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| **Agenda item: ADM 1** | **Document C23/80-E** |
| **27 June 2023** |
| **Original: Chinese** |
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| Contribution from the People's Republic of China | |
| PROPOSAL TO SUPPORT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF REGIONAL INITIATIVES APPROVED BY THE WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE (WTDC-22) | |
| **Purpose**  The Administration of the People's Republic of China invites the Council to consider the proposal to support the implementation of regional initiatives approved by the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-22).  **Action required by the Council**  The Council is invited **to consider** the proposals contained in the contribution and **take relevant actions as appropriate**.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **References**  Document 26 of the 2023 session of the Council ([C23/26](https://www.itu.int/md/S23-CL-C-0026/en)). | |

# 1 Background

The eighth World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC), held in Kigali, Rwanda, from 6-16 June 2022, approved 28 regional initiatives in six regions, which reflect the priority areas agreed upon by the regions and are important for enhancing the level of ICT development in the regions. However, we notice that the implementation of those regional initiatives has no funding support.

During the 2018 session of the Council, the Secretary-General submitted a report ([C18/66](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-CL-C-0066/en)), presenting four options for allocating additional resources for the implementation of regional initiatives. As a result of discussion, it was eventually decided by the Council ([C18/121](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-CL-C-0121/en)) to allocate CHF 5 million for regional initiatives, of which CHF 2 million would be from 2017 savings and the remaining CHF 3 million would be included in the 2020-2021 biennial budget in the financial plan for 2020-2023.

Since 2019, within the framework of regional initiatives, many large and medium-sized projects have been implemented, contributing greatly to the advancement of ICTs in the regions. In the Asia-Pacific region, for example, the satellite connectivity projects in nine Pacific Island Countries, including Fiji, Nauru and Samoa, have effectively improved their connectivity and resilience to disasters. The training on digital government, cybersecurity and emergency communications in some countries in the region has effectively assisted these countries in enhancing their capacity to develop strategies in related areas. We believe that cooperation in other regions through the projects within the framework of regional initiatives has also had a positive impact on local ICT development.

At the meeting of the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG), which was held in June 2023, Member States highlighted the importance of regional initiatives and agreed that it is necessary to provide financial support by ITU for their implementation.

# 2 Proposals

Considering that regional initiatives reflect the priority areas and major development aspirations agreed upon by the regions, which are of great significance to raising ICT development levels in the regions, and taking into account the current financial challenges faced by ITU, China proposes that:

1) The Council is invited to consider the relevant proposals of TDAG-23, and to provide financial support for the implementation of the regional initiatives approved by WTDC‑22.

2) The Director of BDT is invited to coordinate the implementation of regional initiatives, including prioritizing regional initiatives, giving priority and scheduling projects that are related to ITU-D's priority areas and the framework of implementation of the Kigali Action Plan, while taking into account the needs of LDCs, SIDS, LLDCs and countries with economies in transition, to ensure that limited resources are directed to the most urgent projects.

3) The Director of BDT is invited to continue to actively promote the implementation of the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Alliance for Digital Development initiative, establish broader and closer partnerships with members, continuously improve project management capacity and implementation efficiency, and further amplify the driving effect of ITU’s budgetary resources on external investment.

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