

Digital Divide Initiatives

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**5th Meeting of the TDAG
Subgroup dealing with
private sector issues,
Geneva, 21st February 2001**

Introduction

- Objectives:
 - Inform TDAG Members of recent initiatives
 - Seek comments from membership
- Digital Opportunities Task force (dot Force)
- UN ICT Advisory Group
- Digital Opportunities Initiative

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Dot Force

- G-8 initiative
- Composition of task force:
 - G-8 countries, 9 developing countries, industry, international organizations, civil society, NGOs
- Mandate: submit report and action plan to G-8 meeting in July 2001
- 3 meetings:
 - December 2000: Japan
 - March 1st and 2nd: Cape Town
 - April-May: Genoa, Italy

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UN ICT Advisory Group

- ECOSOC-led UN initiative
- Mandate: forge strategic partnerships between UN system, industry, and international actors
- Presentation of UN Secretary-General report to ECOSOC: February 2001
- Establishment of Task Force: March 2001

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Digital Opportunities Initiative

- UNDP-led initiative
- Partners: UNDP, World Bank, Accenture (formerly Andersen Consulting), Markle Foundation, OECD
- Mandate: provide major input to the dot Force report to be submitted to the G-8 in July

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Proposed ITU Strategy for dot Force Process

- Participate in and contribute to each initiative
- Undertake consultation of ITU membership:
 - February TDAG meeting
 - WTDC Regional Preparatory Meetings (Indonesia and Cameroon)
 - ITU Council in June

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Key ITU Messages

- Promotion and development of ICTs worldwide is main focus of ITU
- ITU is ideally placed to play leading role, given its core mandate and comprehensive membership (including 189 Member States and 600 Sector Members)

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Key ITU Messages

- Valetta Action Plan mirrors G-8 objectives
- Infrastructure development needs to be recognized as one of primary objectives of Digital Divide Initiatives
- Ensure that developing countries become stakeholders in these various Digital Divide Initiatives

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Key ITU Messages

- Beyond the dot Force Report:
 - Three WTDC Regional Preparatory Meetings
 - World Development Conference in March 2002
 - ITU Plenipotentiary Conference
 - Regional and World TELECOMS
 - 2003 World Summit on the Information Society

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