



Progress Report

TDAG Working Group on Resolutions, Declaration and Thematic Priorities

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TDAG-WG RDTP Terms of Reference

- To **review WTDC resolutions**, examine their number and subject matter, and consider streamlining, to avoid repetitions and duplication with the resolutions of the Plenipotentiary Conference. The streamlining should take into account that some Sector resolutions are integrations of Plenipotentiary Conference resolutions and therefore these resolutions should not be considered as repetition.
- To **align the ITU-D thematic priorities, proposed regional initiatives and proposed study group Questions**, taking into account proposals of ITU-D study groups, outcomes of the regional preparatory meetings for World Telecommunication Development Conference 2021 (WTDC-21), relating to the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and taking into consideration the WSIS Action Lines for which ITU has lead responsibility.
- To propose elements and make recommendations to ITU membership for the future **draft Declaration**.
- To **report** its outcomes to TDAG.

TDAG-WG RDTP Meetings

TDAG-WG RDTP meetings:

- **First meeting: 16 July 2020, 1430h-1600h**
- **Second meeting: 21 October 2020, 1300h-1600h**
- **Third meeting: 21 January 2021, 1300h-1600h**
- **Fourth meeting: 3 March 2021, 1300h-1600h**
- **Fifth meeting: 9 April 2021, 1300h-1600h**

Streamlining Resolutions

- Work on streamlining resolutions is underway. Since **Resolutions 1 and 2** are fundamentally different in nature from other resolutions, it was decided to treat them separately.
- Both Study Groups have asked Mr. Arseny Plossky (Russian Federation) and Ms. Alina Modan (Romania) to coordinate proposals for streamlining resolutions . As a result, resolutions that can be streamlined, combined or suppressed have already been identified and proposed.
- Partial revisions to Resolutions 1 and 2 were made by the joint meeting of Study Groups 1 and 2 on 31 March and April 1. The revision includes texts in square brackets, and needs more work.

Thematic Priorities

- We aim at **grouping** related work areas with the sole purpose of better coordination in BDT for optimal allocation of resources.
- Each thematic priority has a number of **supporting components** that currently are known as **Programmes** in ITU-D. The supporting components within each Thematic Priority will be treated in the same way programmes were treated in the past.
- As previously discussed in TDAG, it is very desirable to have **fewer, more focused,** and **consolidated** Thematic Priorities for better management.
- The proposed Thematic Priorities are in line with the theme of WTDC, which is **Connecting the Unconnected to Achieve Sustainable Development.**
- The Thematic Priorities and their supporting components will be contained in the **Addis Ababa Action Plan** under the section that had programmes in all previous WTDCs.

Proposed Thematic Priorities for ITU-D

TP1: Connectivity

TP2: Digital
Transformation

TP3: Enabling Environment

TP4: Resource Mobilization and
International Cooperation

TP1: Connectivity

The focus of this Thematic Priority is on deployment of modern, available, secure, accessible, and affordable broadband telecommunication/ICT infrastructure.

This Thematic Priority would seek to foster the development of infrastructure and services by utilizing new and emerging digital technologies, including building confidence and security in the use of telecommunications/ICT.

The following activity areas/topics pertain to this Thematic Priority:

- ***Deployment of Future Networks***
- ***Resilient and Safe Digital Infrastructure*** (including EMF-related issues, availability, and reliability),
- ***Cybersecurity,***
- ***Connectivity in the Era of Pandemics and Other Disasters,*** and
- ***Emergency Telecommunications.***

TP2: Digital Transformation

The focus of this Thematic Priority is on the development of telecommunications/ICTs and use of ICT-centric applications and services to close the Digital Divide and empower people and societies for sustainable development.

This is of critical importance as societies adapt to the changes caused by Covid-19 pandemic. Also, the important role that women and youth can play in making the digital society a reality is recognized.

The following activity areas/topics pertain to this Thematic Priority:

- **Digital Services and Applications** (*health, education, agriculture, OTTs, etc.*),
- **Digital Economy** (e-commerce, new business models, job market re-engineering, trade, and investment),
- **Digital Innovation Ecosystems**, and
- **Environment** (*climate change, and e-waste*).

TP3: Enabling Environment (*cross-cutting*)

The focus of this Thematic Priority is on fostering an enabling policy and regulatory environment conducive to sustainable telecommunication/ICT development.

This Thematic Priority is cross cutting by providing key enablers that underpin the ITU's work to deliver on the Connectivity and Digital Transformation priorities.

The following activity areas/topics pertain to this Thematic Priority:

- ***Data and Market Analysis*** (statistics),
- ***Policy and Regulation*** (Internet related issues, Consumer Protection and Privacy, etc.)
- ***Digital Inclusion*** (gender issues, persons with disabilities and specific needs, financial inclusion, youth, and indigenous people),
- ***Capacity and Skills Development.***

TP4: Resource Mobilization and International Cooperation (*cross-cutting*)

The focus of this Thematic Priority is on mobilizing and attracting resources and fostering international cooperation on telecommunication/ICT development issues.

The needs of LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS should be prioritized and given due attention.

The following activity areas/topics pertain to this Thematic Priority:

- ***Projects,***
- ***Partnerships,***
- ***Mainstreaming the Needs of LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS,***
- ***WSIS and SDGs,***
- ***Membership Engagement for Better Impact,*** and
- ***ITU-D Study Groups.***

Thematic Priorities

- There was general support for the four proposed thematic priorities.
- Some Administrations proposed a fifth thematic priority on cybersecurity.

Draft Declaration

- WTDC-21 Declaration is targeted to institutions, stakeholders and individuals **outside ITU**. Hence, the objective is to have a focused, clear, concise, and to the point declaration.
- As instructed by TDAG, a draft declaration was prepared and discussed in the 4th meeting of TDAG-WG RDTP,
- Based on the comments/views expressed, a revised version, which is **in line** with the proposed **Thematic Priorities** was discussed during our 5th meeting on April 9, 2021.
- Our aim is to facilitate the work of WTDC, and we are only preparing **a draft for discussion** and consideration by WTDC, which **may be revised/amended by WTDC**.

Conclusion

- I will report to the next meeting of TDAG (25-28 May 2021) on the outcomes of discussions and achievements by TDAG-WG RDTP.
- **Revisions to Resolutions 1 and 2** need to be finalized.
- TDAG will make recommendations to WTDC on **Thematic Priorities**, on **Streamlining Resolutions**, and on the **Draft Declaration**.
- I express my deep appreciation and gratitude to all participants for their cooperation, understanding, and flexibility; and to the secretariat for their help and for their efforts.



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Thank You