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| **Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG)**  **31st Meeting, Geneva, Switzerland, 20-23 May 2024** | A close up of a sign  Description automatically generated |
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|  | **Document** **TDAG-2****4/36-E** |
|  | **8 May 2024** |
|  | **Original:** **English** |
| Director, Telecommunication Development Bureau | |
| Improved project financial monitoring and reporting | |
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| **Summary:**  This document provides information on measures that have been introduced by the BDT to improve financial monitoring and reporting for BDT projects.  **Action required:**  TDAG is invited to note this document and provide guidance as deemed appropriate.  **References:**  Resolutions 17 (Rev. Kigali, 2022) and 52 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC)  Resolution 157 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference | |

# Introduction

Document TDAG-24/7(Rev.1) presents an overview of the status of the portfolio of ongoing BDT projects in 2023 and it also includes a list of measures taken in 2023 to reinforce project management practices.

The BDT Director introduced a new practice requiring that regular reports be submitted to funding partners and donors of BDT projects. Although partners and donors could request progress reports on their projects being implemented by the BDT at any time, reports have now to be submitted to each partner half yearly, i.e. after every (6) six months. To implement this decision, a team has been set up with staff from Financial Resources Management Department (FRMD), Information Services Department (IS) and the BDT to make it possible to view on demand transactions related to a project and fast-track project closures and ensure timely financial reporting.

# Purpose

* The goal is to ensure real-time monitoring and timely financial reporting from 2024 onwards. Benefits of this measure include: *Reduction in reporting delays*: An automated system will enable ITU to generate and disseminate financial reports instantaneously. ITU’s current reporting method involves lengthy data collection, consolidation, and processing. By eliminating manual data entry and streamlining reporting workflows, the new reporting will minimize reporting delays.
* *Real-Time Visibility*: Automated real-time financial reports will provide management and project managers with instantaneous access to up-to-date financial information. Unlike the current reports that are generated periodically, real-time reports will offer a comprehensive view of financial activities as they occur. This will allow management and project managers to monitor fund utilization in real-time, to mitigate misuse of funds or fraud. *Timely Decision Making*: Automated real-time financial reports will enable project managers and funding partners to make informed decisions promptly, allowing them to make early decisions regarding reallocation of resources or budget line adjustments as appropriate.
* *Enhanced Accountability and Transparency*: Real-time reporting will contribute to strengthening a culture of transparency and accountability, leading to responsible financial management practices and minimizing the risk of mismanagement and fraud. This work is conducted within the ITU's Accountability Framework.

# Current status

A project team was set up in April 2024 to study the scope of required IT improvements and develop appropriate solutions. In ITU, SAP is the central repository for financial transactions. However, issues related to extraction of data, and data quality were identified. Through the current intervention, solutions have been developed and testing has begun.

By June 2024 some BDT projects will be used as prototypes for testing the automated reporting. If the proof of concept is successful, then the rest of the projects will be automated including the development of a power BI dashboard as an intelligence tool that provides data visualization and a reporting platform. The results of this work will be presented to future sessions of TDAG.

TDAG is invited to note this document and provide guidance as deemed appropriate.

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