



Telecommunication
Development Bureau (BDT)



Ref.: BDT/DDR/DM/214

Geneva, 1 April 2022

To

- United Nations;
- Specialized agencies of the United Nations and the International Atomic Energy Agency;
- Regional telecommunication organizations;
- Intergovernmental organizations operating satellite systems;
- Other regional or international organizations

Subject: Organizational arrangements for the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-21), Kigali, Rwanda, 6 to 16 June 2022

Dear Sir/Madam,

Further to the ITU Secretary-General's invitation letter of 22 February 2022 ([Letter DM-22/1005 - SG/BDT](#)), I have great pleasure in providing herewith information on organizational and practical arrangements for the forthcoming World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-21), to be held at the Kigali Convention Centre (KCC), Kigali, Rwanda, from 6 to 16 June 2022.

The theme selected for WTDC is **"Connecting the unconnected to achieve sustainable development"**. The draft agenda of WTDC-21, as approved by the ITU Council and submitted to the approval by all Member States, and the draft structure of the conference are shared for information purposes in **Annexes 1 and 2**, respectively.

The ITU Partner2Connect (P2C) Digital Development Roundtable, scheduled to take place on **7-9 June 2022**, during WTDC, will offer Member States, ITU-D Sector Members and other stakeholders an opportunity to engage in high-level discussions around the challenges and opportunities related to digital development, make concrete pledges, and forge new partnerships. The Roundtable will comprise high-level panels on topics related to digital development and in line with the Focus Areas of the Partner2Connect Digital Coalition. Executive level attendees are invited to participate in the Roundtable high-level panels and make a **3-minute statement**, ideally in the form of **pledges** that will advance progress to achieving digital development for all.¹

In order to secure a speaking slot at the high-level panels of the P2C Digital Development Roundtable, please fill out the form [here](#). Assignment of speaking slots at the high-level panels and the order of speakers will be determined on selected slot/session preference, the type of [P2C pledge](#) being made, and other criteria such

¹ Read the [P2C Action Framework Report](#) and visit the [P2C Online Platform](#).

as geographic and gender balance, as well as physical presence. As the conference will be physical with a robust virtual component, and to facilitate proper planning and an optimal assignment of speaking slots, we kindly request you to fill out the form no later than **29 April 2022**. If you have any questions on the P2C Roundtable, please contact the P2C Secretariat at: partner2connect@itu.int. Please note that virtual interventions will be possible, though these should be live to preserve the dynamic nature of the roundtables.

I further refer to Resolution 55 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference, on Mainstreaming a gender perspective for an inclusive and egalitarian information society, and to Resolution 198 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference on Empowerment of youth through telecommunication/information and communication technology and encourage your company/organization to include women and youth amongst its participants to WTDC.

Registration for WTDC and Partner2Connect (P2C) is now open on the [Admission and Registration page](#). Practical information concerning registration itself as well as fellowships, procedure and deadline for the submission of contributions, can be found in **Annex 3**.

I also take this opportunity to let you know that registration for the Generation Connect Global Youth Summit 2022 will be available next week. Please register [here](#).

Mr Stephen Bereaux, Deputy to the Director, BDT, is at your disposal should you require further information (E-mail: wtdc@itu.int).

I look forward to your participation to ensure that the Declaration, Strategic Plan, and Action Plan to be adopted by WTDC-21, as well as the commitments and pledges made in the context of our Partner2Connect platform, will be effective and viable tools to guide our work in the coming years to meet the needs of all countries based on agreed priorities and strategies.

Yours faithfully,

(Original signed)

Doreen Bogdan-Martin
Director

Attachments: Annex 1 – Draft agenda WTDC-21
Annex 2 – Draft structure of WTDC-21
Annex 3 – Organizational arrangements

Annex 1

Draft Agenda

World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-21)

The draft agenda for the forthcoming WTDC was approved by Council at its 2022 session and is currently being submitted to the approval of all Member States.

I. Report on the implementation of the Buenos Aires Action Plan

1. Update on global digital transformation and reporting on the implementation of the WTDC-17 Buenos Aires Action Plan (including the Regional Initiatives), contribution to the implementation of the WSIS Plan of Action and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
2. Report of the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group
3. Report of Study Groups
4. Report on the implementation of outcomes of other ITU Conferences, Assemblies and meetings related to ITU-D work:
 - a. Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-18)
 - b. Radiocommunication Assembly (RA-19)/World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-19)
 - c. World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA-20)
 - d. World Telecommunication Policy Forum (WTPF-21)

II. ITU-D work plan for 2022-2025

5. Outcomes of Regional Preparatory Meetings for WTDC-21
6. ITU-D contribution to the ITU Strategic Plan for 2024-2027
7. ITU-D Thematic Priorities
8. ITU-D Action Plan for 2022-2025
9. WTDC Declaration
10. Telecommunication Development Advisory Group
 - a. Authorization for the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group to act between world telecommunication development conferences (Resolution 24, Rev. Dubai, 2014)
 - b. Structure and working methods
11. Study Groups
 - a. Study Questions
 - b. Structure and working methods
12. Resolutions and recommendations

III. Partner to Connect Digital Coalition (P2C) – non statutory

13. P2C Digital Coalition
14. Any other business

Annex 2

Draft Structure of the World Telecommunication Development Conference 2021 (WTDC-21)

Meeting of heads of delegation

Terms of reference: in accordance with No. 49 of the General Rules of conferences, assemblies and meetings of the Union, the inaugural meeting of the conference shall be preceded by a meeting of heads of delegation. At this meeting, the heads of delegation shall prepare the agenda for the first plenary meeting and make proposals for the organization, chairmanships and vice-chairmanships of the conference, its committees and, as appropriate, working group(s) of the Plenary.

During WTDC, the heads of delegation shall meet to consider the proposals concerning the work programme and the constitution of study groups, and to draw up proposals concerning the designation of chairmen and vice-chairmen of study groups, TDAG and any other groups established by WTDC.

Committee 1: Steering Committee

Terms of reference: to coordinate all matters connected with the smooth execution of work and to plan the order and number of meetings, avoiding overlapping wherever possible in view of the limited number of members of some delegations.

This committee is composed of the Chairman, and the Vice-Chairmen of the conference and the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the committees and working group(s) of the Plenary.

Committee 2: Budget Control

Terms of reference: to determine the organization and facilities available to the delegates, to examine and approve the accounts for expenditure incurred throughout the duration of the conference and to report to the plenary meeting on the estimated total expenses of the conference, and the estimated financial needs of ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) up to the next World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC) and the costs entailed by the execution of the decisions taken by the Conference.

Committee 3: Objectives

Terms of reference: to review and approve the agenda and make proposals for the organization of work; to review and approve the outputs and outcomes for the objectives; to review and agree on the related study group questions and related regional Initiatives and establish appropriate guidelines for their implementation; to review and agree on relevant resolutions; and to ensure that the output is in accordance with a results-based management approach aiming to improve management effectiveness and accountability.

Committee 4: ITU-D Working Methods

Terms of reference: to review and approve the agenda and make proposals for the organization of work; to examine proposals and contributions relating to cooperation among members; to evaluate the working methods and functioning of the ITU-D study groups and Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG); to assess and identify options for maximizing programme delivery and to approve appropriate changes thereto with a view to strengthening the synergies between study group questions, programmes and regional initiatives; and to submit to the plenary meeting reports, including proposals on the ITU-D working methods for implementation of the ITU-D work programme, on the basis of TDAG and study group reports submitted to the conference and the proposals of ITU Member States, ITU-D Sector Members and Academia.

Committee 5: Editorial Committee

Terms of reference: to perfect the wording of texts arising from WTDC deliberations, such as resolutions, without altering the sense and substance, and align the texts in the official languages of the Union, with a view to their submission for approval to the plenary meetings.

Furthermore, it is suggested to set up Working Group of the Plenary as follows:

Working Group of Plenary: ITU-D contribution to the ITU Strategic Plan 2024-2027 and WTDC Declaration¹

Terms of reference: to draw up a draft WTDC Declaration and the input of the ITU-D Sector to the Union's strategic plan to be adopted at the next Plenipotentiary Conference.

Explanatory note

In accordance with No. 63 of the General Rules of conferences, assemblies and meetings of the Union, the plenary meeting of the World Telecommunication Development Conference may set up committees to consider matters referred to the conference.

Partner2Connect for Digital Development

Terms of reference: to launch a coalition to advance Global Digital Development, structured around several focus areas and securing concrete commitments from new partners. These commitments would define how existing and new ITU partners intend to support LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS to access and use digital connectivity to transform lives, communities, and society.

Explanatory note

This segment is open to ITU Members and non-members. Additional preparatory work will be conducted around the focus areas to prepare the concrete outcomes ahead of the WTDC.

Annex 3

Organizational arrangements

I. Invitation, admission and participation

The Secretary-General, after consulting the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT), sends an invitation to the administration of each Member State, to the ITU-D Sector Members, to the organizations and institutions referred to in the relevant provisions of Article 25 of the ITU Convention as well as to Palestine in accordance with Resolution 99 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) and to Academia in accordance with Resolution 169 (Rev. Dubai, 2018). This invitation was sent in February 2022.

Credentials to attend WTDC-21 are not needed. However, any Member State or Sector Member intending to send a delegation or representatives to WTDC-21 shall so inform the Director of BDT indicating the names and functions of all members of the delegation or of the representatives (N°. 339 of the ITU Convention).

To ensure that the necessary arrangements can be made in a timely fashion, Member States and Sector Members wishing to participate in WTDC-21 and organizations, agencies and other entities that are eligible to attend as observers under Article 25 of the ITU Convention or Resolution 99 or Resolution 169 are requested to register online.

II. Registration

Registration for WTDC-21 and P2C will be carried out **exclusively online and is already open**.

Each delegate interested in attending the meeting should complete and submit a registration form that can be accessed [HERE](#) and **indicate if they intend to participate remotely**.

Delegates can register for the meeting using their ITU user account credentials (i.e. username and password). In case they do not have an ITU user account, they can create one by following the steps available [HERE](#). A User account with TIES access allows delegates to access ITU information resources including contributions and other working documents.

Note: Delegates who already created their user account when registering to previous events on this same system, can still use the same account.

All registration requests for participation of membership in WTDC and P2C must be **validated by the Designated Focal Points (DFPs)** of administrations and entities entitled to participate. The list of Designated Focal Points is available [HERE](#). To modify the contact details of a Designated Focal Point or to change the Designated Focal Point, an official letter from an authorized official should be sent to the BDT Meetings Registration Service (by e-mail to: wtdc-registration@itu.int), providing the new DFP's last name, first name and e-mail address.

A dedicated link is available for non-Members to register for Partner2Connect.

All information on registration is available on the [Admission and Registration page](#).

Membership is encouraged to consider gender balance when deciding their delegations to WTDC. Furthermore, more than one person can participate from an organization/country.

Onsite badging at the Kigali Convention Centre (KCC), Kigali, will start on Friday, 3 June 2022. Opening hours of the badging desk will be communicated shortly on the [Admission and Registration page](#).

III. Provisional organization of the conference

WTDC-21 will set up committees to conduct its work. A draft structure of the conference is to be found in **Annex 2**, along with draft terms of reference for the committees and for the Working Group of the Plenary, as endorsed by TDAG-21.

IV. Interpretation

Interpretation into the six official ITU languages will be provided for all meetings of the plenary and committees.

V. Documents for the conference

The following preparatory documents will be published:

- Report on the implementation of the Buenos Aires Action Plan, including the ITU-D contribution to the WSIS Action Lines;
- Report on the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group activities;
- Report on the RPM Coordination meeting for WTDC-21;
- Draft ITU-D Contribution to the ITU Strategic Plan for 2024-2027;
- Draft ITU-D Action Plan for 2022-2025;
- Draft WTDC-21 Declaration;
- Rules of Procedure of ITU-D (WTDC Resolution 1);
- Reports by the Study Group Chairmen;
- Reports on the outcomes of other ITU conferences, assemblies and other events impacting the work of ITU-D;
- Contributions by Member States and ITU-D Sector Members to WTDC-21.

In compliance with Council Resolution 1141 and Resolution 154 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, the work of WTDC-21 will be conducted paperless. Each participant is encouraged to upload a sync application that will automatically synchronize with the ITU FTP document server to allow participants to have at hand at any time all published documents of the conference in any of the six official ITU languages that are available. Each participant to the Conference will receive on the last day an email providing them access to the draft Final Report.

Documents will be available on the WTDC-21 website at [WTDC documents](#).

Participants are therefore requested to bring their laptops. Should participants require it, a cybercafé will be available, as required, on a self-service basis.

VI. Accessibility needs

Captioning in English will be provided for all plenary and committee meetings, which will also be interpreted into the six official languages of the Union.

Please request, as soon as possible, any reasonable specific assistance needed by e-mail to wtdc@itu.int. The ITU secretariat will meet the expressed requirements to the best of its ability, subject to availability of resources.

VII. ITU information/document access policy

In line with the ITU information/document access policy approved by the 2018 Plenipotentiary Conference, information/documents will be made publicly accessible, unless the submitter of the document advises the ITU secretariat otherwise.

The new policy is available at the following link <http://www.itu.int/en/access-policy/Pages/default.aspx>.
