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| **Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG)**  **25th Meeting, Geneva, 2-5 June 2020** | C:\Users\comas\AppData\Local\Temp\Rar$DRa0.735\jpg\ITU official logo_blue_RGB.jpg |
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| Chairman, Group on Capacity Building Initiatives (GCBI) | |
| REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE GROUP ON CAPACITY BUILDING INITIATIVES (GCBI) TO TDAG | |
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| **Summary:**  This document covers the work undertaken by the Group on Capacity Building Initiatives (GCBI). The group was established pursuant to Resolution 40 which was adopted by the World Telecommunication Development Conference 2010 (WTDC-10), and revised at WTDC-17 to advise the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) on matters related to capacity building.  **Action required:**  TDAG is invited to note this document and provide guidance as deemed appropriate.  **References:**  Resolution 40 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of WTDC, on the Group on Capacity Building Initiatives.  Resolution 73 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of WTDC, on ITU centres of excellence.  Resolution 169 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on admission of Academia to participate in the work of ITU. | |

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1. **Report on the 7th GCBI meeting (19-20 March 2019)**

GCBI held its 7th meeting on 19-20 March 2019 in Geneva. The meeting was the first to be held in GCBI’s new composition, following an invitation in 2018 from the Director of BDT to regional telecommunication organizations to nominate new members to the group, as the tenure of several members was ending in December that year. As a result, eight members of GCBI were nominated as new members while four members were retained from the previous cycle. The group endorsed the appointment of Dr Lidia Stępińska-Ustasiak, Counsellor, Head of Social Policy Unit, Office of Electronic Communications (UKE), Poland, as the new Chairman of GCBI. Ms Gladys Ogallo, CEO & Founder, Virtual Human Resources Services, Kenya, was re-appointed as Vice-Chairman of GCBI.

The group discussed agenda topics for its future work, regional priorities in capacity development, proposals for strengthening engagement of regional stakeholders and ITU activities in capacity and digital skills development.

The group noted the closure of the last centres of excellence cycle 2015-2018, the performance review of these centres which operated during that cycle, and the selection of the new centres of excellence for the current cycle 2019-2022. With respect to the 2015-2018 cycle, the group observed that over 5000 people were trained under the Centres of Excellence (CoE) programme, with 55 per cent of the training taking place as face-to-face courses. With respect to the new cycle, 29 centres were selected globally and operate in 15 priority areas identified by the membership during WTDC-17.

The group highlighted a number of challenges and opportunities for capacity building that would inform the formulation of capacity-development strategies going forward. Opportunities range from the strong mandate of the ITU membership, the existing networks of partnerships, to the expertise that is within the membership and is at the disposal of ITU. Challenges include how to assess digital skills gaps at national and regional level, and how to measure the qualitative impact of some of the capacity-building activities.

GCBI members delivered presentations on regional ICT trends and their implications for capacity development highlighting skills gaps and skills requirements in their regions; priority areas for capacity development and training; and suggestions on how GCBI could engage different stakeholders in the regions in identifying priorities for capacity and skills development initiatives.

A number of conclusions were reached:

1. Capacity development is a core activity of the Development Sector. There is a need to develop a general framework for capacity development in ITU, which could include:

* An analysis of capacity development initiatives in all ITU Sectors to aggregate topics and avoid overlaps.
* Developing a taxonomy/classification of capacity-development activities which reflects the objectives of all ITU Sectors and their priorities.
* The creation of a common catalogue of all capacity-development initiatives under the framework of the ITU Academy.
* Providing a definition of different levels of skills and what they entail (for example, basic, intermediate and advanced digital skills).
* Defining the main target audiences and identifying ITU’s competitive advantage in capacity and skills development.

1. The ITU Academy platform has proven to be a reliable source and useful tool to deliver training courses and promote ITU capacity-development activities and should be further strengthened and enhanced. New approaches, such as learning-by-doing, and new channels, such as posting short-learning videos, could be explored.
2. ITU needs to strengthen its existing capacity-development programmes and incorporate activities targeted towards people/communities at the grassroots level in order to address groups for whom lack of skills is the main barrier to digital inclusion. In this regard, there is a need to establish programmes that complement the Centres of Excellence programme, which focuses primarily on training professionals in the ICT industry. Such programmes should focus on the development of basic and intermediate digital skills and have training-of-trainers as a core element.
3. There is a need to carry out digital skills assessments at the national level to throw light on the capacity development needs in countries and regions. This includes establishing a set of measurements for assessing digital skills levels, and for setting targets of what needs to be achieved through capacity building and training. ITU should support countries in this regard.
4. GCBI members should engage the regional organizations that appointed them, as well as other regional stakeholders, to collect comprehensive information relating to the situation of skills gaps and capacity development needs in their regions as input to their work. Stronger connections with regions will improve identification of potential skill gaps and, as result, contribute to more accurate strategic advice to the BDT Director.
5. There is a need to propose new ways of stocktaking to enhance GCBI’s advisory capacity using an evidence-based approach. To facilitate and harmonize the process of stocktaking across regions, a new tool (online or offline) could be created for standardized information gathering with defined areas of interest, categories of capacity-building initiatives and deadlines.
6. ITU should continue to provide a global platform for dialogue and knowledge exchange in the field of capacity and digital skills development to share the training resources and infrastructure worldwide.
7. **GCBI work during 2019**

The GCBI Chairman, in close cooperation with the Vice-Chairman, coordinated the work of the group to implement the outcomes of the meeting. The group was divided into three task groups, which were organized to explore the following issues:

* 1. **Capacity development framework** – the purpose of this group was to develop a capacity development framework document which includes a list of capacity development taxonomies and classification of ITU capacity-development activities. This framework would guide ITU in compiling capacity and skills development terminology in an effort to facilitate standardization of terms used and classification of ITU capacity-development activities.
  2. **Stocktaking** – the purpose of this group was to provide an evidence-based way of stocktaking to enhance GCBI’s advisory capacity.
  3. **Targeting** – the purpose of this group was to provide a new model of targeting audiences, including stakeholder mapping and segmentation and exploration of new skills development needs going beyond topics identified in the regional initiatives.

The group agreed to start with the drafting of the capacity development framework document, as a matter of priority.

A virtual steering committee meeting of the group took place in August 2019 to agree on the terms of reference for developing the framework document. The group worked in three task teams to develop three sections of the document, covering the background and discussion of the overarching terminology; a list of capacity development terms and definitions (taxonomy); and an analysis of ITU capacity and skills development activities and classification of these activities in line with the proposed taxonomy.

The final draft of the document was submitted to the ITU secretariat in December 2019 for further consideration.

1. **8th GCBI meeting**

The 8th meeting of GCBI will take place on 23-24 March 2020 in Geneva.

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