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|  | **Document** **TDAG17-22/****17-E** |
| **8 May 2017**  |
| **Original:** **English** |
| Chairman, RPM Coordination Meeting |
| Report of the chairman of the RPM Coordination Meeting to TDAG |
|  |
| **Summary:**This document provides the main conclusion of the WTDC-17 Regional Preparatory meetings. It addresses all the issues discussed during RPMs:A. Regional Initiatives, B. Preliminary draft ITU-D Contribution to the ITU Strategic Plan for 2020-2023, preliminary draft ITU-D Action Plan and preliminary draft WTDC-17 Declaration, C. Rules of procedure of ITU D (WTDC Resolution 1),D. Streamlining WTDC Resolutions, and E. Proposals for new or revised Resolutions.**Action required:**TDAG is invited to consider this report and to provide guidance as deemed appropriate.**References:**Resolution 31 (Rev. Hyderabad, 2010) |

**Introduction**

In line with Resolution 31 (Rev. Hyderabad, 2010), the RPM Coordination Meeting took place in view of the World Telecommunication Development Conference 2017 (WTDC-17) which will be held from 9 to 20 October 2017 in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

The six RPMs were held as follows:

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| 9-11 November 2016 | Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) (RPM-CIS), Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic<http://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMCIS-C-0044/>, [TDAG17-22/38](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-TDAG22-C-0038/en) |
| 6-8 December 2016 | Regional Preparatory Meeting for Africa (RPM-AFR), Kigali, Rwanda<http://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMAFR-C-0025>, [TDAG17-22/39](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-TDAG22-C-0039/en) |
| 30 January – 1 February 2017 | Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Arab States (RPM-ARB), Khartoum, Sudan<https://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMARB-C-0046/>, [TDAG17-22/40](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-TDAG22-C-0040/en) |
| 22-24 February 2017 | Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Americas (RPM-AMS), Asuncion, Paraguay<https://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMAMS-C-0041/>, [TDAG17-22/41](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-TDAG22-C-0041/en) |
| 21-23 March 2017 | Regional Preparatory Meeting for Asia and the Pacific (RPM-ASP), Bali, Indonesia<https://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMASP-C-0036/>, [TDAG17-22/42](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-TDAG22-C-0042/en) |
| 27-28 April 2017 | Regional Preparatory Meeting for Europe (RPM-EUR), Vilnius, Lithuania<https://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMEUR-C-0038/>, [TDAG17-22/43](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-TDAG22-C-0043/en) |

The meeting elected Ms Teresita Palacios, from Paraguay, as Chairman and adopted the agenda as presented in Document TDAG17/CM/1-E.

The outcome of each RPM followed the same structure and approach as the following:

A. Regional Initiatives,

B. Preliminary draft ITU-D Contribution to the ITU Strategic Plan for 2020-2023, preliminary draft ITU-D Action Plan 2018-2021 and preliminary draft WTDC-17 Declaration,

C. Rules of procedure of ITU D (WTDC Resolution 1),

D. Streamlining WTDC Resolutions, and

E. Proposals for new or revised Resolutions.

# A. Regional Initiatives

All RPMs were provided with an Information Document containing some suggestions of the Director of Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) to Regional Telecom Organizations based on the experience of BDT in the implementation of Regional Initiatives. It was submitted to Regional Telecommunications Organizations for their consideration as deemed appropriate when considering Regional Initiatives for the period 2018-2021.

The following Regional Initiatives were agreed by each RPM:

**CIS Regional Initiatives**

The CIS Regional Initiatives are intended to address the specific telecommunication/ICT priority areas through partnerships and resource mobilization to implement small-, medium- and large-scale projects. Under each Regional Initiative, projects would be developed and implemented to meet countries’ needs.

The following information is summarized from RPM-CIS Report by the Chairman. The full report can be found in document [RPM-CIS16/44](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMCIS-C-0044/).

| **RI 1** | **Development of e-health to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all, at all ages.** |
| --- | --- |
| **Objective:** | To assist the ITU Member States within the region with the development of regulatory texts, technical solutions and specialized training programmes in the field of e-health (including telemedicine), with the aim of providing the public with improved medical services through the use of infocommunications. |
| **Expected Results:** | 1 | Provision of more complete information to the representatives of telecommunication administrations, government healthcare authorities, medical institutions and the private sector regarding the current legal/regulatory and organizational/technical frameworks in the area of e-health. |
| 2 | Establishment of pilot telemedicine stations with a guaranteed electricity supply derived from solar energy.  |
| 3 | Development of technical solutions in the field of e-health, including telemedicine, the processing of digital medical data, personalized medical-service records, the electronic outpatient card, the electronic patient health record, and so on. |
| 4 | Recommendations on the application of modern technical solutions in the design of e-health systems, including telemedicine networks. |
| 5 | Courses focusing on the training of medical students, and on enhancing the skills of practicing medical staff, in the use of ICTs in healthcare, including telemedicine, as well as courses for IT specialists on the maintenance of medical information systems. |
| **Relevant ITU-D Objectives** | Objective 3 | Enabling Environment: Foster an enabling policy and regulatory environment conducive to sustainable telecommunication/ICT development. |
| 3.3 | Improved human and institutional capacity of ITU Membership to tap into the full potential of telecommunications/ICTs. |
| 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. |
| 4.1 | Improved access to 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. |
| 4.2 | Improved capacity of ITU Membership to leverage ICT applications, including mobile, in high-priority areas (e.g. health, agriculture, commerce, governance, education, finance). |
| **Relevant WSIS Outcomes** | C4 | Capacity building |
| C7 | ICT Applications: E-health |
| **Relevant Sustainable Development Goals** | 3 | Good health and wellbeing |
| 16 | Reducing inequality |

| **RI 2** | **Use of telecommunications/ICT to ensure inclusive, equitable, quality and safe education, including the enhancement of women's knowledge of ICTs and e-government** |
| --- | --- |
| **Objective:** | To provide ITU Member States within the region with centralized consultative and technical assistance in the various aspects of the use of telecommunications/ICT in education, as well as in regard to raising the level of people's ICT literacy, in the interests of human capacity building and of ensuring gender and social equality. |
| **Expected Results:** | 1 | Provision of consultative and technical support to representatives of educational establishments with regard to current progress in the use of telecommunications/ICTs in education. |
| 2 | Establishment of training centres for enhancing women's knowledge of ICTs and e-government. |
| 3 | Development of educational technologies and methods using telecommunications/ICTs. |
| 4 | Development of systems for providing pupils, parents and teachers with information on the safe use of Internet resources. |
| 5 | Further training courses, training sessions and seminars on introducing telecommunications/ICTs into education and human capacity building, including in rural areas, and also for persons with disabilities. |
| **Relevant ITU-D Objectives** | Objective 2 | Modern and secure telecommunication/ICT Infrastructure: Foster the development of infrastructure and services, including building confidence and security in the use of telecommunications/ICTs. |
| 2.2 | Enhanced capacity of ITU Membership to effectively respond to cyberthreats and develop national cybersecurity strategies. |
| Objective 3 | Enabling Environment: Foster an enabling policy and regulatory environment conducive to sustainable telecommunication/ICT development. |
| 3.3 | Enhanced capacity of ITU Membership to effectively respond to cyberthreats and develop national cybersecurity strategies. |
| 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. |
| 4.2 | Improved capacity of ITU Membership to leverage ICT applications, including mobile, in high-priority areas (e.g. health, agriculture, commerce, governance, education, finance). |
| 4.3 | Strengthened capacity of ITU Membership to develop strategies, policies and practices for digital inclusion, especially people with specific needs. |
| **Relevant WSIS Outcomes** | C3 | Access to information and knowledge |
| C4 | Capacity building |
| C5 | Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs |
| C7 | ICT Applications: E-learning |
| **Relevant Sustainable Development Goals** | 4 | Quality education |
| 5 | Gender equality |

| **RI 3** | **Development and regulation of infocommunication infrastructure to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe and resilient** |
| --- | --- |
| **Objective:** | To assist ITU Member States within the region in developing regulatory instruments and technical solutions aimed at creating an enabling environment for the development of infocommunication infrastructure in cities and human settlements, including the use of smart devices. |
| **Expected Results:** | 1 | Recommendations on the development of infocommunication infrastructure, including the use of telecommunications and other connective media to support and facilitate the sustainable development of smart cities in developing countries. |
| 2 | Recommendations on the development of the regulatory and legal framework governing the process of building and servicing infocommunication infrastructure in facilities of diverse ownership, including the use of smart devices for developing urban infrastructure. |
| 3 | Implementation of pilot projects for the introduction of smart devices in the interests of road-traffic safety, control of street lighting, energy saving, water-supply management, etc. |
| 4 | Greater awareness on the part of telecommunication administrations, regulatory bodies and telecommunication equipment developers, manufacturers and suppliers as to the strategies to be adopted in regard to the construction, and implementation of the vision, of smart cities in the CIS countries. |
| 5 | Further training courses, training sessions and seminars on the infrastructure of cities and human settlements. |
| **Relevant ITU-D Objectives** | Objective 2 | Modern and secure telecommunication/ICT Infrastructure: Foster the development of infrastructure and services, including building confidence and security in the use of telecommunications/ICTs. |
| 2.1 | Enhanced capacity of ITU Membership to make available resilient telecommunication/ICT infrastructure and services, including broadband and broadcasting, bridging the digital standardization gap, conformance and interoperability and spectrum management. |
| 2.2 | Enhanced capacity of ITU Membership to effectively respond to cyberthreats and develop national cybersecurity strategies and capabilities, including capacity building. |
| Objective 3 | Enabling Environment: Foster an enabling policy and regulatory environment conducive to sustainable telecommunication/ICT development. |
| 3.1 | Strengthened capacity of Member States to develop enabling policy, legal and regulatory frameworks conducive to development of telecommunications/ICTs. Telecommunication/ICT innovation. |
| 3.4 | Strengthened capacity of ITU Membership to integrate telecommunication/ICT innovation in national development agendas. |
| **Relevant WSIS Outcomes** | C2 | Information and communication infrastructure |
| C7 | ICT Applications: E-learning |
| **Relevant Sustainable Development Goals** | 11 | Sustainable cities and communities |

| **RI 4** | **Monitoring of the ecological status and of the presence and rational use of natural resources** |
| --- | --- |
| **Objective:** | To assist ITU Member States within the region in monitoring the ecological status and the presence and rational use of natural resources |
| **Expected Results:** | 1 | Development of information systems to support decision-making in regard to monitoring of the ecological status and of the presence and rational use of natural resources, including the creation of a spatial data infrastructure |
| 2 | Creation of repositories of metadata relating to the results of studies on the ecological status of the region's natural resources |
| 3 | Provision to the governmental authorities responsible for the conservation of natural resources of high-quality, well-organized and harmonized spatial information for use in analyzing and forecasting the state of the environment |
| 4 | Further training courses, training sessions and seminars on monitoring of the ecological status and of the presence and rational use of natural resources |
| **Relevant ITU-D Objectives** | 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 |
| 4.1 | Improved access to 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 |
| 4.4 | Enhanced capacity of ITU Membership to develop ICT strategies and solutions on climate-change adaptation and mitigation |
| **Relevant WSIS Outcomes** | C7 | ICT Applications: E-agriculture, E-environment |
| **Relevant Sustainable Development Goals** | 6 | Clean water and sanitation |
| 13 | Climate action |

| **RI 5** | **Fostering innovative solutions and partnership for the implementation of Internet of Things (IoT) technologies and their interaction in telecommunication networks, including 4G, IMT-2020 and next-generation networks, in the interests of sustainable development** |
| --- | --- |
| **Objective:** | To assist ITU Member States within the region with a harmonious transformation of the telecommunication market and transition of telecommunication operators to the provision of innovative services to users, ensuring the stability and enhanced performance of telecommunication networks, including 4G, IMT-2020 and next-generation networks (hereinafter “telecommunication networks”) within a context of ubiquitous implementation of the IoT concept and technologies |
| **Expected Results:** | 1 | Development of recommendations on the use of modern technologies and advanced concepts for the operation of the telecommunication market, including principles for telecommunication network interworking, tariff-setting for services, numbering, addressing and identification, as well as issues relating to service quality, security and reliability and traffic management, including aspects of net neutrality |
| 2 | Increased interoperability among telecommunication networks, services and devices through implementation of the IoT concept, including the industrial IoT |
| 3 | Help in ensuring the required level of confidence and security when implementing the large-scale transformation of telecommunication networks within the context of introduction of the IoT concept, including the industrial IoT |
| 4 | Establishment of a single toolkit and a set of specifications for the testing of devices, telecommunication networks and their components within the framework of the IoT concept, including the industrial IoT, on the basis of regional laboratories |
| 5 | Development of recommendations relating to the establishment and operation of regional IoT laboratories, in the interests of sustainable development |
| **Relevant ITU-D Objectives** | Objective 2 | Modern and secure telecommunication/ICT Infrastructure: Foster the development of infrastructure and services, including building confidence and security in the use of telecommunications/ICTs |
| 2.1 | Enhanced capacity of ITU Membership to make available resilient telecommunication/ICT infrastructure and services, including broadband and broadcasting, bridging the digital standardization gap, conformance and interoperability and spectrum management |
| Objective 3 | Enabling Environment: Foster an enabling policy and regulatory environment conducive to sustainable telecommunication/ICT development |
| 3.4 | Strengthened capacity of ITU Membership to integrate telecommunication/ICT innovation in national development agendas |
| **Relevant WSIS Outcomes** | C6 | Enabling environment |
| **Relevant Sustainable Development Goals** | 9 | Industry, innovation and infrastructure |
| 17 | Partnership for sustainable development |

**Africa Regional Initiatives**

The African Regional Initiatives are intended to address the specific telecommunication/ICT priority areas through partnerships and resource mobilization to implement small-, medium- and large-scale projects. Under each Regional Initiative, projects would be developed and implemented to meet countries’ needs.

The following information is summarized from RPM-AFR Report by the Chairman. The full report can be found in document [RPM-AFR16/25](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMAFR-C-0025/).

Several proposals to update existing Regional Initiatives to include emerging trends and technologies were submitted as well as proposals on two new Regional Initiatives. The proposals recognized that ICTs are ultimately about people, the ICT sector is fast-developing and there is a need to take a paradigm shift in approaches for the region to benefit from these changes. 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

Concerning the elaboration of common proposals on Regional Initiatives to be submitted to WTDC-17, RPM-AFR agreed to use the Information Document provided by the Director of BDT ([RPM-AFR16/INF/6](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMAFR-INF-0006/)) as a generic framework that may be further improved according to Member States’ needs as well as Resolution 17 (WTDC-14, Dubai) as reference on the implementation approach. It was further agreed that ATU would coordinate the process of collecting proposals from Member States towards the elaboration of an Africa Common Proposal to WTDC-17.

**Arab States Regional Initiatives**

The Arab States Regional Initiatives are intended to address the specific telecommunication/ICT priority areas through partnerships and resource mobilization to implement small-, medium- and large-scale projects. Under each Regional Initiative, projects would be developed and implemented to meet countries’ needs.

The following information is summarized from RPM-ARB Report by the Chairman. The full report can be found in document [RPM-ARB17/46](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMARB-C-0046/).

The Chairman of the Arab WTDC-17 Preparatory Group noted that the Group will continue to further develop the Regional Initiative proposals.

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| **RI 1** | **Environment, Climate Change and Emergency Telecommunications** |
| **Objective:** | Raise awareness and provide support concerning the most significant challenges in the field of environment, climate change and emergency telecommunications; establish regulatory frameworks and take necessary measures to cope with the challenges in this field. |

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| **RI 2** | **Confidence and Security in the Use of ICTs** |
| **Objective:** | Promote confidence and security in the use of ICTs, child online protection and combatting all forms of cyberthreats including the misuse of information and communication technologies. |

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| **RI 3** | **Digital Financial Inclusion** |
| **Objective:** | Support and enable access to and use of digital financial services by means of using telecommunications and information technology and achieving high levels of digital financial inclusion. |

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| **RI 4** | **Internet of Things, Smart Cities and Big Data** |
| **Objective:** | Raise awareness regarding the importance of future challenges in the era of Internet of things and big data and how to address such challenges; establish regulatory frameworks and take the measures that help cope with the rapid change in the field of telecommunications and information technology, and seek the transition to smart cities and communities. |

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| **RI 5** | **Innovation and Entrepreneurship** |
| **Objective:** | Build capacities and raise awareness of the culture of innovation and entrepreneurship, in particular for youth and women empowerment, with the aim of (adapting/leveraging/harnessing/using) ICT tools for establishing projects and undertaking economic activities that enable the creation of employment opportunities. |

**Americas Regional Initiatives**

The Americas Regional Initiatives are intended to address the specific telecommunication/ICT priority areas through partnerships and resource mobilization to implement small-, medium- and large-scale projects. Under each Regional Initiative, projects would be developed and implemented to meet countries’ needs.

The following information is summarized from RPM-AMS Report by the Chairman. The full report can be found in document [RPM-AMS17/41](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMAMS-C-0041/).

| **RI 1** | **Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Communications** |
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| **Objective:** | To provide assistance to Member States during all phases of disaster risk reduction, i.e. early warning, disaster response and relief and rehabilitation of telecommunication networks, particularly in Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and the Least Developed Countries (LDCs). |
| **Expected results:** | 1 | Identification of suitable technologies to be used for disaster risk reduction communications, and development of implementation feasibility studies, conformance and interoperability among other technologies and services based on IP technology for emergency telecommunications. |
| 2 | Implementation of national and sub-regional early-warning systems, as well as emergency response and recovery , and identification of critical infrastructure, with special focus on Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Least Developed Countries (LDCs), considering the influence of climate change. |
| 3 | Assistance for the development of appropriate policy, regulatory and legislative frameworks, as well as protocols and inter-agency procedures on communications within disaster risk reduction at the national and regional level, |
| 4 | Regional meetings and workshops to share experiences and best practices on telecommunications/ICTs for preventive measures for disaster risk reduction and emergency response, maximizing resources, creating more innovative and effective programmes and coordinating actions in border areas for the Americas region. |
| 5 | Temporary availability of equipment for emergency and recovery communications in the Americas region, at the initial stage of a disaster intervention, as part of ITU cooperation in cases of emergency. |

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| **RI 2** | **Spectrum management and transition to digital broadcasting** |
| **Objective:** | To provide assistance to Member States in the transition to digital broadcasting, the use of the digital dividend frequencies and spectrum management. |
| **Expected results:** | 1 | Capacity building in spectrum management, digital broadcasting technologies, and the use of the digital dividend and new broadcasting services and applications, providing assistance in using the tools to support developing countries in improving international coordination of terrestrial services in border areas. |
| 2 | Support for the elaboration of spectrum-management plans at the national and regional levels, including the transition to digital broadcasting and the promotion of policies for the use of spectrum in underserved areas. |
| 3 | Elaboration of studies, indicators and guidelines on aspects of the assignment and use of radio-frequency spectrum, with a view, inter alia, to facilitating the use of spectrum for International Mobile Telecommunications and the harmonization of spectrum use among countries in the region, taking into account Resolution 9 (Rev. Dubai 2014) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference. |
| 4 | Assistance to countries in the promotion of inclusive strategies related to the digitization of broadcasting services, including the availability of affordable digital broadcast receivers, and communication strategies to educate and to promote consumer awareness. |
| 5 | Assistance in national and regional planning for the use of frequencies released by the transition to digital broadcasting and the deployment of new technologies for broadcasting services. |

| **RI 3** | **Deployment of broadband infrastructure, especially in rural and neglected areas, and strengthening of broadband access to services and applications** |
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| **Objective:** | To provide assistance to Member States to identify needs and in the development of policies, mechanisms and regulatory initiatives to reduce the digital divide by increasing broadband access and uptake, as a means to achieve the SDG. |
| **Expected results:** | 1 | Assistance in the development of a situational study on the deployment of broadband infrastructure for fixed and mobile services and spectrum use that will enable Administrations to identify the needs and opportunities especially of rural and neglected areas, taking into account specific sub-regional characteristics. |
| 2 | Assistance for the implementation or improvement of national broadband coverage plans; including support to educational institutions, advanced networks, research centers, cooperatives and non-profit organizations that provide telecommunication services, especially in rural, remote and underserved areas, taking into account mechanisms for access to spectrum and high-speed networks and fostering an enabling environment to promote investment in networks. |
| 3 | Establishment of metrics and methodologies for measuring the conditions of broadband services, leveraging public and private investments, public-private partnerships, and the participation of small and non-profit operators, especially in Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS). |
| 4 | Assistance for the implementation of plans that promote access to ICTs in municipalities, through the concept of digital/smart cities, and in public social service institutions as well as increase access and use of ICTs by the public, especially in rural and underserved areas, to foster access to social services. |
| 5 | Consolidation and dissemination of information, including through meetings and workshops, about standards and conformance and interoperability, and exchange best practices related to the deployment and operation of broadband networks especially in rural areas, and connectivity, with emphasis on LDC, LLDCs and SIDS. |

| **RI 4** | **Accessibility and affordability for an inclusive and sustainable americas region**  |
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| **Objective:** | To provide assistance to Member States in ensuring the affordability of telecommunication/ICT services in order to build an Information Society for all and ensure the accessibility of telecommunications/ICTs for persons with disabilities and others in vulnerable situations. |
| **Expected Results:** | 1 | Assistance to develop guidelines and public policies to promote efficiency in the provision of and accessibility to telecommunication/ICT services, especially mobile and emergency services, and also considering, but not restricted to, the usage of audiovisual accessibility tools. |
| 2 | Assistance for the implementation of recommendations to help improve the affordability of broadband; analysing the different factors and recommendations on actions for the promotion of the development and management, as appropriate, of national, sub-regional and regional Internet exchange points (IXPs), subject to national decision, and related to policy and regulatory aspects for enabling the implementation of agreement and alliances on IXPs, in addition to recommendations to improve the availability of transport to international submarine fibre-optic network connection points, especially for LLDCs and SIDS. |
| 3 | Studies monitoring affordability levels in countries, disaggregated by socioeconomic variables and taking into account specific and vulnerable populations, for inclusion in the broadband plans, policies, strategies, actions and goals for these population groups in addition to recommendations based on studies of policies and initiatives that enable price reduction of telecommunication/ICT services, broadband deployment and efficient use of spectrum. |
| 4 | To recommend policies that facilitate an enabling environment for the full enjoyment of telecommunication/ICT access and use by all; through the implementation of local/national ICT projects to eliminate disparities in education at all levels and in professional training, the development of platforms to provide communication and relay services for persons with disabilities, the development of accessible websites for government programmes, services and information and the implementation of e-government services and other services. |
| 5 | Recommendations on actions for the promotion of cooperation and information sharing on all topics related to public and regulatory policies that improve affordability for telecommunication services and broadband. |

| **RI 5** | **Development of the Digital Economy, Smart Cities and Communities (SCC) & Internet of Things (IoT), Promoting Innovation** |
| --- | --- |
| **Objective:** | To assist Member States in developing national and regional policies to boost the digital economy, Smart Cities and Communities (SCC) and IoT. |
| **Expected Results:** | 1 | Provide assistance to Member States in the elaboration of ICT policies to promote the development of the digital economy in the region, leveraging new technologies to foster development and promotion of appropriate solutions  |
| 2 | Meetings and workshops on the impact of the digital economy in the region, in collaboration with other relevant organizations.  |
| 3 | Elaboration of recommendations to promote the creation of innovation centers, including educational innovation, and projects that contribute to the ICT industry, with emphasis on Start-ups, SMEs and young entrepreneurs, with special focus on women, among others. |
| 4 | Identification of partners/alliances to strengthen innovation based on ICT and the funding of projects and initiatives for the development of the digital economy, SCC and IoT, building coalitions and multistakeholder alliances prioritizing young entrepreneurs. |
| 5 | To promote strategies and disseminate best practices on the appropriate management of e-waste.  |

**Asia-Pacific Regional Initiatives**

The Asia-Pacific Regional Initiatives are intended to address the specific telecommunication/ICT priority areas through partnerships and resource mobilization to implement small-, medium- and large-scale projects. Under each Regional Initiative, projects would be developed and implemented to meet countries’ needs.

The following information is summarized from RPM-ASP Report by the Chairman. The full report can be found in document [RPM-ASP17/36](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMASP-C-0036/).

The approved ASP Regional Initiatives 2018-2021 are:

| **RI 1** | **Addressing special needs of least developed countries, small island developing states, including Pacific island countries, and landlocked developing countries** |
| --- | --- |
| **Objective:** | To provide special assistance to least developed countries (LDCs), small island developing states (SIDS), including Pacific island countries, and landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) in order to meet their priority telecommunication/ICT requirements. |
| **Expected Results:** | 1 | Assistance in the development of broadband infrastructure, telecommunication /ICT applications and cybersecurity, policy and regulatory frameworks and human capacity building taking into account the special needs of LDCs, SIDS, and LLDCs. |
| 2 | Promotion of an inclusive universal access to telecommunications/ICTs to LDCs, SIDS, and LLDCs. |
| 3 | Assistance in disaster prediction, preparedness, adaptation, monitoring and mitigation to LDCs, SIDS, and LLDCs based on their priority needs. |
| 4 | Assistance in achieving internationally agreed goals, such as the Agenda 2030 of the Sustainable Development Goals, 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. |

| **RI 2** | **Harnessing ICTs to support the digital economy and an inclusive digital society** |
| --- | --- |
| **Objective:** | To assist ITU Member States in utilizing telecommunications/ICTs to reap the benefits of the digital economy and to address the human and technical capacity challenges to bridging the digital divide. |
| **Expected Results:** | 1 | Assistance in elaborating national strategic planning frameworks and associated toolkits for selected telecommunication/ICT applications and services. |
| 2 | Assistance in the deployment of telecommunication/ICT/mobile applications to improve the delivery of value added services in high-potential sectors, such as health, education, agriculture, governance, energy, mobile payment, etc. |
| 3 | Information sharing of knowledge and best practices on various telecommunication/ICT applications. |
| 4 | Assistance in development of national digital skills development programmes for the inclusiveness. |
| 5 | Assistance to develop digital inclusion policies, strategies and guidelines. |
| 6 | Assistance in facilitating the adoption and deployment of Internet of Things (IoT) and the development of Smart Cities. |

| **RI 3** | **Fostering development of infrastructure to enhance digital connectivity** |
| --- | --- |
| **Objective:** | To assist Member States in the development of infrastructure in order to facilitate services /applications on that infrastructure. |
| **Expected Results:** | 1 | Digitization of analogue networks and in applying affordable wired and wireless technologies, including interoperability of telecommunication/ICT infrastructure. |
| 2 | Maximized the use of appropriate new technologies for the development of the appropriate telecommunication/ICT networks including Smart Grids infrastructure and services. |
| 3 | Medium- to long-term planning for the implementation and development of national ICT broadband network plans. |
| 4 | Information and analyses on the current status of broadband backbone and submarine cables. |
| 5 | Assistance in promoting Internet exchange points (IXPs) as a long-term solution to advance connectivity, and deployment of/transition to IPv6-based networks and applications. |
| 6 | Assistance in suitable technologies for access, backhaul and source of power supply to bring telecommunications to rural, unserved and underserved areas. |
| 7 | Projects on public/community broadband access points focusing on the provision of telecommunication/ICT services and applications through suitable technologies, including satellite, and business models which achieve financial and operational sustainability. |
| 8 | Implementation of the relevant standards tailored to the needs of developing country. |
| 9 | Capacity building on the importance of C&I procedures and testing, mobilizing the resources required to implement regional and national C&I programmes. |
| 10 | Assistance in the establishment of national, regional or subregional C&I programmes, and 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). |
| 11 | Assistance on policy and regulatory frameworks for digital terrestrial broadcasting, including frequency planning and optimization of spectrum use; digital broadcasting guidelines and master plans for the transition from analogue to digital broadcasting and new broadcasting services and technologies. |
| 12 | Assistance in spectrum-management assessments, master plans and recommended action plans for the further development of spectrum-management structures, procedures and tools including new spectrum-sharing approaches |
| 13 | Assistance in spectrum fee regimes, including direct assistance in the establishment of such regimes; in the harmonization of regional spectrum allocations, including coordination procedures in border areas; and in the optimization and cost-effective use of spectrum-monitoring systems and networks. |
| 14 | Assistance to developing countries in building human skills for the development and use of satellite telecommunications. |
| 15 | Cooperation with international/regional organizations to enhance the regional telecommunication/ICT interconnectivity such as Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway (AP-IS). |

| **RI 4** | **Enabling policy and regulatory environments** |
| --- | --- |
| **Objective:** | To assist Member States in developing appropriate policy and regulatory frameworks, fostering innovation (e.g. especially SMEs), enhancing skills, increasing information sharing and strengthening regulatory cooperation which contribute to a supportive regulatory environment for the industry (including public – private partnership) and take into account consumer interests. |
| **Expected Results:** | 1 | Information sharing on the current developments with regard to the policy, legal, and regulatory frameworks as well as market developments in the telecommunication/ICT sector and the digital economies it enables. |
| 2 | Assistance 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. |
| 3 | Provision of tools and platforms 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. |
| 4 | Provision of institutional and human capacity building and technical assistance on topical policy, legal, regulatory, as well as on economic and financial issues and market developments, including through Centres of Excellence. |
| 5 | Assistance in updating telecommunication/ICT policies on innovation and entrepreneurship. |
| 6 | Assistance in developing the strategic framework in supporting the Research and Development Activities in telecommunication/ICTs in developing countries. |

| **RI 5** | **Contributing to secure and resilient environment** |
| --- | --- |
| **Objective:** | To assist Member States to develop and maintain secure, trusted and resilient networks/services, to address challenges related to climate change and also to facilitate disaster preparedness, risk reduction and mitigation. |
| **Expected Results:** | 1 | Assistance in the development of their national and/or regional cybersecurity strategies. |
| 2 | Assistance 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. |
| 3 | Strengthened institutional cooperation and coordination among the key actors and stakeholder through organizing cyberdrills at national and regional level. |
| 4 | Established a culture of cybersecurity by sharing good practices collected through the Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI). |
| 5 | Capacity building to improve and maintain the coherence of worldwide efforts in cybersecurity. |
| 6 | Assistance in the development of national emergency telecommunication plans. |
| 7 | Telecommunication/ICT-based initiatives for providing medical (e-health) and humanitarian assistance in disasters and emergencies. |
| 8 | Assistance in incorporating disaster-resilient features in telecommunication networks and infrastructure. |
| 9 | Assistance in developing telecommunication/ICT-based solutions, including wireless and satellite-based technologies. |
| 10 | Assistance in the use of active and passive space-based sensing systems for the purpose of disaster prediction, detection and mitigation. |
| 11 | Assistance in formulating comprehensive strategies and measures to help mitigate and respond to the devastating effects of climate change. |
| 12 | Assistance in development of e-waste policy. |
| 13 | Assistance in developing standards-based monitoring and early-warning systems linked to national and regional networks. |

**European Regional Initiatives**

The European Regional Initiatives are intended to address the specific telecommunication/ICT priority areas through partnerships and resource mobilization to implement small-, medium- and large-scale projects. Under each Regional Initiative, projects would be developed and implemented to meet countries’ needs.

| **RI 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:** | 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. |

| **RI 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:** | 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. |

| **RI 3** | **Accessibility, affordability and skills development for all to ensure digital inclusion and sustainable social and economic development** |
| --- | --- |
| **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:** | 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. |

| **RI 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:** | 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. |

| **RI 5** | **ICT-centric innovation ecosystems** |
| --- | --- |
| **Objective:** | 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:** | 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. |

# B. ITU-D Contribution to the ITU Strategic Plan for 2020-2023, ITU-D Action Plan and WTDC-17 Declaration

RPM documents 7, 8 and 9 were considered together by each of the 6 RPMs. Following the presentation of these documents, the secretariat provided clarification on the amended process for elaborating the draft ITU-D contribution to the ITU Strategic Plan for 2020-2023, the draft ITU-D Action Plan 2018-2021 as well as the draft WTDC-17 Declaration. The current process offers members more time for considering proposals and improving the efficiency of WTDC-17. It was highlighted that membership contributions on these documents may still be submitted to WTDC-17.

The document, entitled “**Preliminary draft ITU‑D contribution to the ITU Strategic Plan for 2020-2023**”, was presented to each of the 6 RPMs ([RPM-CIS16/7](http://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMCIS-C-0007/en), [RPM-AFR16/7](http://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMAFR-C-0007/en), [RPM-ARB17/7](http://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMARB-C-0007/en), [RPM-AMS17/7](http://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMAMS-C-0007/en), [RPM-ASP17/7](http://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMASP-C-0007/en), [RPM-EUR17/7](http://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMEUR-C-0007/en)).

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 BDT Director indicated during TDAG 2016 that he planned to submit the draft ITU‑D contribution to the ITU Strategic Plan to all the RPMs in the run-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 recognized 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 and the WSIS Tunis Agenda taking into account the Vision for WSIS beyond 2015, and also the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

All RPMs welcomed the document, and agreed that more discussion on the Strategic Plan on a regional basis was required in order to prepare regional contributions on the Strategic Plan to TDAG and WTDC-17.

* RPM-CIS and RPM-AFR welcomed and supported the preliminary draft ITU-D contribution to the ITU Strategic Plan by the Secretariat. RPM-ARB welcomed and took note of the contributions from the Secretariat and an Administration and agreed to further develop a common proposal. RPM-AMS welcomed and took note of the preliminary draft ITU-D contribution to the ITU Strategic Plan by the Secretariat and agreed that discussions on the Preliminary draft ITU D contribution to the ITU Strategic Plan for 2020-2023 would continue in order to develop a common proposal for the Americas region. RPM-ASP welcomed and took note of the contributions from the Secretariat and an Administration and suggested that the ideas be reflected in the Action Plan. 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.

The document, entitled “***Preliminary draft ITU‑D Action Plan 2018-2021***”, was presented to each of the 6 RPMs ([RPM-CIS16/8](http://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMCIS-C-0008/en), [RPM-AFR16/8](http://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMAFR-C-0008/en), [RPM-ARB17/8](http://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMARB-C-0008/en), [RPM-AMS17/8](http://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMAMS-C-0008/en), [RPM-ASP17/8](http://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMASP-C-0008/en), [RPM-EUR17/8](http://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMEUR-C-0008/en)).

The document was developed by the TDAG Correspondence Group on the Strategic Plan, Operational Plan and Declaration (CG-SPOPD). It had 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 operationalize 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.

It was further clarified that this document is considered a living document subject to comments and inputs from Member States through RPMs as well as TDAG-17 and CG-SPOPD, which will aggregate all inputs received and submit the consolidated version to WTDC-17.

All RPMs welcomed the document, and agreed that more discussion on the preliminary draft ITU-D Action Plan 2018-2021on a regional basis was required in order to prepare a regional contribution on the preliminary draft ITU-D Action Plan 2018-2021to TDAG and WTDC-17.

* RPM-CIS and RPM-AFR welcomed and supported the preliminary draft ITU-D Action Plan 2018-2021. RPM-ARB discussed the contribution from the Secretariat and agreed to further develop a common proposal from the Arab WTDC-17 Preparatory Working Group to be submitted to TDAG 17. RPR-AMS discussed the contributions of the Secretariat and other entities and agreed to develop a common proposal of the Preparatory Working Group of WTDC-17 for submission to TDAG-17. RPM-ASP welcomed the document and agreed that the region would continue to coordinate work in this area as preparations for WTDC-17 continue. 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.

The document, entitled “***Preliminary draft WTDC‑17 Declaration***”,was introduced on behalf of the Director of BDT presented to each of the 6 RPMs ([RPM-CIS16/9](http://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMCIS-C-0009/en), [RPM-AFR16/9](http://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMAFR-C-0009/en), [RPM-ARB17/9](http://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMARB-C-0009/en), [RPM-AMS17/9](http://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMAMS-C-0009/en), [RPM-ASP17/9](http://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMASP-C-0009/en), [RPM-EUR17/9](http://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMEUR-C-0009/en)).

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 perspective 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.

RPM-AFR, RPM-ARB and RPM-EUR each agreed that more discussions on the preliminary draft WTDC-17 Declaration were required in order to prepare regional contributions on the preliminary draft WTDC-17 Declaration to TDAG and WTDC-17.

RPM-CIS supported its revision as set out in Document [RPM-CIS16/26](http://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMCIS-C-0026/en) and agreed to prepare, on the basis thereof, a regional common proposal to WTDC-17.

RPM-AMS, which created an Ad-Hoc Group on the preliminary draft WTDC-17 Declaration, reached a consensus on the Preliminary draft WTDC-17 Declaration from RPM-AMS contained in [Annex 2 of the Report of the Chairman of RPM-AMS](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMAMS-C-0041/en).

RPM-ASP, which created an Ad-Hoc Group on the preliminary draft WTDC-17 Declaration, noted the report of the Chairman of this Ad-Hoc Group and agreed to use it as the basis for continuing work towards developing a consolidated contribution from the region. This report is available in [Annex 2 to the Report of the Chairman of RPM-ASP](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMASP-170321-TD-0005/en).

A consolidated text of the results agreed by RPMs on the preliminary draft WTDC-17 Declaration is presented in [TDAG17-22/DT/6 (Rev.1)](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-TDAG22-170509-TD-0006/en).

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

The document, entitled “***Rules of procedure of ITU‑D (WTDC Resolution 1)***”, was presented to each of the 6 RPMs ([RPM-CIS16/10](http://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMCIS-C-0010/en), [RPM-AFR16/10](http://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMAFR-C-0010/en), [RPM-ARB17/10](http://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMARB-C-0010/en), [RPM-AMS17/10](http://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMAMS-C-0010/en), [RPM-ASP17/10](http://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMASP-C-0010/en), [RPM-EUR17/10](http://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMEUR-C-0010/en)).

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.

RPM-CIS agreed on some changes for Resolution 1, including the proposed aggregation of Resolution 1 and 31. The resulting proposed text of Resolution 1 is contained in document [TDAG17-22/38](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-TDAG22-C-0038/).

RPM-AFR, RPM-ARB, RPM-AMS, RPM-ASP and RPM-EUR each agreed that more discussions on the Resolution 1 were required in order to prepare regional contributions on the Resolution 1 to TDAG and WTDC-17.

# D. Streamlining WTDC Resolutions

The document, entitled “***Report of the Correspondence Group on Streamlining WTDC resolutions***”, was presented to each of the 6 RPMs ([RPM-CIS16/11](http://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMCIS-C-0011/en), [RPM-AFR16/11](http://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMAFR-C-0011/en), [RPM-ARB17/11](http://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMARB-C-0011/en), [RPM-AMS17/11](http://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMAMS-C-0011/en), [RPM-ASP17/11](http://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMASP-C-0011/en), [RPM-EUR17/11](http://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMEUR-C-0011/en)).

The document provides 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 principles for streamlining existing WTDC Resolutions had been elaborated, which was 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 fourth meeting of the group on 3 April 2017, and the fifth and final meeting will take place on 10 May 2017.

RPM-CIS supported the following proposals and agreed to prepare a regional common proposal. The resulting texts of Resolutions 17 and 37 are contained in document [TDAG17-22/38](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-TDAG22-C-0038/).

* Proposed aggregation of Resolutions 17 and 32
* Proposed aggregation of Resolutions 37 and 50

RPM-AFR received no specific proposals on streamlining resolutions.

RPM-ARB noted that while the Draft guiding principles can be used by regional groups in developing their common proposals, they need not be adopted and discussed as a rule in WTDC.

RPM-AMS discussed specific proposals on merging resolutions and agreed that more detailed discussion on these proposals would take place in preparation for WTDC‑17.

RPM-ASP supported the streamlining resolutions exercise and noted that the exercise should not lead to the loss of substance of existing resolutions. RPM-ASP discussed specific proposals on merging resolutions and took note of the contributions.

RPM-EUR also supported this exercise. It welcomed and noted the contribution which was submitted on this topic.

**E. Proposals for new or revised Resolutions**

RPM-ARB, RPM-AMS, RPM-ASP and RPM-EUR discussed draft resolutions (new or revised) and decided to continue this process at later regional meetings. No contributions on new or revised resolutions were submitted to RPM-AFR.

1) Draft new Resolution - “Draft new Resolution on Combatting mobile telecommunication device theft” (RPM-ARB)

2) Draft new Resolution – “Assistance and support to Syria for rebuilding its telecommunication networks” (RPM-ARB)

3) Draft new Resolution – “Capacity building for Member States on cyber security strategy planning, policy and leadership” (RPM-ASP)

4) Draft new Resolution – “Promoting the adoption of Internet of Things applications and services” (RPM-ASP)

5) Resolution 9 – “Participation of countries, particularly developing countries, in Spectrum Management” (RPM-ARB), (RPM-AMS), (RPM-EUR)

6) Resolution 11 – “Telecommunication/information and communication technology services in rural, isolated and poorly served areas and indigenous communities” (RPM-ARB)

7) Resolution 17 – “Implementation of regionally approved initiatives at the national, regional, interregional and global levels” (RPM-ARB)

8) Resolutions 17 and 32 – Merger - “Implementation of regionally approved initiatives at the national, regional, interregional and global levels” (RPM-ASP)

9) Resolution 20 – “Non-discriminatory access to modern telecommunication/information

and communication technology facilities, services and related applications” (RPM-ARB)

10) Resolution 21 – “Coordination and collaboration with regional organizations” (RPM-ARB)

11) Resolution 23 – “Internet access and availability for developing countries and charging principles for international Internet connection” (RPM-ARB), (RPM-AMS)

12) Resolution 34 – “The role of telecommunications/information and communication technology in disaster preparedness, early warning, rescue, mitigation, relief and response” (RPM-ARB)

13) Resolution 37 – “Bridging the digital divide” (RPM-ARB)

14) Resolutions 37 and 50 – Merger – “Bridging the digital divide” (RPM-ASP)

15) Resolution 40 – “Assistance for implementing IMT” (RPM-ARB), (RPM-EUR)

16) Resolution 45 - Mechanisms for enhancing cooperation on cybersecurity, including countering and combating spam (RPM-AMS)

17) Resolutions 46 and 68 - Draft merger of Resolution 46 (“Assistance and promotion for indigenous communities in the world: Information society through information and communication technology”) and Resolution 68 (RPM-AMS)

18) Resolution 47 – “Enhancement of knowledge and effective application of ITU Recommendations in developing countries, including conformance and interoperability testing of systems manufactured on the basis of ITU Recommendations” (RPM-ARB)

19) Resolution 50 and 54 - Draft merger of Resolution 50 (“Optimal Integration of Information and Communication Technologies and Their Applications”) with Resolution 54 (RPM-AMS)

20) Resolution 52 – “Strengthening the executing role of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector” (RPM-ASP)

21) Resolution 54 – Suppression – “Information and communication technology applications” (RPM-AMS)

22) Resolution 62 – “Measurement concerns related to human exposure to electromagnetic fields” (RPM-ARB), (RPM-EUR)

23) Resolution 66 – “Information and communication technology and climate change” (RPM-ARB)

24) Resolution 67 – Suppression – “The role of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector in child online protection” (RPM-EUR)

25) Resolution 68 – Suppression – “Proposed deletion of Resolution 68, Assistance to Indigenous Peoples within the Activities of the Telecommunication Development Bureau in its related programmes” (RPM-AMS)

25) Resolution 69 – “Facilitating creation of national computer incident response teams, particularly for developing countries, and cooperation between them” (RPM-ARB)

26) Resolution 71 – “Strengthening cooperation between Member States, Sector Members, Associates and Academia of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector, including the private sector solution” (RPM-EUR)

27) Resolution 73 – “ITU Centres of Excellence” (RPM-EUR)

28) Resolution 77 – “Broadband technology and applications for greater growth and development of telecommunication/information and communication services and broadband connectivity” (RPM-ARB)

29) Resolution 79 – “The role of telecommunications/information and communication technologies in combatting and dealing with counterfeit telecommunication/information and communication devices” (RPM-ARB)

RPMs also agreed that the following draft resolutions (new or revised) tabled at the RPM meetings be the subject of draft resolutions to be submitted directly by members to WTDC on:

1) Resolution 2 – “Establishment of study groups” (RPM-CIS)

2) Resolution 8 – “Collection and dissemination of information and statistics” (RPM-CIS)

3) Resolution 9 – “Participation of countries, particularly developing countries, in spectrum management” (RPM-CIS)

4) Resolution 17 – Implementation of regionally approved initiatives at the national, regional, interregional and global levels[[1]](#footnote-1)” (RPM-CIS)

5) Resolution 23 – Internet access and availability for developing countries[[2]](#footnote-2) and charging principles for international Internet connection” (RPM-CIS)

6) Resolution 30 – “ Role of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector in implementing the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” (RPM-CIS)

7) Resolution 37 – “Bridging the digital divide” (RPM-CIS)

8) Resolution 45 – “Mechanisms for enhancing cooperation on the building of confidence and security in the use of ICTs, including countering and combating spam” (RPM-CIS)

9) Resolution 54 – “Optimal integration of information and communication technologies” (RPM-CIS)

10) Resolution 59 – “Strengthening coordination and cooperation among the three ITU Sectors on matters of mutual interest” (RPM-CIS)

11) Resolution 66 – “Information and communication technology and climate change” (RPM-CIS)

12) Resolution 71 – “Strengthening cooperation between Member States, Sector Members, Associates and Academia of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector, including the private sector” (RPM-CIS)

13) Resolution 73 – “ITU centres of excellence” (RPM-CIS)

14) Resolution 81 – “Further development of electronic working methods for the work of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector” (RPM-CIS)

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1. An initiative shall take the form of an all-embracing heading under which a number of projects can be included, leaving it to each region to define these [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition [↑](#footnote-ref-2)