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| **Keywords:** | Regional Offices; Africa; Americas; Arab states; Asia and the Pacific; Commonwealth of Independent States; Europe; |
| **Abstract:** | This document summarizes contribution of the ITU Regional Offices to the implementation of the ITU-T four-year rolling operational plan as requested by the Resolution 25 (Rev. Dubai 2018) of the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference. |

**1 Introduction: ITU Regional Presence**

ITU has offices in the six BDT regions:

* Africa
* [Americas](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/Americas/Pages/default.aspx)
* [Arab states](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/ArabStates/Pages/default.aspx)
* [Asia and the Pacific](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/asiapacific/Pages/default.aspx)
* [Commonwealth of Independent States](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/CIS/Pages/default.aspx)
* [Europe](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/Europe/Pages/default.aspx)

[ITU Regional presence](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Pages/Regional-Presence.aspx) counts as of today an overall of thirteen field offices, which include five regional offices in Addis Ababa (Africa), Bangkok (Asia and the Pacific), Brasilia (Americas), Cairo (Arab States), Moscow (CIS countries), and the ITU office for Europe at ITU headquarters, as well as eight area offices, located in Africa, Americas and Asia and the Pacific.

The revised Resolution 25 on strengthening the regional presence, mentioned in section 1 below, has enhanced the need for a stronger regional presence.

Regional and area offices play a key role in facilitating discussions on regional matters and in the dissemination of information and results of activities of all three Sectors of the Union and the General Secretariat, while avoiding the duplication of such functions with headquarters, and collaborating with the regional telecommunication organizations to make synergies and avoid duplication of activities and efforts.

2 ITU Plenipotentiary Resolution 25 (Rev. Dubai, 2018)

ITU Plenipotentiary Resolution 25 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) “Strengthening the regional presence” introduces new reporting mandates for the Regional and Area offices to the advisory groups of each Sectors:

“resolves

4          that the regional and area offices should contribute, to the extent practicable, *inter* *alia*, to the annual four-year rolling operational plans of the General Secretariat and of the three Sectors, with content specific to each regional and area office, linked to the strategic plan for the Union for 2020‑2023 and the Buenos Aires Action Plan, then set up and continue to publish the annual plan/events on the ITU website for implementation;”

(…)

“further resolves

2        that regional offices shall regularly provide reports to the Sector advisory groups, as appropriate, and to inform the Directors of BR and TSB on regional activities related to their respective Sectors”.

3 TSB mechanisms of coordination with the Regions

At the initiative of the TSB Director, conference calls and face-to-face meetings were organized on a regular basis between the regional and areas offices and the TSB senior management, covering each time overviews, updates, and briefings of activities organized by each TSB department in the various regions.

These coordination activities, as well as the establishment of a TSB Focal Point for the Regions, were conducted keeping in mind the goal of improving coordination and increasing the efficiency of the overall operations, events and activities in the Standardization Sector in each of the Regions.

The use of this coordination mechanism is a tool that has led to a significant improvement in the overall coordination with regional and areas offices in terms of events and activities.

4 Africa – Regional Office for Africa

The Regional Office for Africa is based in Addis Ababa and is led by Mr Andrew Rugege.

During the January – August 2020 timeframe, the Regional Office for Africa participated and contributed to the organization of the following regional events organized by ITU-T/TSB:

1 ITU-T SG13 events held in Abuja, Nigeria: A workshop on Standardization of fiber networks towards a better connected Africa, 3 and 4 February 2020, followed by a regular meeting of the African group to SG13 on 5 and 6 February.

2 The Regional Office supported the ITU-T SG12 RG-AFR activities held in Ndjamena, Chad. A workshop was successfully organized on “Quality of Service”, 2 - 3 March 2020, and the regular meeting of the African Group of SG12 was hosted back to back the 4 - 5 March 2020.

3 The Regional Office for Africa (ROA) participated in and contributed to Africa Telecommunication Union (ATU) WTSA-20 Preparatory Meeting back to back with OTT forum from 27 to 30 July2020, which was organized online the 3 and 4 July 2020. The African Preparatory Meeting (APM) continued the work of attaining the African Common Proposals for WTSA-20. The Regional Office worked on ensuring good participation from the African Administrations and another meeting is confirmed in the second week of November 2020.

4 ROA consulted countries and encouraged them to propose nominations for relevant and vacant positions in TSAG and Study Groups.

5 Internally, the ROA participated to the regular consultative meetings with the TSB Director and also to the Interregional meeting for preparation of WTSA-20 and welcomed the demonstration of the new ITU MyMeeting tool implemented by TSB.

5 Americas – Regional Office for the Americas

The Regional Office for the Americas is based in Brasilia and is led by Mr Bruno Ramos.

During the January – August 2020 timeframe, the Americas region, under the Thematic Priority on Network and Digital Infrastructure (TNS), identified the development of a Conformity and Interoperability Training Program (CITP) the best way to have more effective and efficient capacity C&I building in the region. Therefore, the AMS region has jointly worked with TNS in Headquarters since 2019 to design and develop the CITP.

Along the progress, the results have been presented to BDT ITU-D SG2/Q4 and the Counsellors of relevant Study Groups in BR and TSB (ITU-T SG11) have been consulted for guidance and feedback.

The Americas Regional Office, in coordination with TSB, has accompanied the regional preparation towards WTSA-20, supporting the preparatory process through CITEL meetings.

#### 6 Arab States - Regional Office for the Arab States

The Regional Office for Arab States is based in Cairo and is led by Mr Adel Darwish.

During the January – August 2020 timeframe the ARO office worked with TSB on the following:

1. Developed a concept note for Inter-regional Digital Week for Arab and Africa Regions (the event was postponed to next year 2021)
2. Developed the Project document on Promoting Innovation in IoT and Smart Cities in Arab region (the project is to validate ITU-T Smart and Sustainable City (SCC) Maturity Model including SCC KPIs and pending commitment from potential partners)
3. Promoted TSB events in the ARB region.
4. Participation in monthly review meetings with the TSB Director.

Furthermore, the ARO office is collaborating with TSB to organize a regional workshop on “Security of Financial Services” in October 2020 and TSBs contribution in the upcoming emerging technologies week planned for mid November 2020.

#### 7 Asia and the Pacific - Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

The Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific is based in Bangkok and is led by Mrs Atsuko Okuda.

During the January – August 2020 timeframe, the Asia Pacific Region assisted in the following activities:

1. Attended the Pacific Area Standards Congress (PASC) Web Meeting Session with ISO, IEC and ITU-T on 20 May 2020 where the Director TSB had a presentation.
2. Presented on behalf of TSB at the training session organized by Standards Australia on 27 May 2020. IEC and ISO also delivered presentations at the same training program.
3. Facilitated TSB presentations in addition to delivering a presentation on Smart Cities related issues at the workshop on Smart Cities Ecosystem organized by Brunei from 23-24 June 2020.
4. Participated in all the regional preparatory meetings regarding WTSA organized by APT.
5. Followed up with all member countries in the ASP region on communication related to WTSA and other TSB issues.
6. Promoted TSB events in the ASP region.
7. Communicated with Indonesia on resolution related to ITU/WMO/UNESCO-IOC Joint Task Force (JTF) on SMART Cable Systems. Attended a meeting organized on 4 September 2020 on this topic.
8. Participation in monthly review meetings with Director TSB.

#### 8 Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) - Regional Office for the CIS Region

The Regional Office for the CIS Region is based in Moscow and is led by Mrs Natalia Mochu.

During the January – August 2020 timeframe the Regional Office for the CIS Region participated and contributed to the organization of the following regional events organized by ITU-T/TSB:

1. Meetings of the ITU-T SG3RG-EECAT and ITU-T SG20RG-EECAT, 4-5 March 2020, Minsk (Belarus).

Experts from TSB and ITU-T Study Groups participated in the following activities of the ITU Regional Office for the CIS Region:

1. ITU Forum "Smart sustainable cities: from concept to implementation" 3-5 March 2020, Minsk (Belarus).
2. Project "International Research, Development and Testing Centre for new equipment, technologies, and services" (jointly with Rostelecom, ITU-T Sector Member).

The ITU Regional Office for the CIS Region is closely working with the TSB and U4SSC secretariat to explore potential opportunities for case studies and pilot projects in the region and to contribute to the implementation of the Regional Initiative CIS3 “Development and regulation of infocommunication infrastructure to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe and resilient”.

The ITU Regional Office for the CIS Region is facilitating engagement of countries in the ITU-T AI for Good and Smart Incubator programmes.

#### 9 Europe - ITU Office for Europe

The ITU Office for Europe is based at the ITU Headquarters in Geneva and is led by Mr Jaroslaw Ponder.

During the January – August 2020 timeframe ITU Office for Europe assisted in the following activities:

1. Participated in all the regional preparatory meetings regarding WTSA organized by CEPT and facilitated inputs of ITU to these meetings.
2. Followed up with member countries on communication related to WTSA and other TSB issues.
3. Promoted TSB events in the EUR region.
4. Participation in monthly review meeting with the TSB Director and Management of TSB.

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