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| C:\Users\comas\AppData\Local\Temp\Rar$DRa0.735\jpg\ITU official logo_blue_RGB.jpg**TDAG Working Group on Resolutions, Declaration and Thematic Priorities****21 January 2021, Virtual** |
|  | **Document TDAG-WG-RDTP/20-E** |
|  | **18 January 2021** |
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| **Title:** | Proposal for WTDC-21 Thematic Priorities |

TDAG, noting that 3.7 billion people remain unconnected, has adopted “**Connecting the Unconnected to Achieve Sustainable Development”** as the theme of the 2021 World Telecommunication Development Conference (Addis Ababa, 2021). Ensuring a ubiquitous, equitable and affordable connectivity has become increasingly more important in the context of the global pandemic that continues to cause serious socioeconomic shifts and an increasing reliance on ICTs. This was also noted in the UNSG's Digital Cooperation Roadmap.

The work of BDT is aligned along Topics that emanate from its objectives, programmes, projects, and initiatives. Hence, such Topics play a key role in facilitating coordination and creating synergies with different stakeholders and within the BDT for achieving ITU-D mandates and objectives. The following are the ten topics based on WTDC-17 Buenos Aires Action Plan (BAP) as presented in Document [TDAG-WG-RDTP/2-E](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG26.RDTP-C-0002/en) (13 July 2020):

1. Capacity Development
2. Cybersecurity
3. Digital Inclusion
4. Digital Innovation Ecosystems
5. Digital Services & Applications
6. Emergency Telecommunications
7. Environment
8. Networks & Digital Infrastructure
9. Policy & Regulation
10. Statistics

For better impact, more coherence, improved coordination and enhanced clarity, clustering of Topics into Thematic Priorities can be considered by combining related topics. The objective is to present succinct and comprehensive Thematic Priorities that are aligned with the theme of the Conference and at the same time facilitate the work and management of BDT. The Topics that can be considered as supporting components of the Thematic Priorities should emanate from the Addis Ababa Action Plan to be adopted by WTDC-21 and will determine the work of ITU-D over the next four years (2022-2025). In what follows, four Thematic Priorities are proposed to assist ITU membership in their preparations for WTDC-21 and to start discussions in TDAG-WG RDTP with a view to achieving a fit-for-purpose ITU-D:

1. **Connectivity:** The focus of this Thematic Priority is on the deployment of modern, available, secure, accessible, and affordable broadband telecommunication/ICT infrastructure. This Thematic Priority would seek to foster the development of infrastructure and services by utilizing new and emerging digital technologies, including building confidence and security in the use of telecommunications/ICT. The needs of LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS should be prioritized and given due attention. The following topics can be considered as supporting components of this Thematic Priority: ***Future Networks and Digital Infrastructure*, *Cybersecurity****,* and ***Emergency Telecommunications****.*
2. **Digital Society:** The focus of this Thematic Priority is on the development and use of telecommunications/ICTs and applications and services to close the Digital Divides and empower people and societies for sustainable development. This is of critical importance as societies adapt to the changes that are needed to reengineer as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. In doing so, there is need to recognize the important role that women and youth can play in making the digital society a reality. The following topics can be considered as supporting components of this Thematic Priority: ***Digital Inclusion***, ***Digital Services and Applications***, and ***Environment.***
3. **Enabling Environment:** The focus of this Thematic Priority is on fostering an enabling policy and regulatory environment conducive to sustainable telecommunication/ICT development. This Thematic Priority comprises key enablers that underpin ITU’s work to deliver on the Connectivity and Digital Society priorities. The following topics can be considered as supporting components of this Thematic Priority:***Statistics****,* ***Digital Innovation Ecosystems, Policy and Regulatory environments****,* and ***Capacity Development****.*
4. **Resource Mobilization and International Cooperation:** The focus of this Thematic Priority is on mobilizing and attracting resources and fostering international cooperation on telecommunication/ICT development issues. This Thematic Priority is also cross cutting by providing the resources and fostering international cooperation to deliver the relevant global outcomes. The following topics can be considered as the supporting components of this Thematic Priority: ***Projects, Partnerships, Membership,*** and ***ITU-D Study Groups***.

The concerns and needs of LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS are crosscutting across all Thematic Priorities. Below is a pictorial presentation of the above concepts, mapping thematic priorities to topics and their boundaries.



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