



TDAG Working Group on WTDC Preparations

16 July 2020, Virtual

Document TDAG-WG-Prep/3-E

15 July 2020

English only

Source: Director, Telecommunication Development Bureau

Title: Presentation on the WTDC-21 Preparatory Process - Towards an effective WTDC-21

The annex to this contribution is provided as background information for the work of the TDAG-WG-Prep.

Contact:	Name/Organization/Entity:	Mr Stephen Bereaux, Deputy to the Director, Telecommunication Development Bureau
	Phone number:	+41 22 730 5131
	E-mail:	stephen.bereaux@itu.int

[TDAG-WG-Prep](#)

WTDC-21 Preparatory Process

Towards an effective WTDC-21

16 June 2020

Telecommunications Development Bureau (BDT)

| BDT's Vision

- Advancing digital transformation through meaningful connectivity.
- Affordable, reliable, accessible, fast and safe connections that enable those online to benefit from the full power and potential of the online world.

Achieving BDT's Vision



- Creating a fit4purpose BDT
 - Implementing a Results Based Management (RBM) approach, aligned on ten (10) Thematic Priorities derived from the WTDC Action Plan programmes, to ensure that BDT's work leads to tangible impact
 - Enhanced resource mobilization techniques to improve BDTs ability to deliver on expectations
 - Strong collaboration based around cooperation, resource-sharing and win-win arrangements that benefit governments, industry and users
- A WTDC that is effective and focused on telecommunications/ICT development solutions.

The journey towards a more effective WTDC

2019 TDAG – Need for improvements

- Breakout sessions on WTDC reform



Pre TDAG Web Dialogues

- 24 March Web Dialogue (Brainstorm Session)
- 30 April Web Dialogue (Concrete Proposals)



2020 TDAG and Extra-ordinary TDAG

- Creation of Working Groups

TDAG 2019 – Discussions on improving WTDC

Is improvement needed?

- Real desire for positive change
- To improve the effectiveness of WTDC-21
- To ensure that the World Telecommunication Development Conference will be a solutions-based conference that addresses the real challenges in the development of telecommunications/ICTs.

Member aspirations reflected in Web Dialogues:

- Change from solely administrative to a solutions-based conference focused on development
- Leverage the preparatory process as a tool to start improving the focus of conference
- Engage stakeholders for WTDC to develop a transformative agenda for the conference
- Integrate 'side events' into the conference with inclusion of more stakeholders

March and April Web Dialogues



- ❑ Two Virtual Dialogues were held prior to TDAG 20 to provide membership with an opportunity to align and refine views on preparation for WTDC 21
- ❑ Each event attracted more than 150 participants
- ❑ [First Session on 24 March 2020](#)
 - ❑ Brainstorming session facilitated by volunteers in “moderator” and “Firestarter” roles
 - ❑ Discussion was broad and general with free exchange of ideas
- ❑ [Second Session on 30 April 2020](#)
 - ❑ Based on collated outputs and ideas from First Dialogue
 - ❑ Development of more concrete proposals
- ❑ Starting point for dialogues was four high level topics with questions as set out on the following slides

March and April Web Dialogue

Topic 1 – Preparatory Process



- Is the preparatory process for WTDC still fit for purpose?
- How can it be better integrated with the preparatory process of the regional telecommunication organizations?
- Should informal interregional meetings be organized, and, if so, what format should they take?
- Should informal interregional meetings be used to foster agreement ahead of the conference (for instance on administrative issues) to free up conference time to discuss critical ICT development issues?

March and April Web Dialogue

Topic 2 – Content and Structure



- How can the agenda be improved to make WTDC a more relevant and attractive event?
- How can the scope of the conference be refocused on critical ICT development challenges and donor commitments to finance ICT4D projects?
- How can the WTDC contribution to the ITU strategic plan be improved?
- How do we improve the linkage between the work of study groups and the thematic/programmatic work and how do we make study group outcomes more useful, relevant and timely?
- Should each region develop separate regional initiatives?

March and April Web Dialogue

Topic 3 – Stakeholder Engagement



- ❑ Who are the current and new constituent groups that need to attend WTDC, and in what proportion?
- ❑ What can we do at WTDC to ensure these constituents and their top-level decision-makers attend and participate actively?
- ❑ How do we engage these stakeholders in the WTDC preparatory process (e.g. online consultations, Town Hall type meetings, preparatory meetings)?
- ❑ In the present crisis, connectivity is a priority, but one that will only be championed if those who need it, and those who can provide it, are present at WTDC.

March and April Web Dialogue

Topic 4 – Side Events



- In recent years, thematic side events focusing on areas of interest for the membership have taken place on the margins of the conference.
- Should these in-depth discussions remain side events or should they become an integral part of the conference?
- What topics should be discussed during these side events and the Youth Summit?
- How should these topics be structured?
- What should the output of these events be?

March and April Web Dialogue Outcomes

The deliberations at the web dialogues were collated into three high level concepts for WTDC preparations, submitted by the BDT Director to TDAG-20

1. Preparatory Process

- a. Comprehensive preparatory process that includes a non-binding Inter-Regional coordination meetings (IRMs) with clear format, agenda
- b. Representation in IRMs with co-ordination between RPMs and RTOs
- c. Coordination on conference theme
- d. Leverage on selected high profile events to promote WTDC

2. During the Conference

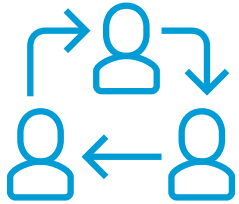
- a. Merge high level segment and side events into thematic events (development track)

3. Strategic Plan

- a. WTDC would not discuss the ITU-D Contribution to ITU Strategic Plan in detail. The Strategic Plan would be addressed by a TDAG Group.



The WTDC-21 Preparation Process

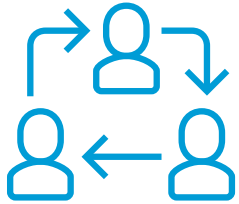


TDAG-20, held virtually from 2 to 5 June 2020, discussed using the proposals presented by the Director as a basis for the way forward.

TDAG Decided:

- ✓ To form 2 TDAG Working Groups to assist the Director of the BDT on the implementation of the proposals and preparation for WTDC-21, with due consultation and collaboration with ITU membership and the TDAG Management Team:
 1. Working Group on WTDC-21 Preparation
 2. Working Group on Resolutions, Declaration and Thematic Priorities

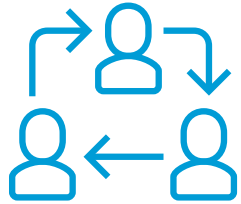
The WTDC-21 Preparation Process



TDAG convened an Extraordinary Virtual TDAG Session on 16 June 2020 at which TDAG:

- ✓ Appointed chairs for the Working Groups
- ✓ Discussed and agreed Terms of Reference for the WTDC Working Groups
- ✓ Decided to convene a further Extraordinary Virtual Meeting before the end of 2020, to review and decide on recommendations of the Working Groups.

The WTDC-21 Preparation Process – TDAG-WG-Prep



Working Group on WTDC-21 Preparations ([TDAG-WG-Prep](#))

Chair – Santiago Reyes-Borda, Canada

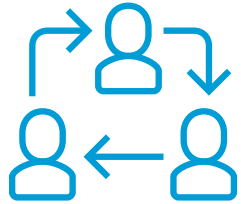
- Review WTDC preliminary proposals on WTDC-21 preparatory process;
- In consultation with ITU membership and the TDAG Bureau, make recommendations for arrangements with preparatory meetings and events prior to the conference;
- Develop proposals and make recommendations that might enhance the arrangements for the conference, including:
 - Conference content;
 - Determination of conference theme(s);
 - Consider the Thematic tracks;
 - Key Stakeholders

The WTDC-21 Preparation Process – TDAG-WG-RDTP

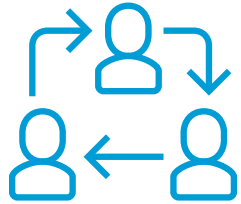
**Working Group on Resolutions, Declaration and Thematic
Priorities ([TDAG-WG-RDTP](#))**

Chair – Dr. Ahmad Sharafat, Iran

- Review WTDC resolutions, examine their number and subject matter, and consider streamlining, to avoid repetitions and duplication with the Resolutions of the Plenipotentiary Conference.
- Align the ITU-D thematic priorities, proposed regional initiatives and proposed study group questions;
- Propose elements and make recommendations to ITU membership for the future draft Declaration;
- Report its outcomes to TDAG.



The WTDC-21 Preparation Process – Next Steps



- Both Working Groups will deliberate and produce Reports submitted for TDAG consideration
- Reports to be completed by 1 November 2020
- Working Group recommendations to be considered at TDAG Extraordinary Meeting which is tentatively expected to be convened for 23 November 2020
- Decisions will inform preparations to be made by BDT

How to Participate



1. Active engagement and participation of members in the deliberations of the Working Groups:
 - Inaugural Meetings of both Working Groups will be on 16 July 2020
 - [Open to all Membership](#)
 - Fully electronic/virtual working methods
2. Encourage all stakeholders to take part in the ICT agenda and WTDC-21
 - i. Partnership on programmes and projects
 - ii. Explore financing possibilities
3. Together build a BDT that is Fit4Purpose – The entire ecosystem is required to advance the connectivity agenda

Thank you!

bdtdirector@itu.int

