| **CIS Region** |
|  |
| **EUR Region** |
|  |

**Study group Questions**

The following study group Questions will contribute to Outcome 4.4

|  |
| --- |
| Study Group X Questions |
|  |

1. **References to WTDC Resolutions, WSIS Action Lines and Sustainable Development Goals**

**PP and WTDC resolutions and recommendations**

The implementation of PP Resolution 182 and WTDC Resolutions 34 will support Output 4.4 and will contribute to the achievement of Outcome 4.4

**WSIS action lines**

Output 4.4 will support the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines C7 and will contribute to the achievement of Outcome 4.4

**Sustainable Development Goals and Targets**

Output 4.4 will contribute to the achievement of the following UN SDGs: 3 (target 3.9), 5 (target 5b), 11 (targets 11b), 13 (targets 13.1, 13.2 and 13.3)

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_