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| **Agenda item: ADM 1** | **Document C24/34-E** |
| **9 April 2024** |
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| Report by the Secretary-General | |
| INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES DEVELOPMENT FUND (ICT-DF) | |
| **Purpose**  This document reports on the status of the Information and Communication Technologies Development Fund (ICT-DF) regarding its utilization for the implementation of development projects. It also provides information on the funds available in the Exhibition Working Capital Fund (EWCF) and the ICT-DF Capital Account.  **Action required by the Council**  Following the abrogation of Resolution 11 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) on ITU Telecom events at the Plenipotentiary Conference (Bucharest, 2022), ITU Council 2023 approved Resolution [1418](https://www.itu.int/md/S23-CL-C-0116/en) on the transfer of CHF 3 million from the EWCF to the ICT-DF Capital Account to support the WTDC-22 adopted Regional Initiatives.  The Council at its 2024 session is invited **to take note** of this document.  **Relevant link(s) with the Strategic Plan**  Provision of technical assistance, partnerships, and international cooperation.  **Financial implications**  The transfer of CHF 465 110.56 from the EWCF to the ICT-DF Capital Account is contained in document [C24/19](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CL-C-0019/en).The available balance of the ICT-DF Capital Account following this transfer will amount to CHF 5 317 171.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **References**  [*Resolution 11 (Rev. Dubai, 2018)*](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts/RES-011-E.pdf) *of the Plenipotentiary Conference;* [*Final Acts (Part III)*](https://www.itu.int/pub/S-CONF-ACTF-2022) *and* [*Minutes of the Sixteenth Plenary Meeting (Section 2.3 and 5.2)*](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-PP-C-0206/en) *of the 2022 Plenipotentiary Conference; Council Resolutions* [*1111*](https://www.itu.int/itudoc/gs/council/c97/docs/res/131.html) *,*[*1338*](http://www.itu.int/md/S11-CL-C-0106/en) and [*1418*](https://www.itu.int/md/S23-CL-C-0116/en); *Council Document* [*C23/34*](https://www.itu.int/md/S23-CL-C-0034/en)*;* [*C24/19*](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CL-C-0019/en) | |

# Introduction

1.1 Launched in 1997, the Information and Communication Technologies Development Fund ([ICT-DF](http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Partners/Pages/ICT-DF/default.aspx)) supports the implementation of projects based on multi-stakeholder partnerships with ITU Member States, Sector Members, public and private sector, multilateral organizations, foundations, financial institutions and development agencies.

# Main rules and procedures of ICT-DF

2.1 In principle, the ICT-DF finances up to 25 per cent of the total cash contribution of a project. On an exceptional basis, the ICT-DF may finance more than 25 per cent. This seed funding provided from the ICT-DF is meant to attract extrabudgetary funds raised through resource mobilization for financing projects at national, regional, and multi-regional levels.

2.2 Project proposals are submitted for consideration by the ICT-DF Steering Committee (ICT-DF SC)[[1]](#footnote-2) and assessed to ensure their compliance with the following selection and eligibility criteria, amongst others:

* The project beneficiary shall include one or more countries from among the least developed countries (LDCs), small island developing States (SIDS), landlocked developing countries (LLDCs), countries with economies in transition and countries in special need.
* The project shall fall into one of the categories/themes adopted by the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC) or any other themes deemed important by ICT-DF SC.
* The proposals shall be supported by partner contributions in-cash.

2.3 ICT-DF SC: a) reviews and approves ICT-DF projects submitted; b) approves the amount of funding to be allocated to ICT-DF projects; and c) monitors the implementation and budgetary performance of these ICT-DF projects.

2.4 Following the approval of Council-23 on [Resolution 1418](https://www.itu.int/md/S23-CL-C-0116/en) to transfer CHF 3 million from the EWCF to the ICT-DF Capital Account to support the WTDC-22 Regional Initiatives (RIs), the ICT-DF SC agreed in principle to consider for funding for RI project proposals co-financed by partners at the ratio of 50:50 i.e. 50% contributed by an external partner and 50% allocated from the ICT-DF.

# Progress of the ICT-DF

An informative web page on the ICT-DF and other projects searchable by country, region, areas of action and project status (ongoing, closed and implemented), is available at [www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Projects](http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Projects).

3.1 As of March 2024, there were 18 ongoing ICT-DF projects (listed in [Annex](#Annex2)1). Their distribution by region is shown in Figure 1.

3.2 Since 2012, a total of 34 projects received funding from the ICT-DF. Figure 2.1 presents the status of these projects, while Figure 2.2 presents the funding arrangements. Figure 2.3 shows the distribution of project funding by region. These figures demonstrate the importance of the ICT-DF as a key instrument to support ITU’s efforts in raising project funds. External cash contributions are also determined by funding partners’ priorities, and allocations from the ICT-DF have been determined in line with external funds made available to co-finance the projects.

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3.3 In 2023, eleven (11) new projects were approved for funding allocation from the ICT-DF. Eight (8) of these projects have been signed as reflected in [Annex](#Annex2)1. The remaining three (3) projects are expected to be signed in the coming months.

3.4 BDT will continue monitoring the ongoing ICT-DF projects for effective implementation. ICT-DF SC will continue to review project proposals and support selected projects in the various areas of action with special attention to the WTDC-22 RIs, within the limit of the ICT-DF Capital Account.

# Evolution of the ICT-DF Capital Account

4.1 Interest income of the ICT-DF Capital Account by year-end 2023 and interest in projects totalled CHF 40 677.91.

4.2 As of March 2024, the remaining balance under ICT-DF Capital Account was CHF 4 852 060.44 (see Figure 3).

4.3 Resolution 11 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference on ITU Telecom events was abrogated at the Plenipotentiary Conference (Bucharest, 2022). The Conference also approved the recommendation (see the [Minutes of the Sixteenth Plenary Meeting](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-PP-C-0206/en) (Section 2.3)) that “Resolution 11 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) on ITU Telecom events be abrogated and, as a consequence, that the Plenary instruct the Council, at its ordinary session, to transfer the remaining balance of the Exhibition Working Capital Fund to the ICT Development Fund”.

4.4 At Council-23, CHF 3 million was approved and subsequently transferred from the EWCF to the ICT-DF Capital Account per [Resolution 1418](https://www.itu.int/md/S23-CL-C-0116/en). The available balance in EWCF is CHF 465 110.56. The draft resolution on the transfer of CHF 465 110.56 from the EWCF to the ICT-DF Capital Account is in the document [C24/19](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CL-C-0019/en).

# Way forward

5.1 Progress on implementation of ICT-DF funded projects ([Annex](#Annex2)1) will be regularly analysed and updated at [www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Projects/ICT-DF.aspx](http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Projects/ICT-DF.aspx).

5.2 Considering that the ICT-DF is demand-driven, and its aim is to provide seed funding, the ICT-DF SC will continue to consider project proposals based on the rules and criteria while remaining within the limit of the ICT-DF Capital Account, in order to support the development of telecommunications/ICTs in ITU Member States and contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals.

5.3 For longer-term sustainability and future continuity of the ICT-DF, the ITU membership is encouraged to consider making new voluntary contributions to the ICT-DF Capital Account, which has been proven to be instrumental in supporting development projects.

The Council is also invited **to take note** of this report and advise as deemed appropriate.

***Annex: 1***

ANNEX 1

[ONGOING ICT-DF PROJECTS](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Projects/Pages/Portfolio.aspx?Status=Ongoing&Theme=&Region=&Country=&YearSigned=&Keyword=&ICTDF=1) (Q4 2023) AND NEW ICT-DF PROJECTS SIGNED (March 2024)

| **Project No** | **Title** | **Start date** | **End date** | **Region** | **Date signed** | **Partner(s)** | **Budget signed** | **Budget remaining** (after commitments) |
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| 7GLO03043 | Rural Telecommunications Development in Least Developed Countries | Jan. 2003 | Aug. 2024 | Multi-regional | Dec. 2002 |  | ICT-DF:  Balance (01.01.10): USD 509 035  Additional ICT-DF allocation (15.01.10): USD 1 000 000  Additional ICT-DF allocation (14.11.13): USD 1 000 000 | USD 613 536 |
| 7OMA13005 | Establishment of a Cybersecurity Innovation Centre for the Arab Region | Feb. 2013 | Sep. 2030 | Arab States | Dec. 2012 | Oman | Oman: USD 2 000 000  ICT-DF: USD 752 500 | CHF 148 429 |
| 9RAF18089 | PRIDA-ITU Delegation Agreement for Action | Dec. 2018 | May 2024 | Africa | Nov. 2018 | European Union (EU) | EU: EUR 5 000 000  ICT-DF: EUR 500 000 | EUR 1 135 713 |
| 7GLO20108 | Boosting digital skills through Digital Transformation Centres | Jan. 2021 | Sep. 2024 | Multi-regional | Nov. 2020 | Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) | NORAD: CHF 3 008 468  ICT-DF: CHF 759 024 | CHF 1 092 317 |
| 7RAF21102 | Benchmarking des TIC en Afrique Centrale | Jun. 2021 | Dec. 2024 | Africa | Jun. 2021 | COFED | COFED (EU): EUR 1 000 000  ICT-DF: EUR 300 000 | EUR 1 001 519 |
| 9GLO21116 | Giga and DAP – Promoting enabling policy and regulation (LDCs) | Mar. 2021 | Mar. 2025 | Multi-regional | Mar. 2021 | UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office  (FCDO) | FCDO: GBP 1 855 641  ICT-DF: USD 276 000 | USD 593 540 |
| 9GLO21112 | Creating a Safe and Prosperous Cyberspace for Children | Aug. 2021 | Dec. 2024 | Multi-regional | Aug. 2021 | Saudi Arabia National Cybersecurity Authority (NCA) | NCA: USD 1 612 500  ICT-DF: USD 400 000 | USD 507 677 |
| 9RAF21101 | Accelerating Africa’s Digital Transformation Through Connectivity | Aug. 2021 | Dec. 2024 | Africa | Aug. 2021 | Microsoft | Microsoft: USD 500 000  ICT-DF: USD 100 000 | USD 100 602 |
| 9UGA21008 | Technical Assistance and Training to Uganda on National ICT Development Strategy | Jan. 2021 | Dec. 2024 | Africa | Feb. 2021 | Ministry of Industry and Information Technology of the People's Republic of China (MIIT) | MIIT: USD 1 800 000  ICT-DF: USD 100 000 | USD 1 464 894 |
| 7GLO22121 | Bridging the Digital Gender Divide for Women Entrepreneurs | Feb. 2022 | Apr. 2024 | Multi-Regional | Feb. 2022 | Mary Kay | Mary Kay: USD 220 000  ICT-DF: USD 55 000 | USD 30 472 |
| 7RAS23072 | Accelerating Digital Transformation in Asia-Pacific | Aug. 2023 | Jul. 2025 | Asia-Pacific | Aug. 2023 | Australia  Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts (DITRDCA) | DITRDCA: USD 270 000  ICT-DF: USD 67 500 | USD 337 500 |
| 7RAS24076 | Feasibility study: Addressing the special telecommunications/ICT needs of the Pacific Small Island Developing States | Jan. 2024 | Dec. 2025 | Asia-Pacific | Jan. 2024 | Australia  Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts (DITRDCA) | DITRDCA: USD 569 916  ICT-DF: USD 189 972 | USD 759 888 |
| 7RAS23073 | Pathways to Cybersecurity in Pacific | Dec. 2023 | Jun. 2026 | Asia-Pacific | Dec. 2023 | Japan  Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communication (MIC) | MIC: USD 150 000  ICT-DF: USD 37 500 | USD 187 500 |
| 7RAS24074 | Enhancing Digital infrastructure and affordable access to ICT services in Asia and the Pacific - Phase 2 | Jan. 2024 | Sep. 2026 | Asia-Pacific | Jan. 2024 | Japan Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communication (MIC) | MIC: USD 150 000  ICT-DF: USD 37 500 | USD 187 500 |
| 7GLO23133 | Boosting digital skills through Digital Transformation Centres (DTCs) - Phase 2 | Dec. 2023 | Dec. 2025 | Multi-  Regional | Dec. 2023 | Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) | NORAD: CHF 834 276  ICT-DF: CHF 268 000 | CHF 1 102 276 |
| 7SUR23017 | National Computer Incident Response Team (CIRT) Implementation – Suriname | Feb. 2024 | Feb. 2026 | Americas | Dec. 2024 | Government of Suriname | Government of Suriname:  USD 200 000  ICT-DF: USD 55 000 | USD 255 000 |
| 7GLO23132 | Generation Connect Young Leadership Programme | Nov. 2023 | Apr. 2027 | Multi-  Regional | Nov. 2023 | Huawei | Huawei: USD 1 255 654  ICT-DF: USD 500 000 | USD 1 755 654 |
| 7RAS24075 | Creating a Circular Economy for Electronics and Electricals in Thailand and Mongolia | Jan. 2024 | Mar. 2026 | Asia-Pacific | Jan. 2024 | Australia Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts (DITRDCA) | DITRDCA: USD 256 800  ICT-DF: USD 60 000 | USD 316 800 |

*More details on projects at* [*www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Projects*](http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Projects)

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1. *ICT-DF SC is composed of the ITU Secretary-General (Chairperson), the Deputy Secretary-General and the Director of BDT.* [↑](#footnote-ref-2)