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|  | **Document** **TDAG17-22/****28-E** |
| **9 March 2017**  |
| **Original:** **English** |
| Director, Telecommunication Development Bureau |
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| ITU-D Sector membership |
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| Summary:ITU-D Sector membership includes Sector Members, Associates and Academia. This document provides an overview of the evolution of ITU-D Sector membership and its related objectives, strategies and actions to strengthen the ITU-D membership in accordance with the outcomes of WTDC-14 and PP-14.Action required:TDAG is invited to note this report and provide guidance as deemed appropriate.References:WTDC-14 Output 2.3 and WTDC Resolution 71 (Rev. Dubai, 2014); PP Resolutions 187 (Busan, 2014) and 158 and 169 (Rev. Busan, 2014) |

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1. **Background**

World Telecommunication Development Conference in 2014 (WTDC-14)  revised and adopted Resolution 71 in order to strengthen cooperation among Member States, Academia and Sector Members and Associates of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector. WTDC-14 also recognized the importance of collaboration with the private sector as critical for the success of the ITU-D mission as reflected in Outputs and Resolutions adopted during the Conference.

Furthermore, the Plenipotentiary Conference in 2014 (PP-14) adopted several Resolutions related to membership, such as Resolution 187, which instructs Council to review Sector Membership through the Council Working Group on Finance and Human Resources (CWG-FHR), and Resolution 158, which deals with raising additional revenue for the Union.

More specifically, Resolution 187 (Busan, 2014) instructs Council to: review the current structure, benefits and pricing methodologies, the practical application of rights and obligations and the current criteria for fee-exemptions; develop guidelines and training for chairmen, vice-chairmen and study group counsellors; and, study the possibility of establishing a new category of participation for not-profit entities. It further instructs Council to develop a comprehensive consultation strategy with the entire membership to ensure that all points of view are thoroughly considered.

As requested by Council 2016, CWG-FHR has continued to review the participation of Sector Members, Associates and Academia and will report to Council 2017. The CWG-FHR Chairman’s report to Council 2017 includes analysis and recommendations, in particular on the topics of membership fee exemptions[[1]](#footnote-1) as well as SME participation in the work of ITU[[2]](#footnote-2).

PP-14 also made important revisions to Resolutions 169 on Academia, through which a single fee for Academia membership allows them to participate in the work of all Sectors as well as global and regional conferences, workshops and activities of the Union, with the exception of treaty-making conferences and Council. PP-14 further instructed the Sector Conferences/Assemblies to mandate their respective Advisory Groups to continue to study if additional measures are required.

Regarding the implementation of Res 158, the CWG-FHR reviewed a document entitled “Improving the stability and predictability of the financial base of the Union”[[3]](#footnote-3), which is being conveyed to Council 2017.

BDT will continue to take the necessary measures to implement the outcomes of CWG-FHR and Council, in consultation with all the relevant ITU-D meetings including TDAG and ITU-D Study Groups.

1. **Strategic objectives**

In accordance with the outcomes of WTDC-14 and PP-14, BDT, in close coordination and collaboration with the General Secretariat, the other two Bureaus, and Regional/Area offices has focused on two overarching objectives:

* Outreach and bring new entities to join as Sector Members, Associates and Academia; and
* Enhance engagement and retention of ITU-D Sector Members, Associates and Academia.
1. **Status analysis**

Chart 1 below illustrates the increase of ITU-D Sector membership from 1994 to 31 December 2016.

Charts 2 and 3 below show ITU-D Sector Membership by Category and by Region.

1. **Key actions**

BDT had been conducting a series of strategic actions and will enhance efforts towards improving its products and services.

4.1 **Outreach to members**: BDT continued to conduct informal networking meetings which were carried out during TDAG-16, ITU- Study Group meetings in 2016 and several other ITU meetings and events, as to better understand and serve ITU-D membership needs. These consultations, and the yearly membership services survey, have shown membership value existing ITU-D knowledge sharing platforms and publications and areas for improvement of services in terms of communication tools such as remote participation facilities, web tools and information available on websites. As for areas of interest and complementary to those identified in ITU-D Study Group surveys, 5G, IoT, Broadband, Smart Cities, Mobile and Big Data are the highest ranking among others. Finally, members demonstrated interest in a Members-only online zone which is being developed as an ITU-wide and cross-sectoral effort which shall enable customized content and enhanced networking and collaboration between and amongst members.

4.2 **ITU-D Sector membership tools and services**: Information-dissemination platforms such as the ITU-D Sector Membership Portal (<http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Membership/Pages/default.aspx>) have been continuously updated with data and information. Based on regular queries received form prospective and new members, FAQs (*Frequently Asked Questions*) were developed in 2016. BDT is working to further enhance its outreach and communication materials and collaborating with ITU-wide efforts to develop and implement an ITU online members’ zone platform.

4.3 **Enhancing ITU Academia members’ participation in ITU’s work**: One of the outcomes of the ITU-D Academia Network meeting, convened by the BDT in September 2015, was the need for new platforms and forms of collaborative research studies. In this sense, and further to consultations that were held with several Academia members and prospects to explore and identify interested and renowned experts from the scientific community willing to perform pro-bono work and research, the BDT is currently developing a comprehensive study on the role and impact of ICTs for the Sustainable Development focused on innovation, job creation and economic growth. This pilot initiative for Academic-driven research is progressing well and the report will be launched at WTDC-17. This initiative also resulted in new Academia members, fostered increased interaction with each author’s extensive network of contacts and confirmed the interest and opportunity to explore similar collaborative exercises.

BDT carried out a pilot experiment in 2016 inviting Swiss-based Academia members to bring over 20 college-level students to better understand the role and mandate of ITU-D and have first-hand experience on the debates related to ICT development agenda by observing the functioning of a neutral and multi-stakeholder knowledge sharing platform such as ITU-D Study Group meetings held in Geneva.

4.4 **Enhancing private sector engagement in work of ITU-D**: The 6th and 7theditions of the Private Sector Chief Regulatory Officers' (CRO) meetings were held in 2016 bringing together senior industry executives to share experiences and exchange ideas on how to strengthen the private sector’s involvement and engagement in global, regional and national initiatives and to identify mechanisms to better foster an enabling regulatory environment for future development of the sector. In particular, a Universal Financial Access 2020 (UFA) proposal presented under the CRO platform was supported by the participants, who agreed to create a CRO Working Group (CRO WG) on Digital Financial Inclusion (DFI).

4.5 **Cross-sectoral engagement and partnership platform in a converged ICT ecosystem**: BDT has continued to raise awareness of benefits for ITU-D Sector membership through its various ITU-D events and non-ITU-D events. The growing diversity of ITU-D Sector Membership is also fostering a fertile ground for debate and collaboration with non-traditional ICT players (e.g. Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, MasterCard, Walt Disney and others). In this sense, in September 2016 the BDT organized a [Partnership Dialogue on ICT④SDGs](http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Membership/Pages/events/2016/PartnershipDialogueICT4SDGs/AcademiaNetwork01.aspx) which was attended by over 70 participants. The Dialogue provided a platform for ITU-D Members and partners, including public and private sector entities, academic institutions and other stakeholders for strengthened awareness and engagement in the activities of the BDT by sharing existing services and products as well as cross-sectoral partnership opportunities for the attainment of the SDGs.

1. **Ways forward**

BDT will continue to implement membership-driven programs, projects, initiatives and activities under its areas of actions and strengthen its membership services, products, and communication tools for greater engagement with existing, new and prospective members.

Actions based on results-based approach will focus on new platforms of multi-stakeholder partnerships and knowledge sharing, recognition of longstanding members; targeted outreach to new members and collaborating with ITU-wide efforts to develop and implement an ITU online members’ zone platform, amongst others.

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1. See Document [CWG-FHR 7/2](http://www.itu.int/md/S17-CLCWGFHRM7-C-0002/en) (Rev.1). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. See document [CWG-FHR-INF 7/2](http://www.itu.int/md/S17-CLCWGFHRM7-INF-0002/en) including current trends of regional distribution, size and type of company, as well as possible barriers that limit further engagement of SMEs in ITU´s activities. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. See document [**CWG-FHR 7/4**](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-CLCWGFHRM7-C-0004/en)**,** in terms of increasing the number of full-fee paying Sector Members (Annex 2). [↑](#footnote-ref-3)