ITU WTDC

ADDIS ABABA 2021

Proposed Thematic Priorities for ITU-D

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Thematic Priorities

➢ We aim at **grouping** related work areas with the sole purpose of better coordination in BDT for optimal allocation of resources.

➢ Each thematic priority has a number of **supporting components** that currently are known as **Programmes** in ITU-D. The supporting components within each Thematic Priority will be treated in the same way programmes were treated in the past.

➢ As previously discussed in TDAG, it is very desirable to have **fewer**, **more focused**, and **consolidated** Thematic Priorities for better management.

➢ The proposed Thematic Priorities are in line with the theme of WTDC, which is **Connecting the Unconnected to Achieve Sustainable Development**.

➢ The Thematic Priorities and their supporting components will be contained in the **Addis Ababa Action Plan** under the section that had programmes in all previous WTDCs.

TP1: Connectivity

The focus of this Thematic Priority is on 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 following activity areas/topics pertain to this Thematic Priority:

- *Deployment of Future Networks*

- *Resilient and Safe Digital Infrastructure (*including EMF-related issues, availability, and reliability),

- *Cybersecurity,*

- *Connectivity in the Era of Pandemics and Other Disasters*, and

- *Emergency Telecommunications*.

TP2: Digital Transformation

The focus of this Thematic Priority is on the development of telecommunications/ICTs and use of ICT-centric applications and services to close the Digital Divide and empower people and societies for sustainable development.

This is of critical importance as societies re-adapt to the changes caused by Covid-19 pandemic. Also, the important role that women and youth can play in making the digital society a reality is recognized.

The following activity areas/topics pertain to this Thematic Priority:

- ***Digital Services and Applications*** *(health, education, agriculture, OTTs, etc.),*

- ***Digital Economy*** (e-commerce, new business models, job market re-engineering, trade, and investment),

- ***Digital Innovation Ecosystems,*** and

- ***Environment*** *(climate change, and e-waste).*

TP3: Enabling Environment (*cross-cutting*)

The focus of this Thematic Priority is on fostering an enabling policy and regulatory environment conducive to sustainable telecommunication/ICT development.

This Thematic Priority is cross cutting by providing key enablers that underpin the ITU's work to deliver on the Connectivity and Digital Transformation priorities.

The following activity areas/topics pertain to this Thematic Priority:

- ***Data and Market Analysis** (statistics),*

- ***Policy and Regulation*** (Internet related issues, Consumer Protection and Privacy, etc.)

- ***Digital Inclusion*** (gender issues, persons with disabilities and specific needs, financial inclusion, youth, and indigenous people),

- ***Capacity and Skills Development**.*

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TP4: Resource Mobilization and International Cooperation (*cross-cutting*)

The focus of this Thematic Priority is on mobilizing and attracting resources and fostering international cooperation on telecommunication/ICT development issues.

The needs of LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS should be prioritized and given due attention.

The following activity areas/topics pertain to this Thematic Priority:

- *Projects*,

- *Partnerships*,

- *Mainstreaming the Needs of LDCS, LLDCs, and SIDS*,

- *WSIS and SDGs*,

- *Membership Engagement for Better Impact*, and

- *ITU-D Study Groups*.