



INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION

Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT)

Second Meeting of the Telecommunication
Development Advisory Group (TDAG)
Geneva, 13-14 September 1999

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Note by the Director

Format of TDAG reports

Reports on TDAB and TDAG meetings have up to now taken the form of *summary records*, presenting a summary of each speaker's intervention while occasionally summarising a discussion in which several speakers expressed similar positions. These reports tend to be relatively lengthy (typically 20 pages in English for a two-day meeting) and the main items of decision or advice are somewhat difficult to identify amongst a large amount of text. In addition, as the positions of every speaker need to be faithfully reflected, preparation of the summary records is a time-consuming activity of well-qualified précis-writers involving also many pages of translation work, and therefore a significant item of expenditure.

It is therefore being proposed that the reports on TDAG meetings take from now on the form of a summary of conclusions which are much more concise and concentrate on the fundamental results of the meeting. Such reports would be prepared by BDT TDAG Secretariat, in obvious close consultation with the chairperson of TDAG. The advantages are obvious: less drafting work and translation, faster turnaround, lower costs, and a clear focus on the conclusions reached and advice given. Such a summary of conclusions would also form a clear and practical basis for any further reports needed on the meeting. There are some disadvantages as well: delegates will not find their individual views expressed, and possible fine differences between delegations will generally be lost. In exceptional cases, the text of an intervention could be annexed on request if it is provided in writing to the secretariat (No. 450 and 451 of the Convention).

It should also be noted that both other advisory groups (RAG and TAG) are currently using this proposed approach as a reporting mechanism.

With a view to providing the best possible service to the membership, the opinion of TDAG is sought regarding the most useful form for future reporting. The BDT will implement the advice of TDAG as of the present meeting.