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| **Regional Preparatory Meeting for WTDC‑17 for Europe (RPM-EUR)** | P:\SUP\Logos\Post-150th Anniv\ITU-logo-UNblue.jpg |
| **Vilnius, Lithuania, 27-28 April 2017** |  |
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|  | **Document** **RPM-EUR/38-E** |
|  | **28 April 2017** |
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| report by the chairman |
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# Introduction

The Regional Preparatory Meeting for Europe (RPM-EUR) was organised by the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), in collaboration with Communications Regulatory Authority of the Republic of Lithuania, from 27-28 April 2017. The Regional Preparatory Meeting was preceded by the Regional Development Forum (RDF-EUR), which was held on 26 April 2017. The summary of discussions of RDF-EUR can be found [here](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMEUR-INF-0010/en).

The objective of RPM-EUR was to identify priorities at the regional level, for the development of telecommunications and information and communication technologies (ICTs), taking into account contributions submitted by Member States and ITU‑D Sector Members from the region. The meeting concluded with a set of proposals on priority issues that will serve as basis for the formulation of contributions to the World Telecommunication Development Conference to be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, from 9 to 20 October 2017 (WTDC‑17). WTDC-17 will consider the ITU‑D activities to be carried out over the next four-year period (2018-2021).

This report gives an account of the work and results of the RPM-EUR.

# Participation

The meeting was attended by 70 participants including 42 participants representing 19 Member States, 4 participants from Sector Members, 10 participants from Observer Member States, 1 United Nations and its specialised agencies, 1 guest and ITU. The list of participants can be found [here](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMEUR-ADM-0002/).

# Meeting of Heads of Delegation

The meeting of Heads of Delegation was held on 26 April 2017 and, following ITU's long-standing practice, recommended that the host country, the Republic of Lithuania, would nominate Mr Feliksas Dobrovolskis, Director General, Communications Regulatory Authority of the Republic of Lithuania , as the Chairman of RPM-EUR for WTDC-17.

The meeting also recommended the appointment of three Vice-Chairmen:

* H.E. Mr Dejan Maslikovic, Assistant Minister of Culture and Media, Republic of Serbia
* H.E. Mr Karol Okonski, Under Secretary of State, Ministry of Digital Affairs, Republic of Poland
* Mr Manuel da Costa Cabral, External Affairs, ANACOM, Portugal

The draft agenda, time management plan and allocation of documents were also informally agreed upon, pending adoption on the first day of the RPM-EUR.

# Opening ceremony

**Mr Feliksas Dobrovolskis, Director General, Communications Regulatory Authority of the Republic of Lithuania** expressed appreciation to the ITU and welcomed all the participants. He emphasised the importance of this meeting, where Member States can discuss matters that would assist in elaborating regional inputs to be submitted to WTDC-17.

He highlighted some key aspects of ICTs development, such as infrastructure, competition, regulation, best practices and innovation. He noted that it is not always possible to share infrastructure, competition or innovations, but it is always possible to share knowledge, practices and ideas.

To this end, discussions must take place within the ITU community, listen to the needs of the Membership, especially from developing countries, and contribute to the implementation process by agreeing on concrete guidelines and necessary measures.

He also added that this RPM is not the final meeting on the preparation process for WTDC-17, however it is a step forward and one step closer towards the conference, as it provided the opportunity for the European group to be united in sharing views and build common positions.

He reiterated the engagement of Communications Regulatory Authority, the Ministry and the Government of Lithuania in working with ITU and all stakeholders in the region and beyond, to accelerate the use of ICTs in meeting the Sustainable Development Goals. This commitment is even more evident since Lithuania is currently a Member of the ITU Council.

He concluded thanking the observers from other regions who joined this meeting, expressing appreciation to all participants for their efforts and commitment.

**Mr Brahima Sanou, Director of the ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau** **(BDT)** welcomed the participants to the RPM-EUR, the sixth and final Regional Preparatory Meeting (RPM) towards WTDC-17, which will take place under the theme of “ICT for Sustainable Development Goals”- ICT④SDGs.

He thanked the Government and the people of Lithuania for hosting the RPM, and for the hospitality extended. He also expressed sincere appreciation to Mr Manuel da Costa Cabral, Chairman of Com- ITU and Mr Paulius Vaina for leading the work towards the preparation of WTDC and for their great cooperation and support.

The Director highlighted that the theme ICT④SDGs reaffirms the tremendous potential of ICTs to accelerate the attainment of the SDGs. ICTs cut across each and every SDG. E-education, e-health, e-agriculture, big data, open data, cloud computing, the development of the Internet of Things and artificial intelligence are offering huge opportunities for achieving sustainable development.

He noted that the adoption of the SDGs has broadened the ITU-D mission, as it is required now not only to provide broadband and universal access to ICT services at affordable price, but equally important to make ICTs work for other economic sectors.

The actions should therefore go beyond the ICT sector to take into account the ICT ecosystem. A new ecosystem where ICTs are about streamlining government processes, bringing education and health to the people in need in order to create national cohesion, inclusiveness and economic growth.

The BDT Director stated that in the preparations for WTDC-17 significant efforts were under way to continue to engage the membership. He noted that preliminary drafts of the ITU-D Contribution to the ITU Strategic Plan for 2020-2023 (Document [7](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMEUR-C-0007/en)), the ITU-D Action Plan for 2018-2021 (Document [8](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMEUR-C-0008/en)) and the WTDC-17 Declaration (Document [9](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMEUR-C-0009/en)) have already been prepared by Correspondence Group and discussed at the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG). In this context he thanked the Chairman of the concerned Correspondence to have facilitated the work on these three documents.

The three preliminary drafts were submitted to this RPM, as done for other RPMs. He also drew the meeting’s attention to the ongoing work of the Correspondence Group on Streamlining Resolutions, aimed to streamline priorities and simplify processes while ensuring that important elements contained in Resolutions, either merged or supressed, should not be lost. The work of the Correspondence Group would be reviewed and discussed at this RPM.

The BDT Director noted that the year 2017 marks the 25th anniversary of the ITU Development Sector and invited all to join forces to mark this significant milestone. He commended the Membership from the region for their commitment and dedication, which led to the successful implementation of several activities and projects.

In closing, Mr Sanou thanked the Communications Regulatory Authority of the Republic of Lithuania for the hospitality and excellent organization of the RDF and RPM. He also recognised the good work of the ITU Coordinator for Europe and his team.

**Mr Manuel da Costa Cabral, Chairman, Com-ITU of European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications (CEPT)** highlighted the work of the CEPT Preparatory Group for WTDC-17, stating that WTDC is a major priority for CEPT during 2017 and a Project Team was set up with the responsibility to prepare for the Conference.

He noted the importance of the texts submitted by the TDAG Correspondence Group, notably the draft WTDC-17 Declaration, the draft ITU-D Action Plan 2018-2021, the draft ITU-D contribution to the ITU Strategic Plan for 2020-2023 as essential tools that will guide the activities of the ITU Development Sector over the next four years.

He also mentioned the need to harmonise views and agree on a common proposal on the Regional Initiatives as they will reflect the common objective of bridging several digital divides that still remain in their multiple forms.

He carried on noting that despite the current efforts, many developing countries still lack affordable access to information and communications technologies, and he reaffirmed that an essential element to tackle this challenge is to support an enabling environment including a regulatory framework, to foster conditions for competition, consumer choice and affordability. He furthermore raised a concern on another divide, the digital gender divide due to the evident lack of women’s access to and use of ICTs, including in education, employment and other areas of economic and social development.

Finally he highlighted a third divide, a knowledge divide, due to substantial differences in individuals’ ability to make the best use of ICTs. That is the reason why, he noted, Europe is preparing inputs related to capacity building and digital literacy, adding that Europe stands together toward an efficient public resources allocation so that ITU can effectively fulfil its mandate, recognizing the need for budgeting for all these initiatives and priorities.

He concluded that the CEPT consists of 48 Member States many of which are at the RPM-EUR, noting that the diversity of Europe is its strength, and sharing views is a key mechanism to learn about experiences and priorities that could benefit the different contributions to WTDC-17.

All speeches are posted on the [RPM-EUR website](http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Conferences/WTDC/WTDC17/RPM-EUR/Pages/default.aspx).

# Election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen

Following the recommendations from the Heads of Delegation meeting, Mr Feliksas Dobrovolskis, Director General, Communications Regulatory Authority of the Republic of Lithuania was unanimously elected as the Chairman of RPM-EUR.

The meeting also endorsed the recommendation from the Heads of Delegation meeting for the following delegates to be elected as Vice-Chairmen of RPM-EUR:

* H.E. Mr Dejan Maslikovic, Assistant Minister of Culture and Media, Republic of Serbia
* H.E. Mr Karol Okonski, Under Secretary of State, Ministry of Digital Affairs, Republic of Poland
* Mr Manuel da Costa Cabral, External Affairs, ANACOM, Portugal

Mr Jaroslaw Ponder, ITU Coordinator for Europe, was introduced by the Chairman as the Secretary of RPM-EUR.

# Approval of the Agenda

The meeting approved the agenda as presented in [Document 1](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMEUR-C-0001/en).

# Consideration of the Time Management Plan

The Secretariat noted that RPM-EUR had received 37 contributions: 25 from ITU Member States and ITU‑D Sector Members and 12 from the Secretariat. One contribution was withdrawn. In addition, 12 information documents were received.

Having examined all the inputs related to ITU‑D action areas, the meeting adopted the proposed Time Management Plan in [Document DT/1](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMEUR-170321-TD-0001/en). All the meeting documents are available on the [RPM website](http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Conferences/WTDC/WTDC17/RPM-EUR/Pages/default.aspx).

Reports from previous RPMs

The Chairman informed the meeting on the Chairman’s Reports of the previous RPMs, and encouraged the meeting to read them in order to be aware of the views of the other Regions. The Summary Reports can be found on the ITU web site as follows:

[Document INF/1](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMEUR-INF-0001/en): “*Report by the Chairman of RPM-CIS*”

[Document INF/2](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMEUR-INF-0002/en): “*Report by the Chairman of RPM-AFR*”

[Document INF/3](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMEUR-INF-0003/en): "*Report by the Chairman of RPM-ARB"*

[Document INF/4](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMEUR-INF-0004/en): “*Report by the Chairman of RPM-AMS*”

[Document INF/5](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMEUR-INF-0005/en): “*Report by the Chairman of RPM-ASP*”

[Document INF/9](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMEUR-INF-0010/en) entitled "*Status of RCC preparations for WTDC‑17*" was presented by RCC for information.

[Document INF/11](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMEUR-INF-0011/en) entitled “*Information document from the Arab Preparatory Group - Preparations for WTDC-17*” was presented by the United Arab Emirates.

# Report on the implementation of the Dubai Action Plan (WTDC‑14), and contribution to the implementation of the WSIS Plan of Action and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

[Document 2:](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMEUR-C-0002/en) The document, entitled “***Report on the implementation of the Dubai Action Plan”***, was introduced on behalf of the BDT Director.

The Dubai Action Plan (DuAP) implementation framework encompasses programmes, Regional Initiatives, Study Group Questions, resolutions and recommendations, and facilitation of the World Summit on Information Society (WSIS) action lines (<http://www.itu.int/net/wsis/>). The DuAP structure follows the structure of the ITU strategic plan, so as to ensure a consistent planning hierarchy and linkages across the different planning tools and instruments within ITU (strategic, financial and operational planning).

In keeping with results-based management principles, this report provides an overview of the main outcomes of BDT activities since the beginning of DuAP implementation from 2015 until the present time and emphasises the link between expected results and achievements. The report also details the implementation of the Regional Initiatives (Appendix 1) and of the 2015 budget implementation for the Operational Plan and projects, by region (Annex 1).

The presenter highlighted the implementation of the Dubai Action Plan in the Europe region, which includes Operational Plan Actions, Regional Initiatives, Projects and the Centres of Excellence as well as their links to the SDGs and WSIS Action Lines, providing selected examples of successful initiatives and activities.

Following a remark that the report should not only list the numerous events and actions under each objective, but also elaborate on fulfilment on the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), the presenter explained that the document includes quantitative assessments of the actions carried out, in line with results-based-management reporting. A participant highlighted the success of initiatives related to accessibility for ICTs and Child Online Protection and stressed the need to continue and even strengthen these efforts.

The Chairman thanked BDT and ITU Europe Coordination team for the support provided to the countries allowing an effective implementation of the WTDC‑14 Dubai Action Plan.

RPM-EUR welcomed the document noted the contribution.

[Document 6:](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMEUR-C-0006/en) The document, entitled “***ICT Trends and Developments in Europe”***, was introduced on behalf of the BDT Director.

It provides an overview of developments in ICT infrastructure, access, use and affordability in Europe and shows how ICT markets in Europe have grown since the last WTDC.  It tracks the evolution of regulation globally, with a focus on Europe. The ICT sector in Europe has continued its remarkable transformation, in particular in mobile broadband, and stands above the global average in most indicators. By end 2016, ITU data show that close to 80 per cent of the population in Europe is using the Internet, compared to 47 per cent globally. Over the last years, the region has also achieved more gender equality in ICT uptake, especially with respect to Internet use. The Europe region also records the highest regional value for the ICT Development Index (IDI), the composite ITU index to benchmark and compare ICT developments between countries and over time.

Although most countries in Europe have reached high levels of ICT uptake and use, some disparities correlated with geographical location and relative income levels persist. While those countries with relatively lower ICT levels are showing the largest improvements, some challenges remain. These include increasing fixed-broadband penetration rates and coverage in the region as a whole, to ensure equitable, high-speed and high-quality Internet access and to ultimately bring everyone online to benefit from and participate in the information society. To this end, the document highlights some of the key regulatory achievements and further steps that can be taken. These include transparent, practical cooperation and communication between regulators and policy-makers as well as with other stakeholders, outside the ICT ecosystem. Collaborative regulation also means incorporating mechanisms to engage citizens, including disadvantaged and vulnerable groups. This requires policies to enhance digital skills and to promote empowerment using ICTs.

The presenter congratulated European countries for the efforts in monitoring information society developments and their achievements in producing timely and relevant data and statistics. She informed Member States about the recent exercise of reviewing the ICT Development Index (IDI) and encouraged the membership to attend the World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Symposium (WTIS) 2017, the main ITU platform for dialogue on ICT-related statistics and the Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR), which provides a platform to exchange experiences amongst regulators.

Participants highlighted the appreciation of the important work that BDT is doing in terms of data and statistics, which are used extensively by other organisations, including the World Bank. One intervention positively noted that BDT is increasingly making its data available for free.

A comment was made that the statistics seem to indicate that in the spirit of solidarity Europe may refrain from having up to five Regional Initiatives and that the dedicated resources be used for those regions with higher needs.

The presenter of the document highlighted that while Europe is ahead of other regions in many ways, some disparities within the region persist and challenges remain, in particular in terms of fixed-broadband uptake and speed. The presenter also highlighted that as technologies evolve, new challenges arise, including in the area of regulation, where countries must now focus on moving towards the fifth generation of regulation and collaborative regulation with stakeholders outside the ICT ecosystem.

RPM-EUR welcomed the document and noted the contribution.

[Document 3:](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMEUR-C-0003/en) The document, entitled “***ITU‑D contribution to the implementation of the WSIS outcomes and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”***, was introduced on behalf of the BDT Director.

This document provides an update on the contribution of ITU‑D to the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It takes into account the outcomes of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) Summit on Sustainable Development (September 2015) and the UNGA Overall Review of the Implementation of the WSIS Outcomes (December 2015) that called for a close alignment between WSIS and SDG processes.

RPM-EUR welcomed the document noted the contribution. It was highlighted that ITU-D plays a special role in the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines as well as 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

# Report on the implementation of outcomes of other ITU Conferences, Assemblies and meetings related to ITU‑D work: Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-14), Radiocommunication Assembly (RA-15)/World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-15), and World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA-16)

[Document 4:](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMEUR-C-0004/en) The document, entitled “***Implementation of outcomes of RA-15 and WRC-15 related to ITU‑D”***,was introduced on behalf of the BDT Director.

Document 4 and its Annex summarise the results of the Radiocommunication Assembly 2015 (RA-15), the World Radiocommunication Conference 2015 (WRC-15) and the first meeting of the Conference Preparatory Meeting 2019 (CPM19-1) and highlight the relevant decisions which are important, particularly for developing countries.

In addition, Document 4 lists the resolutions which request actions from ITU‑D and the BDT.

The presenter emphasised the importance of the RA and WRC outcomes in preparation for the next WTDC, particularly by taking into account the adopted resolutions.

He noted the need to establish coherence and consistency between RA-15, WRC-15 and WTDC-14 Resolutions, as well as cooperation and coordination among ITU-D, ITU-T and ITU-R Study Groups.

A comment was made regarding the financial implications on the BDT from the outcomes and decisions of conferences such as the RA and the WRC, and the need to provide cost estimates for any additional commitments.

RPM-EUR welcomed the document and noted the contribution.

[Document 5:](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMEUR-C-0005/en) The document, entitled “***Report on the results******of WTSA-16 that related to the work of ITU‑D”***, was introduced on behalf of the BDT Director.

Document 5 and its Annex provide a summary of the outcomes of WTSA-16 which have an impact on the work of ITU‑D and BDT, noting that out of the total number of WTSA-16 Resolutions relevant to ITU‑D and BDT, 10 new resolutions had been agreed on, 14 resolutions had been amended and 1 resolution was kept unchanged. There were many topics of interest to ITU‑D that were adopted including, among others, climate change, cybersecurity, accessibility and WSIS implementation and follow-up.

It was noted that Document 4 and Document 5 were linked to Document 11, on streamlining WTDC Resolutions.

To this end, the presenter encouraged Member States to take into account the outcomes of
WTSA-16 with respect to resolutions adopted by that conference as they prepare for WTDC-17.

RPM-EUR welcomed the document and noted the contribution.

[Document 32](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMEUR-C-0032/en): The document entitled “***Financial impact of the outcomes of WTSA-16 on ITU-D***” was introduced by the Republic of Lithuania. The document proposes to request BDT to provide an estimate of the financial and human resources impact of the outcomes of WTSA-16 on ITU-D, in order to allow the membership to better evaluate the overall financial implications of future BDT work, the work volume as well as the scope of work of ITU-D for the years 2018 – 2021.

A comment was made concerning the four year cycle of the ITU financial planning, Expenses up to 2019 need to be kept within the agreed financial plan. An observer supported the contribution mentioning the need for evaluating the financial impact, independently of the budgeting cycle.

The Chairman suggested to request the BDT Director to provide clarifications on the financial impact to the TDAG-17.

RPM-EUR welcomed the document and noted the contribution. RPM-EUR requested the BDT Director to provide clarifications on the financial impact of WTSA-16 and WRC-15, to the TDAG-17.

# Preparation for WTDC‑17

# Member Contributions

[Document 14](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMEUR-C-0014/en): The document titled ***“Revision of Resolution 62 (Dubai, 2014) Measurement Concerns Related to Human Exposure to EMF”*** was introduced by ATDI. In view of streamlining WTDC resolutions, the contribution contains revisions of WTDC Resolution 62. It proposes mainly to update the title, by adding the assessment concerns, as in ITU-T Resolution 72 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016), especially on handheld devices, to add a new 'recognizing' on ITU-R SG 1 Question 1/239, to delete obsolete items and to add a reference to ITU-R SG4.

RPM-EUR welcomed the document and noted the contribution.

[Document 17](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMEUR-C-0017/en): The document entitled **“Modification to Resolution 40 - Group on capacity-building initiatives”** was introduced by Czech Republic. In view of streamlining WTDC resolutions, the contribution proposes to simplify reference to WSIS by referring to UNGA Resolution 70/125, to make reference to WTDC Resolution 73 on ITU Centres of Excellence and to add under ‘instructs the BDT Director ‘ that the Group on Capacity-Building Initiatives (GCBI) assists in priority setting and strategic reviewing of the results of the ITU Academy and ITU Centres of Excellence.

RPM-EUR welcomed the document and noted the contribution.

[Document 18:](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMEUR-C-0018/en) The document entitled ***“Draft modification of Resolution 71 - Strengthening cooperation between Member States, Sector Members, Associates and Academia of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector, including the private sector solution***” was introduced by Czech Republic. In view of streamlining WTDC resolutions, the contribution proposes to update and generalise WTDC Resolution 71 to cover actions beyond the period 2015-2018.

The presenter clarified that the document is not yet a CEPT proposal, but it was submitted to this RPM for further discussion.

RPM-EUR welcomed the document and noted the contribution.

[Document 19](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMEUR-C-0019/en): The document entitled **“*Draft modification of Resolution 73 - ITU Centres of Excellence”***was introduced by Czech Republic. In view of streamlining WTDC resolutions, the contribution proposes to make reference to WSIS by referring to UNGA Resolution 70/125, reflect the need for strategic review of results of ITU Centres of Excellence in 2018 to be considered by WTDC or the Council, whichever is held first after such a review is completed.

The presenter noted that the contribution would be revised for the next Com-ITU meeting in July 2017 taking into account inputs already received.

RPM-EUR welcomed the document and noted the contribution.

[Document 24](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMEUR-C-0024/en): The document entitled ***“CEPT general principles and list of priorities for WTDC-17”***was introduced by the Republic of Lithuania. The document presents a tentative CEPT position on general principles and list of priorities for the WTDC-17.

The presenter highlighted the various principles, based on well consolidated practises in ITU, such as reducing duplication, result based management and budgeting, as well as prioritization of activities in accordance with clear requirements and needs expressed by the ITU Membership.

Clarification was provided on the specific priorities established in the contribution, noting that this is a provisional document to be finalised by Com-ITU as a CEPT position.

RPM-EUR welcomed the document and noted the contribution.

[Document 29](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMEUR-C-0029/en): The document entitled “***Suppression of Resolution 67 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) the role of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector in child online protection”***was introduced by Sweden. The contribution proposes the suppression of WTDC Resolution 67 (Rev. Dubai, 2014), in line with streamlining WTDC resolutions. The contribution notes that the subject, child online protection, is important but the operative parts of the resolution are almost completely covered by PP Resolution 179 (Rev. Busan, 2014) on ITU's role in child online protection. If Resolution 67 is not supressed there may be a need to amend it to reflect the latest developments.

Comments were made on the need to have a WTDC Resolution since the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference is already covering this issue with a specific Resolution on the topic.

The ITU Secretariat clarified that there is a correspondence group on streamlining WTDC Resolutions and this contribution could be addressed within the work of that correspondence group.

RPM-EUR welcomed the document and noted the contribution.

[Document 35](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMEUR-C-0035/en): The document entitled “***ECP Proposal for revision of Resolution 9 (Rev. Dubai, 2014): Participation of countries, particularly developing countries, in spectrum management”*** was introduced by France. The document proposes amendments to WTDC-14 Resolution 9, fostering the organization of workshops or seminars to present and explain the output of ITU-R SG 1 instead of writing a report during the ITU-D study period.

This proposal was supported by some countries, mentioning that during the ITU-D SG1 meeting there were also some discussions on the future of the Resolution 9.

A participant reminded the meeting on the history of the Resolution 9 and highlighted the satisfaction of the countries with the previous final reports of the Resolution 9. The presenter clarified that this document is still open for further discussions and contributions noting that there are several alternative ways and means to assist the developing countries within the Resolution 9.

RPM-EUR noted the document highlighting that it is still open for further discussions and contributions.

The Chairman informed the meeting that contributions related to Resolutions were all discussed and moved the agenda toward the discussion on contributions related to the Regional Initiatives. He approached such contributions by topic.

[Document 15](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMEUR-C-0015/en): The document entitled **“*Accessibility and affordability of telecommunications/ICT products for persons with disabilities to ensure their digital inclusion and sustainable social and economic development”*** by Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia (Republic of), Montenegro (Republic of) and Serbia (Republic of) was introduced by Bosnia and Herzegovina. Recognizing ITU-D support to the Members to promote ICT Accessibility through its Regional Initiatives, as well as considering the requirements of the European Accessibility Act, the contribution proposes for continuation of work through a Regional Initiative on “Accessibility and affordability of telecommunications/ICT products and services with special attention to persons with disabilities to ensure their digital inclusion and sustainable social and economic development.” The proposal expects to strengthen and support regional cooperation, raise awareness on ICT accessibility topics, develop and implement ICT accessibility policies and solutions, build capacity in public procurement and web accessibility to ensure that all governments websites are accessible, exchange knowledge and share good practices through workshops and an annual regional conference, called Accessible Europe.

RPM-EUR noted the document and agreed to further discuss in order to achieve consensus on a common proposal for the Regional Initiatives, taking also into consideration this contribution.

[Document 20](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMEUR-C-0020/en): The document entitled ***“Regional initiative on bridging the digital divide by enhancing cross-border digital literacy”***was introduced by the Republic of Bulgaria. The document proposes a Regional Initiative to increase digital literacy, skills and e-education, by ensuring high-speed connectivity to three schools in border/rural areas from participating countries. The project aims to provide connectivity to national high-speed networks as well as cross-border connectivity with schools from neighbouring countries to ensure the exchange of educational content and teaching methods, conducting joint training and creating skills for communications. .

RPM-EUR noted the document and agreed to further discuss in order to achieve consensus on a common proposal for the Regional Initiatives, taking also into consideration this contribution.

[Document 21](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMEUR-C-0021/en): The document entitled ***“Regional initiative on ubiquitous resilient high speed connectivity”***was introduced by the Republic of Albania. The document proposes a Regional Initiative to facilitate the deployment of high speed connectivity with resilient and synergistic infrastructure sharing whilst ensuring a trusted and quality user experience. Through this initiative, administrations in need may be assisted in embracing ultra-high speed broadband connectivity, including emerging 5G, to ensure accelerated sustainable development in middle and long term. The document is providing the possible assistance to the countries in need.

[Document 22](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMEUR-C-0022/en): The document entitled ***“Building capacities in the field of spectrum management”***was introduced by the Republic of Poland. The document proposes a Regional Initiative to foster regional cooperation, mainly supplemented by the direct assistance to the administrations in the process of planning for 5G rollout, as well as management of frequencies in the bands which are considered for 5G, that shall be utilised bearing in mind the most effective use of radio spectrum. This initiative provides assistance to the countries in terms of dealing with specific issues related to the development and deployment of a new wireless technology. These may include identification of bands, selection procedures, licensing regimes, standardization, network and service requirements and other topics. Many uses will need cross-border cooperation, with a need for seamless transition from one country to another of 5G enabled devices and machines. This initiative also provides a platform for an exchange of views, best practices and knowledge among the administrations concerned.

[Document 27](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMEUR-C-0027/en): The document entitled ***“Regional Initiative on Digital Broadcasting including Digital Radio”***was introduced by the Republic of Serbia. Looking beyond developing digital radio broadcasting, countries have engaged at varying speed and success in deploying digital radio broadcasting systems and delivery of new services. In this context, this document proposes a new Regional Initiative on digital radio broadcasting to provide a platform for cooperation, exchange of best practices, capacity building and technical assistance to be provided to the countries in need.

[Document 28](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMEUR-C-0028/en): The document entitled “***Regional initiative on ubiquitous resilient high speed broadband infrastructure and services”***was introduced by the FYR of Macedonia. The document proposes to focus a Regional Initiative on facilitation of deployment of high speed connectivity through the deployment of resilient and modern infrastructure which includes 5G technology and cross sectoral infrastructure sharing synergies (such as with the energy networks) equipped with effective mechanisms for Quality of Service monitoring for efficient and impactful ICT development.

[Document 34](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMEUR-C-0034/en): The document entitled “***Regional Initiative on Ubiquitous resilient high speed broadband infrastructure and services***” was introduced by the Republic of Montenegro. The document proposes a Regional Initiative focused on secure ultra-high speed broadband connectivity, including emerging 5G, to ensure accelerated sustainable development in middle and long term

Documents 21, 28 and 34 were introduced together given their common focus on high-speed infrastructure.

The meeting also considered documents 22 and 27 given their focus on 5G (it was highlighted that the proper ITU terminology is IMT-2020) which also provides high-speed access. The meeting recognised the differences regarding high-speed access in various parts of Europe and consequently the need to provide assistance in developing new infrastructure for high-speed access where needed.

The meeting also agreed to use the term broadband for the issues mentioned in the documents rather than high-speed, to be consistent with other texts as well as to reflect the fact that the focus of documents 21, 28 and 34 were more concerned with fibre-based infrastructure than 5G.

The meeting recognised that documents 22 and 27 were focused on spectrum management.

RPM-EUR noted the documents and agreed to further discuss in order to achieve consensus on a common proposal for the Regional Initiatives, taking also into consideration these contributions.

[Document 23](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMEUR-C-0023/en): The document entitled ***“A citizen-centric approach to building services for national administration”***was introduced by the Republic of Poland. The document proposes a Regional Initiative to facilitate the development of such citizen-centric services that ought to be accessible and available to all members of the society. The aim is to transform and replace the traditional, paper-based methods of handling administrative issues, into the digital mode, allowing citizens to handle their administrative necessities and responsibilities.

RPM-EUR noted the document and agreed to further discuss in order to achieve consensus on a common proposal for the Regional Initiatives, taking also into consideration this contribution.

 [Document 25](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMEUR-C-0025/en): The document entitled ***“Proposal of new Regional Initiative on accelerating effective digitization across Europe”***was introduced by the Republic of Serbia. The document proposes a Regional Initiative to build national and regional capacities necessary for accelerating the process of digitization.

RPM-EUR noted the document and agreed to further discuss in order to achieve consensus on a common proposal for the Regional Initiatives, taking also into consideration this contribution. [Document 30](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMEUR-C-0030/en) : The document entitled “***Regional initiative on ICT centric innovation ecosystems”***was introduced by the Republic of Albania. The document proposes to reiterate the need to maintain if not enhance the Regional Initiative to enhance entrepreneurship and jump start regional and local innovation culture through ICTs.

RPM-EUR noted the document and agreed to further discuss in order to achieve consensus on a common proposal for the Regional Initiatives, taking also into consideration this contribution.

[Document 37](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMEUR-C-0037/en): The document entitled “***Regional Initiative on Enhancing trust and confidence in the use of ICTs***” was introduced by the Republic of Montenegro. The contribution proposes the establishment of a Regional Initiative for Europe on enhancing trust and confidence in use of ICTs, following the positive impact of the work undertaken in the region within the context of the Regional Initiative covering the period 2015-2017.

RPM-EUR noted the document and agreed to further discuss in order to achieve consensus on a common proposal for the Regional Initiatives, taking also into consideration this contribution.

The Chairman expressed appreciation to all Member States that made special efforts to provide contributions on the Regional Initiatives.

# Preliminary draft ITU‑D contribution to the ITU Strategic Plan for 2020-2023

[Document 7:](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMEUR-C-0007/en) The document, entitled “**Preliminary draft ITU‑D contribution to the ITU Strategic Plan for 2020-2023**”, was introduced on behalf of the BDT Director.

The document is a revised version of the draft zero ITU‑D contribution to the draft Strategic Plan of ITU for the period 2020-2023 that was developed by the TDAG Correspondence Group on the Strategic Plan, Operational Plan and Declaration (CG-SPOPD) which was presented to TDAG-15 in April 2015 as a progress report. The revisions reflect the guidance provided by CG-SPOPD on 15 March 2016 as reported in Document [TDAG16-21/10](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-TDAG21-C-0010/en). TDAG adopted the document at its meeting on 16-18 March 2016 and decided that it should be posted on the website for online consultation by the ITU‑D membership by 30 June 2016. No modifications were proposed by this deadline.

The draft ITU-D contribution to the ITU Strategic Plan is being submitted to all the RPMs in the lead up to WTDC-17. The draft WTDC-17 Action Plan is based on the structure of the ITU-D contribution to the ITU Strategic Plan.

This draft ITU‑D contribution to the draft ITU Strategic Plan for 2020-2023 includes four objectives in line with the following three points:

1. It is more results-focused than the current 2016-2019 Strategic Plan in keeping with a results-based management approach.
2. It retains all content of the 2016-2019 ITU‑D Strategic Plan that has been streamlined, and references to the corresponding Outcomes and Outputs of the current Strategic Plan have been provided in the contribution. In addition, the 2016-2019 Strategic Plan is included as Annex E for ease of reference.
3. The current five Objectives of the 2016-2019 Strategic Plan are presented in four Objectives which use language that can be recognised by ITU members and stakeholders and speak to the broader public so that people not currently involved in ITU‑D can associate themselves with our important work. The contribution aims to simplify the language of the current Strategic Plan, including eliminating any duplications.

As requested by TDAG-15 the document presents, in Annex A, the draft objectives and outcomes of the ITU‑D contribution to the ITU Strategic Plan for 2020-2023 along with references to the 2016-2019 ITU‑D Strategic Plan, as well as to the SDGs approved by the United Nations General Assembly on 25 September 2015, the WSIS Action Lines of the Geneva Plan of Action, taking into account the WSIS+10 Vision for WSIS beyond 2015, and also the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The presenter noted that this document has been submitted to all the previous RPMs in the CIS, AFR, ARB, AMS and ASP regions. He added that this document is considered a living document subject to comments and inputs from Member States through RPMs as well as TDAG-17, which will aggregate inputs received from all the RPMs and submit the consolidated version to WTDC-17. He further clarified that while each region could submit common proposals to TDAG-17 and WTDC-17, individual Member States could also submit their own proposals directly to WTDC-17.

RPM-EUR welcomed the document and noted the contribution.

# 6.2 Preliminary draft ITU‑D Action Plan 2018-2021 (including Study Group Questions),

[Document 8:](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMEUR-C-0008/en) The document, entitled “***Preliminary draft ITU‑D Action Plan 2018-2021***”, was introduced on behalf of the BDT Director.

The presenter highlighted that this document is a living document subject to comments and inputs from regional groups and Member States through RPMs as well as TDAG-17, which will aggregate all inputs received and submit the consolidated version to WTDC-17.  It was further clarified that countries and regions may also submit contributions on the draft ITU-D Action Plan 2018-2021 to WTDC-17.

The document was developed by the TDAG Correspondence Group on the Strategic Plan, Operational Plan and Declaration (CG-SPOPD). It has been reviewed to take into account some of the revisions agreed at the meeting of the Correspondence Group on 15 March 2016, notably the change of the title and the reference to Plenipotentiary Conference Resolutions, as reported in Document [TDAG16-21/30](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-TDAG21-C-0030/). The Draft Action Plan was furthermore submitted to TDAG-16 for consideration. TDAG provided inputs that have been integrated into the document. TDAG-16, under the indications of the CG-SPOPD, instructed BDT to make the document available for online consultation by the ITU‑D membership until 30 June 2016. The document was made available and no further comments or request for changes were received.

Overall, the Draft Action Plan builds upon the WTDC -14 Action Plan to operationalise the mandate of BDT, in accordance with results-based management (RBM), articulating the agreed Objectives, Outcomes, and Outputs in structured streams of activities that will be measured according to well-defined indicators, so as to assess the impact of the work of BDT on Member States.

RPM-EUR welcomed the document and noted the contribution.

[Document 36](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMEUR-C-0036/en): The document entitled “***Preliminary Draft ITU-D Action Plan to be considered at WTDC-17***” was introduced by Czech Republic. The document proposes a revised version of the Preliminary Draft ITU-D Action Plan discussed by the participants at the Com-ITU meeting of CEPT held in Vilnius, Lithuania, on 24-25 April.

The presenter noted that the Draft ITU-D Action Plan should be simplified and he informed the meeting that the contribution was discussed at the Com-ITU and further discussion is required among the Com-ITU members. He added that the proposal is informative in nature and will be possibly finalised at Com-ITU meeting in July.

RPM-EUR welcomed the document and noted the contribution.

# 6.3 Preliminary draft WTDC‑17 Declaration

[Document 9:](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMEUR-C-0009/en) The document, entitled “***Preliminary Draft WTDC‑17 Declaration***”,was introduced on behalf of the BDT Director.

The document was developed by the TDAG Correspondence Group on the Strategic Plan, Operational Plan and Declaration(CG-SPOPD) and presented to TDAG-15 in April 2015. It was revised by CG-SPOPD on 15 March 2016 as reported in Document [TDAG16-21/31 (Rev.1)](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-TDAG21-C-0031/). TDAG 2016 adopted the document and decided that it should be posted on the website for online consultation by the ITU‑D membership by 30 June 2016. Comments were received from three countries and reflected in this current version. The BDT Director indicated during TDAG 2016 that he planned to submit the preliminary draft WTDC‑17 Declaration to all the RPMs in the run-up to WTDC‑17. This document also contains, for reference, the Dubai Declaration, which was adopted during the World Telecommunication Development Conference held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, from 30 March to 10 April 2014.

The preliminary draft WTDC‑17 Declaration was prepared using language that reflects a broader vision that will be easily captured by people outside of ITU, in addition to Member States and Sector Members. It focuses on the essential role that telecommunications/ICTs will play in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and Targets and their transformative role in fostering sustainable development.

The presenter noted that this document has been submitted to the previous RPMs in the CIS, AFR, ARB, AMS and ASP regions. She added that this document is considered a living document subject to comments and inputs from Member States through RPMs as well as TDAG-17, which will aggregate inputs received from all the RPMs and submit the consolidated version to WTDC-17. She further clarified that while each region could submit common proposals to TDAG-17 and WTDC-17, individual Member States can also submit their own proposals directly to WTDC-17.

RPM-EUR welcomed the document and noted the contribution.

[Document 13](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMEUR-C-0013/en): The document **entitled *“Proposal regarding the Preliminary Draft WTDC-17 Declaration”***was introduced by Federal Republic of Germany. The proposed preliminary draft WTDC-17 Declaration is based on Document TDAG16-21/31 (Rev.1) as amended by Document RPM-CIS16/26-E (RPM-CIS, 9-11 November 2016). Germany concurs with the draft but has suggested some editorial changes, including the addition of a gender element into the Declaration and the use of approved language where indicated.

The presenter mentioned that this proposal may evolve into a European common proposal (ECP) to WTDC-17, but also encourages to try to agree on a stable document during the upcoming TDAG Correspondence Group meeting and TDAG-17, which then may be submitted to WTDC-17.

RPM-EUR welcomed the document and took note of the contribution.

# 6.4 Rules of procedure of ITU‑D (WTDC Resolution 1)

[Document 10:](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMEUR-C-0010/en) The document, entitled **“*Rules of procedure of ITU-D (WTDC Resolution 1)”,*** was introduced on behalf of the BDT Director.

Building upon the extensive work undertaken during WTDC-14, the TDAG Correspondence Group on Rules of Procedure of ITU-D (WTDC Resolution 1) is reviewing the existing text in Resolution 1 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) to give practical interpretation of the working methods and prepare proposals for further consideration. The Group first met on 27 April 2015 and reviewed the contribution by the Chairman and agreed most of the substantive changes, while modifying some of the text. Further modifications have been made by Correspondence Group members by correspondence. During its meeting held on 15 March 2016, a number of additional changes were made and items requiring further work identified. It was noted that the Correspondence Group would appreciate receiving further input for consideration so that it can conclude its work to present recommendations on the ITU-D Rules of Procedure for consideration by the next TDAG meeting in May 2017.

A comment was made on the content of the document, namely the concept of focus groups and the ITU-D Study Groups reports. The presenter clarified that the document is still open for comments and inputs within the framework of the correspondence group, which will meet during TDAG-17.

RPM-EUR welcomed the document and took note of the contribution.

[**Document 16**:](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMEUR-C-0016/en) The document entitled **“*ITU-D Study Group 1 and possible transfer of topics to ITU-T Study Group 3 in order to increase efficiency and to correspond to the needs expressed by developing countries at WTSA-16*”**was introduced by the Federal Republic of Germany. This documents deals with the relation between ITU-D and ITU-T activities in the field of economic, policy, regulatory and tariff aspects of telecommunication/ICT networks and services. It notes that developing country representatives at WTSA-16 expressed their preference for dealing with this matter in ITU-T Study Group 3 (SG3) and in this context elaborate appropriate ITU-T Recommendations. Noting that a formal separation between international and national telecommunication/ICT services is no longer state of the art, the contribution consequently proposes an amendment of the mandate/scope of ITU-D Study Group 1 to ensure that such activities are exclusively undertaken by ITU-T SG3 going forward.

The meeting discussed the contribution with views expressed by Member States as well as Sector Members, highlighting where the work should and has taken place. The meeting agreed that the activities in all sectors must not overlap nor compete, but rather complement each other. The meeting also acknowledged that the outcomes of WTSA-16 stand as they are and therefore need to be taken into consideration at the WTDC-17. The Chairman concluded that the issue remains open and will be further discussed at the CEPT level.

RPM-EUR welcomed the document and noted the contribution.

[Document 33](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMEUR-C-0033/en): The document entitled “***Outcome orientation of the ITU-D Study Groups*** ” was introduced by the Republic of Lithuania. The document proposes amendments to Resolution 1, aiming at enhancing effectiveness of the ITU-D Study Groups and strengthening their outcome orientation. Outcomes should include reports, white papers, and recommendations. Moreover, the contribution proposes that these Reports will be transformed by the Chairmen of the ITU-D Study Groups into Draft Recommendations for consideration by WTDC-17.

RPM-EUR welcomed the document and noted the contribution.

# 6.5 Report of the Correspondence Group on Streamlining WTDC resolutions

[Document 11:](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMEUR-C-0011/en) The document, entitled “***Report of the Correspondence Group on Streamlining WTDC resolutions***”, was introduced on behalf of the BDT Director.

The document and annexes provided information on the work of the TDAG Correspondence Group on Streamlining WTDC Resolutions (CG-SR) and the way forward. Based on members' contributions, a set of guiding principles attached as annex 1 of the document have been elaborated, which were  submitted for discussion during the second meeting of the group in September 2016.  Depending on the work carried out and taking due consideration of the discussions during Regional Preparatory Meetings (RPMs), a report will be developed in time for TDAG-17, for consideration. The final report of CG-SR will be submitted to WTDC 17 for appropriate action.

The Correspondence Group continues its work through electronic means. Contributions and concrete proposals are encouraged in order to advance the task of the Correspondence Group. The third meeting of CG-SR was held on 25 January 2017, and the next meeting of the group will take place in April 2017 at ITU headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.

Member States were invited to put forward concrete proposals for combining, integrating, merging and revising existing WTDC Resolutions based on the document and mapping tool. This tool maps the current WTDC resolutions and recommendations to Plenipotentiary (PP) resolutions, ITU-D objectives and ITU-D outcomes/outputs, the WSIS Action Lines, and the SDGs, with a view to streamlining them in preparation for WTDC-17. It also highlights common issues and themes in WTDC resolutions and recommendations and provides a framework for clustering them according to the draft guiding principles for streamlining WTDC resolutions.

RPM-EUR welcomed the document and noted the contribution.

[Document 26](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMEUR-C-0026/en): The document entitled ***“Follow up to the report on the resolution 33 (Rev. Dubai, 2014)”***was introduced by the Republic of Serbia. Republic of Serbia would like to express its appreciation to BDT for support on the implementation of PP Resolution 126 and WTDC Resolution 33. The presenter recognised the role of BDT in the provision of appropriate assistance in order to support Serbia in rebuilding its public broadcasting system and improving digital broadcasting coverage.

The document proposes to suppress WTDC Resolution 33, taking into account advanced status of the development of the digital broadcasting system in Republic of Serbia. Member States congratulated Serbia for their efficient utilization of the available resources in the successful transition to digital terrestrial television broadcasting.

RPM-EUR welcomed the document and noted the contribution. It was noted that document 29 might be part of the streamlining process should the WTDC Resolution 67 be suppressed.

# 6.6 Preliminary draft Structure of the Conference

[Document 12:](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMEUR-C-0012/en) The document presents a draft structure for WTDC, terms of reference for the meeting of Heads of delegation and terms of reference for the five proposed committees (Steering Committee, Budget Control, Objectives, ITU-D Working Methods and Editorial Committee) and for the Working Group to the Plenary on the ITU-D Strategic Plan, WTDC Declaration and resolutions.

The presenter noted that the draft WTDC‑17 structure is similar to the structure of the previous WTDC and shared with the meeting details on the various Committees and on the overall structure of the conference.

RPM-EUR welcomed the document and noted the contribution.

# Priority setting for Regional Initiatives, related projects and financing mechanisms

[Document INF/7](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMEUR-INF-0007/en):The document, entitled **"*Brainstorming for the preparation of the Regional Initiatives 2018-2021*"**,was contributed by the BDT Director. The document presents some suggestions of the BDT Director to Regional Telecommunication Organizations based on the experience of BDT in the implementation of Regional Initiatives. It has been submitted to Regional Telecommunication Organizations for their consideration as they deem appropriate when considering Regional Initiatives for the period 2018-2021.

[Document INF/8](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMEUR-INF-0008/en)**:** The document, entitled **"*Regional initiatives for the Europe Region as adopted by WTDC‑14*"**,was contributed by the BDT Director. This document presents the Regional Initiatives for the Europe region as adopted by the World Telecommunication Development Conference 2014.

[Document INF/10](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMEUR-INF-0010/en): The document, entitled **"*Summary of discussions of the EUR Regional Development Forum*"**,was contributed by the BDT Director. The document presents the summary of discussions of the Regional Development Forum for the Europe Region held on 26 April 2017. The document served as food for thought during the discussions on the Regional Initiatives.

The Chairman committed to work with the Vice Chairman to produce a proposal on five Regional Initiatives for consideration of the RPM-EUR, taking into account the contributions received.

The consolidated proposal was presented to the Plenary and discussed.

RPM-EUR approved five Regional Initiatives for Europe for the period 2018-2021, for submission to WTDC-17 as follows:

* RI-EUR 1: Broadband infrastructure, broadcasting and spectrum management
* RI-EUR 2: A citizen-centric approach to building services for national administrations
* RI-EUR-3: Accessibility, affordability, and skills development for all to ensure digital inclusion and sustainable social and economic development
* RI-EUR-4: Enhancing trust and confidence in the use of ICTs
* RI-EUR-5: ICT-centric innovation ecosystems

Further details on the expected results are available in Annex 1.

These Regional Initiatives will be submitted to the Com-ITU meeting, taking place on 4-6 July 2017, in Sofia, Republic of Bulgaria, for comments, if any.

# 8. Other business

The National Director of Coordination of the Ministry of Communication of Argentina made a presentation and invitation to WTDC-17, which will be hosted by Argentina, in the city of Buenos Aires. After 23 years, Buenos Aires will host again a WTDC. ([INF/12](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMEUR-INF-0012/en)).

**9. Main Outcomes**

RPM-EUR, after considering all input documents and discussions, came to the following conclusions:

* RPM-EUR welcomed the preliminary draft ITU-D contribution to the ITU Strategic Plan for 2020-2023, and decided to continue its work through the CEPT preparatory process for submission to WTDC-17.
* RPM-EUR welcomed the preliminary draft ITU-D Action Plan 2018-2021, considered proposals to be added to the draft ITU-D Action Plan 2018-2021, and decided to continue its work through the CEPT preparatory process for submission to WTDC-17.
* RPM-EUR considered the preliminary draft WTDC-17 Declaration, recognizing ITU-D’s contribution to implementation of the WSIS outcomes and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the preliminary draft structure of WTDC-17, considered proposals to be added to the draft WTDC-17 Declaration, and decided to continue its work through the CEPT preparatory process for submission to WTDC-17.
* RPM-EUR recognised that the ITU-D Regional Initiatives constitute an effective mechanism for fostering implementation of the WSIS outcomes and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.
* RPM-EUR approved five Regional Initiatives for Europe for the period 2018-2021, for submission to WTDC-17 as follows:
	+ RI-EUR 1: Broadband infrastructure, broadcasting and spectrum management
	+ RI-EUR 2: A citizen-centric approach to building services for national administrations
	+ RI-EUR-3: Accessibility, affordability, and skills development for all to ensure digital inclusion and sustainable social and economic development
	+ RI-EUR-4: Enhancing trust and confidence in the use of ICTs
	+ RI-EUR-5: ICT-centric innovation ecosystems

These Regional Initiatives will be submitted to the Com-ITU meeting, taking place on 4-6 July 2017, in Sofia, Republic of Bulgaria, for comments, if any.

* RPM-EUR welcomed and supported the report of the Correspondence Group on Streamlining WTDC Resolutions and the rules of procedure of ITU-D, proposing to amend WTDC Resolution 1.
* RPM-EUR also examined proposals for the revision by WTDC-17 of five existing WTDC resolutions (Resolutions 9, 40, 62, 71, 73).
* It also examined two proposals to streamline 2 resolutions (Resolutions 67 and 33).

10. Closing ceremony

The BDT Director, Mr Brahima Sanou, thanked the Government of the Republic of Lithuania for hosting the RPM and for its support for the successful organization of the event. He emphasised the success of this RPM-EUR as an emblematic example of the spirit of dialogue, cooperation and collaboration permeating ITU-D. Such spirit will be brought into all meetings and interactions engaging ITU-D Membership, such as TDAG-17 and finally to the WTDC.

He noted the important outcomes reflected in the Chairman’s report, which would serve as the building blocks for the region’s contributions to WTDC-17, such as the ITU-D contribution to the ITU Strategic Plan, the ITU–D  Action Plan and Declaration as well as the other valuable contributions submitted from the Membership.

He also shared with the meeting, again within the spirit of dialogue and cooperation, his intention to engage the ITU-D Membership prior to the WTDC on consultations concerning the appointment of the Vice-Chairs of WTDC, as they will play a key role at the conference as enablers for the negotiations and discussions toward consensus.

He encouraged the RPM-EUR, as he did in the previous RPMs, to consult as much as possible at the regional level, in order to arrive at WTDC with fewer and more consolidated proposals representing the position of the region as a whole.

He highlighted that this RPM, as well as the previous ones held in the other regions, provided a platform for open dialogue, cooperation and partnership, in which countries showed a common commitment to make the world a better place through the use of ICTs.

He also reiterated the success of the celebration of the Girls in ICT Day, a unique opportunity to advocate for gender equality in the ICT ecosystem at the global scale.

He thanked the Chairman, Mr Feliksas Dobrovolskis, as well as the Vice-Chairmen for their excellent leadership of the meeting and for facilitating consensus on the issues discussed during the meeting.

He also thanked Mr. Paulius Vaina for his role as Master of Ceremony and as the Lead of the Project Team of the CEPT Com-ITU for WTDC. He thanked all delegates for their contributions and for sharing their views and ideas, as well as those who worked behind the scene to help make the meeting a success.

He concluded thanking Mr Jaroslaw Ponder, ITU Coordinator for Europe, as Secretary of the RPM, his staff and the other ITU colleagues, who contributed to the success of the meeting.

Closing the meeting, Mr Feliksas Dobrovolskis, speaking on behalf of the Government of Lithuania, expressed his gratitude to all ITU members having participated in the work of RPM-EUR. He also expressed his particular gratitude to Mr Brahima Sanou, BDT Director, to Mr Jaroslaw Ponder, ITU Coordinator for Europe. He also thanked the ITU staff for their assistance in the organization and running of the meeting.

Closing the meeting, Mr Manuel da Costa Cabral, speaking on behalf of the CEPT, reiterated the spirit of cooperation and dialogue mentioned by the BDT Director through the motto “Simple and Sweet” and thanked the Communication Regulatory Authority of Lithuania and the Lithuanian Government to have facilitated such a successful meeting. He drew the meeting’s attention to the next CEPT Com-ITU meeting, to be held the 4-6 July 2017 in Sofia, Bulgaria and encouraged Member States to take part.

The RPM-EUR participants thanked the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the meeting for their effective leadership, as well as for their excellent organization of the meeting and for the facilities and working conditions provided, highlighting in particular the spirit of collaboration among Membership and with ITU.

The participants thanked the Communication Regulatory Authority, the Ministry of Transport and Communication and the Government of Lithuania for its warm and generous hospitality.

Mr Feliksas Dobrovolskis,

Chairman, RPM-EUR for WTDC‑17

28 April 2017, Vilnius, Lithuania

Annex 1

**Draft Regional Initiatives for Europe Region**

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| **EUR-1: Ubiquitous resilient high speed broadband infrastructure and services** |
| **Objective:** The main objective of this Regional Initiative is to facilitate of deployment of high speed connectivity with resilient and synergistic infrastructure sharing whilst ensuring a trusted and quality user experience. Due to differences in European countries, there is a need for a regional initiative, through which administrations in need may be assisted in: embracing ultra-high speed broadband connectivity, 5G/IMT2020 roll-out, deploying digital radio broadcasting systems and managing the spectrum, to ensure accelerated sustainable development in middle and long term. **Expected results**Assistance to the countries in need in the following:1. Development of plans (national and regional) and feasibility studies for deployment of ubiquitous resilient high speech connectivity, 5G/IMT2020 and digital radio deployment with all relevant components including legislations, standards, organizational set up, capacity building and cooperation mechanisms, as needed.
2. Sharing of guidelines on collaborative regulation between telecommunication sector and other synergistic sector such as energy (mechanisms for collaboration, regulatory incentives, financing, security and reliability, etc.), railway, transportation.
3. Assessment of dynamics, challenges and opportunities of roll outs of diverse broadband technologies across Europe – including mobile (4G, LTE, 5G/IMT2020), fixed (xDSL, G.Fast, fiber, etc.), cable TV, digital radio, power – in context of creation of ubiquitous resilient high speed broadband infrastructure.
4. Sharing of best practices and case studies in Cable TV, digital radio, 5G experience, early use cases and trends and NGA (Next Generation Access) network roll-outs.
5. Mapping of the ubiquitous infrastructure and services fostering harmonization of approaches across the region and taking into account infrastructure sharing approaches applied by countries.
6. Establishment of the quality of services systems and consumer protection frameworks. Development of plans for ICT for sustainable energy covering different types of ICT applications and innovations such as demand side management, electric cars, energy storage, etc. and how these applications relate to energy sector objectives improving energy efficiency, access, sustainability, affordability, climate change, etc.
 |
| **EUR-2: Accessibility and affordability of ICT products and services for all, and persons with disabilities in particular, to ensure digital inclusion and sustainable social and economic development** |
| **Objective:** The initiative in this area will facilitate the development of citizen-centric services. These ought to be accessible and available to all members of the society. The aim is to transform and replace the traditional, paper-based administrative issues and cultural property, into the digital world, allowing citizens and other institutions to handle their administrative necessities and responsibilities.**Expected results**Assistance to the countries in the following:1. Creation of experience and knowledge exchange platform between countries.
2. The development of technical and service infrastructure (data centers, networks, secure gateways, authentication, interoperability, standards and meta-data) as well as capacity building within the national administrations and institutions.
3. Fostering the development and increase of types of online transactional services, including applications for A2A and A2C services (related to i.e. daily administrative processes, registering vehicles, application for documents, certificates or social benefits, registering businesses or submitting taxes).
4. Digitization of national cultural property, multimedia presentation and providing digital, reliable access to digitised material.
5. Raising public trust through security enhancements in e-Gov services, digitization processes and awareness raising campaigns including promotion of such application based solutions for e-Government by national administrations and other institutions. Identification of key horizontal factors for successful implementation of e-Gov services and digitization, such as secure and accessible digital identification, tools for data analysis, integrating workflow solutions, approach to re-use of data, and fostering their development.
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|  |
| **EUR-3: Accessibility, affordability and skills development for all to ensure digital inclusion and sustainable social and economic developoment**  |
| **Objective:** To bridge the digital divide and equip ALL groups of the society to take advantage of ICT, by ensuring connectivity, enabling capacity building on digital skills and making ICTs accessible to all, including persons with disabilities. **Expected results**Assistance to the countries in need in the following:1. Strengthen and support regional cooperation and engagement of all relevant stakeholders in line with European Accessibility Act, development, and implementation of ICT accessibility policies and solutions in the Europe region.
2. Raise awareness and promote relevant guidelines on public policies, including exchanging knowledge and sharing good practices on ICT accessibility products and services for PwD, through regional and sub-regional meetings and workshops, including an annual regional conference which could be called “Accessible Europe – Information and Communication for ALL”.
3. Develop regional and in-country capacity though relevant web accessibility training to ensure that government websites/ and related services are available and accessible to All citizens, including the PwD.
4. Develop regional and in-country capacity to promote and deliver to all stakeholders that are involved, training courses in ICT Accessibility including the training on public procurement as a tool to improve inclusion of PwD in education, employment, economic and social life.
5. Encourage regional cooperation between research centers and academia in speech technologies (TTS, Text-Speech, for everyone who can listen, Automatic Speech Recognition (ASR), Speech-Text for everyone who can read). Improving these technologies can help to overcome disabilities.
6. Raise awareness about accessibility possibilities of TV and video programming in digital platforms and implement available solutions.
7. Encourage implementation and related measurement progress of regional/national ICT activities and projects aiming to eliminate disparities in the use and access to ICTs of public institutions websites and government education programs, services and information.
8. Encourage implementation of digital content in education.
9. Develop regional and in-country capacity building on coding and computer programming tools that will be available to ALL, including persons with disabilities.
10. Promote digital literacy, digital skills and e-education, and implement accessible ICT in e-education.
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|  |
| **EUR-4: Enhancing trust and confidence in the use of ICTs**  |
| **Objective:** To support the deployment of resilient infrastructure and secure services where all citizens, especially children can confidently use ICTs in their daily lives.**Expected results**Assistance to the countries in need in the following:1. Providing regional platforms and tools for building human capacities (awareness and expert training) to enhance trust and confidence in the use of ICTs.
2. Sharing of country and regional best practices, case studies and conducting surveys on enhancing confidence and trust in the use of ICTs
3. Elaborating or reviewing National Cybersecurity Strategies
4. Setting up or enhancing National Computer Incident Response Teams
5. Conducting simulation exercises such as cyberdrills at national and regional level
6. Cooperation with international/regional organizations to assist countries and develop tools through synergies and resource optimizing
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| **EUR-5: ICT-centric innovation ecosystems**  |
| **Objectives:** Build on the existing regional initiative in Europe on entrepreneurship, innovation and youth to enhance entrepreneurship and establish a sustainable culture of innovation through concrete strategic actions using ICT as an enabler. **Expected Results**Assistance to the countries in need in the following:1. Country reviews to collected data, analyse the current situation, and propose effective recommendations to use ICT as an innovation enabler.
2. Undertaken ecosystem mapping exercises to coordinate efforts to create new projects and activities, both by facilitating cooperation between existing actors and by highlighting gaps in the ecosystem where stakeholders can have a high impact.
3. Develop human capacity through identification and provision of practical skills needed in order to support innovative industries.
4. Identify and strategise sustainable funding models to support the innovation ecosystems.
5. Sharing of country level and regional best practices and case studies on all aspects of ICT as a driver for innovation.
6. Provide a regional platform (virtual and physical) for strengthening of regional cooperation between ICT-centric innovation ecosystems, while holding annual Regional Innovation Forums.
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