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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****4/51-E** |
|  | **15 July 2024** |
|  | **Original:** **English** |
| Chair, Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG) | |
| Report of the 31st TDAG Meeting | |
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**Introduction and highlights**

The Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG) held its annual meeting under the chairmanship of Roxanne McElvane Webber (United States) from 20 to 23 May 2024. The meeting attracted 175 participants, including 84 female and 91 male participants from 68 countries, with 99 participants present physically to consider 49 contributions.

At the opening of the meeting, the Chair expressed condolences to the Islamic Republic of Iran for the tragic accident that occurred the previous day and invited TDAG participants to observe a moment of silence. Throughout the deliberations, many delegations extended their condolences during their interventions.

During this 2024 session, as a principal matter, BDT Director Dr Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava and his team reported on the extensive activities the BDT has undertaken to implement the Kigali Action Plan (KAP) adopted at WTDC-22, along with other projects and activities, including the 2024 ITU-D Operational Plan, which TDAG endorsed. Some of the notable achievements by the BDT include capacity building for 7800 registrants at the ITU Academy, trained via 120 courses delivered through Digital Transformation Centres, resource mobilization efforts totalling nearly 30 million USD, complemented by a new BDT practice to report biannually to donors on their projects, 63 new members,[[1]](#footnote-2) 36 new projects, 117 new partnership agreements, 17 Acceleration Centres for innovation and entrepreneurship, new dashboards for membership to monitor actions taken to implement the ITU-D Operational Plan and ITU-D projects, agenda and plans for WTDC-25, publication of statistics and long-awaited indices, and jointly with the UAE Cyber Security Council, receiving five Guiness World Records for hosting a record number of cyber security capacity building events.

TDAG also endorsed a draft agenda for WTDC-25, appointed Ms. Blanca Gonzalez (Spain) and Ms. Shahad Albalawi (Saudi Arabia) as ITU-D representatives to the Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG) on the topic of digital transformation, approved two reply liaison statements -- one to the ITU Council on the criteria for establishing future ITU area and regional offices, and the other to the Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group (TSAG) confirming Digital Transformation as an integral part of the ITU-D mandate established by WTDC-22 -- and created three additional groups to prepare for the 2025 World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-25):

* TDAG Working Group on ITU-D Priorities (TDAG-WG-ITUDP) led by TDAG Vice Chair Mr. Christopher Kemei (Kenya) with assistance from TDAG Vice Chairs Blanca Gonzalez (Spain) and Dr Ahmad Sharafat (Iran);
* TDAG Working Group on the WTDC Declaration (TDAG-WG-DEC) led by TDAG Vice Chair Mr. Abdulkarim Oloyede (Nigeria); and the
* TDAG Informal Coordination Group on the Global Youth Summit (TDAG-ICG-GYS) coordinated by TDAG Vice Chairs Ms. Agustina BRIZIO (Argentina), Ms. Ke WANG (China), Mr. Abdoulkarim OLOYEDE (Nigeria) and Ms. Shahad ALBALAWI (Saudi Arabia).

These groups will augment those created at TDAG 2023:

* TDAG Working Group on the Future of Study Group Questions (TDAG-WG-futureSGQ) chaired by TDAG Vice Chair Dr. Ahmed Sharafat with Vice Chairs Mrs Regina Fleur Assoumou Bessou (Côte d’Ivoire, SG1 Chair) and Mr Fadel Digham (Egypt, SG2 Chair); and the
* TDAG Working Group on Streamlining Resolutions (TDAG-WG-SR), chaired by Ms Andrea Grippa (Brazil) with Vice Chairs Ms. Blanca Gonzalez (Spain) and Ms. Agustina Brizo (Argentina).

All TDAG groups are open to all ITU-D Membership.

The following TDAG Vice-Chairs were present and participated in the meeting,[[2]](#footnote-3) as were the chairs of the ITU Development Sector study groups:

| **Position** | **Country** | **Name** |
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| Chair | United States | **Roxanne McElvane WEBBER** |
| Vice-Chair (Chair, Study Group 1) | Côte d'Ivoire | **Regina Fleur Assoumou BESSOU** |
| Vice-Chair (Chair, Study Group 2) | Egypt | **Fadel DIGHAM** |
| Vice-Chair – Africa | Kenya | **Christopher Kipkoech KEMEI** |
| Nigeria | **Abdulkarim Ayopo OLOYEDE** |
| Vice-Chair – Americas | Argentina | **Agustina BRIZIO** |
| Brazil | **Andrea Mamprim GRIPPA** |
| Vice-Chair – Asia and the Pacific | China | **Ke WANG** |
| Iran (Islamic Rep. of) | **Ahmad Reza SHARAFAT** |
| Vice-Chair from Arab states | Saudi Arabia | **Shahad ALBALAWI** |
| Vice-Chair from Europe | Spain | **Blanca GONZÁLEZ** |

All Regional Directors and Department Heads from the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) were present to discuss outcomes from their respective portfolios, as was the Chair of the Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG), Mr Fabio Bigi (Italy), Chair of the Industry Advisory Group on Development Issues and the Private Sector, Mr. Bocar Ba (CEO, SAMENA Telecommunications Council) and the new Chair of the Group on Capacity Building Initiatives (CGBI) Professor Mustapha Benjillali.

TDAG featured a number of innovative sessions including an interactive conversation between the BDT Director and the Regional Directors and Chiefs of Department on actions taken in each region to implement the Kigali Action Plan (see Annex 1).

During another interactive session, TDAG participants were asked to share their views on three questions with results displayed via mentimeter: “Moving forward, what are your suggestions to help us strengthen the work of BDT?”, “What does WTDC mean to you?” and “What should be the theme of a WTDC song?” (see Annex 2).

A segment recognizing partners and members (see Annex 3) and a meeting of the TDAG Working Group on Streamlining Resolutions (TDAG-WG-SR) (see agenda item 7 below) were also featured, as well as an ITU-D Network of Women (NoW) social event titled *Mainstream Gender: from Music to Action* which featured Giovanna di Marzo, Director of ISS at the University of Geneva, and culminated with an operatic performance by Ms Varduhi Khachatryan, Lyric singer and President of the Avetis Association who sang lyrics by Puccini, Bellini and Bizet.

A draft summary of conclusions of the meeting can be found in document [DT/9](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG31-240520-TD-0009/en).

Broadly speaking, TDAG discussed various facets of digital transformation, strategic planning, and inclusivity within the ITU-D framework, and reflected on the following key categories of achievements by the BDT:

* Significant progress in implementing the Kigali Action Plan, which aims to enhance digital connectivity and bridge the digital divide.
* Advancements in digital connectivity projects providing improved access to digital services in underserved and remote regions.
* Resource mobilization as mentioned above to support important digital transformation initiatives which involved securing funding and forming strategic partnerships with member states, private sector entities, and international organizations.
* Ramped up efforts in capacity building and digital skills training for stakeholders in different regions.
* Innovative Solutions and Partnerships to develop and implement cutting-edge solutions that address the challenges of digital transformation.
* Impactful Initiatives, demonstrating tangible benefits in the regions, including projects related to e-waste management, early warning systems, and broadband infrastructure mapping.

1. **Address by the Secretary-General**

On behalf of the Secretary-General, Mr. Tomas Lamanauskas, Deputy Secretary-General, addressed the TDAG.

He first expressed his condolences to the Islamic Republic of Iran for the tragic accident that happened, extending sympathy to the families affected, welcomed the TDAG community and recalled the recent celebrations of the World Telecommunication and Information Society Day marking ITU’s 159th birthday. The Deputy Secretary-General also recalled ITU’s mission to connect the world and build a better digital future for all, achieving universal and meaningful connectivity, and driving sustainable digital transformation. He thanked the BDT Director and his team for their dedication.

The Deputy Secretary-General highlighted ITU-led Partner2Connect Digital Coalition pledges to enhance digital connectivity in remote areas, aiming for $100 billion by 2026 and noted that significant new pledges are expected at next week’s WSIS+20 High-Level Event in Geneva. The WSIS community’s dedication to inclusive digital development is crucial, especially ahead of the Summit of the Future in September, where the Global Digital Compact will reinvigorate international digital cooperation. He reiterated ITU’s support in key UN processes, including conferences on Small Island Developing States and Landlocked Developing Countries, emphasizing digital technologies’ transformative power for these regions.

The Deputy Secretary-General stressed ITU’s development activities creating synergies with ITU’s role as an international standards body, ensuring for example digital solutions that aid in overcoming the climate crisis.

Despite rising e-waste, ITU strives for effective green digital action and improved material efficiency. Addressing digital divides is crucial as preparation of the 2025 World Telecommunication Development Conference is on-going.

Strengthening ITU’s engagement with member states and UN agencies, ITU will be transparent, efficient, forward-looking, and committed to gender equality.

Finally, Deputy Secretary-General Tomas Lamanauskas wished the participants a successful TDAG, anticipating the results of their deliberations for the upcoming Council discussions.

1. **Address by the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau**

Dr. Zavazava welcomed TDAG delegates, including TDAG Chair Roxanne McElvane Webber, Vice Chairs, and other esteemed participants. He outlined the critical role of TDAG in reviewing the priorities, strategies, operations, and financial matters of the Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D), particularly in advising on the implementation of the Kigali Action Plan between World Telecommunication Development Conferences (WTDCs).

In his address Dr. Zavazava reported significant achievements since January 2023, including the mobilization of a record CHF 27.8 million, the implementation of 87 projects valued at CHF 106.4 million, and the unprecedented growth in ITU-D membership, specifically the addition of 63 new members, including academia, associates, and others.

Efforts have been directed towards impactful areas such as e-waste management, broadband infrastructure, national emergency telecommunications plans, innovation, and capacity building in ICTs. These efforts have led to breaking six Guinness World Records, thanks to support from various partners, including the UAE Cybersecurity Council.

Dr. Zavazava emphasized the publication of the ICT Development Index (IDI) after a six-year hiatus and the initiation of measuring universal meaningful connectivity, with significant financial support from the European Union. The ITU Academy Digital Skills development project and Academy Training Centres initiative have also been instrumental in bridging the digital skills gap, supported by partners like NORAD and CISCO.

Looking ahead, Dr. Zavazava indicated that the focus would remain on accountable, responsive, efficient, transparent, and forward-looking implementation of projects and operational activities. Key upcoming events include the release of this year's IDI and Cybersecurity Index, the Global Symposium for Regulators in Uganda, the Global Digital Skills event in Bahrain, and the Global Innovation Forum in Malta. A Youth Summit is also planned, featuring training on emerging technologies.

For 2025, Dr. Zavazava outlined plans for regional preparatory meetings and the WTDC in November, with discussions ongoing regarding the host country. The TDAG aims to organize a celebratory youth event, pending agreement from the host country and TDAG-24.

In conclusion, Dr. Zavazava expressed gratitude to all member states for their contributions and emphasized the impact of TDAG's work on millions of lives globally. He acknowledged the support from various ITU sectors and the dedication of BDT staff. Dr. Zavazava also stressed the importance of work-life balance and the need to streamline resolutions to avoid duplication in future efforts.

Dr. Zavazava concluded by wishing all attendees a successful TDAG-24.

The BDT Director’s full opening remarks are available on the [Director’s corner](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/bdt-director/Pages/Speeches.aspx?ItemID=529) of the BDT website.

1. **Opening remarks by the Chair of TDAG**

Ms. Roxanne McElvane Webber warmly welcomed attendees, expressing gratitude for the thoughtful contributions received, with 49 items to address during the week. She indicated that key discussions would include the upcoming WTDC, the Global Youth Summit, and the implementation of the Kigali Action Plan and Operational Plan through 2028.

The Chair conveyed appreciation for the support from her administration and the privilege of working with dedicated colleagues. The Chair emphasized the goal of endorsing the Operational Plan by week’s end, in accord with outcomes from previous TDAGs. Encouraging open dialogue, the Chair highlighted the importance of understanding the BDT’s activities, regional engagements, and the progress of study groups.

Chair of TDAG thanked the ITU Deputy Secretary-General, and the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau for outlining ITU's vision and for the impressive volume of work undertaken by the BDT.

The Chair also gave the floor to the Chairs of ITU-D study groups and the TDAG vice chairs representing each of the regions and the directors of each of the ITU regional offices in a round of introductions as part of the initiation of all participants for the new TDAG cycle.

The Chair requested that TDAG participants orient all deliberations and decisions towards connecting the unconnected, especially in planning for a successful WTDC-25 that will promote meaningful, affordable, safe, and secure connectivity, and to keep these objectives top of mind regardless of any differences held, since all participants are working towards these principal goals.

In considering the numerous and highly detailed reporting documents presented for consideration, she asked TDAG participants to reflect on the fact that behind the myriad statistics and numbers reported, are *people*, and the activities undertaken by the BDT impact real individuals in the world. She noted that the impressive amount of financial resources raised reflect that others outside of ITU believe in the work that is performed by the BDT, and that TDAG can appreciate that important and meaningful activities that impact the world for good are being conducted on behalf of membership. TDAG, she hoped, would help ensure that BDT activities are carried out as efficiently as possible, with as much consultation as was useful.

The Chair encouraged all participants to acquaint themselves with the Regional Directors and Department Heads present from the field, and with other TDAG participants from around the globe, to take advantage of a convenient opportunity presented by the annual TDAG meeting to engage with one another.

The chair outlined the role of TDAG to advise the BDT Director, to review priorities, programmes, operation, financial matters, and strategies for the Development Sector, to guide the work of ITU-D study groups and coordinate with the other ITU Sectors, and the obligation to report to the WTDC and noted the strong work ethic and experience of this outstanding TDAG and ITU-D team that will help ITU-D to move forward and implement BDT4impact.

In recounting the expectations for the TDAG meeting and its outcomes as determined by relevant resolutions, the chair reminded the TDAG participants that the next WTDC is expected to take place in roughly one and a half years and that advice, decisions, and activities would need to be considered in that context and timeframe.

1. **Adoption of the agenda and Time Management Plan**

**Document** [**1(Rev.1)**](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG31-C-0001/) **(Director, BDT) - Draft agenda**

**Document** [**DT/1(Rev.1-6)**](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG31-240520-TD-0001/) **(Director, BDT) - Time Management Plan**

**Document** [**DT/2**](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG31-240520-TD-0002/) **(Director, BDT) - Guidance for remote participants to TDAG-24**

The agenda contained in document [1(Rev.1)](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG31-C-0001/), the time management plan contained in document [DT/1(Rev.3)](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG31-240520-TD-0001/), the guidance for remote participants to TDAG-24 contained in document [DT/2](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG31-240520-TD-0002/) were presented and considered by TDAG.

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| TDAG agreed to the proposed agenda.  TDAG noted the time management plan and the guidance for remote participants to TDAG-24 documents. |

1. **Reporting on the implementation of the ITU-D Action Plan**
   1. **Implementation of the Kigali Action Plan (KAP)**

**Document** [**2(Rev.1)**](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG31-C-0002/) **(Director, BDT) - Reporting on the implementation of the Kigali Action Plan (KAP)**

Presented by the BDT Secretariat, the report provided an update on the implementation of the Kigali Action Plan (KAP) from June 2023 until April 2024, highlighting key achievements across all six of the regions, in line with KAP objectives and in accordance with ITU-D priorities and enablers. It also reported on the results of the exercise undertaken by BDT to aggregate the key performance indicators (KPIs) as requested by TDAG-23. Accordingly, the document reported on 18 outcome indicators and 27 output indicators for a total of 45 indicators.

Activities undertaken to implement the KAP include: Early Warnings for All Road Maps; 5G infrastructure business plans and associated toolkit; a new IPV6 Laboratory; 6 Regional Development Forums with Partner 2 Connect (P2C) matchmaking; The Innovation and Entrepreneurship Initiative and activities; the Smart villages and Smart Islands Initiative; 17 Acceleration Centres for innovation and entrepreneurship around the globe with a new Board of Directors; GovStack Women having trained 139 during this time period; digital transformation workshops; digital skills assessments; the PRIDA project for spectrum management and emerging technologies; 7800 new users registered at ITU Academy trained via 120 courses delivered through Digital Transformation Centres, 5 new digital regulation country reviews produced; G5 Benchmarks for Regulation published; statistical data published, including measurements for SIDs, LLDCs and the long-awaited ICT Development Index; CIRTs Team projects; the Cyber for Good Initiative (benefitting 23 LDCs); Cyber Drills, between Jan 23 and April 2024, 36 new projects 117 agreements, 66 of which are valued at 27.8 million USD; Jointly with the UAE Cyber Security Council, 5 Guiness World Records awarded for hosting a record number of cyber security capacity building events; accessible regional events, youth engagement; the ITU-D Network of Women, Girls in ICT, climate change adaption/environmental sustainability and related publications, e.g., the Global e-Waste monitor.

A [video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L2Hh8spyOQ0) was also presented to visually summarize the extensive data and achievements reported in Document [2(Rev.1)](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG31-C-0002/).

TDAG expressed appreciation for the highly detailed and well-organized reporting and highlighted the significance of projects such as early warning systems and broadband infrastructure mapping in their region, emphasizing their importance for achieving digital transformation.

A request was made for more detailed information on the implementation of Resolution 9 related to spectrum management issues. The BDT Director provided clarifications on a mapping exercise to be completed ahead of WTDC-25 to demonstrate the implementation of ITU-D resolutions and actions taken.

TDAG participants highlighted the positive impact of the Smart Village and Smart Islands initiative in their country, mentioning new economic activities resulting from improved digital literacy and connectivity, and sought further assistance for nationwide rollout.

TDAG discussed the need for better alignment between qualitative and quantitative aspects of reporting, suggesting that the impact of initiatives should be measured not only by numbers but also by qualitative benefits.

TDAG participants voiced support for the initiatives presented and the reporting process, emphasizing the positive reception of ITU’s efforts in their country, particularly in innovation and entrepreneurship.

A suggestion was made to obtain feedback from individuals who received training to assess the practical impact of these initiatives, providing concrete evidence of the benefits of ITU programs.

Emphasis was placed on the importance of distinguishing between activities, outputs, and outcomes, and the need for clear measurement of the impact of these initiatives.

The discussions were concluded with a demonstration of the Dashboard, a tool designed to provide a visual representation of the progress made on the implementation of KAP both on the budget and outcome perspectives.

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| TDAG noted the document with appreciation. Member States provided several comments, questions and guidance on outputs and outcomes resulting from implementation of the KAP activities. |

**Document** [**2(Ann.1)**](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG31-C-0002/) **(Director, BDT) - ITU-D Operational Plan Dashboards**

BDT Secretariat presented Annex 1 of Document 2, which is the Dashboard for the Operational Plan. This Dashboard is a comprehensive tool designed to provide a visual representation of the progress and budget implementation related to the Kigali Action Plan. The presentation highlighted the following key points:

* The Dashboard aligns with results-based management principles and incorporates aggregated KPIs. It is structured to show progress on each ITUD priority and enabler, featuring budget implementation, outcomes, and outputs.
* For 2023, the Dashboard shows a budget implementation level of 82%. It describes budget allocation per region, demonstrating the effective use of resources across different areas.
* The Dashboard includes outcome KPIs for each ITU-D priority and enabler, showing the progress made in 2023 and the targets for 2025. This provides a high-level view of the impact ITU-D activities aim to achieve.
* The Dashboard also summarizes key outputs from 2023, such as the number of countries assisted, technical assistance provided, capacity development efforts, and partnerships formed. It also links these outputs to relevant SDGs and WSIS action lines.
* The Dashboard features a virtual survey to gather feedback from member states, aimed at continuously improving the tool to meet users’ needs.

The Chairman thanked all for the fruitful comments and invited TDAG members to review the dashboard in their own time and undertake the [survey](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/B1TC47BR), as requested by the Secretariat, to share their feedback with a view to improve this tool.

The presentation and subsequent discussions highlighted the Dashboard as a valuable tool for monitoring and evaluating the progress of the Kigali Action Plan. TDAG appreciated the detailed visual representation and provided constructive feedback to further enhance its utility and comprehensiveness. The inclusion of qualitative measures alongside quantitative data was emphasized to better capture the impact of ITU’s initiatives.

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| TDAG noted the document with appreciation. Member States made several comments, asked questions and gave guidance regarding the dashboard as presented. The [dashboard](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Conferences/TDAG/Pages/dashboards/2024/Operational-Plan-Reporting-Dashboard.aspx) is available on the [TDAG website](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Conferences/TDAG/Pages/2024/default.aspx) with access limited to TIES account holders. Developed as a new and easier way for Membership to track progress of the operational plan, the Chair encouraged delegates to provide additional feedback by using the link on the dashboard webpage to answer the survey embedded for this purpose. |

**Document** [**22**](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG31-C-0022/) **(Director, BDT) - Report on cyber-related activities mapping exercise requested in document TDAG-23/43**

This document presented the mapping exercise carried out by the BDT and ways forward including the development of a dashboard, adding additional past activities and continuing to add new activities and data as they become available.

TDAG acknowledged efforts made by both the BDT and the Study Group 3/2 co-rapporteur.

The presentation and subsequent discussion underscored the significant progress made by ITU-D in the field of cybersecurity. TDAG appreciated the detailed mapping of activities and provided constructive feedback to enhance future reports. The importance of regional-specific approaches, capacity building, and inter-agency coordination was emphasized to ensure the effectiveness of cybersecurity initiatives across different regions.

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| TDAG took note of the document with appreciation, acknowledging that it had been prepared at the request of participants at the 2023 TDAG meeting. TDAG also took note of the number of activities which benefitted each region: Africa: 15; Americas: 7, Arab States: 10; Asia and the Pacific: 12; Commonwealth of Independent States: 6; Europe: 8. |

* 1. **Operational Plan 2024 (OP-24)**

**Document** [**12**](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG31-C-0012/) **(Director, BDT) - ITU-D Operational Plan 2024**

This document provided an overview of the process undertaken by the Bureau in planning activities deployed under OP-24.

TDAG was informed that the process, anchored in the principles of results-based management, involved internal discussions within BDT as well as thorough consultations with Member States in all regions, taking into account the outcomes of the Kigali Action Plan, including Regional Initiatives.

Budget allocation was presented and TDAG was invited to visit the OP dashboard published on the TDAG website to view implementation levels across regions as well as by ITU-D Priorities and Enablers.

The presentation and discussion underscored the effectiveness of the BDT’s planning and budgeting processes for 2024.

TDAG expressed great appreciation for the detailed information provided, particularly in relation to the budget allocated for implementing the Kigali Action Plan.

TDAG thanked the BDT for actively engaging members in the planning process, emphasizing that such involvement ensures the programs are relevant and impactful for member needs.

TDAG discussed the importance of ensuring that the implementation of the Operational Plan leads to tangible outcomes that address regional and global priorities, and stressed the need for continued focus on impactful activities and initiatives.

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| TDAG endorsed the document and the activities being deployed under the 2024 operational plan. |

**Document** [**49(Rev.1)**](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG31-C-0049/) **(Report by the Secretary-General) - ITU-D draft operational plan for 2025-2028 and 2023 performance report**

The document outlined the comprehensive plan for ITU-D’s activities from 2025 to 2028 and provides a performance report for 2023. The plan aligned with the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference recommendations and provides detailed sector-specific results, key performance indicators (KPIs), and risk factors along with human resource indicators. The Secretariat emphasized the need for member states’ analysis and guidance to ensure successful implementation of the plan.

The presentation and subsequent discussion highlighted the comprehensive nature of the Operational Plan for 2025-2028 and the achievements of 2023. TDAG appreciated the detailed sector-specific focus and emphasized the importance of financial considerations, transparency, and coordination to ensure the effective use of resources and the achievement of ITU’s strategic objectives.

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| TDAG took note of the document. |

**Document** [**20**](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG31-C-0020/) **(TSAG) - Incoming LS - Liaison Statement on work on Digital Transformation**

**Document** [**DT/6(Rev.2)**](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG31-240520-TD-0006/en) **- Reply liaison statement to TSAG: Work on Digital Transformation (Chair, TDAG)**

The BDT Secretariat presented document 20 summarizing the Standardization Bureau’s work on digital transformation. The document focused on a gap analysis of sustainable digital transformation activities across ITU sectors (ITU-T, ITU-D, and ITU-R) and other standardization bodies.

TDAG expressed appreciation for the detailed gap analysis and the collaborative approach taken by TSAG and BDT. TDAG stressed the importance of avoiding duplication and redundancy, and ensuring the efficient use of resources, noting that a well-coordinated effort would be critical to the success of digital transformation initiatives.

A significant portion of the discussion focused on the mechanisms for ensuring that digital transformation initiatives are well-coordinated across different sectors. TDAG emphasized the need for a clear and unified strategy to guide these efforts, with specific attention to preventing overlap and ensuring that all initiatives are complementary and aligned with ITU’s strategic goals.

The importance of involving a broad range of stakeholders, including member states, private sector entities, and other relevant organizations, was widely acknowledged. TDAG suggested enhancing stakeholder engagement through regular consultations and feedback sessions. The need for robust monitoring and reporting mechanisms to track the progress of digital transformation initiatives was also discussed. TDAG agreed on the importance of transparency and accountability in these efforts, suggesting that regular progress reports and updates would be necessary to keep all stakeholders informed and engaged.

There was strong support for continued collaboration between TSAG and BDT. TDAG emphasized the need to avoid duplication, leverage synergies and share best practices to achieve the ITU’s digital transformation goals.

In conclusion, the discussions underscored the critical importance of coordination, stakeholder involvement, and robust monitoring in advancing ITU’s digital transformation initiatives and TDAG expressed optimism about future progress in this area.

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| TDAG approved Document [DT/6(Rev.2)](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG31-240520-TD-0006/en) a reply liaison statement that provides information to clarify the role of ITU-D and BDT in Digital Transformation, specifically that the BDT, through its Secretariat, is currently executing a series of initiatives, programmes and activities aimed at achieving digital transformation in a holistic and systematic manner. The statement also noted that Digital Transformation is an integral part of the ITU-D mandate as established by the outcomes of the 2022 World Telecommunications Development Conference (WTDC). In particular, WTDC-22 adopted the Kigali Action Plan (KAP) which identifies Digital Transformation as one of the five ITU-D priorities.  TDAG agreed to liaise with TSAG to ensure cohesion of efforts, avoid duplication of mandates and scope of work, and to foster cross-sector coordination. |

**Document** [**26**](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG31-C-0026/) **(Palestine) - Hukumati e-government system**

This contribution presented Hukumati (my Government), a unified e-government system with a single sign-on (SSO) authentication scheme that serves as a common portal for government institutions and agencies to provide e-services to citizens and other sectors. It allows citizens to access government services electronically and pay for them via available payment methods licensed by the Palestinian Monetary Authority. The Hukumati e-government system was publicly launched on 15 January 2023 to allow all citizens to complete the registration process using an SSO authentication scheme and verification by the relevant offices of the Ministry of the Interior and the Palestinian Postal Service in order to obtain a username and password for access to the system and the services provided through it.

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| The representative of the State of Palestine presented its experience with the Hukumati e-government system. TDAG took note of the document with appreciation. |

**Document** [**27 + Annex 1**](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG31-C-0027/) **(Hungary) - Follow-up on the 3G switchover programme in Hungary**

The representative from Hungary presented Document 27, providing an update on the country’s digital inclusion project, which had been previously initiated and reported on in the 2023 TDAG meeting (Document [29](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG30-C-0029/)). The presentation highlighted the significant progress made, with over 120,000 individuals benefiting from the project aimed at improving digital literacy and accessibility. As several Member States requested a follow-up on this programme, Hungary submitted a long and a short analysis of it.

TDAG commended Hungary for the significant progress reported in the digital inclusion project. It was appreciated the detailed data and the focus on enhancing digital literacy, which aligns with the broader goals of the ITU in promoting digital inclusion globally.

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| TDAG took note of the update with appreciation and congratulated Hungary on the 120,000 people who took advantage of the support provided by NMHH. The representative of Hungary briefly presented the 3G switchover programme as contained in document and its annex. |

**Document** [**28**](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG31-C-0028/) **(Comoros) - Le régulateur comorien met en pratique des actions en faveur de la transformation numérique durable par le contrôle des énergies et les études d'impact sur les sites des télécommunications**

The representative from Comoros presented Document 28, focusing on the country’s efforts to promote sustainable digital transformation by monitoring energy usage and conducting impact studies on specific telecommunications sites.

One of the objectives of the Comorian regulator is to put into practice actions in favor of sustainable digital transformation, with a view to achieving the 2030 SDGs, particularly those relating to the environment. The contribution draws its inspiration from ITU resolutions and recommendations, as well as national regulations and legislation. It aims to align itself with a sustainable digital transformation reflected in controlling the energy used by operators and by certifying telecommunications sites.

TDAG commended the initiative, noting its alignment with ITU’s environmental sustainability goals. The success of Comoros in aligning its national initiatives with ITU Resolutions was praised, noting the importance of following global standards and guidelines to achieve sustainable development goals.

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| TDAG noted with appreciation the contribution from Comoros which presented actions to promote sustainable digital transformation by monitoring energy usage and conducting impact studies on telecommunications sites. Inspired by ITU resolutions and national regulations, these efforts aim to contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030, particularly those related to environmental sustainability. |

**Document** [**33(Rev.1)**](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG31-C-0033/) **(Armenia, Belarus, Russian Federation) - Draft revision of WTDC Resolution 2**

This contribution proposed a draft revision of WTDC Resolution 2 "Establishment of study groups" aiming at improving the efficiency of work on measurements in the field of telecommunications/ICTs, primarily aimed at further progress in the work on the ICT Development Index.

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| TDAG received the contribution to establish a new study group on ICT statistics, and discussed various elements associated with this proposal, recognizing that this matter would be decided at WTDC-25. |

**Document** [**35**](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG31-C-0035/) **(Cisco Systems, Inc.) - Bridging the digital divide through the Digital Transformation Centre Initiative**

This contribution provided an overview of the Digital Transformation Centres Initiative (DTCI), highlighting its achievements and continued relevance. This flagship Initiative was launched by ITU and Cisco in 2019 to bridge the digital divide and close the digital skills gap. The DTCI aims to boost digital skills among underserved groups and rural communities, with Digital Transformation Centres (DTCs) delivering basic and intermediate digital skills training. These centres also work to strengthen their institutional capacities to design and implement digital skills programmes, through train-the-trainer activities, to ensure scalability and self-sustainability in digital skills development.

TDAG congratulated Cisco and ITU on this excellent initiative and encouraged them to further strengthen it. TDAG also highlighted the importance of digital skills, which was one of the biggest barriers to digital transformation and therefore needed urgent attention. TDAG encouraged the expansion of the Initiative to other countries and regions. Two countries expressed interest during the TDAG meeting in being part of the Initiative.

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| TDAG noted the document with appreciation and a number of member states expressed their support to call for engagement, commitment and continued support to the DTC Initiative by the BDT, the ITU-D membership as well as other partners. |

**Document** [**42**](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG31-C-0042/) **(Czech Republic, Poland) - Human-Centric Approach for Digital Transformation**

The representative from Poland presented Document 42 which focused on a human-centric approach to digital transformation. The document outlined recent developments and initiatives aimed at ensuring that digital transformation efforts prioritize human well-being and societal benefits. This contribution provided an update on the results achieved via a special initiative focusing on Human Centric Digital Transformation, in particular the Compendium and its recommendations that were developed upon a series of national experiences shared by fourteen European countries.

TDAG commended Poland’s efforts to prioritize human-centric values in digital transformation.

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| TDAG took note of the document with appreciation. |

**Document** [**43**](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG31-C-0043/) **(Japan) - Proposals to improve ICT survey work at ITU-D**

The representative from Japan presented Document 43, focusing ways to streamline and enhance the survey processes to reduce the burden on member states and improve the quality and usefulness of collected data.

TDAG expressed strong support for the proposals outlined in Document 43. Delegates appreciated Japan’s effort to streamline the survey processes, which they felt would significantly reduce the administrative burden on member states and improve the overall efficiency of data collection.

Discussions focused on the importance of coordination in the timing and execution of surveys. TDAG emphasized the need for a synchronized approach that aligns with the operational cycles of member states, thereby avoiding periods of survey overload.

A significant part of the discussion revolved around improving the quality of data collected through ICT surveys. TDAG agreed on the necessity of adopting robust methodologies and best practices to enhance data accuracy. The representative from Japan elaborated on proposed methodologies and technologies that could be adopted to achieve this goal.

The BDT reaffirmed its commitment to implementing these proposals. The Secretariat acknowledged the feedback from Member States and assured that efforts would be made to streamline survey processes and improve coordination. The BDT also emphasized its role in providing technical support and capacity-building to member states to facilitate better data collection and analysis.

In conclusion, the interventions and discussions highlighted the widespread support for Japan’s proposals to improve ICT survey work at ITU-D. TDAG appreciated the focus on reducing the burden of surveys, improving data quality, and enhancing coordination. The session ended on a positive note, with a strong commitment from the BDT and Member States to work collaboratively towards implementing these improvements.

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| TDAG expressed widespread support for the proposal made by Japan for the BDT to streamline its approach to disseminating surveys and collecting data. BDT committed to reduce the burden on the membership associated with completing surveys and to and address the concerns raised regarding the timing. |

**Document** [**44**](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG31-C-0044/) **(Internet Society) - Implementation of Resolution 11: Capacity Development of Indigenous, Rural Communities and Geographically Isolated and Disadvantaged Areas (GIDA) in Asia Pacific**

This contribution by the Internet Society proposed a comprehensive capacity building programme with online modules and face-to-face boot camps to strengthen the technical, organizational, economic, and social capacities of people from rural, isolated, and poorly served communities for the development of local communication and ICT projects. This proposed programme in the APEC Region would complement the series of actions being developed in remote or low-income areas by the ITU, civil society organizations, and governments. It was proposed that this programme be promoted by the ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific and the Digital Inclusion Office of BDT of the ITU in collaboration with governments and civil society organizations in the region.

TDAG congratulated the initiative. TDAG Vice-Chair Europe reinforced the importance of digital skills and capacity building.

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| TDAG noted the presentation made by the Internet Society and Member States expressed widespread support for this initiative. |

**Document** [**45**](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG31-C-0044/) **(India) - E-Governance platform to empower people to connect with the Government & contribute towards good governance: "MyGov.in"**

The representative from India presented Document 45, which described the eGovernance platform developed by the Government of India, called MyGov. The primary objective of this platform is to empower citizens by facilitating their connection and interaction with the government, thereby contributing to good governance. The MyGov Citizen Engagement Platform collaborates with multiple Government bodies/ Ministries to engage with citizens for policy formulation by seeking their opinion on issues/topics of public interest and welfare. The MyGov Citizen Engagement Platform collaborates with multiple Government bodies/ Ministries to engage with citizens for policy formulation by seeking their opinion on issues/ topics of public interest and welfare.

The discussions following the presentation by India were marked by a positive reception of the MyGov platform and its achievements. TDAG acknowledged the importance of using ICT tools for improving government services and enhancing citizen engagement.

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| TDAG took note of the document with appreciation, in which India presented the “MyGov.in” platform, launched in July 2014 and which now has more than 30 million registered users. |

**Document** [**46**](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG31-C-0046/) **(RealTyme SA) - Social media messenger apps privacy concerns**

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| As the author was not available to present this contribution; it may be considered at the next TDAG meeting, if so desired. |

**Document** [**47**](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG31-C-0047/) **(India) - The ICT Development Index 2023**

The representative from India presented Document 47, focusing on the ICT Development Index (IDI). India raised concerns about the methodology used in the 2023 IDI report published by the ITU. India expressed its willingness to participate in the activities of the sub-working group tasked with revising the IDI methodology. However, they noted that recommendations from this group would only be considered after four years, in 2027, which they believed defeated the purpose of the subgroup. India requested TDAG to provide guidance for an early review and revision of the IDI methodology.

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| TDAG took note of the document, which expressed reservations about the methodology of the IDI. |

**Document** [**48**](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG31-C-0048/) **(Egypt) - Collaboration Project between Egypt and ITU for Promoting the Development of SSCC Telecom Infrastructure in Egypt**

The representative from Egypt presented Document 48, detailing a collaborative project between Egypt and the ITU aimed at promoting the development of smart sustainable cities and communities (SSCC). This initiative, developed in collaboration with the Arab Regional Office, aligns with the regional initiative for the Arab Region and Egypt’s national efforts to enhance smart city infrastructure.

This contribution provided an overview of the project that aims to create and promote an enabling environment to support the Government of Egypt’s efforts to establish and develop SSCC through developing an evaluation framework and tool based on Egypt existing codes and ITU experience.

TDAG expressed appreciation for Egypt’s extensive experience and leadership in the smart city domain. The initiative to build a brand-new administrative city in Egypt was highlighted as a notable example of innovative urban planning.

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| TDAG took note of the document and appreciated the presentation by Egypt on its project with the ITU on smart cities and communities. The project aimed to promote standard innovation of SSCC in Egypt, specifically, standardizing the ICTs infrastructure requirements, while considering the aspects of smartness and sustainability based on ITU technical standards or Recommendations. |

* 1. **Study Group activities**

**Document** [**5(Rev.1)**](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG31-C-0005/) **(Chair, ITU-D Study Group 1) -** **ITU-D Study Group 1 - Activities and progress**

In this document, highlights from the second meeting of ITU-D Study Group 1 (SG1) held 23-27 October 2023 and from the rapporteur group (RG1) meetings and workshops held 15-26 April 2024 were shared by the ITU-D SG1 Chair Ms Regina Fleur Assoumou-Bessou (Côte d’Ivoire). The number of contributions received to date puts ITU-D Study Group 1 on the right track to achieve the expected outputs as per the Kigali Action Plan. The Chair indicated the collaboration actions led by coordinator Mr Roberto Hirayama (Vice-Chair, Brazil) to curate key topics for BDT and BR to consider, from relevant contributions received at SG1 pertaining to WTDC Resolution 9 (Rev. Kigali 2022). She thanked the BDT Director for his support, including the recent communication addressed to administrations with vice-chairs, rapporteurs, and co-rapporteurs, to ensure their continued work until the end of the study period. She pointed out the good percentages of women participation in the meetings and workshops and thanked all those who joined the ITU-D SG1 celebration of Girls in ICT held on 25 April 2024 in Geneva which was partly moderated by the ITU Secretary General. She indicated the information shared on the TDAG Working Group on Future of Study Group Questions which streamlines the approach for reviewing the study Questions in preparation for the next WTDC. She invited all to continue working towards the next SG1 meeting to be held in Geneva from 4 to 8 November 2024.

SG1 Questions 1/1, 3/1 and 5/1 management teams and GSOA were commended by TDAGfor the [joint workshop on transformative satellite connectivity](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Study-Groups/2022-2025/Pages/meetings/workshop-satellite_april24.aspx) held on 23 April 2024 as part of the RG1 meetings and workshops.

Brazil reiterated the invitation to the [Regional Workshop on Increasing Consumer Awareness](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/Americas/Pages/EVENTS/2024/cons-awa-2024.aspx) from 18 to 20 June 2024 hosted by ANATEL in Brasilia and organised by the ITU regional office for Americas in collaboration with ITU-D Study Questions 6/1 and 3/2.

The Director of ITU Africa Regional Office shared further information on a regional capacity building action currently taking place, within the context of WTDC Resolution 9 (Rev. Kigali 2022) and organised jointly by BDT and BR.

The matter of giving active responsibilities to vice-rapporteurs and to further review WTDC Resolution 1 with regards to their attendance was raised by TDAG.

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| TDAG took note with appreciation that the second annual meeting of ITU-D Study Group 1 (SG1), held in October 2023, featured significant participation with 224 attendees (45% women), and 155 contributions, while the SG1 Rapporteur Group meetings in April 2024 continued this progress with 208 participants, 132 contributions discussed, and several workshops and a cross-cutting session on Girls in ICT Day.  TDAG thanked the SG1 Chair and the BDT for the activities and progress made in the work of the study group while also noting the non-attendance or irregular attendance of several vice-rapporteurs. |

**Document** [**6(Rev.1)**](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG31-C-0006/) **(Chair, ITU-D Study Group 2) - ITU-D Study Group 2 - Activities and progress**

This document reported on the current status of ITU-D Study Group 2 (SG2) and provided some highlights from the second meeting of SG2 held from 30 October to 3 November 2023, as well as the rapporteur group meetings of SG2 held from 29 April to 10 May 2024.

TSAG expressed its appreciation for the comprehensive and engaging contributions of the study group chairs, and congratulations were extended to the management teams for the successful workshops held. An invitation was extended to a regional seminar in Brasilia, scheduled from 18 to 20 June, which is a collaborative effort between ITU-D Study Groups 1 and 2.

The significance of WTDC Resolution 9 (Rev. Kigali 2022) in relation to study group activities was highlighted, and activities by the BDT in implementing this resolution were discussed, noting the need to present BDT activities under this Resolution to the TDAG meetings.

TDAG noted the non-attendance or irregular attendance of several vice-rapporteurs. The need for a deeper understanding of the reasons behind this lack of participation was raised, which could include potential economic constraints affecting developing countries.

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| TDAG took note with appreciation that the second annual meeting of ITU-D Study Group 2 (SG2), held in October 2023, featured significant participation with 195 attendees, 54 member states and 120 contributions, while the Rapporteur Group meetings in April-May 2024 continued this progress with 221 participants, 123 contributions discussed, and several workshops.  TDAG thanked the SG2 Chair and the BDT for the activities and progress made in the work of the study group while also noting the non-attendance or irregular attendance of several vice-rapporteurs. |

* 1. **ITU-D Projects**

**Document** [**7(Rev.1)**](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG31-C-0007/) **(Director, BDT) - ITU-D Projects**

The document presented an overview of the work undertaken by the Bureau in project development and implementation in the six ITU-D regions as well as multi-regionally. This document complements the report presented on the efforts made by BDT to promote partnerships and attract new sector members to be engaged in the implementation of our work.

The document also presented in section 2 an overview of the project function in ITU, highlighting the different sources of funding available for ITU projects, as well as the evolution in the BDT projects portfolio throughout 2023. The figures presented in the report confirm the positive trend experimented by BDT since 2017 in the increase of funds mobilized by BDT from partners in the support of projects. BDT thanked the funding partners for their contributions to BDT projects.

Section 3 presented an update on the utilization of the funds allocated by the 2023 Session of the ITU Council for the implementation of the WTDC-22 Regional Initiatives. These funds have already enabled the signature of a total of 7 projects during 2023. The details of these projects are available at ITU’s projects portal.

Section 4 presented an overview of the efforts made by ITU in the last 12 months to strengthen project management practices in ITU, stressing the upcoming work to reinforce reporting to partners: periodic BDT Projects Board meetings to evaluate project proposals and oversee implementation; Quarterly Assessment reports and internal dashboards for BDT Management and Project Managers to monitor status; for projects experiencing challenges, weekly meetings with the project teams and increased internal reporting; regular training sessions and information exchange sessions for project managers to harmonize practices across BDT and further develop skills; new, automatic biannual reporting to donors on the status of their projects; a new, interactive, project dashboard for membership to follow the status of the ITU-D Project portfolio.

Finally, section 5 contained conclusions and recommendations for the consideration of TDAG members.

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| TDAG took note of the document that provided an overview of the work undertaken by the BDT in project development and implementation in the six ITU-D regions as well as multi-regionally. TDAG appreciated that during 2023 BDT implemented 87 projects, valued at CHF 106.4 million. |

**Document** [**36**](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG31-C-0036/) **(Director, BDT) - Improved project financial monitoring and reporting**

This document provided information on measures that have been introduced by the BDT to improve financial monitoring and reporting to donors and partners for BDT projects.

TDAG supported the ongoing work as it would strengthen ITU’s culture of transparency and accountability, in line with the Financial Regulations and Financial Rules.

TDAG discussed that improved reporting should ensure associated project management, information systems, financial reporting, and risk management tools are in place to make the ITU a trusted home for more donors and partners.

The BDT Director confirmed that the reports would be in line with Financial Regulations and Financial Rules, and that partners may request an additional report at any time. The aim will be to track financial implementation in real time and to explain what is available in terms of the financial resources contributing to a project, what is ongoing or fully implemented, and what has been the outcome. Automated reporting would allow for better transparency, accountability, disclosure and reduce reporting delays.

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| TDAG took note of the contribution and appreciated the BDT's new practice of reporting to donors and partners on use of their financial contributions every six months. |

**Document** [**16(Rev.1)**](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG31-C-0016/) **(Director, BDT) - Innovation and Entrepreneurship Alliance for Digital Development**

The document presented the progress made through the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Alliance for Digital Development initiative and provided insights into its ongoing activities. It highlighted the progress of the three main components: the network of Acceleration Centres, the Digital Innovation Board, and the Digital Transformation Lab.

There was widespread interest in the Alliance's work, with a number of countries expressing a desire to participate in and benefit from the activities underway. A number of countries participating in the initiative expressed their support and enthusiasm for the initiative and TDAG agreed on the desirability of facilitating wider participation. There were a few clarification questions raised about the Board's role, its terms of reference (ToR), and participation which the BDT clarified during the meeting, also noting that the Board's ToR and the report of the last board meeting are available on the website.

The BDT also mentioned that the Alliance operates through various cooperation mechanisms, including the Global Digital Innovation Board, workgroups focused on each strategic objective, and collaborations with other stakeholders, such as the TSB. The Alliance delivers its activities in accordance with the ITU mandate, rules and procedures.

Regional colleagues will be actively invited to participate in the Centre's work, and collaboration is planned with other sectors, such as the TSB and other BDT thematic areas.

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| TDAG noted with appreciation the report on the initiative which showed continued progress, and recommended broad collaboration to engage the entire BDT in the work of the Alliance and its centres. |

**Document** [**17**](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG31-C-0017/) **(Director, BDT) - Organization of an ITU Accessible World - ICT for ALL- Global Summit**

TDAG reiterated the importance of the topic and the need to share the good practices, expertise and knowledge among the regions (who have different levels of implementation). TDAG recognized that the ITU mandate on the topic, in tandem with the experience of ITU-D Study Group Question 7/1, BDT expertise on the topic and its experience in leading such events for the last 10 years such events were recognized assets by TDAG. TDAG was reminded that the BDT is organizes annual Regional Accessible – ICT for ALL events among other activities. Therefore, the proposal would be to organize a global Accessible World – ICT for ALL, to be implemented every 4 years (for the first time in 2026) to replace these regional events and activities.

TDAG received clarification on the fact that while Accessible Regional Events have been held mainly in the Americas, Europe, and Arab Regions, activities and actions on ICT/accessibility have been implemented in all ITU regions. TDAG also received clarification on the human and financial implications. The BDT reiterated the call to Member States interested in championing the topic to manifest interest to support/host this very first event.

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| The Dominican Republic expressed interest in the project and requested further information from the BDT, to explore the possibility of hosting the event in the Dominican Republic. TDAG took note of the document which proposed to organize an ICT for ALL Global Summit in 2026 which would complement annual events taking place on the same theme in the regions. The BDT committed to providing further information on the practical, financial, and logistical requirements.  TDAG took note of the Dominican Republic’s interest to host the Global Summit. |

**Document** [**38**](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG31-C-0038/) **(China (People’s Republic of)) - Proposals to further strengthen the role of acceleration centres under the ITU initiative of Innovation and Entrepreneurship Alliance for Digital Development**

China presented Document 38 proposing ways to strengthen the role of Acceleration Centres under the ITU's Innovation and Entrepreneurship Alliance for Digital Development. The proposal included:

* Ensuring Acceleration Centres align with ITU's strategic objectives and regional initiatives to support digital transformation.
* Enhancing coordination with regional offices and engaging in capacity building, forward-looking research, ICT development seminars, and regional projects.
* Focusing on the digital development needs of LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS to provide better services to these regions.

The proposal received widespread support, aiming to streamline and expand collaboration between Acceleration Centres and other BDT activities, including study groups, thematic areas, and broader ITU cross-collaboration. The Secretariat provided clarification on the complementarities between Acceleration Centres and other ITU capacity-building activities.

Furthermore, a clear link was made that this work will deliver on WTDC-22 resolution 17 to support the implementation of the regional initiatives, in addition to PP-22 resolution 205, which is clearly in line with the objective for socio-economic development.

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| TDAG expressed widespread support for the suggestions in this contribution to enhance the role of the acceleration centres, e.g. take account of ITU strategic objectives, ITU-D priorities, strengthening coordination with RTOs, and focus on digital development needs of members, particularly LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDs. Going forward, BDT agreed to provide updates on coordination with other BDT Capacity Building efforts and the ITU Academy, having provided such clarification during the meeting as well as the [Terms of Reference of the Digital Innovation Board](https://www.itu.int/itu-d/sites/innovation-alliance/wp-content/uploads/sites/35/2024/05/Terms_of_Reference_-_Digital_Innovation_Board.pdf) of the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Alliance for Digital Development. |

**Document** [**4(Rev.1)**](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG31-C-0004/) **(Director, BDT) - ITU-D partnerships and resource mobilization**

This document provided a report on partnerships and resource mobilization activities undertaken in 2023, providing information on the period between January 2023 to April 2024. Information on the type of partners, distribution of agreements per region and ITU-D priorities and comparison with previous years, highlighting 2023 as a fruitful year in terms of resources mobilized, was also provided. The three strategic actions were also presented: cultivating relationship with existing partners, outreaching to new potential partners and collaborating with UN agencies.

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| TDAG noted with appreciation this contribution, which explained that a total of 117 Agreements have been signed by BDT with various partners from developed and developing countries for a total amount of 27.8 million USD. |

**Document** [**8**](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG31-C-0008/) **(Chair, GCBI) - ITU-D Sector Members, Associates and Academia**

This document presented an overview of the ITU-D membership evolution for 2022, 2023, and projected figures for the first half of 2024 as a result of strategic actions undertaken to attract, retain, and engage membership.

From a total of 317 Sector Members and Associates by end 2022, the document showed the increase to 332 by end 2023. The Secretariat also indicated that by May 2024 ITU-D has a total of 343 Sector Members and Associates hitting the projection shown in the document.

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| TDAG noted with appreciation this contribution which described an increase in ITU-D Sector membership for the period January 2023 to June 2024 during which ITU-D attracted 63 new Sector Members, Associates and Academia. TDAG recognized the value of the industry and private sector and expressed appreciation for the significant work of the BDT in increasing the number of ITU-D Sector Members and Associates. |

**Document** [**8(Ann.1)**](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG31-C-0008/) **(Chair, GCBI) - Academia engagement opportunities in the work of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D)**

As for Academia membership, the BDT Secretariat emphasized that it has taken into consideration the recommendations from the membership during the last TDAG and has conducted a mapping of recent, past, and ongoing engagementwith Academia, and potential future areas of collaboration as shown in Annex 1 to Document 8.

The Chairman of the Industry Advisory Group for Development Issues and the Private Sector Chief Regulatory Officers (IAGD-CRO) established under Resolution 71 (Rev. Kigali, 2022) appreciated the work of the BDT Director and the BDT Secretariat to work closely with industry and private sector as key stakeholders in ITU-D’s work.

TDAG appreciated the significant work undertaken by the BDT to increase the number of members, indicating their interest to promote, in particular, Academia membership, and encouraged the BDT Secretariat to continue to disseminate information on the membership value proposition.

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| TDAG took note of the document showing the mapping engagement with the ITU Academia members. TDAG recommended that BDT continue promoting the membership value proposition to attract more Academia to the work of the ITU-D. |

* 1. **Report by the Chairman of the Group on Capacity Building Initiatives (GCBI)**

**Document** [**10(Rev.1)**](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG31-C-0010/) **(Chair, GCBI) - Report on the work of the Group on Capacity Building Initiatives (GCBI) to TDAG**

The Chair of GCBI presented the document. He first introduced himself as the new Chair of the Group, following the start of a new cycle (2023-2026), which also includes new members. The GCBI’s main role is to provide advice to the BDT Director concerning capacity development activities, with the objective of achieving the goals of the Kigali Action Plan. Two meetings were held over the past year, one virtual and one physical meeting in Geneva. During those meetings, GCBI members established a work plan for the ongoing cycle, including building a common understanding of ITU capacity development work amongst members as the basis for providing fruitful advice, and identifying a few key strategic interventions that have the potential to impact the work of the BDT in capacity development. Among the latter, the Group identified AI as a core topic to further expand BDT’s training portfolio and support Member States as they endeavor to understand the type of AI they could employ and to gain a better appreciation of the potential and threats of AI.

TDAG congratulated the Chair in his new role and appreciated the work of GCB, stressing the importance to also collaborate with the other ITU sectors in the field of capacity development as they are also implementing work that helps address the digital skills gap.

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| TDAG thanked the GCBI for its continued work and took note of the document which included results of the GCBI's first virtual meeting on 29 November 2023 and its annual meeting on 16-18 April 2024. The work focused on enhancing the effectiveness of capacity development initiatives, scaling successful programs, and emphasizing the importance of digital skills and AI training. |

1. **Preparations for WTDC-25**

**Document** [**23(Rev.1)**](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG31-C-0023/) **(Director, BDT) - Preparations for the 2025 World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-25)**

This document contains a summary of the preparations to date for WTDC-25. It includes contacts with potential host countries, in particular the candidature by Azerbaijan, who proposes to hold the conference in Baku, from 17-28 November 2025.

The document also summarized the dates retained for the Regional Preparatory Meetings (RPMs) in each of the regions, for the RPM Coordination Meeting and for the Inter-regional Meetings.

Its contents are the same as presented in Council Document C-24/30 which seeks Council approval for the place and date of WTDC-25.

Azerbaijan reiterated their commitment to hosting WTDC-25 in Baku, extending a warm invitation to all TDAG participants to Azerbaijan.

At its 2024 meeting, TDAG created two working groups to start the preparations for WTDC-25:

Working Group on the Declaration (TDAG-WG-DEC)Chair: Abdulkarim Oloyede (Nigeria)   
Secretary: Sofie Maddens

Working Group on ITU-D Priorities (including the Strategic Plan) (TDAG-WG-ITUDP)   
Chair: Christopher Kemei (Kenya)  
Secretary: Marco Obiso

The terms of reference for the two groups are presented for approval in documents [DT/4](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG31-240520-TD-0004/en) (Chair, TDAG-WG-DEC) and [DT/5(Rev.2)](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG31-240520-TD-0005/en) (Chair, TDAG-WG-ITUDP), respectively.

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| TDAG noted the document summarizing the WTDC-25 preparations and the proposal to host the conference in Baku, Azerbaijan from 18 to 27 November 2025, subject to the approval of the 2024 session of the ITU Council. Azerbaijan reiterated their commitment to hosting WTDC-25 in Baku, extending a warm invitation to ITU membership to attend the conference. TDAG thanked Azerbaijan for their generous offer to host WTDC-25.  TDAG also noted the dates retained for the Regional Preparatory Meetings (RPMs), the RPM Coordination Meeting and the Inter-regional Meetings. |

**Document** [**24**](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG31-C-0024/) **(Director, BDT) - Draft Agenda of the 2025 World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-25)**

This document presented by the BDT Secretariat contained a draft agenda for WTDC-25.

The Chair asked TDAG to deliberate on the recommendation it wants to make concerning remote participation at WTDC-25. The secretariat will need to discuss internally what the technical issues are and the budgetary input of providing remote participation. In addition to this, the legal issues will be discussed during Council. There are three options:

* + No remote participation;
  + Passive remote participation: in real time, with registration, on zoom. Any input in the meeting is to be through participants physically in the room;
  + Interactive remote participation: as for TDAG-24.

TDAG determined that as a development conference, WTDC should be as inclusive as possible. Also, in regard to legal issues, a distinction should be made between remote participation and remote decision making. Remote participants would need to coordinate closely with participants who will be physically at the Conference.

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| TDAG reviewed the WTDC-25 draft agenda and endorsed its contents with the addition of a specific reference to “regional initiatives” under item 9 for submission to the 2024 session of the ITU Council.  TDAG expressed strong support for remote participation at WTDC-25 and requested that the BDT examine the operational and legal implications of various remote participation modalities as well as their impact on the conference success and inclusiveness. |

**Document** [**25**](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG31-C-0025/) **(Chair, TDAG-WG-future SGQ) - Progress report on the work of the TDAG-WG-future SGQ, including terms of reference**

The Chair of the Working Group, Dr Sharafat, presented the report on the activities of the TDAG Working Group on the future of Study Group Questions (TDAG-WG-future SGQ). He focused on the terms of reference and a proposed composition of TDAG-WG-future SGQ, agreed in the virtual WG meeting held on 4 March 2024, and requested TDAG for approval of the same. Accordingly, the vice-chairs for the TDAG-WG-future SGQ are: Mrs Regina Fleur Assoumou Bessou (Côte d’Ivoire, also SG1 Chair) and Mr Fadel Digham (Egypt, also SG2 Chair).

He further indicated the background paper on possible guiding principles to develop future study questions as well as the dates of the next (virtual) meetings. He invited all to submit contributions to the next meeting of 3 September 2024 and shared that an MS Teams has been set up to engage in discussions prior to the meetings for more productive work.

The Chair called for the contribution of members with fresh ideas on study Questions while also considering the judicious use of limited resources including translations costs. She indicated that the output document of this WG will apprise membership of the overall thinking as a team on future of study Questions.

The TDAG chair clarified that while the Working Group is a single platform and contributions on revised Study Group terms of reference will be channelled to this group, membership may also wish to discuss within Study Group meetings prior to sharing with the Working Group meeting. Dr Sharafat noted that the order of the terms of reference (noted below) is not chronological, and work is already underway.

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| TDAG noted with appreciation the report on activities of the TDAG Working Group on Future Study Group Questions and endorsed the updated terms of reference, which include: providing a platform for discussions on future ITU-D study Questions; assisting in preparing for the next WTDC by proposing changes to Resolution 2; aligning study questions with BDT priorities, regional initiatives, and the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals; gathering ITU membership views; liaising with ITU-D study groups through appointed coordinators; and, submitting regular updates to TDAG.  TDAG also noted that the short three-year study cycle emphasizes the need for focused discussions and collaboration.  Finally, TDAG noted Vietnam’s proposal to include the topic of the digital infrastructure for studying in the next cycle. |

**Document** [**30**](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG31-C-0030/) **(Director, BDT) - Youth Celebration in shaping the future of Digital Development: Hearing Voices of Tomorrow in the lead to the World Development Conference 2025 (WTDC-25)**

BDT Secretariat presented Document 30, titled “Youth Celebration in Shaping the Future of Digital Development: Hearing Voices of Tomorrow in the Lead of the WTDC-25.” The presentation focused on the importance of youth inclusion and empowerment in digital development agenda.

The presentation highlighted the critical role of youth in digital transformation, emphasizing the need to include young people’s perspectives in ITU’s work. Reflecting on past events, the presentation noted the enthusiasm and energy brought by young participants, which has driven significant discussions and initiatives.

The proposal included a two-day Youth Celebration event held in the days preceding the WTDC-25. The BDT Director clarified that the main difference between the Global Youth Summit and the Youth Celebration prior to WTDC-25 is that the Celebration would not produce a report but will provide an opportunity for both youth and ITU membership participating to WTDC-25 to interact through intergenerational dialogue on topics of interest to youth and also offer networking opportunities.

The Informal Coordination Group will also provide advice to the BDT Director for his consideration on this event. The word “possible” was included to the ToR of this group because as of the TDAG 2024 meeting, there had not yet been confirmation with the host country of the WTDC-25 that they would hold this event.

The Informal Coordination Group is open to all ITU-D membership (preferably youth representatives). The Group will be coordinated by Ms. Agustina BRIZIO (Argentina), Ms. Ke WANG (China), Mr. Abdoulkarim OLOYEDE (Nigeria) and Ms. Shahad ALBALAWI (Saudi Arabia).

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| TDAG noted with appreciation the contribution which proposed to organize a two-day event prior to WTDC-25 to celebrate youth in shaping the future of Digital Development: “Hearing Voices of Tomorrow.” |

**Document** [**31 + Annex 1**](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG31-C-0031/) **(Director, BDT) - Report on the 2024 ITU- Generation Connect Youth Envoys**

The document presented the results of the selection process for the 2024 Generation Connect Youth Envoys (GCYE) as well as details on the region, countries and number of youth envoys that formed the new cohort of 184 generation connect youth envoys from 64 countries around the world.

To accommodate the discussion on the Global Youth Summit discussion which were not further relevant to this document, the BDT Director complemented with information available in document 13, (Report on Organizing an ITU 2024 Global Youth Summit) incentivizing ITU membership to support their national GCYE’s participation in the Global Youth Summit and Youth Celebration prior to WTDC-2025.

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| TDAG noted this contribution with appreciation, including its annex that provided an update on the 2024 ITU Generation Connect Youth Envoys Initiative. |

**Document** [**19(Rev.1)**](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG31-C-0019/) **(Chair, TDAG-WG-StreamRes) - Progress report on the work of the TDAG-WG-StreamRes**

The Chair of the TDAG Working Group on Streamlining Resolutions presented the progress and key results achieved so far:

* The first meeting of the Working Group was held on 18 April 2024 (virtual) and the second meeting on 21 May 2024 (physical and virtual).
* Two Vice-Chairs were proposed and agreed by the Working Group: Ms. Blanca Gonzalez (Spain) and Ms. Agustina Brizo (Argentina).
* A tentative calendar of future meetings will be proposed and posted on the [TDAG Working Group on Streamlining Resolutions website](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Conferences/TDAG/Pages/2024/TDAG_WG_SR.aspx).
* A Microsoft Teams collaborative workspace has been setup.
* Document [37](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG31-C-0037/en) from ATDI (France) had been considered as a contribution at the second meeting of the Working Group.
* The Terms of Reference were agreed at the second meeting of the Working Group and presented for TDAG's endorsement in document [DT/3.](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG31-240520-TD-0003/)

Following discussions on potentially expanding the scope of the Working Group to include the revision of the text contained in resolutions, TDAG suggested forming additional working group(s) to handle other outputs for WTDC, while noting that revisions on resolutions could only be submitted to the conference by the membership. TDAG also noted that the scope of the Working Group on Streamlining Resolutions had been previously discussed at TDAG-23, which helped form the basis for the Terms of Reference.

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| The TDAG thanked the Chair of the TDAG Working Group on Streamlining Resolutions and endorsed the appointment of the two Vice-Chairs: Ms. Blanca Gonzalez (Spain) and Ms. Agustina Brizo (Argentina). |

**Document** [**DT/3**](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG31-240520-TD-0003/en) **(Chair, TDAG-WG-StreamRes) - Draft Terms of Reference**

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| TDAG approved the Terms of Reference of the Working Group on Streamlining Resolutions as presented in document DT/3. |

**Document** [**34**](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG31-C-0034/) **(Russian Federation) - Publication of WTDC Resolutions**

This contribution proposed improvements to the ITU-D website containing the WTDC-22 Resolutions and Recommendations, noting for instance, that the list of WTDC Resolutions displayed on the website includes Resolutions no longer in force, without any indication, which may cause confusion. The contribution also suggested that the section of the ITU website related to the WTDC Resolutions should allow access to suppressed resolutions as well as previous versions of revised Resolutions.

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| This contribution proposed improvements to the ITU-D website containing the WTDC-22 Resolutions and Recommendations. TDAG thanked the BDT Secretariat for its quick action to highlight the resolutions superseded by WTDC-22, and supported further improvements to make previous versions of ITU-D resolutions easily available for download as proposed in the contribution. |

**Document** [**37**](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG31-C-0037/) **(ATDI) - Streamlining WTDC Resolutions: Revision of Terms of Reference**

The background paper, Document TDAG-WG-SR/3, specifies the Terms of Reference of the TDAG Working Group on Streamlining Resolutions (TDAG-WG-SR). It assessed the Plenipotentiary Conference Resolutions to avoid duplication of efforts and treatment of the same subject to focus on efficiency and resource optimization. It also considered the reduction of Resolutions at the next WTDC.

In this contribution, ATDI proposed to revise the Terms of Reference of the TDAG-WG-SR.

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| TDAG acknowledged that the content of this contribution was considered and incorporated by the Working Group on Streamlining of the Resolutions in their terms of reference found in document DT/3. |

**Document** [**39**](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG31-C-0039/) **(Russian Federation) - Submission of the report of the BDT Director**

This document invited TDAG to consider establishing a deadline of at least 30 days for publishing secretariat’s documents, particularly those requiring a decision. This would ensure thorough review of the documents by the membership and give them enough time to prepare and submit related contributions before the deadline.

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| TDAG acknowledged the recommendation from the Russian Federation regarding the timely submission of reports by the secretariat before meetings. The BDT took note of the request acknowledging that while there is no current requirement to submit documents earlier, the deadline for contributions should be adjusted accordingly. |

**Document** [**DT/4**](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG31-240520-TD-0004/en) **(Chair, TDAG-WG-DEC) - Chairmanship and terms of reference**

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| TDAG approved the creation of a working group on WTDC Declaration, to be led by Mr. Abdulkarim Oloyede (Nigeria). The terms of reference are contained in document DT/4. |

**Document** [**DT/5(Rev.2)**](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG31-240520-TD-0005/en) **(Chair, TDAG-WG-ITUDP) - Chairmanship and terms of reference for TDAG-WG-ITUDP**

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| TDAG approved the creation of a working group on ITU-D Priorities (TDAG-WG-ITUDP) to be led by Mr. Christopher Kemei (Kenya), with assistance from Blanca Gonzalez (Spain) and Dr Ahmad Sharafat (Iran). The terms of reference are contained in document DT/5 (Rev. 2). |

1. **Global Youth Summit**

**Document** [**13**](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG31-C-0013/) **(Director, BDT) - Report on the organization of an ITU Global Youth Summit in 2024 (GYS-24), in the lead to the World Development Conference 2025 (WTDC-25)**

The BDT Secretariat presented Document 13 and its annex proposing to host a Global Youth Summit prior to WTDC-25.

The summit aims to ensure that the report from the Global Youth Summit report is available well in advance of WTDC-25 to inform membership on youth perspectives. It will focus on empowering young people to contribute actively to the digital society, addressing their socio-economic and educational development needs related to ICTs. The Summit intends to identify the needs of all youth, including those in vulnerable situations such as those with disabilities migrants, and youth from rural and indigenous communities, to enable them to participate equally and equitably in the digital society, economy and environment.

Negotiations are ongoing with potential hosts for this Summit to confirm the location and dates.

Delegates expressed support for the Global Youth Summit and recognized the value in engaging youth in the digital transformation agenda.

Delegates from various countries expressed their willingness to sponsor youth participants.

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| TDAG noted the proposal to host a Global Youth Summit (GYS-24) before WTDC-25 (tentatively scheduled in December 2024). |

**Document** [**13(Annex 1**](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG31-C-0013/)**) (Director, BDT) - Draft agenda and draft program for the GYS24 - ITU Global Youth Summit 11th to 13th December 2024**

The annex provided a zero draft agenda and programme to be finalized with the support of an Informal Coordination Group who will provide advice to the BDT Director for consideration.

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| TDAG noted the document containing a zero draft agenda and draft program for the GYS-24. |

**Document** [**32(Rev.1)**](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG31-C-0032/) **(Armenia, Belarus, Russian Federation) - Proposals for the ITU Generation Connect Global Youth Summit 2024**

The representative from the Russian Federation presented Document 32 which outlined proposals to enhance the organization and effectiveness of the Global Youth Summit to ensure it meets its objectives and aligns with ITU’s strategic goals. The proposal recommended creating a TDAG working group to provide advice on the Global Youth Summit.

The presentation of the document and subsequent discussion led to the adoption document DT/7(Rev.2).

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| TDAG took note of this contribution containing a proposal that the BDT hold formal consultations with Member States on the organization of the Global Youth Summit in 2024. |

**Document** [**DT/7**](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG31-240520-TD-0007/en)**(Rev.2) (TDAG-WG-ICG-GYS) - TDAG Informal Coordination Group on the Youth Summit and the Global Celebration (TDAG-ICG-GYS)**

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| TDAG approved the terms of reference of the informal coordination group, which is open to all ITU-D membership (preferably youth representatives). The Group will be coordinated by Ms. Agustina BRIZIO (Argentina), Ms. Ke WANG (China), Mr. Abdoulkarim OLOYEDE (Nigeria), and Ms. Shahad ALBALAWI (Saudi Arabia). |

1. **Collaboration with the other Sectors**

**Document** [**9**](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG31-C-0009/) **(Chair, ISCG) - Report of the Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG) on issues of mutual interest**

This document presented by the Chair, Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG), Mr Fabio Bigi (Italy) reported on the work of the ISCG on issues of mutual interest, highlighting the conclusions from the meeting held on 24 January 2024, which he chaired in conjunction with the Telecommunications Standardization Advisory Group (TSAG). The meeting counted the presence of the three Sector’s advisory groups, as well as the appointed representatives, and the Deputy Secretary-General of ITU. The report includes updates on the implementation of Resolution 191 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022), and of specific themes such as Accessibility, Climate change, Virtual meetings and the ITU Website, as identified of main interest by the ISCG members.

The ISCG chair mentioned the importance of the mapping tables prepared by the Sectors’ Focal Points, and the mapping of resolutions presented by the ISCG secretariat to be considered for the streamlining exercises the Sectors carry out in preparations for their world conferences/assemblies, in order to avoid the duplication of efforts. The report also presents updates from the Sectors’ advisory groups work and highlights the new ITU-R Resolution 75 on strengthening cooperation among the three ITU Sectors (available on the ISCG website) and the launch of the Network of Women for ITU-T.

The ISCG Chair also presented the outcomes of the meeting held on 21May 2024, in conjunction with TDAG. The meeting agreed on Sustainable Digital Transformation as a theme of mutual interest, so TDAG Chair was requested to present the TDAG representatives for that specific theme. Other possible themes suggested were: capacity building activities, innovation and entrepreneurships, and industry engagement. TSAG presented the Draft analysis of operational parts of WTSA/PP/WTDC/Council/ITU-R Resolutions that affect TSAG and ITU-T SGs, and a liaison statement will be sent to TDAG for information and possible common approach in preparations for WTDC-25.

The next meeting of the ISCG was agreed for November 2024. The ISCG Chair invited TDAG members to visit the [ISCG website](https://www.itu.int/en/general-secretariat/Pages/ISCG/default.aspx) for more information.

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| TDAG noted with appreciation the report by the Chair of the Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG) on issues of mutual interest. ISCG meet in January 2024 and focused on implementing Resolution 191 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022).  TDAG endorsed Ms. Blanca Gonzalez (Spain) and Ms. Shahad Albalawi (Saudi Arabia) as coordinators from ITU-D to the ISCG on the topic of digital transformation. |

**Document** [**18**](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG31-C-0018/) **(Director, BDT) - Strengthening the Regional Presence - Criteria for Establishing Future Regional and Area Offices**

BDT Secretariat presented this document which addresses the criteria for establishing future regional and area offices. This document summarizes the contributions and discussions from various member states and provides a framework for establishing new offices to enhance ITU’s regional presence. The document stemmed from the need for strategic placement of regional and area offices to support ITU’s objectives effectively.

The contribution outlined the criteria developed through consultations, including factors such as regional needs, cost efficiency, and potential for impact. The document referenced discussions within the Council Working Group on Finance and Human Resources (FHR) and includes contributions from member states including Algeria, China, Cuba, the Russian Federation, and South Africa. A liaison statement was sent to TDAG and the Intersectoral Coordination Group for further input, which will be discussed in the next Council session.

This document was discussed in conjunction with documents 21(Rev.1) and 41(Rev.1) (see below).

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| TDAG took note of the document which summarized the criteria for establishing regional and area offices. Initially presented to the Council Working Group on Finance and Human Resources last year, the document was reviewed again in January 2024, leading to a decision to send a liaison statement to the TDAG and the Inter-Sectoral Coordination Group for further input before reporting back to the 2024 session of the ITU Council. |

**Document** [**29**](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG31-C-0029/) **(ISCG) - Incoming LS - Liaison Statement on Mapping Table 3 - Mapping of ITU-D SG1 and SG2 Questions to ITU-T Questions**

Mr. Arseny Plossky presented Document 29, which outlines the activities and progress of the TDAG Working Group on Streamlining Resolutions. This document reports on the group’s efforts to streamline and enhance the efficiency of resolutions within the ITU framework. The liaison statement was received from the Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG), which provided an updated mapping of ITU-D SG1 and SG2 Questions to ITU-T Questions (see [Mapping Table 3](https://www.itu.int/en/general-secretariat/ties/ISCGDocumentLibrary/Liaisons%20Statements%20on%20Inter-Sectoral%20Coordination%20Activities/Table%203.pdf)). The mapping consists of two parts: a table that maps ITU-D Questions to ITU-T Questions, and a list that provides more information on topics of mutual interest between the mapped Questions.

The discussions highlighted the significant progress made by the TDAG Working Group on Streamlining Resolutions. TDAG appreciated the detailed report and the inclusive approach taken in the group’s activities. The emphasis on coordination, feedback, and regional diversity was noted as critical for the success of the streamlining efforts. The revised terms of reference and the proposed calendar for future meetings were well-received, and ongoing participation and input from member states were encouraged to ensure the continuous improvement of the resolutions process.

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| TDAG took note of the contribution and of the incoming liaison statement and invited ITU-D Members to review the mapping as they consider future work with the ITU-T Sector. |

**Document** [**40(Rev.1)**](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG31-C-0040/) **(Russian Federation) - Use of all the official languages on an equal footing in ITU-D**

This contribution noted the need to use all official languages of the Union on an equal basis in ITU-D publications and websites in line with Resolution 154 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference. This contribution also recommended that the BDT provide TDAG with status updates on the use of the six official languages of the Union on an equal basis in ITU-D publications and websites and intensify the efforts to use the six languages on an equitable basis. It also recommended to intensify efforts to harmonize ITU-D websites with other Sectors and the General Secretariat to ensure visibility, ease of navigation and the implementation of the image of “One ITU”.

TDAG discussed coordination required with the Council Working Group on the use of the six official languages of the Union and the costs of translation for the Union.

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| TDAG took note of the contribution. The BDT took note of the recommendations under item 2.2 of the contribution. |

**Document** [**41(Rev.1)**](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG31-C-0041/) **(Australia, Canada, Fiji, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Vanuatu) - Proposed response to the to the CWG FHR's Liaison Statement on the criteria for establishing future area offices**

The representative of Australia presented Document 41, which included a multi-country proposal in response to the criteria for establishing future area offices.

The document builds on Document 18 criteria and suggests enhancements to ensure the effective establishment and operation of regional offices. It emphasized the importance of collaboration between ITU, host countries, and member states to ensure offices meet regional needs.

The contribution sought feedback from TDAG members to refine the criteria and ensure alignment with ITU’s strategic goals.

TDAG provided feedback and raised questions regarding Documents 18 and 41(Rev.1):

* TDAG broadly supported the proposed criteria for establishing regional and area offices, recognizing the need for strategic placement to maximize impact.
* Some delegates sought clarification on specific criteria such as the cost-benefit analysis and potential regional impact. The Secretariat provided detailed explanations, emphasizing the importance of aligning new offices with ITU’s strategic objectives.
* Emphasis was placed on ensuring that the criteria reflect the diverse needs of different regions, particularly those of developing countries, least developed countries (LDCs), and small island developing states (SIDS).
* Questions were raised about how new offices would coordinate with existing ITU regional and area offices. It was clarified that the new offices would complement existing ones, ensuring a coherent and efficient network.
* Concerns about the financial and logistical feasibility of establishing new offices were discussed. TDAG suggested that detailed cost assessments and sustainable funding models be developed.
* The importance of continuous feedback from member states was highlighted to ensure the criteria remain relevant and effective. TDAG proposed regular reviews and updates to the criteria based on member state experiences and evolving regional needs.
* There was a call for clear mechanisms to measure the impact of the new offices on regional development goals. It was suggested that KPIs be established to track the performance and contributions of these offices.

The presentations and subsequent discussions highlighted the importance of strategic criteria for establishing regional and area offices to enhance ITU’s effectiveness. TDAG appreciated the comprehensive proposals in Documents 18 and 41(Rev.1) and provided constructive feedback to refine the criteria. The focus on inclusivity, coordination, financial feasibility, and impact measurement was emphasized as critical for the success of these initiatives. The feedback and recommendations will be incorporated into the final criteria to be discussed in the next Council session.

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| TDAG took note of the contribution that addresses the criteria for establishing future area offices and provides a draft response from TDAG to CWG-FHR’s Liaison Statement. It acknowledged the valuable discussions held at CWG-FHR meetings in 2023 and 2024, highlighting the importance of strengthening ITU regional presence to better serve Member States in need, particularly least-developed countries, landlocked developing countries, and small island developing states. |

**Document** [**21(Rev.1)**](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG31-C-0021/) **(Chair, CWG-FHR) - Incoming LS - Liaison Statement to TDAG and ISCG on the criteria for establishing future area offices**

The Secretariat presented Document 21 which provided a liaison statement from the Council Working Group on Finance and Human Resources (CWG-FHR) regarding the criteria for establishing future regional and area offices. The document follows discussions from the October 2023 CWG-FHR meeting and seeks the views of TDAG on its contents.

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| TDAG took note of the incoming Liaison Statement on the criteria for establishing future area offices. |

**Document** [**DT/8**](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG31-240520-TD-0008/en)**(Rev.1) (Chair, TDAG) - Reply Liaison statement to CWG-FHR: Criteria for establishing future regional and area offices**

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| TDAG approved document DT/8 (Rev.1), which in Annex 1 includes TDAG’s comments in tracked changes on the criteria for establishing future area and regional offices found in CWG-FHR/10.  TDAG welcomed, in principle, the Council's efforts to define criteria and regularize the establishment of future area and regional offices. |

1. **Outcomes of RA-23 and WRC-23 relevant to the work of ITU-D**

**Document** [**11 + Annexes 1-2**](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG31-C-0011/) **(Director, BDT) - Outcomes of RA-23/WRC-23 relevant to ITU-D**

This document reported on the outcomes of the 2023 Radiocommunication Assembly (RA-23) and the 2023 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-23).

RA-23 held in Dubai, UAE from 13 to 17 November 2023 was attended by over 1,300 delegates from 128 ITU Member States. The conference was chaired by Mrs. Carol Wilson (Australia), the first woman to chair an ITU Radiocommunication Assembly. Key discussions at RA-23 included the adoption of IMT-2030 as the technical reference for 6G mobile systems and a new resolution on space sustainability for long-term use of the radio frequency spectrum and satellite orbit resources.

WRC-23 held from 20 November to 15 December 2023 also in Dubai, UAE was attended by over 3,900 delegates from 163 Member States, with 22% female participation which represented an increase from the previous years. WRC-23 approved 43 new resolutions, revised 56 existing ones, and suppressed resolutions.

TDAG acknowledged the Space 2030 Agenda and the report by Secretary-General on this matter contained in document [C-24/38](https://www.itu.int/md/S23-CL-C-0058/en) *ITU's role in the implementation of the space 2030 agenda: space as a driver of sustainable development* for consideration at the upcoming session of the ITU Council.

TDAG discussed duration of the appointment of the chair, vice-chairs and rapporteurs of the study groups.

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| TDAG took note of the document that outlined the outcomes of the Radiocommunication Assembly 2023 (RA-23) and the World Radiocommunication Conference 2023 (WRC-23) and their relevance to the work of ITU-D. |

1. **Preparations for WTSA-24**

**Document** [**15**](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG31-C-0015/) **(Director, TSB) - Preparations for the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA-24)**

The TSB Secretariat presented Document 15, which reported on the preparations for the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA) scheduled from 15 to 24 October 2024, in New Delhi, India. The WTSA will be preceded by the Global Standards Symposium on 14 October 2024.

The document listed a series of key circulars sent to ITU membership regarding the logistics and side events planned over the two weeks of the assembly and a call for candidates for key ITU-T leadership positions. A series of regional preparatory meetings have been set up in the run-up to the WTSA, including two upcoming interregional preparatory meetings scheduled for 25 July and 9 September 2024.

Preparations with the host country are well underway, with close collaboration to implement the provisions outlined in the Host Country Agreement (HCA) and plan for the logistics of various side events.

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| TDAG took note of the report of the TSB Director on the status of the preparations for WTSA. WTSA is scheduled from 15 to 24 October 2024. It will be preceded by the Global Standards Symposium on 14 October. Both events are kindly hosted by the Government of India, in New Delhi. The document listed a series of key circulars that have been sent to our membership pertaining to the logistics and the side events planned over the two weeks of the conference. |

1. **Contribution to the work of the Expert Group on the International Telecommunication Regulations (EG-ITR)**

**Document** [**3**](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG31-C-0003/) **(Director, BDT) - Report on the work of the Expert Group on International Telecommunication Regulations (EG-ITRs) to TDA**

The BDT Secretariat presented this document which provided a progress report on the work of the EG-ITRs focusing on the main results of the first and second meetings of the group (16 October 2023 and 29-30 January 2024) and next steps going forward.

It was noted that considering the working agenda and contributions received for these EG-ITRs meetings, there were no specific issues requiring BDT intervention. BDT secretariat continues following the works of the EG-ITR.

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| Recalling the reference to Resolution 1379 and the importance that calls upon the Directors of the Bureau, each within their field of competence, to provide input to the ITRs with advice from the relevant advisory group, TDAG took note of the progress of the work of the Expert Group on International Telecommunication Regulations (EG-ITRs). |

1. **Calendar of ITU-D events**

**Document** [**14(Rev.1)**](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG31-C-0014/) **(Director, BDT) - ITU-D calendar of events**

This document contained the draft calendar for the main ITU-D events over the next four years (2024-2027), including some of the main ITU events, indicated as reference. The proposed dates for the next cycle of RPMs in early 2025 were also included.

On behalf of the Government of Uganda, Ms. Rebecca Mukite extended an invitation to all TDAG participants to attend the 2024 Global Symposium for Regulators ([GSR-24](https://www.itu.int/itu-d/meetings/gsr-24/)). Also see: [Global Symposium for Regulators 2024 video](https://youtu.be/2MvSo_1neA8).

On behalf of the Government of Malta, Mr. Kenneth Brincat, CEO of the Malta Digital Innovation Authority extended an invitation to all TDAG participants to attend the upcoming ITU Global Innovation Forum (GIF) in Malta.

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| TDAG welcomed the warm invitation made by Uganda to attend the Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR-24) from 1 to 4 July 2024 in Kampala under the theme "Regulating for Impact."  The Digital Innovation Authority of Malta announced that Malta will be hosting the ITU Global Innovation Forum (GIF-24) in Valletta, Malta, in October 2024 and extended a warm invitation to TDAG participants to attend the event.  TDAG thanked Uganda and Malta for their generous offer to host these upcoming ITU-D events.  TDAG noted the document and the announcements on the upcoming events and expressed its pleasure at the interesting and relevant content they will feature. |

1. **Any other business**

The results of the Mentimeter survey on “What should be the theme of a WTDC song?” are provided in Annex 2.

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| TDAG invited all participants to join in the effort to create a “WTDC Song”. |

**Closing remarks by the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau**

During the closure of the 31st meeting of the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG) on 23 May 2024, Dr. Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava, Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau, delivered the final remarks.

Dr. Zavazava expressed his gratitude to all participants, emphasizing the efficient and productive week achieved through active participation and contribution. The meeting saw more than 160 delegates from Member States, Sector Members, Academia, and a Regional Telecommunication Organization. A total of 49 documents were reviewed, including 19 membership contributions, 20 Secretariat documents, and submissions from various group chairs and liaison statements.

Dr. Zavazava highlighted the strong collaboration with partners, study groups, ITU-D members, and Member States, reinforcing a member-driven, results-oriented, and development-focused approach. Coordination with the other ITU sectors was emphasized to avoid duplication of efforts and resources. Specific collaborations were noted with the BR Director on space spectrum management activities and with TSB on bridging the standardization gap and innovation in standards. Close cooperation with the General Secretariat ensured efficient and responsive systems in finance, human resources, and information systems, with efforts to strengthen work within the UN-wide system.

As TDAG prepares for a new Action Plan, Dr. Zavazava congratulated the group for advancing member-driven processes through the Working Groups. He announced that Regional Development Forums (RDFs) will be held back-to-back with Regional Preparatory Meetings (RPMs) to establish synergies, with RDFs generating ideas for the RPMs. The Secretariat is committed to ensuring efficient processes for WTDC-25, including registration, document control, and support for committee work.

Dr. Zavazava thanked the BDT team both in the field and at Headquarters, acknowledging their hard work. He emphasized the unique role of TDAG in accelerating meaningful and affordable connectivity and the deployment of digital solutions to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Dr. Zavazava wished all participants a safe journey home. The closing session included a highlights video to commemorate the week’s events.

The BDT Director’s full closing remarks are available on the [Director’s corner](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/bdt-director/Pages/Speeches.aspx?ItemID=533) of the BDT website.

**ANNEX 1**

**INTERACTIVE CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE BDT DIRECTOR,   
REGIONAL DIRECTORS AND CHIEFS OF DEPARTMENT**

**Natalia Mochu, Regional Director, ITU Regional Office for CIS:**

In programming the activities in the region, close consideration is given to the needs and demands of the countries. An approach that shows its efficiency is rolling out activities at the regional level followed by country assistance, tailored to the specific requirements of the countries (the example of trainings on 5G). Another approach is planning continuous engagement, not a one-time activity. An example is the Girls in ICT events in Kyrgyzstan that is being organized several years in a row, with multiplying effect. In 2024 it also resulted in request for new Academia member. ICT data and statistics remains an area of high interest and focus in the region.

The BDT Director added that in the CIS region 7 countries are land-locked, and two are double land-locked, which imposes certain challenges on the counties.

**Atsuko Okuda, Regional Director, ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific:**

Taking into consideration the diversity of the Asia and the Pacific region, the RO-ASP has developed targeted and tailored technical assistance initiatives and projects specific to the needs of countries, such as the Smart Villages and Smart Islands, which have expanded connectivity and access to digital literacy training and digital services, such as education, health, agriculture, commerce and disaster preparedness, among unconnected and under-served groups and communities in collaboration with ITU academia and industry members and UN agencies.

**Jaroslav Ponder, Regional Director, ITU Regional Office for Europe:**

Europe, with its 46 member states, is the largest region, representing diversity in terms of digital development. This region comprises countries leading in digital innovation worldwide and those that are in the process of catching up. Europe Office supports all countries on their journey towards accelerated digital transformation, simultaneously building bridges with countries from other regions, enabling the transfer of know-how and experiences. For instance, In the run-up to the Global Symposium for Regulators and building upon the Digital Regional Network Initiative launched at GSR-23, the ITU Office for Europe has strengthened cooperation with the Eastern Partnership Electronic Communications Regulators Network (EaPeReg) and EMERG, developing an annual work plan resulting in several actions, such as special training on Regulation for Digital Transformation attended by over 180 stakeholders, or the elaboration of the Compendium of Experiences in the Implementation of Broadband Mapping Systems, leading towards country assistances in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Moldova. Moreover, the Office for Europe strengthened the engagement of ITU in the UN Development System at the regional level, becoming a member of UN Country Teams and leading discussions on digital while exploring new financial mechanisms for digital for development projects, such as in Albania, Montenegro, Serbia.

**Adel Darwish, Regional Director, ITU Regional Office for the Arab States:**

The office is glad to serve the region which is very diverse in terms of ICT needs. The Director was delighted to inform TDAG that they have launched several EW4ALL initiatives and conducted collaborative digital regulation reviews. The ITU Regional Office for the Arab States is committed to Accessible Arab and to support the Network of Women. Partnering with TDRA in the UAE, it can leverage I-CoDI to support digital innovation across the Arab region. Additionally, the office successfully partnered with the UAE Cybersecurity Council to implement and host global cyber drills.

**Emmanuel C. Manasseh, Acting Regional Director, ITU Regional Office for Africa:**

The RO-AFR has 44 member States. Considering the diversity of our member states and their needs, RO-AFR in planning its operational activities made reference to the requests expressed by the Member States and in line with the Kigali Action Plan and Regional Initiatives. Once implemented, we invite other member states to scale up the results for other Member States to benefit and exchange experiences. Our operation activities prioritize capacity building, digital inclusion, digital connectivity, digital services and applications, emergency telecommunications, policy and regulation. Some of the undertaken operational activities include capacity building on cybersecurity, support on digital transformation strategies, implementation of gender related initiatives and youth for digital inclusion among others.

**Sofie Maddens, Chief, Digital Knowledge Hub (DKH) Department**

DKH is committed to listening to membership and working with regional colleagues so that we can synergize and adapt our products and services to meet the needs of membership and make impact. Our offerings include policy and regulation, capacity and skills development, ICT statistics, and study group reports and guidelines. Our actions result in increased human and institutional capacity and access to data and tools for evidence-based decision making towards universal and meaningful connectivity and sustainable digital transformation.

**Marco Obiso, Chief, Digital Networks & Society Department (DNS) Department**

As HQ is covering all Member States and is output oriented, the HQ teams translate requirements expressed by the regions and the membership in offerings to be made available and implemented on the ground. DNS offerings span from infrastructure related products (mapping, network planning) to cyber (CIRT related) to digital innovation (alliance), youth, gender, emergency telco (AW4ALL), climate change related (e-waste monitor), among others.

**ANNEX 2**

**RESULTS OF THE MENTIMETER SURVEY ON “WHAT SHOULD BE THE THEME OF A WTDC SONG?”**

A screenshot of a computer

Description automatically generated

**ANNEX 3**

**Special Session on Partnerships during TDAG-24**

The session "Partnerships for Digital Development: Recognizing the Contributions from Sector Members, Partners and Beneficiaries for a BDT4Impact" took place on 21 May at 16:30 CET, during the 31st meeting of the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG).

The session acknowledged and celebrated the significant contributions of ITU-D members and highlighted record-breaking numbers noting that, from January 2023 to April 2024, 63 new Sector Members, Associates and Academia joined ITU-D, and 117 agreements were signed valued 27.8 million USD, resulting in 36 projects aimed at digital development.

The session included a panel with distinguished speakers from all regions sharing testimonies and success stories on how ITU-D partnerships and projects support digital transformation and deliver impact on the ground. The Panel was moderated by **Mr. Bocar Ba**, CEO of the SAMENA Telecommunications Council and Chair of the Industry Advisory Group on Development Issues and Private Sector Chief Regulatory Officers' meeting (IAGDI-CRO), featuring eight distinguished speakers:

* **H.E. Mr. Thomas Wagner**, Deputy Permanent Representative, European Union to the United Nations and other international organizations in Geneva
* **H.E. Ms. Anna Jardfelt**, Ambassador of Sweden to the United Nations Office in Geneva
* **Mr. Joseph Burton**, Senior Policy Advisor, Multilateral Affairs, Bureau of Cyberspace and Digital Policy, U.S. Department of State, United States
* **Mr. Christopher Kemei,** Director, Licensing, Compliance and Standards, Communications Authority of Kenya (C.A.), Kenya
* **Ms. Shahad Albalawi**, International Representation Director at The Communications, Space and Technology Commission (CST), Saudi Arabia, Vice-chair of the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG), and a member of the advisory board for the Network of Women (NoW), Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
* **Mr. Ce Zhao**, Deputy Director General, Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT), People's Republic of China
* **Mr. Tilek Taalaibekov**, Head of Radio Monitoring Department, State Communications Agency under the Ministry of Digital Development, Kyrgyz Republic.
* **Mr. Ahmed Riad Ismail**, Senior Director – Strategy and Industry Development, Huawei Technologies

The dialogue centred around sharing and discussing collaborative arrangements implemented by the BDT, such as:

* **Digital Inclusion:** the need to bridge the digital divide, with 2.6 billion people still offline and the importance of multistakeholder collaboration for digital inclusion and highlighted the need to bridge digital skills and literacy gaps, particularly for women.
* **Digital Transformation, Policy and Regulation:** the importance of taking a comprehensive approach to digital transformation, involving the implementation of good governance, transparency, and sustainability, and using technologies such as AI and 5G. The importance of working together across multiple stakeholders and fostering inclusive partnerships to address global digital challenges was underscored along with the ITU's role in coordinating these efforts.
* **ICT and Digital Skills:**the vital role of ICT in sustainable development efforts, emphasizing capacity development and technical training to support local deployment of extensive infrastructure projects. Collaborative efforts in ICT development and governance were deemed essential to progress.
* **Circular Economy and Sustainability:** the importance of merging digital solutions with environmental sustainability. Effective management of e-waste, enhancement of climate resilience, and promotion of a circular economy that integrates digital and green transformation aspects were key topics of discussion.
* **Emergency Telecommunications:** the role of emergency telecommunications in establishing and enhancing early warning systems to ensure timely alerts and effective management of natural disasters and importance to promote ITU's technical expertise in collaboration with other stakeholders.

The BDT Director concluded the session by expressing gratitude for the insightful contributions of the panellists. He highlighted the growth of the ITU-D membership and pointed out the expanding influence and reach of the ITU in the industry and private sectors. The BDT Director also emphasized the success of the partnership models, noting the financing of 36 new impactful projects, and expressed appreciation for all partners, especially the top contributors to ITU-D work in 2023 and up to April 2024.

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1. Sector Members, Associates, or Academia. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Not present for the meeting: Vice-Chair for the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) Orozobek Zhazybaevick Kaiykov (Kyrgyz Republic) and Vice-Chair from Arab states Ahmed Abd El-Aziz GAD (Egypt). [↑](#footnote-ref-3)