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| Outcomes of the 20th ITU Plenipotentiary Conference in 2018with 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.The summary of all PP-18 Resolutions, Decisions and Recommendations can be found in [TDAG-19/INF/12](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG24-INF-0012/).**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 some of the key decisions by the Plenipotentiary Conference with implications for the 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.

**Resolution 70 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) - Mainstreaming a gender perspective in ITU and promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women through telecommunications/information and communication technologies** includes inter alia the following key elements:

* To continue promoting, among the other United Nations agencies, ITU Member States and Sector Members, the international "Girls in ICT Day";
* To call upon women's organizations and non-governmental and civil-society organizations throughout the world to join in the celebration of the international Girls in ICT Day, as well as to provide online training and/or workshops and day camps, among others;
* To continue the work of BDT in promoting the use of telecommunications/ICTs for the economic and social empowerment of women and girls, helping them to tackle disparities and facilitating the acquisition of skills for life;
* To continue to assist developing countries in order to expedite bridging the digital gender divide.

**Resolution 136 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) - The use of telecommunications/information and communication technologies for humanitarian assistance and for monitoring and management in emergency and disaster situations, including health-related emergencies, for early warning, prevention, mitigation and relief** includes inter alia the following key elements:

* To conduct training programmes, workshops and capacity building, including consideration of the roles and participation of academia and other stakeholders, for trainers of relevant organizations and entities, especially in developing countries, on technical and operational aspects of networks and their use for monitoring and management in emergency and disaster situations, including health-related emergencies;
* To assist Member States in enhancing and strengthening the use of all available communication systems, including satellite, amateur radio and broadcasting services, in the event of the disruption of conventional power supply or telecommunication networks;
* To assist Member States, particularly developing countries, in the use of telecommunications/ICTs to support the exchange of timely information on emergencies, including health-related emergencies, and to develop feasibility studies, project management tools and support to respond to and address emergencies, including health-related emergencies.

**Resolution 169 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) - Admission of academia to participate in the work of the Union** includes inter alia the following key elements:

* To continue their successful efforts to explore and recommend, taking into account the advice of the Council, various mechanisms such as the use of voluntary financial and in-kind contributions from Member States and other stakeholders to encourage increased participation of academia;
* To encourage the participation of academia in various open events and activities organized or co-organized by ITU, such as ITU Telecom World, ITU Kaleidoscope, World Summit on the Information Society forums and other workshops and forums.

**Resolution 175 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) - Telecommunication/information and communication technology accessibility for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs** includes inter alia the following key elements:

* To coordinate accessibility-related activities between ITU R, ITU T and ITU D;
* To consider the financial implications for ITU of providing, within the available resources, information in accessible formats and through ICTs, as well as access to ITU facilities, services and programmes for participants with visual, hearing or motor disabilities and persons with specific needs;
* To encourage and promote representation by persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs so as to ensure that their experiences and opinions are taken into account when developing and progressing ITU work;
* To consider expanding the fellowship programme in order to enable delegates with disabilities and delegates with specific needs, within existing budgetary constraints, to participate in the work of ITU.

**Resolution 179 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) - ITU's role in child online protection** contains inter alia the following key elements:

* To coordinate with other similar initiatives being undertaken at national, regional and international level with the objective of establishing partnerships to maximize efforts in this important area;
* To assist developing countries in drawing the greatest possible attention to child online protection;
* To update, as appropriate, the guidelines created by ITU, in collaboration with COP initiative partners, taking into consideration technology developments in the telecommunication industry, including guidelines on children with disabilities and children with specific needs, and to disseminate them through the ITU regional offices and relevant entities in the six official languages;
* To disseminate methodological frameworks for data production and statistics on child online protection with the purpose of maximizing data comparison among countries and capacity development for voluntary data production;
* To consider the needs of children with disabilities in current and future awareness campaigns undertaken in coordination with the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau and in cooperation with relevant stakeholders and interested countries.

**Resolution 196 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) - Protecting telecommunication service users/consumers** contains inter alia the following key elements:

* To closely collaborate with the Member States in order to identify critical areas for the establishment of recommendations, guidelines, policies and/or regulatory frameworks for the protection of users/consumers of telecommunication/ICT services;
* To strengthen relations with other international organizations including standards-development organizations, and bodies that participate in the protection of users/consumers of telecommunication/ICT services;
* To support the organization of international and regional forums for the dissemination of telecommunication/ICT user/consumer rights and for sharing experiences on good and best practices among member countries, and the implementation of technical decisions based on ITU-T recommendations, as appropriate.

**Resolution 198 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) - Empowerment of youth through telecommunication/information and communication technology** contains inter alia the following key elements:

* To continue the work of BDT in promoting the use of ICT for the economic and social empowerment of youth;
* To maintain regular monitoring, reporting and research on the uptake and use of ICT by youth, including the provision of disaggregated data by gender and information on behavioural aspects that may be harmful and dangerous;
* To continue to explore ways and means of involving young professionals in the work of the Bureaux.

**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);
* 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);
* World telecommunication/ information and communication technology policy forum (Res. 2);
* Human trafficking (Rec. 7);
* Measures concerning alternative calling procedures on international telecommunication networks (Res. 21);
* Special measures for the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition (Res. 30);
* Assistance and support to countries in special need for rebuilding their telecommunication sector (Res. 34);
* Non-discriminatory access to modern telecommunication/information and communication technology facilities, services and applications, including applied research and transfer of technology, and e meetings, on mutually agreed terms (Res. 64);
* Status of Palestine in ITU (Res. 99);
* Internet Protocol-based networks (Res. 101);
* ITU's role with regard to international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet and the management of Internet resources, including domain names and addresses (Res. 102);
* Bridging the standardization gap between developing and developed countries (Res. 123);
* Assistance and support to Palestine for rebuilding its telecommunication networks (Res. 125);
* Role of administrations of Member States in the management of internationalized (multilingual) domain names (Res. 133);
* Deployment of future networks in developing countries (Res. 137);
* Use of telecommunications/ information and communication technologies to bridge the digital divide and build an inclusive information society (Res. 139);
* ITU's role in implementing the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as in their follow-up and review processes (Res. 140);
* Assistance to Somalia (Res. 160);
* Measurement and assessment concerns related to human exposure to electromagnetic fields (Res. 176);
* Conformance and interoperability (Res. 177);
* Promoting deployment and adoption of IPv6 to facilitate the transition from IPv4 to IPv6 (Res. 180);
* Assisting Member States to combat and deter mobile device theft (Res. 189);
* Connect 2030 Agenda for global telecommunication/ information and communication technology, including broadband, for sustainable development (Res. 200).
* Connectivity to broadband networks (Res. 203);
* Support for the Iraqi Du3M 2025 initiative for advancement of the telecommunication and information technology sectors (Res. 211).

The following resolutions and decisions, among others, 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);
* Procedure for defining a region for the purpose of convening a regional radiocommunication conference (Res. 7);
* ITU telecom events (Res. 11);
* Recognition of the rights and obligations of all Sector Member of the Union (Res. 14);
* Improvement of management and follow-up of the defrayal of ITU expenses by Sector Members and Associates (Res. 152);
* Strengthening and developing ITU capabilities for electronic meetings and means to advance the work of the Union (Res. 167);
* Future headquarters premises (Res. 212).

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