



Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT)

**Fourth Meeting of the Telecommunication
Development Advisory Group (TDAG)
Geneva, 12-13 October 2000**

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Note by the Director

ROTATION OF TDAG CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN POSITIONS

1 The Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG) has decided to place the question of the rotation of the TDAG chairman and vice-chairman positions on the agenda for its fourth meeting, to be held in Geneva on 12 and 13 October 2000.

2 The principle of rotation of the TDAG chairman and vice-chairman positions should be viewed in the light of the group's working procedures.

3 According to No. 2151 of the Convention (Geneva, 1992) as amended (Minneapolis, 1998), TDAG shall adopt its own working procedures compatible with those adopted by the World Telecommunication Development Conference (Valletta, 1998) (WTDC-98).

4 No procedures have yet been established for TDAG. Similarly, WTDC-98 decided not to expand the general working procedures defined in Articles 16 to 18 and 19 to 22 of the Convention.

5 WTDC-98 did, however, decide to establish two study groups within the Telecommunication Development Sector, for which it provided specific working procedures (WTDC-98 Resolution 4).

6 The latter refers, *in fine*, to the appointment of study group chairmen by WTDC, and to the powers granted to TDAG to appoint study group chairmen and vice-chairmen during the interim period between two conferences, as required.

7 This reference to study groups enables us, on the basis of No. 242 of the Convention, to adopt, by analogy, an objective approach to the question of rotation of TDAG chairmen and vice-chairmen.

8 If it is accepted that the absence of working procedures specific to TDAG be offset by extending the general provisions governing the appointment of study group chairmen and vice-chairmen, CV 242 provides that three criteria must be considered in the appointment of the chairman and vice-chairmen of TDAG, namely:

- a) competence;
- b) equitable geographic distribution;
- c) need to promote more efficient participation by the developing countries.

9 Geographic distribution is a key factor in implementing the principle of rotation, the application of which will require that TDAG take account of ITU's five administrative regions, its aim being to define the number of representatives for each region in order to ensure a balanced rotation.

10 TDAG should look into whether or not it is possible to adopt the four-year cycle between two world telecommunication development conferences as a time-frame for the rotation of its chairman and vice-chairmen. Further criteria may be envisaged, in particular in respect of the duration of terms of office.

11 Similarly, TDAG should discuss further the competence criterion, which aims to ensure that the group operates effectively and the criterion of promoting more efficient participation by the developing countries, as reinforced by WTDC Resolution 5 (Valletta, 1998) on strengthening the participation of developing countries.

12 It should be noted that the Radiocommunication Sector has already resolved this question by means of Resolutions ITU-R 49 and ITU-R 15-3 (appended as Annexes 1 and 2).

13 The Telecommunication Standardization Sector intends to resolve the same question at its forthcoming World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (Montreal, 2000), during which contributions on the subject will be discussed.
