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|  | **Document** **TDAG17-22/****16-E** |
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| **Director, Telecommunication Development Bureau** |
| STATUS ON THE PREPARATIONS FOR WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE 2017 |
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| **Summary**This report is to inform TDAG of the status of preparations for World Telecommunication Development Conference 2017 (WTDC-17).**Action required**TDAG is invited to note the action taken in preparation for WTDC-17 and to endorse the recommendation in the conclusion. **References**[No. 141 of the ITU Constitution](http://www.itu.int/pub/S-CONF-PLEN-2015), [Nos. 42, 213 of the ITU Convention, Chapter I of the General Rules of Conferences, Assemblies and Meetings of the Union,](http://www.itu.int/pub/S-CONF-PLEN-2015) [PP Resolutions 72, 77, 111 (Rev. Busan, 2014),](http://www.itu.int/pub/S-CONF-PLEN-2015) and [WTDC Resolution 31 (Rev. Hyderabad, 2010)](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/TIES_Protected/WTDC14/WTDC14-FinalReport-E.pdf). |

# Background

* 1. No. 141 of the ITU Constitution stipulates that there shall be a World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC) between two Plenipotentiary Conferences.
	2. Resolution 77 (Rev. Busan, 2014) resolves to hold the WTDC in November-December 2017.
	3. Resolution 72 (Rev. Busan, 2014) underlines the importance of linking strategic, financial and operational plans as a basis for measuring progress in achieving the objectives and goals of ITU.
	4. WTDC Resolution 31 (Rev. Hyderabad, 2010) expresses the firm convictionthat the coordination of preparations at regional level for the six regions of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) are of great benefit to Member States.

# Place, duration, dates, theme and draft agenda for WTDC-17

* 1. At its 2016 session, the ITU Council noted with appreciation the official invitation from the Government of Argentina to host WTDC‑17 in Buenos Aires from 9 to 20 October 2017 and approved the precise place and exact dates.
	2. In line with No. 213 of the ITU Convention, the Council also approved the draft agenda forWTDC-17 as set out in Document C16/56(Rev.1). The Council welcomed“ICT for Sustainable Development Goals” (ICT➃SDGs) as the proposed theme for WTDC-17, noting how such a theme would send a message to the outside world about ITU’s alignment to the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda agreed by heads of state and government at the United Nations General Assembly.
	3. By [Circular Letter No. 16/23](https://www.itu.int/md/S16-SG-CIR-0029/en) of 26 May 2016, ITU Member States were invited to confirm, in writing, their agreement with the precise place, exact dates, and draft agenda of WTDC-17 by 27 June 2016.
	4. By [Circular Letter No. 16/29](https://www.itu.int/md/S16-SG-CIR-0029/en) of 30 June 2016, of 30 June 2016, ITU Member States were informed that the consultation carried out as outlined above had received the agreement of the required majority of ITU Member States, in accordance with Nos.42 and 213 of the ITU Convention.
	5. By [Circular Letter No.16/37-SG/BDT](https://www.itu.int/md/S16-SG-CIR-0037/en), of 6 July 2016, ITU Member States were invited to send their delegations to WTDC-17 and were informed that this invitation was also being sent to ITU-D Sector Members, and to ITU Academia, as well as to all concerned organizations, institutions, and entities.
	6. ITU and the Government of Argentina are currently negotiating the Host Country Agreement for holding WTDC‑17 in Buenos Aires.

# Regional preparatory meetings

* 1. In line with WTDC Resolution 31 (Rev. Hyderabad, 2010), the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) organized one Regional Preparatory Meeting (RPM) per region.
	2. All six RPMs were held with the objective to identify priorities at the regional level for the development of telecommunications and information and communication technologies (ICTs).
	3. All RPMs gave careful consideration to the results of the implementation of the Dubai Action Plan since 2014 and mainly focused their discussions on the priority issues, topics and questions and regional initiatives to be included in the Buenos Aires Action Plan (BaAP).
	4. With early preparations by BDT and TDAG in 2015 and 2016, the following key documents were submitted to all six RPMs for any further input:
* Preliminary Draft ITU-D Contribution to the ITU Strategic Plan for 2020-2023
* Preliminary Draft ITU-D Action Plan
* Preliminary Draft WTDC-17 Declaration
* Rules of Procedure of ITU-D (WTDC Resolution 1)
* Report on streamlining WTDC Resolutions
	1. The **Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Commonwealth of Independent States (RPM-CIS)** was organized by BDT in collaboration with the State Committee of Information Technologies and Communications of the Kyrgyz Republic, in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic, from 9 to 11 November 2016, at the invitation of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic.
	2. One of the main outcomes of RPM-CIS was its agreement on the following five draft regional initiatives:
* Development of e-health to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all, at all ages.
* Use of telecommunications/ICT to ensure inclusive, equitable, quality and safe education, including the enhancement of women’s knowledge of ICTs and e-government.
* Development and regulation of infocommunication infrastructure to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe and resilient.
* Monitoring of the ecological status and of the presence and rational use of natural resources.
* Fostering innovative solutions and partnership for the implementation of Internet of Things technologies and their interaction in telecommunication networks, including 4G, IMT-2020 and next-generation networks, in the interests of sustainable development.
	1. The **Regional Preparatory Meeting for Africa (RPM-AFR)** was organized by BDT in collaboration with the Ministry of Youth and ICT, in Kigali, Republic of Rwanda, from 6 to 8 December 2016, at the invitation of the Government of the Republic of Rwanda.
	2. RPM-AFR made several proposals to update its existing regional initiatives to include emerging trends and technologies. The proposals focused on the following areas and priorities:
* Strengthening human and institutional capacity building.
* Strengthening and harmonizing policy and regulatory frameworks.
* Smart and sustainable broadband infrastructure and interconnectivity for equitable access for all in Africa.
* Spectrum management and transition to digital broadcasting.
* Strengthening the security of ICT infrastructure and building confidence in the use of telecommunications/ICT applications.
* Support for ICT-centric innovation clusters in Africa.
* Policy, regulatory and technical support, as well as specialized training programmes for human capacity building in selected flagship initiatives related to Smart Africa.
	1. The **Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Arab region (RPM-ARB)** was organized by BDT in collaboration with the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology and the National Telecommunications Corporation of Sudan in Khartoum, Sudan, from 30 January to 1 February 2017, at the invitation of the of the Government of the Republic of Sudan.
	2. One of the main outcomes of RPM-ARB was its agreement on the following five draft regional initiatives:
* Environment, climate change and emergency telecommunications.
* Confidence and security in the use of ICTs.
* Digital financial inclusion.
* Internet of Things, smart cities and big data.
* Innovation and entrepreneurship.
	1. The **Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Americas region (RPM-AMS)** was organized by BDT in collaboration with the *Comisión Nacional de Telecomunicaciones* (CONATEL) of Paraguay in Asunción, Paraguay, from 22 to 24 February 2017, at the invitation of the Governmentof the Republic of Paraguay.
	2. One of the main outcomes of RPM-AMS was its approval of the following five draft regional initiatives:
* Disaster risk reduction and management communications.
* Spectrum management and transition to digital broadcasting.
* Deployment of broadband infrastructure, especially in rural and neglected areas, and strengthening of broadband access to services and applications.
* Accessibility and affordability for an inclusive and sustainable Americas region.
* Development of the digital economy, smart cities and communities (SCC) and Internet of Things (IoT), promoting innovation.
	1. The **Regional Preparatory Meeting for Asia and the Pacific (RPM-ASP)** was organized by BDT in collaboration with the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology, in **Bali, Indonesia, from 21 to 23 March 2017,** at the invitation of the Government of the Republic of Indonesia.
	2. One of the main outcomes of RPM-ASP was its approval of the following five draft regional initiatives:
* Addressing special needs of least developed countries, small island developing states, including Pacific island countries, and landlocked developing countries.
* Harnessing ICTs to support the digital economy and an inclusive digital society.
* Fostering development of infrastructure to enhance digital connectivity.
* Enabling policy and regulatory environments.
* Contributing to secure and resilient environment.
	1. The **Regional Preparatory Meeting for Europe (RPM-EUR)** will be organized by BDT, in **Vilnius, Lithuania, from 27 to 28 April 2017,** at the invitation of the Communications Regulatory Authority of the Republic of Lithuania.
	2. All RPMs recognized that 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.
	3. All RPMs arrived at a set of proposals on priority issues for their respective regions that will serve as a basis for the formulation of contributions to WTDC‑17, which will consider the ITU‑D activities to be carried out over the next four-year period (2018-2021).
	4. A Coordination Meeting of the Regional Preparatory Meetings will be held in Geneva on 8 May 2017 to consolidate the outcomes of the RPMs into a single report. The consolidated report will be submitted to the TDAG meeting on 9-12 May 2017.
	5. All documents relating to each RPM and RDF, including invitations, meeting agendas, contributions received and meeting reports are available on the website for each event at <http://www.itu.int/en/itu-d/conferences/wtdc/wtdc17/pages/rpm.aspx>.
	6. The draft structure of WTDC-17 was also discussed at all RPMs and an updated version, based on these discussions, has been published as Document TDAG17-22/12.

# High-Level Segment Policy Statements

The High-Level Segment at WTDC provides a unique platform for high-ranking officials from Member States to express their views on emerging trends and on matters of strategic importance to the development of the telecommunication and information and communication technology sector. It is suggested that **Policy statements at WTDC-17 should be limited to ministers, vice, deputy or assistant ministers or cabinet secretaries and speaking time should be limited to preferably three minutes and not more than five minutes with the understanding that the full statement will be posted on the website of the conference.**

# Side events

Side events will be organized around the WTDC-17 theme of ICT➃SDGs. More details on these events will be provided as the conference draws nearer.

# Celebrating ITU-D’s 25th Anniversary

At its meeting in March 2016, TDAG recalled that the year 2017 is particularly important for ITU-D as it marks the Sector’s 25th Anniversary. Established in 1992 by the Additional Plenipotentiary Conference held in Geneva, ITU-D has over the past 25 years spearheaded the rapid growth and expansion of telecommunication and ICT networks and services. Several activities are planned to celebrate the anniversary and are outlined in Document TDAG-17-22/19.

# Sponsorship opportunities

BDT offers its membership a number of sponsorship packages in support of the 25th Anniversary of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector as well as for side events at WTDC-17. Each sponsorship package features a wide range of benefits and offers a unique opportunity to enhance sponsor visibility. **All resources mobilized will be used to organize the activities of the sponsorship packages as well as to implement projects and initiatives, in particular the Regional Initiatives that will be adopted at WTDC-17. Details of all sponsorship benefits can be found at:**[*www.itu.int/go/en/itudsponsorships*](http://www.itu.int/go/en/itudsponsorships)

# Conclusion

Work continues at the secretariat level to ensure an efficient and effective preparatory process that will produce a successful conference. The Council is invited to take note of the WTDC-17 preparations and to endorse the following recommendation: **Policy statements at WTDC-17 should be limited to ministers, vice, deputy or assistant ministers or cabinet secretaries and speaking time should be limited to preferably three minutes and not more than five minutes with the understanding that the full statement will be posted on the website of the conference.**

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