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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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|  | **Document** **TDAG-19/****20-E** |
|  | **21 February 2019** |
|  | **Original: English** |
| Director, Telecommunication Development Bureau | |
| ITU-D Sector membership | |
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| **Summary:**  ITU-D Sector membership includes Sector Members, Associates and Academia. This document provides an overview of the evolution of ITU-D Sector membership, initiatives and actions to strengthen the ITU-D membership in accordance with the outcomes of WTDC-17 and PP-18.  **Action Required:**  TDAG is invited to note the document and provide guidance as deemed appropriate.  **References:**  WTDC Resolution 71 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017);  PP Resolution 169 (Rev. Dubai, 2018), 209 (Dubai, 2018) and 205 (Dubai, 2018). | |

1. **Background**

World Telecommunication Development Conference in 2017 (WTDC-17) revised and adopted Resolution 71 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) to promote active involvement of current Sector Members, Associates and Academia in ITU-D activities, including participation in the work of ITU-D study groups, and motivate prospects from the public, private and academic sectors to become members.

Resolution 71 also brings enhanced focus to the evolving role of the private sector in the ITU-D Sector by instructing, amongst others, the creation of the Industry Advisory Group for Development issues (IAGDI) promoting a wide representation of industry from the ITU‑D Sector Members from all regions.

Furthermore, the Plenipotentiary Conference in 2018 (PP-18) adopted several Resolutions related to membership, such as Resolution 209 (Dubai, 2018) which encourages the participation of SMEs in the work of the Union.

PP-18 revised Resolution 169 on Academia, through which a representative of Academia may serve as rapporteur, vice-rapporteur or associate rapporteur in accordance with established rules of procedure of the respective Sectors. Academia is also encouraged to participate in the development of technical work in the Union.

Resolution 205 (Dubai, 2018) on ICT-centric innovation to support the digital economy was also adopted during PP-18, instructing BDT to encourage the participation of SMEs in study groups and inviting Member States and ITU membership to encourage the participation of ICT-related entrepreneurs, start-ups and incubation and acceleration centers in the ITU Telecom 2019.

BDT will continue to take the necessary measures to implement the outcomes of PP-18, WTDC-17, CWG-FHR and Council, in consultation with all the relevant ITU meetings including TDAG and ITU-D Study Groups.

1. **Strategic Objectives**

In accordance with the outcomes of WTDC-17 and PP-18, BDT, in close coordination and collaboration with the General Secretariat, the other two Bureaux, and Regional/Area Offices, has focused on two overarching objectives:

* Outreach to new entities to join as Sector Members, Associates, SMEs and Academia, and;
* Enhance platforms and tools for engagement and retention of existing ITU-D Sector Members, Associates and Academia.

1. **Status Analysis**

**Chart 1. Evolution of ITU-D membership (Sector Members, Associates & Academia[[1]](#footnote-2)) from 2008 to 2018.**

|  | **2008** | **2009** | **2010** | **2011** | **2012** | **2013** | **2014** | **2015** | **2016** | **2017** | **2018** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sector Members | 308 | 316 | 311 | 323 | 330 | 346 | 338 | 340 | 331 | 318 | 310 |
| Associates | 3 | 3 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 12 | 14 |
| Academia | ‑ | ‑ | ‑ | 25 | 36 | 45 | 86 | 109 | 107 | 125 | 156 |
| TOTAL | 311 | 319 | 316 | 354 | 373 | 400 | 434 | 460 | 450 | 455 | 480 |

* 1. **Sector Members and Associates in 2018**

In 2018, ITU-D attracted 8 new Sector Members: ECPAT International (Thailand), World Wide Web Foundation (USA), Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (Zambia), Mobile and Wireless Forum IVZW (Belgium), Turkcell Iletisim Hizmetleri A.S (Turkey), Sigma Telecom (Turkey), Symantec Corporation (USA), Masyarakat Telematika Indonesia (Indonesia); 4 new Associates: High-tech Bridge SA (Switzerland), Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd. (India), Axon Partners Group Consulting (Spain) & NRD Cyber Security (Lithuania).

During this period, 15 members were denounced, three of which due to non-payment. Otherwise, the reasons provided for such denunciations were industry consolidation and/or financial issues.

* 1. **Academia in 2018**

Academia participates in the work of all Sectors as well as global and regional conferences, workshops and activities of the Union through one single fee. For 2018, in coordination with the General Secretariat and with support from ITU membership such as Argentina, China, India, Iran and Palestine among many others, 37 new Academia joined the three Sectors of the ITU.[[2]](#footnote-3)

1. **Key actions and results**

BDT implemented a series of strategic actions and will continue to enhance efforts towards improving its services and engagements for ITU-D Sector Members, Associates and Academia.

* 1. **Enhancing ITU-D Sector membership tools and services**

Information-dissemination platforms such as the ITU-D Sector Membership Portal (<http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Membership/Pages/default.aspx>) and webpage continue to promote the benefits and increase the visibility that members obtain through their membership. These are linked with ITU-D’s areas of action to match-make opportunities for engagement in projects and for partnership, whist inviting highlights of success stories from ITU-D membership for their visibility. BDT continues to enhance its outreach and communication materials through its ITU online Members’ Zone platform – MyITU project, which shall enable customized content, enhanced networking and collaboration amongst ITU-D members.

* 1. **New platforms for engagement with Academia**

Academia fosters innovative and sustainable solutions by providing a space where talent, research and technology come together to solve the world's most pressing problems. With the increasing portfolio of Academia members, BDT strengthened various types of collaborative platforms in addition to existing ones - such as ITU Academy and ITU Journal amongst others.

One example was ITU’s book on [ICT④SDG](https://www.itu.int/dms_pub/itu-d/opb/gen/D-GEN-ICT_SDGS.01-2017-PDF-E.pdf):[*"ICT-centric economic growth, innovation and job creation"*](https://www.itu.int/dms_pub/itu-d/opb/gen/D-GEN-ICT_SDGS.01-2017-PDF-E.pdf) launched at WTDC-17, which was a result of a pilot collaborative research study with renowned experts from the scientific community from around the world in addition to ITU Academia members. This publication catalysed interest from the academic community to discuss its main findings with lead authors, explore new research streams and data sources from academic and private sectors, for which upon the invitation of the London School of Economics, BDT organized the Partnership Platform on *ICT④SDGs:* [*"ICT-centric economic growth, innovation and job creation"*](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/pages/impact-study.aspx) in London, UK, on 22-23 May 2018. This platform attracted 50 participants from wide ranging backgrounds, from leading academicians to distinguished participants from the public and private sector.

BDT also undertook outreaching activities for Academia members: e.g., bilateral meetings to raise academic engagement in the work of ITU-D.

* 1. **Enhancing SMEs and private sector engagement in work of ITU-D**

BDT enhanced collaboration and synergies with its private sector members in the converged ICT ecosystem through partnerships with industry associations, regional and international organizations and their existing networks and affiliated members.

Further to Resolution 71 of WTDC-17 on strengthening cooperation between Members States, Sector Members, Associates and Academia of ITU-D, the 9thedition of the ***Private Sector Chief Regulatory Officers (CRO) meeting*** and the ***Industry Advisory Group for Development Issues (IAGDI)*** were both convened on 10 July 2018 during the Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR-18). The meeting brought together over 100 senior industry executives to share information on emerging digital technologies, and exchange ideas on how to strengthen the private sector’s involvement and engagement in global, regional and national initiatives. The CRO/IAGDI Outcomes called for inclusiveness, enabling ubiquitous deployment of infrastructure, and creating an environment where investments in new digital technologies and services are stimulated.

Built on GSR-18 discussions, the ***Industry Leaders’ Debate*** shared visions and future trends on business investment models as well as on emerging technologies for the next wave of industry productivity.

Exploring collaboration with other industry-focused organizations, the ***ITU-UNIDO-GMIS special session on Technology and Innovation Powering Connectivity for Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development*** dedicated to *‘Creating smart cities and society: Employing information and communication technologies for sustainable social and economic development’* was held on 1 October 2018 in Geneva, at ITU Headquarters, in conjunction with the ITU-D Question 1/2. The special session brought together 121 participants from Member States, private sector, ITU-D membership, UNIDO, WTO, ILO, WFP, UNEP, etc. During the panels, solutions were presented on enabling smart and sustainable cities as well as the benefits of IoT, AI, and Big Data for smart societies.

Following the decision on trial participation of SMEs in ITU-T and ITU-D study groups taken during the 2017 session of Council , BDT kicked off the implementation of the pilot project by inviting SMEs to participate in ITU-D Study Groups’ new study period from 2018. Seven SMEs from Italy, UK, Japan, Estonia and Poland, respectively (e.g., Proge-Software, Forum Europe, DAIWA Computer, Guardtime, Melody International, Orange TechLab, SatRevolution, and ASTEM*)* participated in the work of the Study Groups. Many of these SMEs submitted contributions on different areas such as cybersecurity, ICT applications, cloud computing, etc. Subsequently, PP-18 adopted Resolution 209 (Dubai, 2018) on SMEs, given the success of the trial and recognizing their essential role on achieving economic growth and development.

1. **Way Forward**

While ITU-D programs, projects, initiatives and activities under its areas of action provide products and services for ITU membership, BDT will continue to strengthen its membership services for greater engagement with existing, new and prospective members including SMEs and Academia through sharing and promoting BDT products and their impacts through the use of Webinars, “talks”, testimonials and others.

Calls for multi-stakeholder partnership to various platforms, programs and Regional Initiatives will be explored in order to contribute to ITU-D’s mandate of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The diverse nature of Sector Members, Associates and increasing number of Academia continues to foster a fertile ground for collaboration and knowledge exchange in a converged ICT ecosystem. BDT will continue to focus on multi-stakeholder approaches for enhanced engagement and partnerships with membership and their networks through BDT/ITU platforms at global and regional levels in close coordination and cooperation.

Membership, Member States in particular, are invited to encourage private industry, SMEs and Academia in their respective countries to engage in and contribute to the work of ITU-D.

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1. Academia participates in the work of the three sectors with one single fee. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Universidad Nacional de San Luis (Argentina); Universidad de Buenos Aires, Facultad de Ingenieria (Argentina); Universidad Nacional Arturo Jauretche (Argentina); Universidad Nacional de Rio Cuarto (Argentina); Instituto Balseiro (Argentina); Universidad Nacional del Sur (Argentina); Universidad Nacional de Tucuman (Argentina); Universidad Nacional de Cordoba (Argentina); Universidad Nacional de la Matanza (Argentina); Universidad Nacional de La Plata (Argentina); Universidad Nacional de Misiones (Argentina); Universidad Tenologica Nacional (Argentina); Universidad Nacional de Rio Negro (Argentina); Universidad Nacional de Lujan (Argentina); RMIT University (Australia); Ecole Nationale Superieure des Postes, Telecommunications et TIC (Cameroon); Computer Network Information Center of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (China); University of Electronic Science and Technology of China (China); Institute of Information Engineering Chinese Academy of Sciences (CETC ISA) (China); Universidad Autonoma de Santo Domingo (Dominican Republic); IRT SystemX (France); International Audio Laboratories Erlangen (Germany); Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (Ghana); Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER) (India); Indian Institute of Science (India); National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (India); Centre for Tech and Innovation Management National Institute of Industrial Engineering (India); IoT Academy (Iran); Graduate School of Public Administration Seoul National University (Korea, Republic of); Palestine Technical University Kadoorie (Palestine, State); Arab American University (Palestine, State); National Institute of Telecommunications (Poland); Qatar University (Qatar); Saint-Petersburg State University of Aerospace Instrumentation (Russian Federation); Naif Arab University for Security Sciences (NAUSS) (Saudi Arabia); Centre d’Etudes et de Recherches des Telecommunications (CERT) (Tunisia); Florida Atlantic University (USA). [↑](#footnote-ref-3)