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**Contribution by the Republic of India**

# SPecific course on communication technology & finance at itu academy

# 1 Background

The evolution of communication technology is at the very heart of economic growth and development. Not only the development of technology should be affordable, but its deployment must also be robust and sustainable. Financial instruments bridge the gap between technology development and business deployment. Therefore, it is imperative for the technology developers to know finance or receive sound financial advice.

ITU is at the very heart of the ICT sector, brokering agreement on technologies, services, and allocation of global resources like radio-frequency spectrum and satellite orbital frequencies, to create a seamless global communications system that's robust, reliable, and constantly evolving environment.

The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) adopted in 2015 invite global action by 2030 in three overarching areas: end poverty, combat climate change and fight injustice and inequality. ICT is seen as a powerful enabler for each of the 17 goals, and an essential catalyst in driving rapid transformation of nearly every aspect of our lives.

Underscoring the importance of finance in fulfilling its mandate, ITU has established a few platforms across its working spectrum. They help in exchanging ideas about telecom ecosystem, financial regulation and related policy concerns. Some of them can be noted as follows.

Study Groups:

* SG3 - Economic and policy issues
* SG20 - IoT, smart cities & communities

Focus Groups:

* ITU-T Focus Group on Digital Currency including Digital Fiat Currency (FG DFC)

Traditionally the domains of Technology and Finance had minimal convergence. But it has not remained so. There is increasing convergence between these domains and a cross cutting expertise is the need of the hour. Policy makers need to have expertise in techno-finance to ensure that policy and regulations keep up with speed of technology development.

The ITU Academy is an ITU capacity building initiative that brings together under one umbrella a wide range of training activities and knowledge resources in information and communication technologies (ICTs). The Academy has established itself as the leading platform of all ITU capacity-building services. While it offers multiple courses on varying topics, there is a dearth of courses focused on Techno-Finance.

# 2 Proposal

Therefore, India proposes that the Council Working Group on Financial and Human Resources direct the ITU-Academy to promote more such courses with a focus on convergence of expertise i.e. Communication Technology and Finance.

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