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| **Telecommunication DevelopmentAdvisory 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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| **Summary:**This document provides a summary of work carried out by the Telecommunication Development Bureau since the last TDAG meeting was held. The document covers work on Emergency Telecommunications, Climate Change, E-waste, and concentrated assistance to the least developed countries (LDCs) landlocked developing countries (LLDCs), and small island developing states (SIDS).**Action required:**TDAG is invited to note this document and provide guidance as deemed appropriate.**References:**PP Resolution 30 (Rev. Busan, 2014), Resolution 34 (Rev. Busan, 2014), Resolution 136 (Rev. Dubai, 2018), Resolution 139 (Rev. Dubai, 2018), Resolution 175 (Rev. Dubai, 2018), Resolution 182 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) WTDC Resolution 5 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017), Resolution 16 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017), Resolution 25 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017), Resolution 34 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017), Resolution 37 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017), Resolution 66 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) |

1. **Introduction**

This document presents a summary of the work undertaken in the form of concentrated assistance to LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS. It also reports on the assistance and support provided to ITU Member States in the use of telecommunications/ICTs for disaster risk reduction and disaster management, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and e-waste management.

1. **Concentrated Assistance for LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS**

In 2018 activities were implemented aimed at improving capacities in LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS.These included both face-to-face and online training, sharing of guidelines and good practices on ICT access and use as part of policy guidance. In terms of information sharing, a special report on [*ICTs, LDCs, and the SDGs – Achieving Universal and Affordable Internet in the LDCs*](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/LDCs/Pages/ICTs-for-SDGs-in-LDCs-Report.aspx)was published. The report, which was produced jointly with the UN Office of the High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLs), focuses on ICT infrastructure and affordability developments. It contributes to the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 9 (SDG 9, Target 9c). The report highlights that while access to the Internet has increased substantially, 800 million people in the LDCs remain offline and in 2020, less than 1 out of 4 people in the LDCs will be using the Internet. Many people lack the necessary skills and governments need to make the link between strategic ICT sector plans and educational policies. The report also offers a new, three-dimensional framework which classifies LDCs into three categories based on their overall performance across the areas of access, affordability and skills. This framework is meant to help countries identify areas that mostly require policy intervention and priority allocation of scarce financial and human resources.

BDT also produced ICT [country case studies](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/LDCs/Pages/Publications.aspx) analysing connectivity challenges and opportunities in LLDCs, the most recent being on Bolivia and Paraguay. In addition, direct assistance was provided in many other ICT related areas such as spectrum regulation, cyber security, national ICT policies, tariff regulation and infrastructure development.

1. **Emergency telecommunications**

BDT continued to provide support to ITU Member States at all phases of disaster management aimed at strengthening the ability of countries to coordinate disaster relief efforts and cope with the immediate effects of disasters. In terms of emergency telecommunications equipment deployment to countries, two countries ([Tonga and Papua New Guinea](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Emergency-Telecommunications/Pages/Response.aspx)) benefited from ITU’s intervention.

In terms of disaster risk reduction, BDT implemented an early warning system (EWS) at two sites in Zambia. A needs assessment on emergency telecommunication systems in the Caribbean region was carried out. On the capacity building side, BDT organized a number of multi-stakeholder workshops and training across the globe and also participated in a number of regional and global events on emergency telecommunications. These workshops proved effective in providing a platform for exchanging experiences and good practices in the use of modern technologies for disaster monitoring, early warning, and response.

BDT has worked closely with other international organizations, including the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) to increase awareness and help countries in the implementation of the common altering protocol (CAP), a platform to deliver altering message. It also worked with regional and international partners, including the Emergency Telecommunication Cluster (ETC), United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the World Health Organization (WHO).

Finally, BDT focused on the preparations for the 3rd Global Forum on Emergency Telecommunications (GET-19): Saving Lives, which will be held from 6 to 8 March 2019, in Balaclava, Mauritius. Have been invited to attend the event multi-stakeholders from Governments, private sector, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, and non-governmental organizations.

1. **Climate change and e-waste**

BDT provided capacity building to countries in climate change and e-waste statistics through the organization of workshops and training events.

ITU continued to strengthen its work with the Global E-waste Statistics Partnership, which includes the United National University (UNU) and the International Solid Waste Association (ISWA). This Partnership published the Global E-waste Monitor, which quantifies e-waste challenges and produces national and regional figures on e-waste. The report indicates that close to 45 million tonnes of e-waste are being generated every year. Data from the report also show that although an increasing number of countries and people are covered by e-waste legislation, only 20% of e-waste is formally documented and recycled.

BDT also worked within the Environment Management Group (EMG) and was instrumental in the establishment of what is now known as the *E-waste Coalition*, which was launched at a high-level dialogue session on “Building the E-waste Coalition” during the WSIS Forum 2018. The launch of the E-Waste Coalition brought together seven heads of UN agencies with a role in the area of e-waste. The E-waste Coalition is developing a new vision towards the circular economy[[1]](#footnote-1), with a focus on e-waste. This initiative increases awareness on the need to address the e-waste challenge and provides policy guidance to governments, the public and private sector. It is supported by the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), and the World Economic Forum (WEF).

# During the World Economic Forum’s annual meeting in Davos the E-waste Coalition launch the report [A New Circular Vision for Electronics - Time for a Global Reboot](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Climate-Change/Pages/ewaste/A-New-Circular-Vision-for-Electronics-Time-for-a-Global-Reboot.aspx). In this report, ITU, together with six other UN entities have come together, supported by the World Economic Forum, and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) to call for an overhaul of the current electronics system, with the aim of supporting international efforts to address e-waste challenges.

The report calls for a systematic collaboration with major brands, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), academia, trade unions, civil society and associations in a deliberative process to reorient the system and reduce the waste of resources each year with a value greater than the GDP of most countries.

BDT also published the [Handbook for the development of a policy framework on ICT/e-waste](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Climate-Change/Documents/2018/Handbook-Policy-framework-on-ICT-Ewaste.pdf) to help build capacity and guide countries in developing e-waste policies. This handbook provides guidance on the key aspects to be taken into account when designing, implementing and improving a legal, regulatory and policy framework on ICT/e-waste. The proposed framework facilitates the management of ICT/e-waste based on the concepts of sustainable development, green ICT and the circular economy. An E-waste National Policy and Regulatory Framework for Malawi was developed based on this Handbook.

BDT commissioned the e-waste Pilot Plant Project that was jointly developed and implemented with the University of La Plata in Argentina. The Plant provides concrete responses to the E-Waste problems in cities in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The project included the development of a report on [Successful Electronic Waste Management Initiatives](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Climate-Change/Documents/2018/Successful-electronic-waste-management-initiatives.pdf), which provides information of different e-waste management initiatives in 6 different countries around the world.

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1. According to the World Economic Forum, a circular economy is an industrial system that is restorative or regenerative by intention and desing. It replaces the end-of-life concept with restoration, shifts towards the use of renewable energy, eliminates the use of toxic chemicals, which impair reuse and return to the biosphere, and aims for the elimination of waste through the superior design of materials, products, systems and business models (*More detailed summaries of the concept and principles can be found in the two reports Towards the Circular Economy 1 and 2, 2012 and 2013, Ellen MacArthur Foundation*). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)