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| C:\Users\ponder\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.Word\BDT-25th_anniversary_2017-Logo_411959-3_transparent.png | **Telecommunication DevelopmentAdvisory Group (TDAG)****22nd Meeting, Geneva, 9-12 May 2017** | C:\Users\murphy\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.Outlook\PQ94T9LJ\bd_E_25Years_Horizontal-411959 (003).jpg |
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|  | **Document** **TDAG17-22/****49-E** |
|  | **26 April 2017** |
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| Russian Federation[[1]](#footnote-1) |
| PROPOSALS REGARDING THE PRELIMINARY DRAFT WTDC-17 DECLARATION |
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| **Summary:**This contribution proposes Preliminary Draft WTDC-17 Declaration. It is based on Document TDAG16-21/31(Rev.1). Modifications are shown by revision marks. The aims of this contribution are to add missing references to Resolutions of the UN General Assembly and clarify certain statements.**Expected results:**The document is submitted to TDAG 2017 meeting, and may be submitted to WTDC-17 for final consideration.**Action required:**TDAG is invited to consider this document and take action **References:**[Dubai Declaration](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Documents/DUBAI%20DECLARATION.pdf), Documents [TDAG16-21/31(Rev.1)](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-TDAG21-C-0031/), [RPM-CIS16/26](http://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D14-RPMCIS-C-0026) |

**1 Introduction**

The proposed preliminary draft WTDC-17 Declaration is based on Document TDAG16-21/31 (Rev.1) and all proposed modifications are shown in revision marks in the text in question.

The RCC administrations endorse the approach proposed by the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG) regarding the use in the Declaration text of language reflecting a broader perspective that will be easily captured by people outside of ITU, in addition to Member States and Sector Members.

We also endorse the basic principles that guided the drafting group and TDAG when preparing a preliminary draft WTDC-17 Declaration and are set out in Annex 1 to Document TDAG16-21/40 (Rev.1) and shown below:

1. The Declaration must focus on core strategic areas of activity and, above all, reflect the interests of developing countries.
2. The text must also reflect the specific goals of ITU’s Telecommunication Development Sector, in accordance with the Union’s basic texts.
3. Repetitions in different sections should be avoided, and the same goes for specific technical information.
4. Comments made during preliminary discussions in the Correspondence Group should be taken into account.

The RCC administrations concur with the view of TDAG, that the Declaration must focus on the essential role of Telecommunications/ICTs in building the information society and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and Targets, and on their transformative role in fostering sustainable development.

Proposals

While endorsing the proposed preliminary draft WTDC-17 Declaration, the RCC administrations propose a number of drafting changes set out in Annex 1. The proposed changes do not affect the substance of Document TDAG16-21/31 (Rev.1) as shown in Annex 1.

Annex 1

preliminary Draft WTDC-17 Declaration

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Buenos Aires, 2017), which took place in Buenos Aires, Argentina, under the theme of "ICT for Sustainable Development Goals” (ICT④SDGs),

recognizes that

*a)* telecommunications/ICTs are a key tool for implementing the World Summit on the Information Society Vision beyond 2015, approved by a Resolution of the General Assembly, and a key enabler for social and economic development; and consequently for accelerating the timely attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals and Targets set out in UNGA Resolution A/70/1 the **Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**;

*b)* telecommunications/ICTs also play a significant role in various areas such as health, education, agriculture, governance, finance, commerce, disaster risk reduction and management, climate change mitigation and adaptation; particularly in least developed countries (LDCs), small island developing States (SIDS), landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) and countries with economies in transition;

*c)* access to modern, secure and affordable Telecommunication/ICT infrastructure, applications and services offers opportunities for improving peoples' lives and ensuring that sustainable development across the world becomes a reality;

*d)* widespread conformance and interoperability of telecommunication/ICT equipment and systems through the implementation of relevant programmes, policies and decisions can increase market opportunities and reliability and encourage global integration and trade;

*e)* telecommunication/ICT applications can be life-changing for individuals, communities and societies at large, but they canalso increase the challenge of building confidence and security in the use of telecommunications/ICTs;

*f)* broadband access technologies, broadband-enabled services and ICT applications offer new opportunities for interaction among people, for sharing the world's knowledge resources and expertise, for transforming peoples' lives and for contributing to inclusive and sustainable development across the world;

*g)* despite all the progress made during past years, the digital divide still remains, and is compounded by disparities in access, use and skills between and within ITU regions and individual countries, in particular between urban and rural areas, as well as in the availability of accessible and affordable telecommunications/ICTs, particularly for women, youth, children, indigenous people and persons with disabilities and specific needs;

*h)* ITU is committed to improving people’s lives and making the world a better place throughtelecommunications and information and communication technologies;

i) ITU-D in accordance with its functions, defined by the Constitution and the Convention, is playing a significant role in implementing the relevant parts of WSIS Plan of Actions, the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development and the Agenda “Connect 2020”,

therefore declares that

1 universally accessible and affordable telecommunications/ICTs are a fundamental contribution towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 and serve as a driving force for the development of the national and global economy and building a global information society;

2 innovation is essential in ushering high-speed, high-quality telecommunications/ICT infrastructure and services;

3 with convergence, policy-makers and regulators should continue to promote widespread, affordable access to telecommunications/ICTs, including Internet access, through fair, transparent, stable, predictable and non-discriminatory enabling policy, legal and regulatory environments, including common approaches to conformance and interoperability that promote competition, increase consumer choices, foster continued technological and service innovation and provide investment incentives at national, regional and international levels;

4 new and emerging technologies such as broadband and mobile telecommunications, big data and the Internet of Things should be harnessed for purposes of supporting global efforts aimed at further development of the information society;

5 digital literacy and ICT skills, as well as human and institutional capacity in the development and use of telecommunications/ICT networks, applications and services should be enhanced to enable people to contribute to ideas, knowledge and human development;

6 measuring the Information Society and providing the proper indicators/statistics are important for both Member States and the private sector with the former being able to identify gaps that need public policy intervention, and the latter, in identifying and finding investment opportunities;

7 an inclusive information society should take into account the needs of persons with disabilities and specific needs;

8 building trust, confidence and security in the use of telecommunications/ICTs as well as ensure the protection of personal data requires further international cooperation and coordination between governments, relevant organizations, private companies and other stakeholders.

9 cooperation between developed and developing countries as well as among developing countries are encouraged as this paves way for technical cooperation, technological transfer, joint research activities and sharing best practices;

10 public-private partnerships need to be further strengthened in order to identify and apply innovative technological solutions and financing mechanisms for inclusive and sustainable development;

11 innovation should be integrated into national policies, initiatives and programmes to promote sustainable development and economic growth through multi-stakeholder partnerships, between developing countries and between developed and developing countries to facilitate technology and knowledge transfer;

12 international cooperation should be continuously enhanced amongst ITU Member States, Sector Members, Associates, Academia, and other partners and stakeholders to pursue sustainable development, through the use of telecommunications/ICTs;

13 ITU membership and other interested parties should cooperate in implementation of Connect 2020 global telecommunication/information and communication technology goals and targets.

Accordingly, we, the delegates to the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC‑17), declare our commitment to accelerate the expansion and use of telecommunication/ICT infrastructure, applications and services for building and further development of the information society and bridging the digital divide, the timely attainment of the **Sustainable Development Goals and Targets set out in UNGA Resolution A/70/1 “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”**.

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-17) cals upon ITU Member States, Sector Members, Associates, Academia and all other partners and stakeholders to contribute towards the successful implementation of the Buenos Aires Action Plan.

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1. This document was supported by the Working Group meeting of the RCC International Cooperation Commission (ICC) on February 16, 2017. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)