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| Director, Telecommunication Development Bureau | | |
| REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE GROUP ON CAPACITY BUILDING INITIATIVES (GCBI) TO TDAG | | |

**Summary:**

This document covers the work undertaken by the Group on Capacity Building Initiatives (GCBI) in providing guidance and support to ITU capacity building activities. The group was established pursuant to Resolution 40 which was adopted by the World Telecommunication Development Conference 2010 (WTDC-10), and revised at WTDC-2014, to advise the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) on matters related to capacity building.

**Action required:**

TDAG is invited to note this report and provide guidance as deemed appropriate.

**References:**

WTDC Resolution 40 (Rev. Dubai, 2014), on the Group on Capacity Building Initiatives

WTDC-14 Resolution 73 (Rev. Dubai, 2014), on ITU Centres of Excellence

PP Resolution 169 (Rev. Busan, 2014) on admission of Academia to participate in the work of the ITU

**Introduction**

The Group on Capacity Building (GCBI) Initiatives held its 5th meeting on 8-9 February 2017, at ITU headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. Members of GCBI representing all regions were present except two members, one representative from the Asia Pacific region and one from Europe, who were unable to attend.

During the 5th GCBI meeting, the group discussed recent activities carried out by ITU/BDT in the area of capacity building and provided advice on the way forward.

**CBS - 2016**

The Group considered the Global ICT Capacity Building Symposium (CBS) held in Nairobi in September 2016, at which both the Chairman and Vice Chair were in attendance, a resounding success. The Symposium attracted a number of young participants, and featured an interactive session with young innovators, reflecting the appeal of the digital economy to the younger generation. ITU was commended for convening such a successful event.

**New areas in capacity building**

Participants highlighted that over the years the industry dynamics in the ICT sector have changed, and new stakeholders other than the traditional telecom players have come in. Capacity building efforts need to be aligned to the new requirements. For example, in rural areas, community networks have emerged as new players in the provision of ICT solutions within their communities, and they need to be recognized as such.

Capacity building efforts should also be directed into areas such as development of young entrepreneurs, building the capacity of women and youth in the adoption and use of digital tools, and promoting ICTs for SMEs. It was highlighted that the priority was no longer on establishing networks, but rather on promoting widespread use of the many ICT services that are provided on these networks.

In this regard, GCBI needs to be engaged in other capacity building areas outside the Centres of Excellence (CoE), taking into account the broader capacity building stakeholder community, and the broader mandate of Resolution 40.

There was an overall agreement that training should be demand-driven. This requires that training needs analyses be undertaken to ensure that the training provided is relevant. ITU is called upon to provide support in undertaking these needs analyses.

**Centres of Excellence**

The group took note of the need to prepare the groundwork for the selection of the new CoEs for the next cycle, and agreed to provide advice and support to BDT in the evaluation and selection process.

The meeting agreed that CoEs alone are not sufficient for delivering capacity building in the field of ICT and that it was important to consider other partners as well. While CoEs are specifically targeted at professional and executive training, other areas and target groups not covered by CoEs need to be considered.

**Partnerships in capacity building**

Participants recognized that the scope for partnerships in capacity building was wide. There was a need to approach, engage and work with different partners in the planning and delivery of capacity building activities, as well as in resource mobilization. Partners could be from the public and private sector, development community, academic institutions and others. The engagement of academia was especially highlighted.

In this context, the meeting welcomes the planned ITU capacity building event for academic institutions, to be held in Budapest, Hungary, in September 2017.

**Capacity building publication**

The publication that had been discussed in Lisbon during the last GCBI meeting, will be the first of a new series of publications on “Capacity Building in a Changing ICT Environment.”The first edition of the publication has been finalized and will be released in March 2017. Subsequent editions of the publication will feature contributions made by researchers and academics.

**Terms of Reference of GCBI**

The group discussed the terms of reference for GCBI, which specify how members of GCBI are selected, their tenure of office, and how they conduct their business, among others. There was overall agreement to the draft terms of reference and they were adopted.

The final report of this meeting is available on the ITU Academy website at: <https://academy.itu.int/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=176&lang=en>

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