



# INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION TELECOMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT BUREAU

**WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT  
CONFERENCE (WTDC-98)**

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*For action*

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**Agenda item: 2.3**

**PLENARY MEETING**

## **Japan**

### **ESTABLISHING A MECHANISM TO PRIORITIZE THE ACTIVITIES OF THE ITU-D SECTOR**

#### **1 The need for a mechanism to establish priorities**

As defined in Article 21 of the ITU's Constitution, the Telecommunication Development Sector has manifold functions, all of which have great importance. On the basis of its mission, the ITU-D Sector has greatly contributed to telecommunication development under the Buenos Aires Action Plan. Meanwhile, however, the demand for the ITU to actively promote such development is increasing with the rapidly changing telecommunications environment.

However, because the available resources are limited, it is unrealistic to expect all the numerous aims of ITU-D to be targeted at the same time. If all activities are attempted simultaneously, it is likely that none will be completed satisfactorily. Also, although deciding priorities is essential for all activities of the ITU, the emergence of a global information society is creating a new imbalance in telecommunications development between industrialized and developing countries and there is a special need for activities in that field to be prioritized urgently. Therefore, WTDC should establish an appropriate mechanism for prioritizing the activities of ITU-D.

#### **2 The need to review priorities**

In addition, the prioritization mechanism should include a procedure by which the ITU-D Sector can annually review its priorities, which are likely to shift continuously in the rapidly changing telecommunication environment.

Japan believes that such a prioritization and review mechanism would lead to the effective implementation of the proposed Valetta Action Plan for the benefit of developing countries.

### **3 Proposed method for establishing priorities**

As a basis for discussion, Japan proposes a scheme for setting and reviewing priorities among the activities of the Valetta Action Plan. Japan hopes that, before the next WTDC four years from now, the BDT will review the operation of this mechanism and refine it to formulate the most suitable and effective scheme.

Japan's proposed prioritization and review scheme consists of five steps:

- 1) The WTDC should clearly define the group of ITU-D programmes and activities which are to be prioritized.
- 2) Every year, the BDT should make a list of activities under each of the programmes defined by the WTDC.
- 3) The list should be circulated to member countries. Each country should be requested to allocate one of the following three prioritization grades to each activity of the Valetta Action Plan:
  - A: VERY IMPORTANT (3 points)
  - B: IMPORTANT (2 points)
  - C: LESS IMPORTANT (1 point)Each country should not assign an "A" grade to more than half of the total number of the activities.
- 4) The Secretariat should calculate the total points for each activity and produce a table on which all projects are arranged in order of the points received.
- 5) This table should then be used to facilitate discussion of priorities.

**J/105/1**

DRAFT RESOLUTION [J-1]

**ESTABLISHING THE SCHEME TO PRIORITIZE THE  
ACTIVITIES OF THE ITU-D SECTOR**

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Valletta, 1998),

*considering*

- a) that telecommunications is an essential component of political, economic, social and cultural development;
- b) that technological advances and the liberalization of telecommunications greatly contribute to telecommunication development;
- c) that the gap between industrialized and developing countries has narrowed slightly in terms of access to basic telephone services, but is continuing to widen at high speed with regard to access to advanced telecommunication services and information technology,

*recognizing*

- a) that the Telecommunication Development Sector has manifold functions, all of which have great importance;
- b) that the demand for the ITU to actively promote development is increasing with the rapidly changing telecommunications environment;
- c) that in a situation where the available resources are limited, telecommunication development activities cannot be implemented effectively if they are not prioritized;
- d) that even when priorities have been established, they will continually alter and therefore need regular review,

*resolves*

that the ITU-D Sector establish a mechanism to decide priorities for implementation of the Action Plan, including a procedure for annually reviewing those priorities (as detailed in the annex to this document),

*instructs the Director of BDT*

to review the mechanism for establishing priorities before the next WTDC, in order to formulate the most suitable and effective mechanism.

ANNEX

**Proposed prioritization mechanism for ITU-D activities**

- 1) The WTDC should clearly define the group of ITU-D programmes and activities which are to be prioritized.
  - 2) Every year, the BDT should make a list of activities under each of the programmes defined by the WTDC.
  - 3) The list should be circulated to member countries. Each country should be requested to allocate one of the following three prioritization grades to each activity of the Valetta Action Plan:
    - A: VERY IMPORTANT (3 points)
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    - C: LESS IMPORTANT (1 point)Each country should not assign an "A" grade to more than half of the total number of the activities.
  - 4) The Secretariat should calculate the total points for each activity and produce a table on which all projects are arranged in order of the points received.
  - 5) This table should then be used to facilitate discussion of priorities.
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