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| **Agenda item: ADM 1** | **Document C23/26-E** |
| **16 May 2023** |
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| Report by the Secretary-General | |
| FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE REGIONAL INITIATIVES APPROVED BY WTDC-22 | |
| **Purpose**  The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Kigali, 2022), held in Kigali, Rwanda from 6 to 16 June 2022, adopted the Kigali Declaration and the Kigali Action Plan, including 28 regional initiatives (RIs) distributed among the six regions of ITU-D.  In the assessment of BDT, full implementation of these regional initiatives would require significant financing, which in turn would need to be generated by ITU through resource mobilization and other efforts.  At the start of the previous cycle, the World Telecommunication Development Conference (Buenos Aires, 2017) suggested an allocation of 1 million Swiss francs per RI, to ensure ITU had adequate funding to engage in partnerships and other collaborative efforts that would ensure the effective and full implementation of these RIs. In the event, no financial resources were allocated for this purpose. Instead, following the adoption of regional initiatives by WTDC-17, the ITU Council at its 2018 session allocated a total of 5 million Swiss francs as seed funding for the period from 2018-2021.  This document provides an overview of the RIs adopted by WTDC-22 and BDT’s assessment of the financial resources that will be needed to make full implementation possible.  **Action required by the Council**  The Council is requested to **consider** this document.  **Relevant link(s) with the Strategic Plan:**  All thematic priorities; regional presence  **Financial implications**  CHF 5.6 million to CHF 8.4 million (BDT’s assessment of the resources needed to make full implementation of regional initiatives possible)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **References**  [*Final Report of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (Kigali, 2022), Part III – Regional Initiatives*](https://www.itu.int/en/publications/ITU-D/pages/publications.aspx?parent=D-TDC-WTDC-2022&media=electronic)*;* [*Resolution 25 (Rev. Bucharest 2022)*](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts-2023/RES-025-E.pdf) *of the Plenipotentiary Conference* | |

1. **Introduction**

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Kigali, 2022), held in Kigali, Rwanda 6 to 16 June 2022 (WTDC-22), adopted the Kigali Action Plan, which includes 28 regional initiatives (RIs) distributed among the six regions of ITU-D.

During the period 2014-2018, ITU signed 87 projects with a total value of CHF 25.7 million and allocated CHF 3.4 million in cash contributions to these projects (including CHF 1.2 million in contributions from the ICT Development Fund, ICT-DF).

The majority of the projects were small or medium-sized. Recognizing this as an issue, the Council at its 2018 session approved a total allocation of CHF 5 million to be used as seed funding for ITU projects. The intention was that this allocation would attract larger contributions from donors and partners, magnifying the size and impact of those projects.

During the period 2019 to 2022, ITU signed 97 projects with a total value of CHF 58.9 million and allocated to them CHF 9.4 million in cash contributions (including CHF 3.3 million in contributions from the ICT-DF). This represented a significant increase in the funding mobilized by BDT for projects. It should be noted that 60 out of these 97 projects (61 % of total projects) benefitted from the Council-allocated RI funding.

1. **Overview of the regional initiatives**

WTDC-22 approved RIs across ITU’s strategic objectives, creating synergies across regions that can be leveraged in implementing the Ris. The RIs are listed in the [Annex](#Annex).

1. **Implementation options**

The implementation of these RIs has already commenced in 2023, as coherence was established across the operational planning process, project planning, and regional initiative implementation with results-based management focused on outcomes rather than fragmented actions. However, effective implementation of the RIs will be limited if sufficient funding is not available.

The experience of BDT during the 2018-2022 cycle suggests that external partners tend to commit an average of 50 per cent of the ITU contribution to a project. This effectively means that the more ITU allocates to an RI, the more likely it will be that external partners commit their own funds towards the related projects.

|  | **Options for partial implementation** | **2024-2025** | **2026-2027** | **TOTAL 2024-2027** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | Allocation of KCHF 100 for 2024-2025 and KCHF 200 for 2026-2027 | max. CHF 2.8 million | CHF 5.6 million | **CHF 8.4 million** |
| 2 | Allocation of KCHF 100 to each RI for 2024-2025 and KCHF 100 for 2026-2027 | max. CHF 2.8 million | CHF 2.8 million | **CHF 5.6 million** |

**Explanatory note on the options for partial implementation**

**Option 1:** Allocation of KCHF 100 for each regional initiative for the first two-year period and KCHF 200 for the next is likely to attract funding for medium-sized projects.

**Option 2:** Allocation of KCHF 100 for the first two-year period and the same amount for the next such period is likely attract to funding for small and medium-scale projects. A strong drive by ITU to mobilize other resources and leverage the Partner2Connect Digital Development Coalition could attract other partners, further enhancing the impact of the RI funding.

**Conclusion**

The Council is requested to consider this document.

*Annex:* ***1***

Annex

WTDC-22 Regional initiatives

During the six regional preparatory meetings held in 2022 for the World Telecommunication Development Conference (Kigali, 2022), the regions brought forward their specific priorities in a set of regional initiatives, which have been enshrined in the Kigali Action Plan. These regional initiatives (28 in total) are intended to address specific telecommunication/ICT priority areas through partnerships and resource mobilization to implement projects. Under each regional initiative, projects are developed and implemented to meet the region's needs.

**Africa regional initiatives**  
AFR1: Supporting digital transformation to usher in a rapid transition to a digital economy while accelerating innovation in Africa  
AFR2: Implementation and expansion of broadband infrastructures, connectivity and emerging technologies  
AFR3: Building trust, safety and security in the use of telecommunications/information and communication technologies and protection of personal data  
AFR4: Fostering emerging technologies and innovation ecosystems

**Americas regional initiatives**  
AMS1: Deployment of modern, resilient, secure and sustainable telecommunication/information and communication technology infrastructure  
AMS2: Enhancement and expansion of digital-literacy, digital-skills and digital-inclusion programmes, especially among vulnerable populations  
AMS3: Effective support for digital transformation and innovation ecosystems through scalable, funded and sustainable connectivity projects  
AMS4: Development of enabling policy and regulatory environments to connect the unconnected through accessible and affordable telecommunications/information and communication technologies that support achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and progress towards the digital economy

**Arab States regional initiatives**  
ARB1: Sustainable digital economy through digital transformation  
ARB2: Enhancing confidence, security and privacy in the use of telecommunications/information and communication technologies in the era of new and emerging digital technologies  
ARB3: Developing digital infrastructure for smart sustainable cities and communities Developing digital infrastructure for smart sustainable cities and communities  
ARB4: Building capacities and encouraging digital innovation, entrepreneurship and future foresight  
ARB5: Developing means of digital regulation

**Asia-Pacific regional initiatives**  
ASP1: Addressing special needs of least developed countries, small island developing states, including Pacific island countries, and landlocked developing countries  
ASP2: Harnessing information and communication technologies to support the digital economy and inclusive digital societies  
ASP3: Fostering development of infrastructure to enhance digital connectivity and connecting the unconnected  
ASP4: Enabling policy and regulatory environments to accelerate digital transformation  
ASP5: Contributing to a secure and resilient information and communication technology environment

**CIS regional initiative**s  
CIS1: Developing infrastructure to promote innovation and partnerships in the introduction of new technologies – the Internet of Things, including the industrial Internet, smart cities and communities, 5G/IMT-2020 and next-generation NET-2030 communication networks, quantum technologies, artificial intelligence, digital health, digital skills and environmental protection  
CIS2: Cybersecurity and personal data protection  
CIS3: Creating an enabling legal and regulatory environment to accelerate digital transformation  
CIS4: Digital skills and information and communication technology accessibility for the public, in particular for persons with disabilities  
CIS5: Development of smart cities and communities

**Europe regional initiatives**  
EUR1: Digital infrastructure development  
EUR2: Digital transformation for resilience  
EUR3: Digital inclusion and skills development  
EUR4: Trust and confidence in the use of telecommunications/ information and communication technologies  
EUR5: Digital innovation ecosystems

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