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| **Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG)****23rd Meeting, Geneva, 9-11 April 2018** | P:\SUP\Logos\Post-150th Anniv\ITU-logo-UNblue.jpg |
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|  | **Document** **TDAG-18/14-E** |
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| Director, Telecommunication Development Bureau |
| Regional Development Forums |
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| **Summary:** This document provides background information on the status of the preparations for the Regional Development Forums to be held in 2018, taking into account the outcomes of WTDC-17.**Action required:** TDAG is invited to consider this document and to provide guidance as deemed appropriate. **References:** WTDC Buenos Aires Action Plan; WTDC Resolution 1 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017);Resolution 17 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017); Resolution 21 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017); Resolution 30 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017); Resolution 71 (Hyderabad, 2010); Resolution 25 (Rev. Guadalajara 2010) |

1. **Background**

WTDC-17 resolved to strengthen the platforms for regional coordination, including the Regional Development Forums (RDFs), clearly defining their role as an implementation framework as well as a contribution to the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines and SDGs. WTDC-17 also agreed on several provisions on how RDFs might facilitate the implementation of the Regional Initiatives. This document provides an update on the six RDFs scheduled to be held in 2018.

1. **RDFs beyond WTDC-17**

Following the WTDC-17 outcomes, RDFs provide the opportunity for high-level dialogue between BDT and decision-makers of ITU Member States and Sector Members. They serve as a platform for assessing strategic orientations that may have an impact on BDT’s regional work plan in between World Telecommunication Development Conferences (WTDCs).

In this context, these Forums will report on the implementation of the activities of the Buenos Aires Action Plan. Particular emphasis will be given the Regional Initiatives approved by WTDC-17, providing all stakeholders with an opportunity to discuss implementation plans, to announce commitments and to exchange experiences and best practices.

RDFs will address from a regional perspective the activities related to TDAG, ITU-D Study Groups, Membership, Partnerships, ITU Centres of Excellence, as well as regional contributions to the implementation of WSIS Action Lines and SDGs. In this context RDFs will provide an excellent opportunity for the regional representatives to TDAG (Vice-Chairmen) and Study Groups (Vice-Chairmen) to engage with ITU membership and other stakeholders at the regional level, in order to continue building synergies between actions undertaken at the regional and global level.

RDFs are open to all stakeholders willing to strengthen cooperation and partnerships among telecommunication/ICT policy-makers, regulators, industry, academia, regional and international development agencies and organizations on specific regional telecommunication and ICT matters.

RDFs will also aim at engaging respective UN Regional Economic Commissions and UN Regional Development Groups, as well as UN agencies, other relevant regional organizations, especially in the field of telecommunications/ICTs.

Even though the agendas and duration of RDFs may vary from region to region – depending on the regional particularities –.

The draft 2018 schedule of RDFs is provided below:

* RDF Africa: To be determined
* RDF Americas: 21 May 2018, Peru
* RDF Arab States: 12-13 February 2018, Algeria
* RDF Asia-Pacific: To be determined
* RDF CIS: To be determined
* RDF Europe: 11-12 June 2018, Czech Republic
1. **Conclusions**

RDFs play an important role in strengthening coordination and implementation of WTDC-17 outcomes at the regional level, therefore:

* All Administrations, ITU-D membership, Academia and other stakeholders are encouraged to participate;
* All stakeholders are encouraged to engage with respective ITU Regional/Area Offices in the preparations of RDFs;
* Vice-Chairmen of TDAG and ITU-D Study Groups are encouraged to join RDFs;

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