Accesible Americas IV: *ICT for **ALL***

ITU-D VISION AND WORK ON DIGITAL INCLUSION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

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ITU: Specialized Agency of the United Nations for Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)

- **Founded in Paris in 1865**
  - ✓ + 150 years of experience and innovation

- **+1,000 ITU Members:**
  - ✓ 193 Member States (countries)
  - ✓ + 700 Sector Members and Associates
  - ✓ + 120 Academic Members

ITU: Specialized Agency of the United Nations for Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)

➢ ITU Stucture

1. **ITU-D Development:** Promotes international cooperation and ensures the provision of technical assistance to the Member States in the creation, development and improvement of telecommunications / ICT policies, equipment and networks.

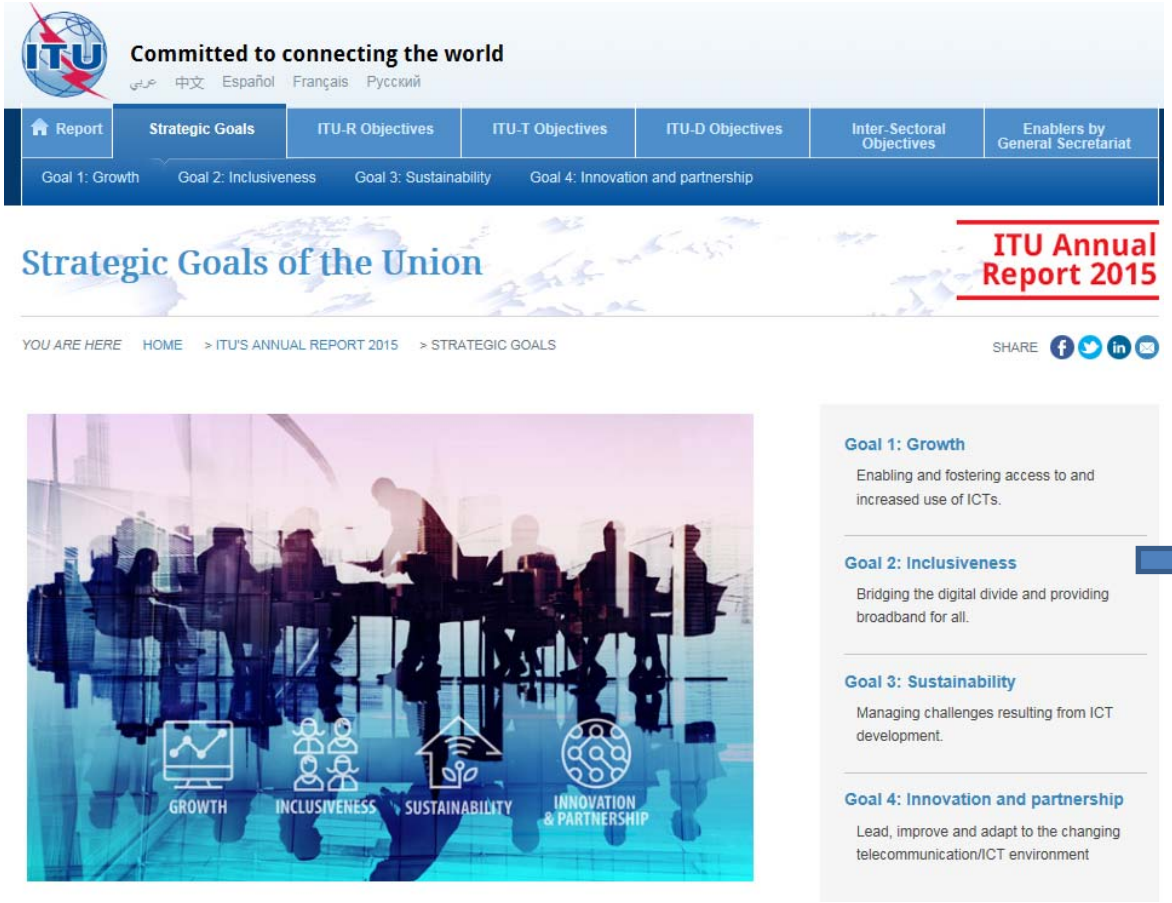
   ✓ **Digital Inclusion for persons with specific needs (women, children and youth, persons with disabilities, Indigenous People) and the use of ICT for the economic and social development of these people.**

2. **ITU-T Standardization:** Produces ICT technical standards to ensure interoperability
3. **ITU-R Radiocommunication:** ITU-R Coordinates global wireless communication
4. **General Secretariat:** Provides inter-sectorial coordination within the organization.

ITU: Specialized Agency of the United Nations for Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)

- **Presence at the global level**
  - ✓ Headquarters in Geneva
  - ✓ 1 office in New York
  - ✓ 5 regional offices (AMS - Brasilia, Brazil)
  - ✓ 8 area offices (AMS: Tegucigalpa, Honduras; Santiago, Chile; Bridgetown, Barbados)

ITU is committed to connecting the world and all people without any discrimination



- **Goal 2 Inclusiveness:**

Target 2.5.B:

Enabling environments ensuring accessible telecommunication/ICT for persons with disabilities should be established in all countries by 2020

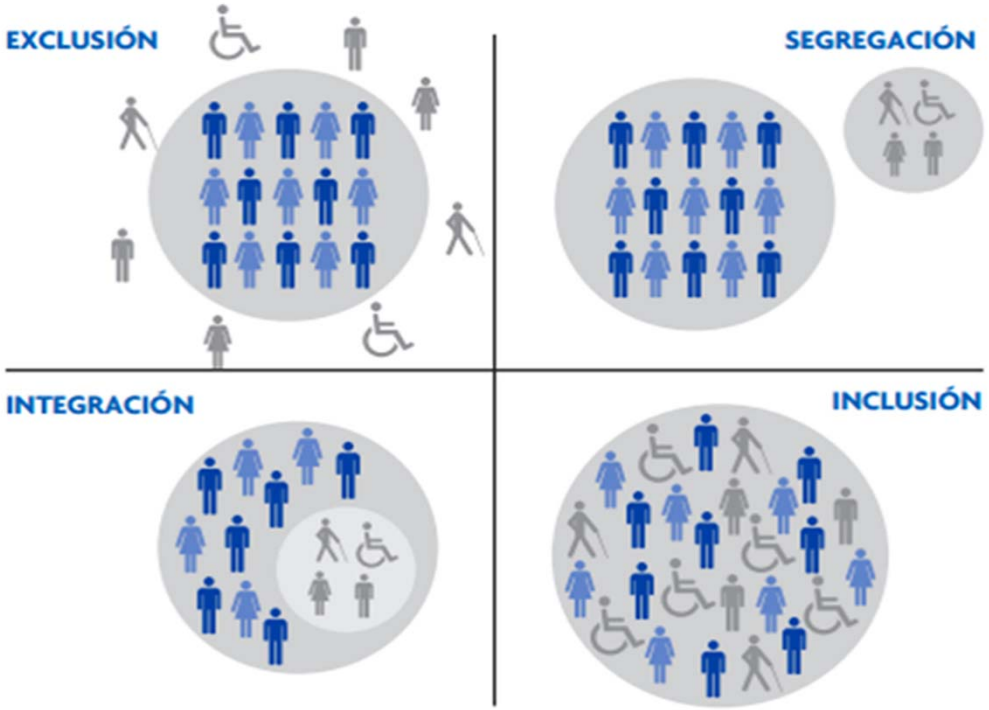
Since 2006
ITU-D and Digital Inclusion

- **Digital inclusion means the empowerment of people through information and communication technologies (ICT).**

- The activities of BDT in the field of digital inclusion are designed to **promote the accessibility of ICTs and their use for the social and economic development of people with specific needs** such as:
  - ✓ **persons with disabilities (PwD),**
  - ✓ Indigenous People and people living in rural areas;
  - ✓ women and girls and
  - ✓ children and young people

FROM INTEGRATION TO INCLUSION

Digital inclusion contribute to social inclusion and economic development of PwD



UN – Global effort for digital inclusion

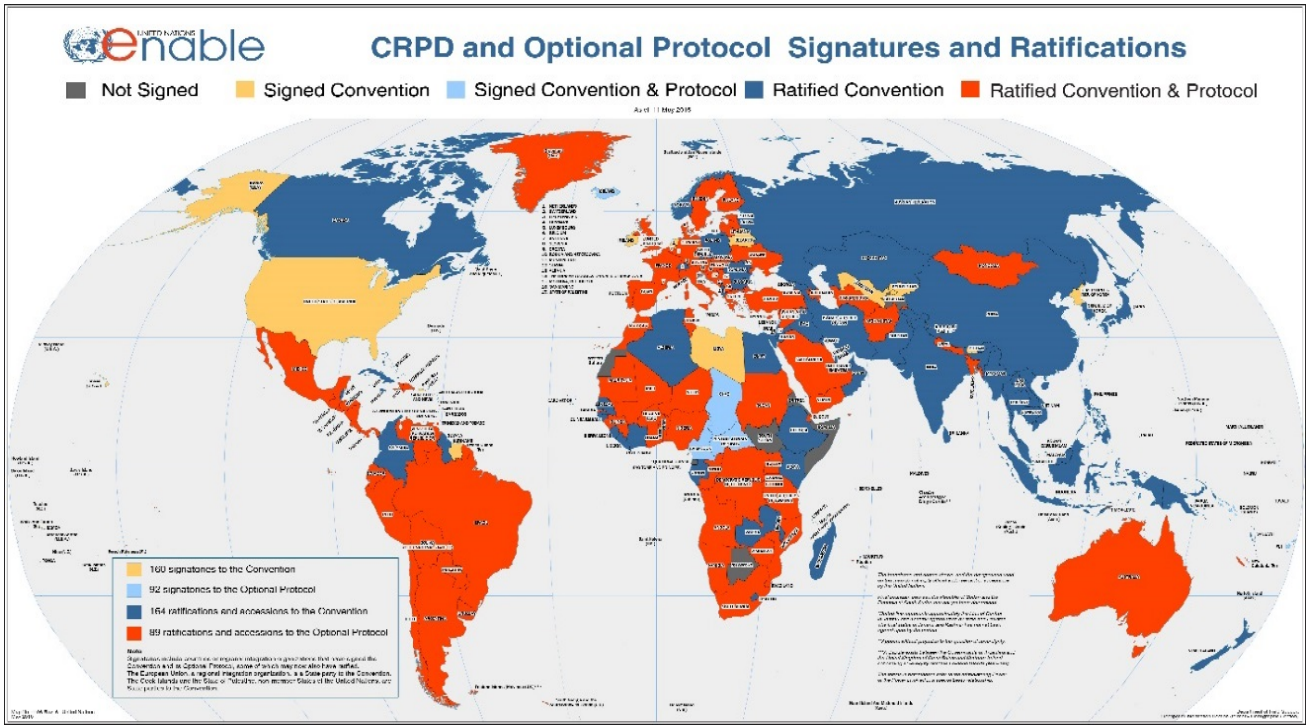
fast forward together #ICT4SDG

SDG10 Reduce Inequalities

- **The inclusive development agenda on disability matters for the entire United Nations system.**
- **The Sustainable Development Goals highlight the impact of ICTs on the economic and social development of people with disabilities.**
  - ✓ **ICTs can ensure digital inclusion for people with disabilities.**
  - ✓ **The use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) allows the removal of many of the remaining barriers faced by persons with disabilities.**

UN: Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)

- **November 2017:**
  - ✓ 175 countries have ratified the CRPD
  - ✓ 160 countries have signed the CRPD



UN CRPD y las TIC
(Artículos 9 y 30)

- **ensure access for people with disabilities PwD, on an equal basis, ...** to **information and communications, including ICT systems and information technologies and communications.**

- identification and **elimination of obstacles and barriers to access**, will apply, among other things, to: **information, communications** and other services, including electronic and emergency services.

- ensure that PwD: ... have **access to television programs** [and] movies ... in accessible formats.

Access of PwD to ICT in equal conditions
elimination of barriers

Why PwD are important?
Global figures

- **The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that there are *"over 1 billion people living with a type of disability".***

Why PwD are important?
Global figures

- **WHO: 1.1 billion youth (between the ages of 12 to 35 years) are at risk of hearing loss due to unsafe listening practices due to:**
  - ✓ loud volumes;
  - ✓ prolonged duration;
  - ✓ regular/habitual exposure;

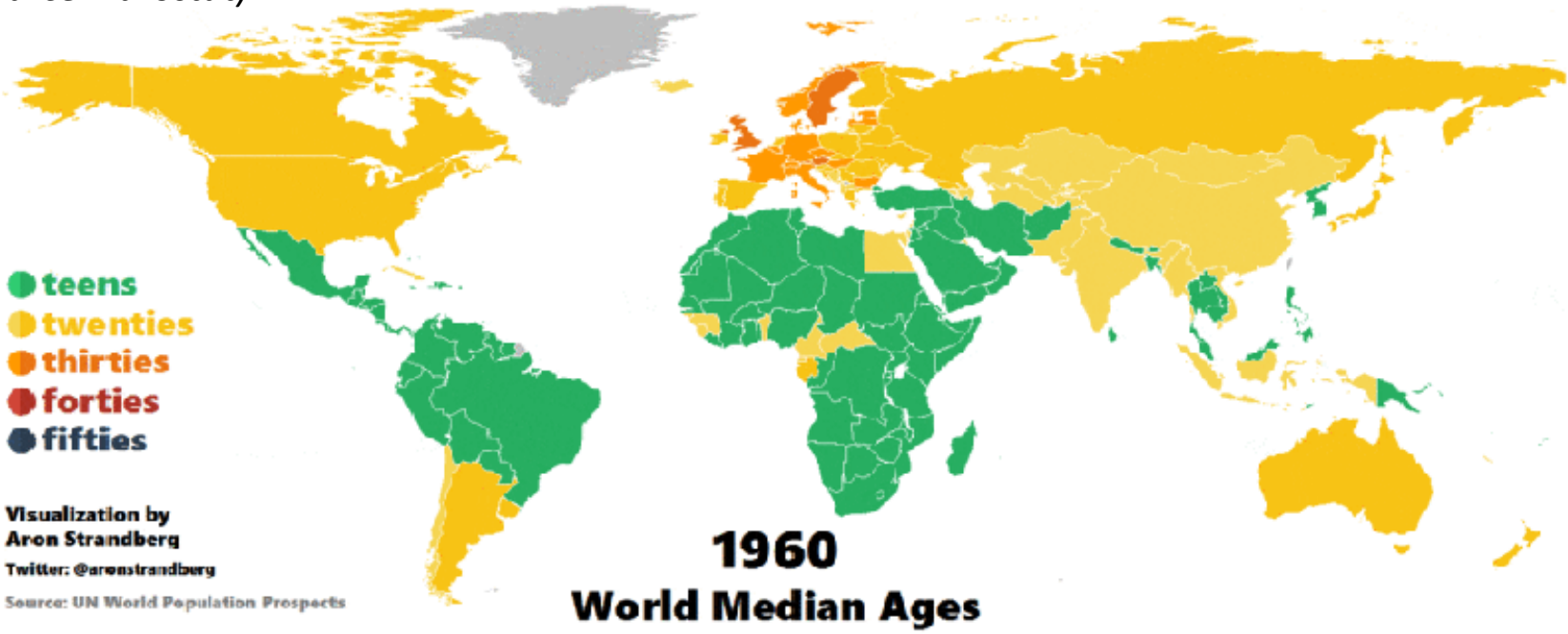
- **Making Listening Safe Initiative 2015**
  - ✓ Create a Global Partnership to promote safe listening
  - ✓ Develop standards for safe listening devices

1,000,000,000

Why PwD are important ?
Global figures

- **In 1960 there were on average about 3 young persons for every 1 elderly person, by 2060 there may be for each 1 young person more than 2 elderly people.**

- **Global population are ageing** so increasing numbers of people will need assistance coping with **age related disabilities** such as poor vision, hearing loss, limited mobility and cognitive difficulties. *(Source: Eurostat)*



Why accessibility is important?

- **1 000 000 000 of people living with some type of disability**
- **2 000 000 000 people aged 65 and over, planned in 2050**
  people with disabilities related to their age

  617 000 000 people aged 65 and over (in 2016)
- **1 100 000 000 niños y jóvenes en riesgo de perder audición**

Key drivers for inclusion and strategic approach : Accessibility a business opportunity

1. It is the right thing to do.
2. It is a legal obligation
3. People with Disabilities are customers:
   - Up to 20% will directly benefit from improvements to accessibility
   - Un estimate of 50% will benefit indirectly
4. The global market for disability is worth and represent currently

2017 $1.3 trillion – for only 1 billion PwD .

2050 $??? trillion – for over 3 billion PwD .

Why is it important that ICTs are accessible?

- **ICTs are necessary** to achieve access to:
  - ✓ information / communication
  - ✓ education
  - ✓ working market
  - ✓ public services (health, government, emergency)

- **ICTs are fundamental** to achieve:
  - ✓ social inclusion
  - ✓ economic development

- **ICTs are indispensable for people with disabilities (PwD) to have an independent life such as people without disabilities**

For all the above, ICT must be accessible for PwD

Define Accessible, Assistive and Affordable ICTs

- **ACCESSIBLE ICTs = ICTs for ALL**
  - ✓ have included accessibility features from manufacture stage
  - ✓ anyone can use them or not, according to their desire or need

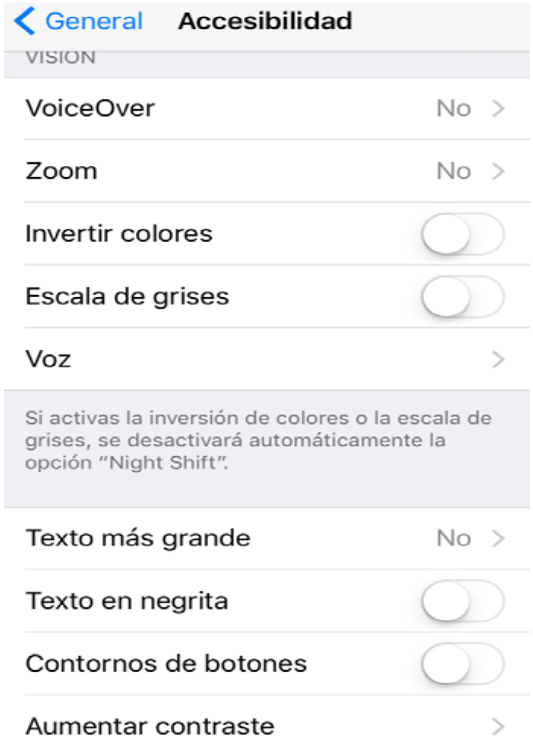
- **ASSISTIVE technologies/ ICTs = *complement of accessible ICTs***
  - ✓ devices added to an equipment to enable or compensate for functional, motor, sensory or intellectual limitations of PCD

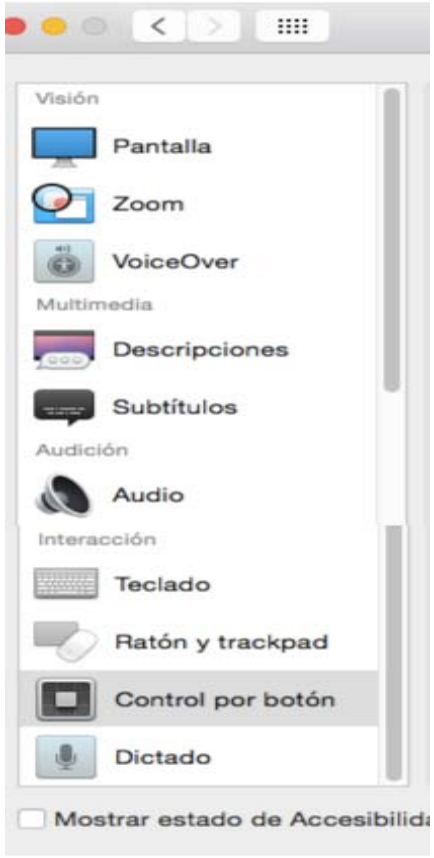
- **AFFORDABLE ICTs**
  - ✓ The PwD have to have the economic possibility of acquiring these technologies

ICT must be ACCESSIBLE AND AFFORDABLE for PwD

Examples of Accessible Technology

Computers, mobile phones, etc.





Examples of equipment / assistive technology

KEY ACTIVITIES AND RESOURCES TO PROMOTE ICT ACCESSIBILITY FOR PWD

- **Provide specialized knowledge and advice** in the field of ICT accessibility to ITU Members to support them in the implementation of ICT accessibility initiatives in their countries;

- **Organize meetings / raise awareness /** of the need to promote the accessibility of ICT to governments, regulators, industry, private sector, NGOs, etc. during global and regional meetings (e.g. Accessible Americas – WSIS Forums, EU, Africa Regional Meetings etc.)

- **Develop key resources** to facilitate understanding of the ICT accessibility
  - ✓ ITU-G3ict accessibility toolkit
  - ✓ ITU-G3ict guidelines on accessibility of ICT
  - ✓ Training courses on ICT accessibility topics

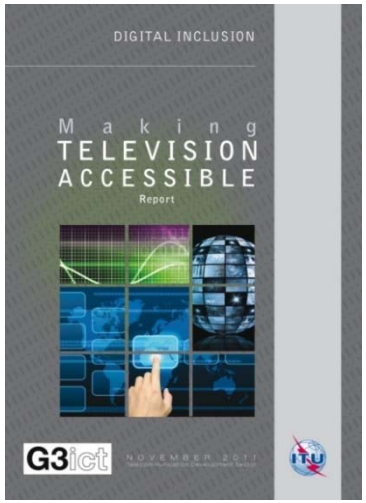
- **Advise ITU Members in their work within ITU-D Study Group on Question 7** dealing with ICT accessibility issues

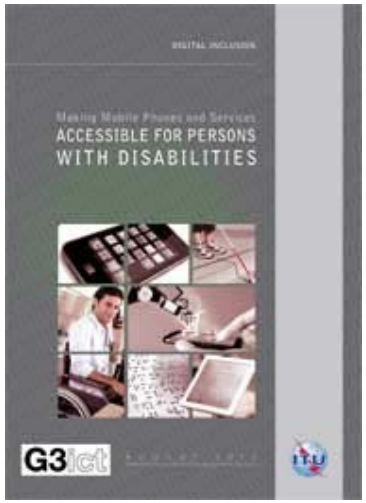
- **Participate in the work of the UN** on accessibility issues

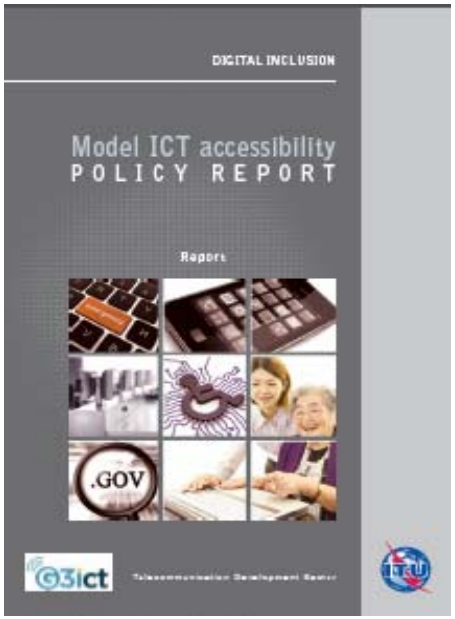
KEY RESOURCES - MATERIALS AND GUIDELINES

http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Digital-Inclusion/Persons-with-Disabilities/resources

- Provides guidelines and regulatory frameworks on ICT accessibility for PwD
- Tools for countries to develop their own policies and regulations
- Freely available online in: Arabic, Chinese, Spanish, French, **English**, Russian
- Available also in accessible e-Book / PDF version

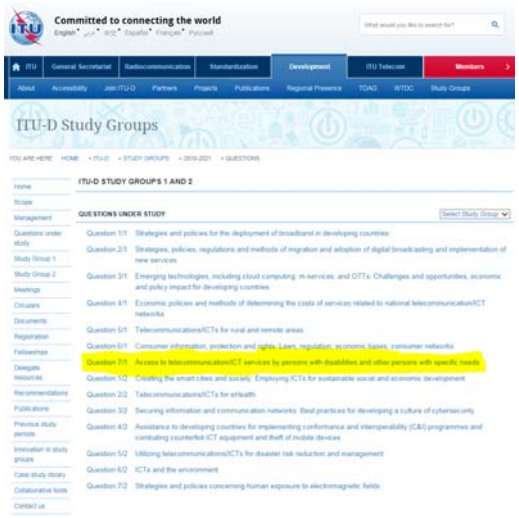






KEY ACTIVITIES TO PROMOTE ICT ACCESSIBILITY FOR PWD

- **Assist ITU Members in designing policies and implementing strategies to promote and implement services and solutions that provide access to telecommunications / ICT for PwD / share good practices at global level**
- **ITU-D Study Groups Question 7/1 *"Access to Telecommunications / ICT services for people with disabilities and with specific needs"* (2018-2021)**



KEY RESOURCES – CAPACITY BUIDING IN ICT ACCESSIBILITY

- **Strengthen capacity of ITU Members on ICT accessibility (provision of trainings, share best practices, etc.) through:**
  - ✓ **Training courses on ICT Accessibility (all topics)**
    In person within ITU-D Study Group Question 7/1 (*Access to telecommunication/ICT Services by PwD and with specific needs*) 2014-2017

  - ✓ **Training courses on Public Procurement of accessible ICTs**
    On-line though ITU Academy 2015, 2016

  - ✓ **new in 2018! 3 self-paced training courses on**
    - ❑ **Introduction to accessible ICTs**
    - ❑ **ICT accessibility policy, regulation and standards**
    - ❑ **Introduction to public procurement of accessible ICT**
  - ✓ **new in 2018! Tutorial videos on web accessibility**
    - ❑ **Accessible Digital Content and Remediation**

KEY RESOURCES

Nacional Program on Web Accessibility “Web for @ll”

This Program is designed to:

- **Raise awareness among the Government** and stakeholders involved in ICT accessibility that providing accessible content and websites, PwD will be able to access information, study, work, socialize and enhance their full economic and social development.

- **Develop national capacities (train the trainers) based on international standards in web accessibility in:**
  - ✓ Development of accessible digital content (Word, PDF, PP Excel) and remediation
  - ✓ Design and develop accessible website

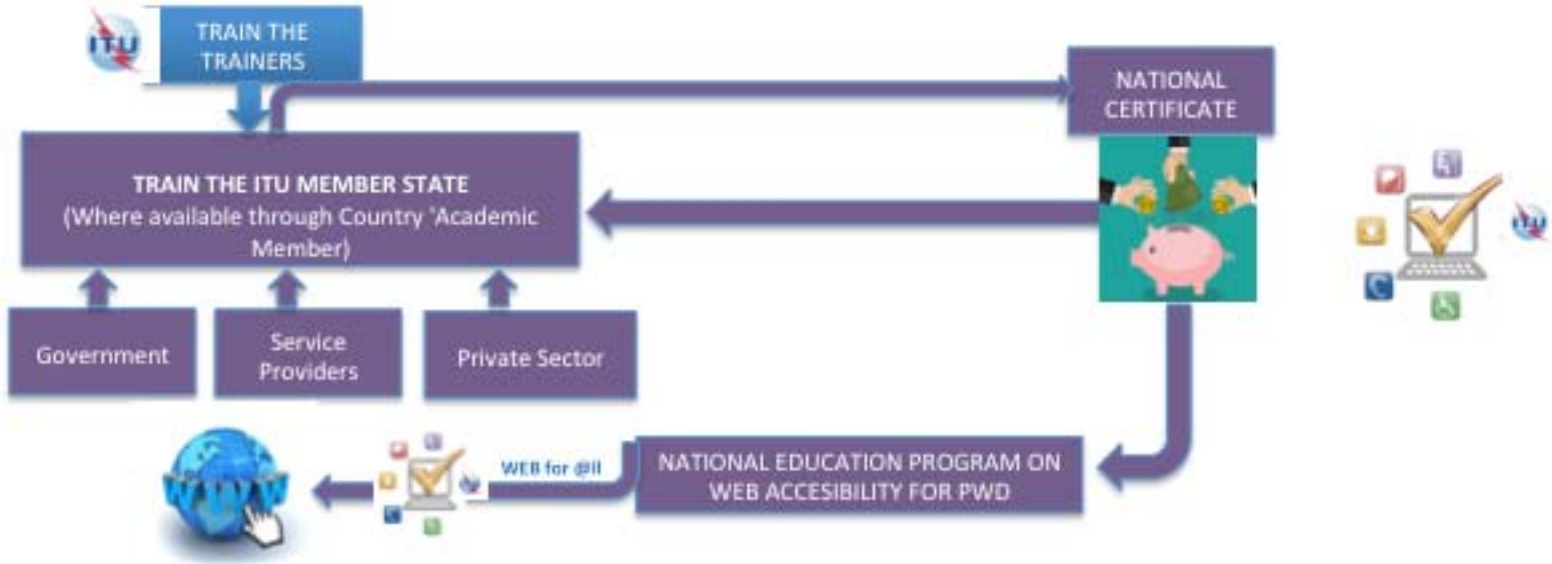
  so that the countries can replicate these capacities and ensure that the public (and private) information and services is available to all citizens including PwD.

- **Incentivize governments (decision makers) in the creation of a national digital ICT accessibility ecosystem that contribute to digital and social inclusion of PwD in their respective countries (*proposal of a self-sustainable model of digital inclusion of PwD*).**

KEY RESOURCES

Self-sustaining model of education for PWD in the use of ICT

- ✓ A transparent self-sustainable national model
- ✓ Ensures dissemination of skills at national level with related certification in: accessible digital content and in the design and development of accessible websites
- ✓ The funds generated by the national certification will be shared between: the national training provider and a national fund created to educate and train PwD in the use of ICT to may navigate the Internet and benefit of information, products and services like other citizens.



CONCLUSION
KEY ISSUES IN ICT ACCESIBILITY
TO BE CONSIDERED BY ALL

- **Raise awareness among all national key stakeholders** (Government, Broadcasters, Industry, Private Sector, NGOs etc)–about the need to promote ICT Accessibility;
- **Build consensus and inclusive policy-making** through encouraging national and regional debates to promote ICT Accessibility.
- **Mainstream ICT Accessibility** through inclusive language, definitions, and provisions in national policies, laws & regulations;
- **Identify key steps to promote ICT Accessibility to industry makers and local content providers** such as making accessible content and devices(public and mobile phones, TV sets) available;
- **Promote clear targets, periodic monitoring and evaluation** to ensure implementation of national ICT Accessibility policies and services;
- **Encourage national trainings and educational programs** on disability topics
- **Promote localization**, for example of voice recognition and text-to speech interfaces – to ensure local relevance and uptake;
- **Involve and consult with PwD in all national related processes in ICT Accessibility** and embracing the principle of '*nothing about us without us*'.

ITU-D works to make technology and content accessible to ALL so contribute to build an inclusive society!
JOIN ITU-D IN ITS WORK FOR DIGITAL INCLUSION

EVERYBODY'S WORK CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE BUT ONLY WORKING TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE THE CHANGE!

Thank you for your attention!

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