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| ITU-D STUDY GROUPS, QUESTIONS AND WORKING METHODS |

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| **Priority area:**Rules of Procedure of ITU-D (WTDC Resolution 1)**Summary:**This contribution proposes the number of Study Groups and their titles, questions and how they should be chosen and the working methods of the Study Groups. Accordingly this contribution proposes two Study Groups: Study Group 1: Policy and Regulation and Study Group 2: ICT for SDGs. It strongly proposes that in general no questions should be repeated but may be repeated if the previous study has not covered substantive issues and can be repeated only once with different scope of study. Duplication should be avoided. Scope for each question should be on the modular approach producing independent modules at the end of each year.**Expected results:**If this proposal is accepted, this will provide a clear guidelines for determining the number of Study Groups in ITU-D, their titles and brief scopes as well as the principles with regard to repetition of the existing questions and formulation of new questions. **References:**This contribution is based on the WTDC Resolution 1 (Rev. Dubai,2014) |

**Proposal**

**Background**

ITU-D Programs, Study Groups, Study Questions, and Working Methods are of utmost importance for developing and least developed countries. These issues will be discussed and decided in the WTDC. Member State Administrations are invited to consider this proposal.

**Number of Study Groups and their titles**

At present, ITU D has two study groups, each was tasked with studying a number of important study topics and questions. The focus of Study Group 1 is more on policy and regulatory aspects, while Study Group 2 is considering issues pertaining to the development of ICT services, applications, and infrastructure. Although other sectors in the ITU have more Study Groups, considering the limitations in resources, the past practices, and the need to avoid duplication of work in different ITU sectors, the proposal is to retain the number of Study Groups to the existing 2 in the Development Sector.

Number of Study Groups: 2; Study Group 1 and Study Group 2

Titles: Study Group 1-Policya and Regulations

Study Group 2: ICTs for SDGs

**Questions to be studied by the Study Groups for the next study period (2017-2021)**

In general, the ITU-D Study Groups are expected to prepare best practices, handbooks, guidelines and case studies on topics of relevance and importance for the developing countries. These are developed with a view to facilitating their implementation by the concerned entities and stakeholders.

There are two sources of questions: One set of questions comes from the existing questions that are some questions are repeated and other set of questions come from emerging issues in Telecommunications/ICTs.

**Principles of repetition of questions**

In general questions should not be repeated. However if the majority of the member state administrations feel that the previous study has not covered many substantive issues which cannot in general be obtained from other studies, BDT programs, regional initiatives, work of other sectors of ITU and other agencies of the UN and regional and international organizations, then the study can be continued for one more cycle and no more than two cycles in total. But the continuation should ensure that the scope of the study for the new cycle should not be repeated. It should be with different scope related to the question.

**Formulation of new questions: Principles**

* Avoid duplication of work done in other ITU Sectors
* Avoid duplication of works already incorporated in ITU/BDT Strategic Plans, Programs, Regional initiatives etc.
* New questions should be based on the titles of the Study groups suggested above.
* For Study Group 1 on Policy and Regulations, the questions should address policy and regulatory issues faced the developing countries due to the adoption of new and emerging technologies, services and applications in the Telecommunications/ICTs/Broadband ecosystem.

Migration into NGN or all IP networks from traditional circuit switched technologies in both core and access networks as well as backbone and traditional voice based business model being replaced by data driven business models requires changing the existing policy and regulatory framework in the Telecommunications/ICTsector. We should identify these trends based on the works of BDT through GSRs, Trends in Telecom Reforms and other specific studies commissioned by ITU or any other agencies and any other sources. This question should include issues related to spectrum management as an essential component.

* The Study Group 2 on ICT for SDGs should address issues related to SDGs and how ICT intervention through appropriate technology, services and applications help achieve the SDG and the associated targets. We should group SDGs and identify the corresponding ICT intervention methods through appropriate technology adoption applications and services.

**Working Method**

ITU-D Study Groups produce their final reports at the end of the four year study period. In doing so, the existing practice is study all questions in parallel by different rapporteur groups. Considering the fact that the ICT environment, including technologies, services, and applications, are subject to rapid changes, one may argue that by the time the final report is ready, the topic may have lost its relevance or the practices might have significantly changed.

**Proposal**

For each question, we should define the scope of the study in a modular approach preferably including 4 modules to be prepared at the end of each study period in a given study cycle.

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