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| **Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG)**  **24th Meeting, Geneva, 3-5 April 2019** | C:\Users\comas\AppData\Local\Temp\Rar$DRa0.735\jpg\ITU official logo_blue_RGB.jpg |
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| Director, Telecommunication Development Bureau | |
| Outcomes of the 20th ITU Plenipotentiary Conference in 2018 with implications for the work of ITU-D | |
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| **Summary:**  This document provides a brief summary of the main outcomes of the 20th ITU Plenipotentiary Conference in 2018 with implications for the work of ITU-D.  **Action required:**  TDAG is invited to note this document and to provide guidance as deemed appropriate.  **References:**  [Final Acts of the Plenipotentiary Conference, Dubai, 2018](https://www.itu.int/web/pp-18/en/page/192-Documents) | |

The 20th Plenipotentiary Conference of ITU was held in Dubai from 29 October to 16 November 2018. The Conference, hosted by the United Arab Emirates, attracted more than 2 300 participants from 180 countries, up from 171 countries in 2014.

The Member States signed the Final Acts and reaffirmed their commitment to the common vision of a connected world, where information and communication technology (ICT) is a source for good for everyone, everywhere.

The Member States approved a four-year Strategic and Financial Plan and a number of new and modified resolutions, decisions and recommendations providing guidance to the Union on harnessing new technologies for the benefit of humanity.

The list below summarizes the most relevant decisions by the Plenipotentiary Conference for the future work of ITU-D.

**Resolution 71 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) - Strategic plan for the Union for 2020-2023** contains inter alia the following key elements:

* Vision, mission, values, and 5 strategic goals for the Union;
* Set of common Targets;
* ITU results framework, including ITU-D’s 4 objectives adopted by WTDC-17;
* Linkages with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs;
* Linkages with the financial plan, including allocation of resources to goals, objectives and outputs.

**Decision 5 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) - Revenue and expenses for the Union for the period 2020-2023** includes inter alia the following key elements:

* Financial plan of the Union for 2020-2023: Revenue and expenses (Annex 1 to Decision 5);
* Measures for improving ITU's efficiency and reducing its expenses (Annex 2 to Decision 5);
* The total planned expenses amounts to CHF 660.3 million offset by projected revenue of CHF 660.3 million, i.e. a balanced financial plan without having recourse to the Reserve Account;
* The Financial Plan for BDT amounts to CHF 60.3 million for 2020-2021 and CHF 55.7 million for 2022-2023;
* A provision of CHF 3 million for projects on regional initiatives has been included in the amount for 2020-2021.

**Resolution 25 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) - Strengthening the regional presence** includes inter alia the following key elements:

* To conduct an overall review on ITU regional presence, taking into consideration the elements contained in the annex to the resolution, and report to the 2020 session of Council, including suggesting appropriate measures to ensure the continued effectiveness and efficiency of the ITU regional presence;
* To strive to ensure that each region has at least one professional with skills and knowledge relevant to each of the three Sectors, reporting to the regional director, including by training existing staff.

**New resolution 213 - Measures to improve, promote and strengthen ITU fellowships** contains inter alia the following key elements:

* To prepare annually a report to the ITU Council on fellowships;
* Instructed the Council to review the existing criteria for awarding fellowships and make recommendations to the Secretary-General, with a view to improving, promoting and strengthening ITU fellowships.

**New resolution 209 - Encouraging the participation of small and medium enterprises in the work of the Union** contains inter alia the following key elements:

* to encourage the participation of SMEs as Associates in the Sectors of the Union by introducing reduced fees for such entities, with a differentiated level of financial contribution during a trial period that will extend until the next plenipotentiary conference.

Other key resolutions which deal with areas directly relevant to the work of ITU-D are listed below:

* Strengthening the role of ITU in building confidence and security in the use of ICTs (Res. 130);
* Measuring ICTs to build an integrating and inclusive information society (Res. 131);
* ITU's role in implementing the outcomes of the WSIS and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as in their follow-up and review processes (Res. 140);
* Telecommunication/ICT accessibility for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs (Res. 175);
* Protecting telecommunication service users/consumers (Res. 196);
* Facilitating the Internet of Things to prepare for a globally connected world (Res. 197);
* Creating an enabling environment for the deployment and use of ICT applications (Res. 201);
* Use of ICTs to bridge the financial inclusion gap (Res. 204);
* ITU's role in fostering telecommunication/ICT-centric innovation to support the digital economy and society (Res. 205);
* OTTs (Res. 206);
* Human trafficking (Res. 7).

The following resolutions and decisions are also relevant for BDT as they cover topics related to the administration and management of the work of ITU sectors as well as the operations of Bureaux:

* Human resources management and development (Res. 48);
* Strengthening of relations between ITU and regional telecommunication organizations (Res. 58);
* Documents and publications of the Union (Res. 66);
* Scheduling and duration of conferences, forums, assemblies and Council sessions of the Union (2019-2023) (Res. 77);
* Considering major religious periods in the scheduling of ITU conferences, assemblies and Council sessions (Res. 111);
* ITU's role in the durable and sustainable development of telecommunications/ICTs, in providing technical assistance and advice to developing countries and in implementing relevant national, regional and interregional projects (Res. 135);
* Use of the six official languages of the Union on an equal footing (Res. 154);
* Strengthening of the project execution and project monitoring functions in ITU (Res. 157);
* Deadlines for the submission of proposals and procedures for the registration of participants for conferences and assemblies of the Union (Res. 165);
* Strategy for the coordination of efforts among the three Sectors of the Union (Res. 191);
* Appointment and maximum term of office for chairmen and vice-chairmen of advisory groups, SGs and other groups (Res. 208);
* Future headquarters premises (Res. 212).

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