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| **Agenda item: PL 2** | **Document C24/25-E** |
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| Report by the Secretary-General |
| STRENGTHENING ITU’S REGIONAL PRESENCE |
| **Purpose**This document reports on the contribution of the ITU Regional Presence to the fulfilment of the mandate of ITU. It provides information on the regional work towards the implementation of the ITU Strategic Plan, the Kigali Action Plan and Regional Initiatives.**Action required by the Council**The Council is invited **to take note** of the report provided in this document.**Relevant link(s) with the Strategic Plan**Regional presence.**Financial implications**Within the allocated budget 2024-2025.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**References**[*Resolution 25*](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts/RES-025-E.pdf) *(Rev. Dubai, 2018),* [*Resolution 25*](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts-2023/RES-025-E.pdf) *(Rev. Bucharest, 2022), Resolution 135 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022), Resolution 157 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference;* [*Kigali Action Plan*](https://www.itu.int/en/publications/ITU-D/pages/publications.aspx?parent=D-TDC-WTDC-2022&media=electronic)*, Final Report of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (Kigali, 2022),* [*TDAG31-C002*](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG31-C-0002/en)*.* |

**1. Background**

1.1 Resolution 25 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference on strengthening the ITU regional presence calls upon ITU, among others, to *“*continue to strengthen the functions of the regional and area offices so that they can play an important role in implementation of the ITU strategic plan, programmes, and projects, and the regional initiatives set out in the Kigali Action Plan, pursuant to Resolution 17 (Rev. Kigali, 2022) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC), within available resources, including those allocated by the financial plan and from other relevant sources such as voluntary contributions and sponsorships.”

1.2 Resolution 25 emphasizes the important role of the regional and area offices to enable ITU (the three sectors and the General Secretariat) to work as closely as possible with its membership, serving as a channel for executing programmes, projects, and activities, disseminating information on the Union’s activities, developing closer ties with regional and subregional telecommunication organizations and the United Nations organizations, and providing technical assistance to countries, including LDCs, with specific needs. It also places importance on the participation of developing countries in ITU activities.

1.3. This report provides information on the implementation of activities on the ground by the ITU Field Offices related to the three sectors of the Union.

**2.** **Regional Development Forum (RDF)**

2.1 The Plenipotentiary Conference 2022 (PP-22) requested to report on the implementation of the concept of “One ITU” (see document [C24/17](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CL-C-0017/en)), including, *inter alia*, the activities of regional and area offices, by implementing region-specific actions aligned with the Union’s Strategic Plan, to facilitate the overarching objective of achieving ITU’s strategic goals, while ensuring effective representation of the Union’s work as well as the geographical diversity and the region’s specific needs.

2.2 At the regional level, ITU regional offices have continued to play an important dual role in terms of implementation and follow-up. Six ITU RDFs held in 2023 and 2024 attracted over 1500 stakeholders worldwide, providing an effective platform for all stakeholders to discuss the implementation of ITU regional initiatives contributing to the implementation of the WSIS action lines. The meetings attracted representatives of the UN system, including UN regional commissions, providing the follow-up function on WSIS implementation at the regional level.

2.3 The 2023 ITU RDF for Africa ([RDF-AFR](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/Africa/Pages/EVENTS/2023/RDF-AFR.aspx)) was held from 3 to 5 October 2023 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia under the theme “Digital transformation for a sustainable and equitable digital future: Accelerating the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Africa through digital transformation”. It welcomed close to 300 participants, attracted 27 contributions, and resulted in 20 new P2C commitments for Africa, achieving the milestone of the 800th P2C pledge. The event enhanced engagement among member states, private sector, academia, regional organizations, and partners on implementation of the Kigali Action Plan, showcasing progress and national success stories during the exchanges. In addition, strategic collaboration with UN agencies was strengthened. ITU is a recent signatory to the new united national sustainable development cooperation frameworks (UNSDCFs) in Mauritius, Seychelles, Malawi, and Cape Verde, and efforts are ongoing to become signatories in other countries.

2.4 The 2023 ITU RDF for Americas ([RDF-AMS](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/Americas/Pages/EVENTS/2023/RDF-2023.aspx)) was organized by ITU and hosted by the Government of El Salvador. The Forum was held from 16 to 18 August 2023 in San Salvador and in conjunction with the ITEC-ITU Colloquium on New Technologies and the Internet. Twenty-seven contributions were received and added to the P2C pledging platform. As of 19 August 2023, there are 147 Partner2Connect (P2C) commitments, worth USD 9.86 billion pledged by 91 entities from 39 countries around the world, some of which are already being implemented in the Americas region to deliver meaningful connectivity and digital transformation. The RDF-AMS welcomed 268 participants from 22 Member States.

2.5 The 2023 ITU RDF for the Arab States ([RDF-ARB](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/ArabStates/Pages/Events/2023/RDF-23/RDF.aspx)) was held on 6-7 November 2023was hosted by Bahrain,on accelerating digital development showcased Bahrain’s leadership in embracing digitalization. There was active participation from representatives from 19 Member States and the State of Palestine to discuss the implementation of the five regional initiatives for the Arab States region as well as other activities under the five thematic priority areas adopted at WTDC-22. Twenty-eight written contributions were submitted including new P2C pledges to achieve meaningful connectivity and sustainable digital transformation in the region. During the RDF ITU and Somalia signed a Framework Cooperation Agreement (FCA) focuses on key areas of telecommunications/ICT development and aligns with the national priorities of Somalia.

2.6 The 2023 ITU RDF for Asia and the Pacific ([RDF-ASP](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/AsiaPacific/Pages/Events/2023/RDF%20ASP%2023/Regional-Development-Forum-for-Asia-and-the-Pacific.aspx)) was held in Thailand in September 2023. Twenty countries and partner organizations from across the region came together to discuss the Asia-Pacific regional initiatives and the Kigali Action Plan, the needs of the region and candidate countries for implementation. The Forum led to enhanced awareness and high-level commitment from ITU Member States in the Asia-Pacific region and strengthened cooperation and collaboration with the United Nations Development Coordination Office (UNDCO), the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) and agencies such as the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). Increased financial commitments were evidenced by new pledges made during the P2C roundtable matchmaking sessions; 11 new P2C pledges and commitments were announced, and several joint declarations were signed including with Huawei, Indosat, and the Indonesia-ITU Concern Forum (IICF), which brought more resources and expertise for the implementation of the regional initiatives.

2.7 The 2024 ITU RDF for CIS ([RDF-CIS](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/CIS/Pages/Events/2024/RDF.aspx)) held in March 2024, provided a platform to exchange views between ITU Member States, Sector Members, partners, and other stakeholders in relation to the membership priorities, with over 105 participants from 10 countries, to identify ways to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs in the region through digital transformation. ITU reported on the progress that has been made towards implementing the outcomes of the World Telecommunication Development Conference 2022 (WTDC-22) so far, including the Regional Initiatives for the CIS region. A segment of the RDF was dedicated to the P2C Digital Coalition matchmaking roundtables where members and stakeholders expressed their commitments based on contributions or pledges aimed at addressing priority needs of the countries in the CIS region, with the goal of advancing digital development and implementation of the regional initiatives.

2.8 The 2023 ITU RDF for Europe ([RDF-EUR](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/Europe/Pages/Events/2023/ITURDF/EUR23.aspx)), held on 22 to 23 May 2023 in Romania, back-to-back with the CEPT Committee for ITU Policies (Com-ITU) meeting, was attended by over 200 participants (including 95 onsite), representing 40 Member States, five regional organizations, and seven UN specialized agencies. The meeting resulted in the 2023-2024 Implementation Plan for regional initiatives for Europe, and the announcement of 109 European contributions converted into P2Connect pledges. Special announcements included a declaration on cybersecurity capacity building and gender inclusion in cybersecurity in the Western Balkans, signed with the Government of Slovenia, also representing France and Montenegro; a partnership with 5G Techritory to advance 5G technologies in Europe and globally; and the regional launch of the new EU-funded project on Universal Meaningful Connectivity for Europe.

**3. Implementation Framework**

3.1 Resolution 191 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference states in *resolves* 2 that, in order to achieve “One ITU”, it is crucial that all ITU Sectors coordinate their regional projects and activities with full involvement of the regional and area offices, as they are the focal points and representatives of all three ITU Sectors and the General Secretariat at the regional level.

3.2 ITU Regional and Area Offices work in coordination with BDT Departments and Divisions in the implementation of the Kigali Action Plan (KAP), approved by the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-22). The plan includes ITU-D priorities and enablers, the expected outcomes, and outputs in the form of ITU-D products and services, a set of regional initiatives, new and revised resolutions, recommendations, and ITU-D study questions. It aligns with the thematic priorities of ITU as well as the SDGs and World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) action lines.

The KAP follows a result-based management (RBM) framework based on the ITU-D priorities identified as key work areas that will support the achievement of the ITU strategic plan for 2024-2027.

The detailed information related to the implementation of activities on the ground from June 2023 until April 2024 related to the BDT can be found in document [TDAG31-C002](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG31-C-0002/en), highlighting key achievements across regions.

3.3 ITU Regional Office for Africa (RO-AFR) has continued to work closely with the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau (TSB) and the Radiocommunication Bureau (BR) on activities carried out in the region by supporting Member States in implementing various initiatives and projects across the region aimed at deploying ICT infrastructure, enhancing digital inclusion, innovation, and digital transformation.

* RO-AFR supported the organization of the ITU Workshop on National Tables of Frequency Allocation (NTFA) for Region 1 (RR), to be hosted by the Ethiopian administration on 20-23 May 2024.
* RO-AFR supported TSB in the implementation of Resolution 100 of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA-20), on a common emergency number for Africa through a close follow up with Member States to submit their response to the consultation.
* At the kind invitation of United Republic of Tanzania, RO-AFR supported TSB to organize a series of meetings and events from 12 to 22 September 2023 held in Arusha, Tanzania. The meetings included a special Session of ITU Focus Group on metaverse on 12 September 2023, the 3rd ITU Forum on “Cities and the metaverse: shaping a citiverse for all” on 13 September 2023, and ITU-T Study Group 20 “Internet of things (IoT) and smart cities and communities (SC&C)” from 13-22 September 2023.
* In collaboration with TSB, RO-AFR has engaged with different countries across the region to create awareness on the ITU Digital Financial Services (DFS) Security Lab, deliver DFS Security Clinics, and related capacity building activities for knowledge transfer to facilitate the setup of DFS Security Labs. These include but are not limited to: Zimbabwe, Malawi, Kingdom of Eswatini, Nigeria, The Gambia, Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Rwanda, East African Communications Organisation (EACO), Communication Regulators Association of Southern Africa (CRASA), and West Africa Telecommunications Regulators Assembly (WATRA), among others.
* RO-AFR supported TSB in preparation of the 15th Symposium on ICT, Environment, Climate Change and Circular Economy, held on 7-9 May 2024, in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. The theme of this year’s symposium was “Digital Solutions for a Sustainable Future: Integrating Climate Action, Circular Economy, Data, and International Standards”.

3.4 Regarding the Regional Office for Americas (RO-AMS): RO-AMS continued to facilitate coordination between TSB and regional organization (CITEL) for the preparatory process for WTSA and provides any assistance necessary to ensure regional engagement. The Regional Office is supporting TSB at the highest level of relevant events in the region through the revamped products and services of Bridging the Standardization Gap (BSG).

* TSB participated in the Open Networks Seminar, held by Anatel and the Japanese Embassy in Brazil on 9 August 2023. The Director participated in the session “Open Networks: Disaggregation and network virtualization” and spoke about Open Networks: Perspectives from ITU and Mobile Operator Experience.
* RO-AMS facilitated coordination between BR and CITEL for the preparatory process for the World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-23) and provided support to ensure regional participation.
* BR actively engaged in the Latin America Spectrum Management Conference, held in Brasilia, Brazil, from 20 to 21 February 2024. This conference, hosted by Anatel served as a platform for key stakeholders to deliberate on the outcomes of WRC-23.
* Giga, ITU, UNICEF and Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) cooperated and collaborated in areas of common interest, including the school connectivity and implementation of the Giga initiative in the Eastern Caribbean region, through the development of the child online protection policy and strategic framework, a pilot study in rural communities in Barbados (including the provision of IT equipment and training) and presented all Giga broadband upgrade support to OECS Member States. In Barbados, there was an upgrade in broadband in 27 pilot schools and over 18 057 students and 1 382 teachers across the country benefitted. BDT and BR jointly organized the Radiocommunications Seminar for the Americas. It was held in May 2023 in Havana, Cuba. Almost 100 hybrid participants attended, with delegations from ITU 13 Member States from the Americas, as well as the participation of industry and international organizations, etc.
* Active participation of TSB in the 10th edition of Accessible Americas: ICT for ALL, held in November 2023 in Varadero, Cuba, by sharing knowledge and expertise in the field of Artificial Intelligence, Metaverse and Accessibility.
* Direct assistance was provided to the Administration of Colombia (MINTIC) jointly by BDT and BR on technical aspects related to their 5G auction announced in December 2023.
* Support to BR during the ITU Regional Radiocommunication Seminar 2023 for the Americas (RRS-23-Americas), 8-12 May 2023, Havana, Cuba, in cooperation with the COMTELCA. The RRS-23-Americas included the “Spectrum Management: Challenges on the Americas Forum” and covering concepts related to international spectrum management and the procedures for recording of frequency assignments.

3.5 The ITU Regional Office for Arab States (RO-ARB) has continued close coordination with the General Secretariat, BR, and TSB on activities carried out in the Arab region. Calls with the Bureaux Directors and senior management team have been held on a regular basis to discuss the joint activities.

* Location of TSB staff: one TSB Study Group assistant is in process to be located at ITU’s regional Office in Cairo, Egypt.
* ITU launched a project in collaboration with the National Telecommunication Regulatory Authority (NTRA), Egypt, on the development of Smart Sustainable Cities & Communities Telecom Infrastructure in Egypt in close collaboration with TSB. The project aims to foster an enabling environment for innovation in Egypt by formulating an evaluation, regulatory framework, and methodology to support the Government of Egypt’s efforts in Smart Sustainable Cities & Communities (SSC&C)
* The Office developed the Regional Cybersecurity drill 2023 from 9 to 12 Oct 2023 in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, focusing on “Cybersecurity Innovation and Industry Development”. It was an opportunity to promote ITU-T Standards in Cybersecurity domain. The week brought together over 100 experts and speakers from 70 countries and 10 international organizations.
* The Office supported the preparations of WRC-23, preparatory meetings for WTSA-24 with the League of Arab States and Member States of the region.
* It supported the implementation of the “Future Networked Car Symposium” in collaboration with TSB that was held in Doha, Qatar, on 6 October 2023 and co-organized by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and ITU during Geneva Motor Show - Qatar Edition.
* As part of the support to countries on spectrum management, dedicated assistance was provided to Comoros, focusing on spectrum valuation and digital dividend within the framework of the Policy and Regulation Initiative for Digital Africa (PRIDA).

3.6 ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (RO-ASP) has continued close coordination with the General Secretariat, BR, and TSB on activities carried out in the ASP region.

* RO-ASP supported the ITU-R through:
	+ Organization of WRC-23 as assistant to Com 1 and Secretary of SWG – 4A1 on Agenda item 1.1
	+ Effective coordination with Samoa and China on hosting RRS-ASP in 2024 and 2025, respectively.
	+ Supporting engagement with MIIT-China and APT to arrange workshop on National Table for frequency allocation of BR Region 3, hosted in China in May 2024 and back-to-back with APG-27-1.
	+ Delivering a presentation on WRC-27 agenda during 10th Asia Pacific Spectrum Management Conference held by Forum Global from 23 to 24 April 2024.
* RO-ASP supported the ITU-T through the following activities during this reporting period:
	+ Location of TSB staff: Two TSB Study Group assistants are currently located at ITU’s Area Office and Innovation Centre, based in New Delhi, India.
	+ Artificial intelligence: ITU Regional Office joined the Seventh South - East Asia Multi-Stakeholder Forum on “Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda and Eradicating Poverty in Times of Multiple Crises: The Effective Delivery of Sustainable, Resilient, and Innovative Solutions in Asia-Pacific” and Associated Events from 6 to 8 November 2023, in Bangkok, Thailand. At this event, ITU presented in Session 1: SDG 1 Reducing Inequalities: Artificial Intelligence (AI) for Development – Catalysing Inclusive Development & Sustainable Progress in Southeast Asia. ITU Regional Office highlighted the work of ITU-T in AI, including AI for Good and the ITU-T Y.3000-series – Artificial intelligence standardization roadmap.
	+ Project on Enhancing the Development of Standards and Frameworks for Critical Technologies in Southeast Asia: Following consultations with TSB and discussions with the Government of Australia’s Department for Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), the ITU team successfully signed a grant agreement on 4 June 2021 with DFAT on this project, under its Cyber and Critical Tech Cooperation Program. This project was successfully extended in 2022 for the full four-year duration and is now slated to end in June 2024. The project focuses on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the potential gender and social biases linked with them. The project will enhance the development and implementation of AI standards, frameworks, policies, and initiatives at regional and national levels across Southeast Asia, which considers diverse stakeholders needs. The project’s initial focus will be on the Indonesia, Malaysia. The Philippines, and Thailand, and will also look at the regional context in Southeast Asia. The Project is built on four outputs:
		- Indicative Output 1: Research outputs on the state of critical technology standards, frameworks, policies, and initiatives, including the capacity gaps among stakeholders, in Southeast Asia.
		- Indicative Output 2: Training/Workshops and knowledge sharing activities on Critical Technologies for policymakers in primary beneficiary countries in Southeast Asia.
		- Indicative Output 3: Multi-stakeholder Network of Female Policy Makers created at the subregional, regional, and global levels.
		- Indicative Output 4: Country-specific support provided to assist the policymakers and regulators in the development and implementation of standards, frameworks, policies, and initiatives.
	+ ITU-T Regional Group Meetings for SG3 and SG5: ITU Regional Office closely coordinated with TSB colleagues to arrange the Regional Groups of ITU-T Study Group 3 (Tariff and accounting principles and international telecommunication/ICT economic and policy issues) and ITU-T Study Group 5 (EMF, environment, climate action, sustainable digitalization, and circular economy) meetings, from 11-12 September 2023, in Bangkok, Thailand. This included a half-day Bridging the Standardization Gap (BSG) hands-on training session on 11 September (AM), open to all interested parties. The regional group meetings were hosted by the Office of the National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission (NBTC), Thailand. The meetings were also held back-to-back with the ITU Regional Development Forum for Asia-Pacific, organized by BDT, to facilitate participation in both meetings.
	+ ITU-T Pre- and Post-Sessions at the Regional Development Forum for Asia-Pacific: ITU Regional Office closely coordinated with TSB colleagues during the organization of the Regional Development Forum (RDF) for Asia-Pacific from 13-15 September 2023 in Bangkok, Thailand, back-to-back with the ITU-T Regional Group Meetings for SG3 and SG5. During the RDF, the following sessions were organized by TSB:
		- Post-Sessions: Digital Financial Services (DFS) Security Clinic (13 and 14 September)
		- Pre-session: Presentation on “Focus Group - Costing Models for Affordable Data Services” (14 September)
		- Pre-session: The value of FIDO certified product, service and professionals: Present and Future (15 September)
	+ 2023 Interregional CyberDrill for Europe and Asia-Pacific: The ITU Regional Offices for Europe and for Asia-Pacific organized the 2023 Interregional CyberDrill for Europe and Asia-Pacific from 28 November to 1 December 2023 in Limassol, Cyprus. During the Day 2 trainings, a session was organized on the Opportunities of Engaging with ITU Standards in Cybersecurity, where the discussion focused on the key principles and components of ITU-T standards on cybersecurity.
	+ Preparations for WTSA-24: ITU Regional Office and the Area Office coordinated with TSB for their World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA) 2024 site visit, from 3 to 5 October 2023 in New Delhi, India. The Area Office assisted with the field visits to the event venue as well as various hotels for WTSA-24. During this site visit, TSB presented on WTSA and ITU-T to the United Nations Country Team in India on 5 October.
	+ Co-ordination and Participation in External Events to Highlight ITU-T
		- ITU Regional Office joined the 45th Pacific Area Standards Congress meeting in New Caledonia from 31 May to 2 June 2023, on behalf of TSB Director. ITU Regional office presented on 1 June together with ISO and IEC, regarding how to strengthen and increase regional engagement with ISO, IEC, ITU.
		- ITU Regional Office joined the G20 Standards Dialogue organized by the Bureau of Indian Standards on 2-3 November 2023 in New Delhi, India, on behalf of TSB. ITU Regional Office served physically as a moderator in the session on Technical Regulations and Good Regulatory Practices.
		- ITU Regional Office joined the Building Industry Consulting Service International (BICSI) Conference on ICT held from 14 to 15 November 2023 in Tokyo, Japan. On behalf of TSB, ITU Regional Office presented on the work of ITU-T and how stakeholders can participate, including through sector and academia membership.

3.7 ITU Regional Office for CIS (RO-CIS) has continued close coordination with the General Secretariat, BR, and TSB on activities carried out in the CIS region.

* RO-CIS continued to facilitate regular coordination between TSB and the Regional Commonwealth in the Field of Communication (RCC). RO-CIS follows the preparatory process for WTSA and provides any assistance necessary to ensure regional engagement.
	+ - Digital Transformation: TSB delivered a keynote presentation at the ITU-D Regional Forum on Digital Transformation (Issyk-Kul, Kyrgyzstan, 28-30 August 2023). The Forum attracted over 150 participants from seven countries and focused on national digital transformation strategies, policy and regulation, and ICT statistics.
		- Future Networks and C&I: RO-CIS CIS with the support of TSB organized a Roundtable on VoLTE interconnection for telecom operators and policy makers in Tashkent, Uzbekistan on 24 October 2023. The Roundtable aimed to assess current progress on VoLTE interconnection in Uzbekistan and suggest next steps to speed up its deployment, including with the technical support of the ITU.
		- Smart Sustainable Cities: RO-CIS organized two trainings on smart sustainable cities for local government authorities in Bobruisk (8-9 June 2023) and Lida (5-6 October) in Belarus. These trainings support the implementation of Belarus’ national smart cities programme and focus on transferring best practices and knowledge accumulated by ITU, including through U4SSC and ITU-T SG20 work.
* RO-CIS supported BR in the final stages of preparation for RA-23 and WRC-23, in coordination with the Regional Commonwealth in the field of Communications. RO also supported the BR in coordination with the host country of the Regional Radiocommunication Seminar 2024 (RRS-CIS-24), following the WRC-23 held for the CIS Region on 15-19 April 2024.

BR representatives were engaged in conducting a series of country trainings on 5G technology, held in 2023 for Armenia, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan.

3.8 ITU Office for Europe continued close coordination with the General Secretariat, TSB, and BR, thereby ensuring that all activities carried out do follow the ‘One ITU’ approach. The following are only a few examples of activities.

* In the context of the ITU Council Resolution 1408, ITU has been assessing a series of broadcasting stations in Ukraine with the aim of developing project documentation to trigger rehabilitation of damaged infrastructure. This work has been carried out with the support of the cross sectoral experts’ team, including BR and BDT. First technical assessments have been released in January 2024.
* ITU Regional Office closely coordinated with TSB colleagues and supported the participation of the TSB Director in a series of activities during the 5G Techritory Forum 2023 held on 18 October 2023 in Riga, Latvia. The 2nd Special Session of the FG-MV took place during the event and provided an open platform for the Europe region to discuss their unique metaverse challenges and opportunities, in order to ensure that the metaverse is developed for the benefit of all. It was followed by a Co-creation workshop on metaverse vision for Europe.
* Accessible Europe: ICT 4 All Forum: The ITU Regional Offices for Europe organized in Spain, on 13-14 December 2023, the Regional Forum that aimed to strengthen knowledge on the ICT accessibility topic as a fundamental requirement to build an inclusive digital society, economy, and environment. TSB contributed to the event through and active engagement, and moderation of the session on AI and Emerging Technologies in Improving Digital Accessibility.
* Contribution of ITU-T to the 2023 Interregional CyberDrill for Europe and Asia-Pacific was closely coordinated with TSB and provided an opportunity to draw attention to the technical standards.
* Executive training on 5G Implementation for Ukraine: ITU is delivering tailored capacity-building activities for Ukrainian officials involved in 5G implementation. The executive training programme commencing in May 2024 is implemented by ITU Europe Office and is based on the cooperation and engagement of all three ITU Sectors.
* Effective engagement of European industry: Bridging the Standardization Gap (BSG) in ITU: The event was organized on 7 May 2024 jointly by the ITU Europe Office and the TSB, aiming to explore how stakeholders from Europe, including industry, can actively and efficiently engage in ITU-T activities and implement ITU-T standards. The event also addressed approaches to bridge the standardization gap (BSG) and the promotion of women’s engagement in ITU activities.

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