INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION
TELECOMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT BUREAU

WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE (WTDC-98)

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PLENARY MEETING

Report on preparatory activities

DRAFT PRIORITIES FOR THE ITU DEVELOPMENT SECTOR

The preparation process of the World Telecommunication Development Conference 98 has been carried out through two Regional Telecommunication Development Conferences (Abidjan 1996 for Africa and Beirut 1996 for the Arab States), regional meetings (Manila for Asia and the Pacific, Margarita Island for the Americas, Geneva for Europe and St. Petersburg for the CIS countries), and two global preparatory meetings in Geneva (May 1997 and October 1997). Concerning financing, economics and private sector development, activities and priorities were identified as a result of the series of regional finance colloquia (1996/1997) which are reported separately.

The major objective was to identify priorities for ITU-D activities in the next cycle (1999-2003). These priorities, if confirmed by the Valletta Conference, should ultimately be reflected in the work programme and the Strategic Plan for ITU-D.

The following priorities have been identified by the above-mentioned conferences and meetings. In the table below, they have been regrouped by broad categories which could be used as a basis for the ITU-D strategic planning.

A. Laouyane
Director BDT

Africa	Americas	Arab States	Asia and Pacific	Europe	CIS countries	Proposed follow-up
Update the African Green Paper	Additions to the Blue Book	Assist with updating of the Arab Book		Fair competition	Fair competition	Programme on
	Reform, regulation and legislation		Policies, strategies and Sector reform	Licensing	Licensing	Sector reform, regulation and legislation
	Annual meetings of the Region's regulatory bodies		Interconnection and numbering	Interconnection	Interconnection	
	Implementation of the concept of "the right to communicate"				Sector restructuring including privatization	
					Creation of a regulatory body	
Rural development and universal service	Plans for rural development, universal service, telecommunications as a social service	Rural development and universal service	Integrated rural development	Integrated rural development	Integrated rural development and universal service	Programme on Rural development and universal service
Implementation of computerized subscriber maintenance system		Development of a computerized subscriber maintenance system	Improvement of maintenance		Development of new services	
Implementation of telemedicine trials		Telemedicine in the Arab countries				Programme on Technologies and applications
Spectrum management	Spectrum management	Public service broadcasting	Frequency management	Frequency management	Frequency management	
Protection of the environment	Use of telecommunications for the preservation of human life and public safety in case of disasters	Protection of the environment		Quality of service	Quality of service	
		Applied research and transfer of technologies	Workshops on technologies		Access to new technologies	
Assistance to African information infrastructure	Technology development, GII application, GMPCS and Internet	Information infrastructure for the Arab States	Technologies, GII, multimedia, GMPCS and Internet	Development of GII	Internet and multimedia	

Africa	Americas	Arab States	Asia and Pacific	Europe	CIS countries	Proposed follow-up
		Alternative calling procedures		Tendering procedures	Tendering procedures	
						Programme on
Assistance on GATS matters	Financing and economy, including matters of interest to WTO	General agreement on trade in services		Accounting rates	Accounting rates	Finance and economics
	Telecommunications resource centres	Inventory of relevant information				
Formulation of financial strategies and policies	Multilateral code of investment	Sources of financing				
	Support transition in accounting rates	Tariffs	Finance and economics including pricing, revenue sharing etc.	Tariff restructuring	Tariff restructuring	
Financing strategies and policies	Implementation of WTO Agreements	Information about WTO issues			Information about WTO issues	
Partnerships with the private sector	Development, private sector cooperation and partnership		Strengthening economic cooperation and development	Networking	Networking	Programme on
					Models for partnership arrangements	Development partnerships with the private sector
Human resources management and development	Global university for distance education	Distance education	Distance learning facilities	Analysis of training needs	Analysis of training needs	
						Programme on
Distance learning	Development and management of human resources	Improvement of HRM/HRD in the Arab States	Human resources management and development -business culture and marketing	New management culture and skills	New management culture and skills	HRD/M
Centers of excellence	Centres of excellence		Service product development and marketing	Tele-education	Tele-education	

Africa	Americas	Arab States	Asia and Pacific	Europe	CIS countries	Proposed follow-up
Information collection and dissemination	Development of information sharing		Information exchange system			
Data bank	National and regional information infrastructures				Data bank for telecommunication development	Information sharing
Implementation of management information systems	Setting up of an ITU data bank	Implementation of management information systems				
Special measures for LDCs		Special measures for LDCs	LDC action plan and country programmes	Assistance to newly-privatized entities	Assistance to newly-privatized entities	
Support to PANAFTEL and to RASCOM	Framework for Action	Implementation of regional projects		User forum		Direct assistance
Regional projects and pilot projects		Financing of projects		Consultancy		
		Special assistance to Palestinian Authority		Regional project	Regional project	
			Strengthened Regional presence		Regional programme	
	Regional Working Group meetings for Study Group work	Regional cooperation	Regional cooperation			Improvement of ITU-D functioning and structure
	Increased participation in TDAB					
	Regional telecommunication development conference for the Americas		Regional telecommunication development conference for the ASP Region			
		Monitoring of conference resolutions				