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| **Regional Preparatory Meeting for WTDC-17 for Europe (RPM-EUR)** | P:\SUP\Logos\Post-150th Anniv\ITU-logo-UNblue.jpg | |
| **Vilnius, Lithuania, 27-28 April 2017** | | |
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| CEPT GENERAL PRINCIPLES AND LIST OF PRIORITIES FOR THE WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE (WTDC-17) | | |
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| **Priority area:**  Other proposals  **Summary:**  CEPT strategic priorities for WTDC-17.  **Expected results:**  To note.  **References:**  N/A | | |

**Proposal**

CEPT general principles and list of priorities for the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-17)

**1. Introduction**

The proposed theme of the WTDC-17 is “ICT for Sustainable Development Goals” (ICT➃SDGs). WTDC-17 theme will send a message to the outside world about ITU’s alignment to the [2030 Sustainable Development Agenda](http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/).

CEPT countries understand the importance of participation, involvement and direct engagement of all stakeholders in order to contribute to the implementation process of Sustainable Development Goals (hereinafter – SDGs).

During the preparation process for the upcoming WTDC-17, CEPT countries have agreed on aims, general principles and priorities for the D-Sector and for the contribution it can make to the SDGs.

**2. CEPT aims for WTDC-17**

CEPT believes that ITU-D can play a critical role in promoting access to affordable telecommunications/ICTs and bridging the digital divide. WTDC-17 is an opportunity for the international community to focus on the key priorities which will most effectively support developing countries, including:

1) supporting capacity building and skills in telecommunications/ICT;

2) promoting an enabling environment for innovation and investment;

3) strengthening open and transparent collaboration with all stakeholders;

4) fostering open and competitive ICT and telecommunication markets;

5) fostering new public/private partnerships;

6) reinforcing performance-based management in the work of the D-Sector;

7) further aligning ITU-D activities with the other ITU Sectors, the WSIS outcomes and with the SDGs.

**3. General principles**

**3.1. WTDC-17 should focus on proposals for ITU-D performance-based management**

The strategic and operation plans of ITU are important to guide the ITU General Secretariat and ITU members to manage ITU effectively and to focus on the most effective strategic initiatives in order to address global challenges.

Proposals and other efforts should be strategically aligned and linked to the most effective use of budgetary and human resources. As much as possible ITU-D should not duplicate work, which is being undertaken in other ITU Sectors and/or entities/organizations.

Planning and proposals shall be made taking SDGs into account.

All initiatives undertaken by the ITU membership must be based on principles of openness and accessibility. ITU Regional Offices should be involved in the most effective way.

**3.2. ITU-D should promote telecommunications/ICTs in a way which contributes to the SDGs**

Access to telecommunications/ICTs can positively influence the economic and social development of society. The WSIS agenda is a strong framework for contributing to the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

Indicators for measuring the benefits are strongly encouraged as well as knowledge and know-how sharing.

ITU-D should be focused on bridging the digital divide, penetration of telecommunications/ICT services to all people, in particular those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons.

**3.3. ITU-D should dedicate its efforts to further promote cooperation between stakeholders,** **ensuring inclusion and participation**

Cooperation and sharing best practice between stakeholders in all regions and countries is important. It fosters and further promotes the impact of telecommunications/ICTs and focus on development via knowledge sharing.

**4. Main priorities**

Main principles lead to more accurate measures and priorities that could further strengthen ITU policies and influence global development.

**4.1. Priorities in ITU-D performance-based management**

ITU-D performance-based management should ensure that work programmes are effective, efficient and focused on strategic priorities:

- to focus on strategic priorities in order to ensure that initiatives can be appropriately resourced, within existing budgets;

- to monitor the outputs and outcomes for ITU-D initiatives within a robust performance-based management framework;

- to keep highest standards of management.

**4.2. Priorities in promoting telecommunication/ICT development**

The deployment of telecommunication/ICT ecosystem is a difficult task. Nonetheless, international organizations in their capacity could influence further development of the ICT ecosystems that lead towards sustainable development. ITU-D should highlight the importance of an enabling environment, including open and competitive markets and a stable and transparent regulatory environment that foster new investments in the sector and ensure affordable access and choice. ITU-D should implement practical and measurable activities in promoting best practices in the field.

Main priorities in this area:

- to develop connectivity and bridge the digital divide within and between countries;

- to promote best practice in policy formulation, regulatory practices, to foster conditions for competition, consumer choice and affordability;

- to promote strategies, policies, practices for digital inclusion, e-learning/e-education;

- to facilitate the exchange of experience and views on emerging trends and innovative technologies in the telecommunication/ICT sector;

- to promote transition to digital broadcasting;

- to support capacity building and digital literacy training;

- to strengthen the use of ICTs for mitigation of climate change and disaster management;

- to further contribute to the implementation of Action Lines C2, C5 and C6 .

Also, another important measure would be to find an effective system of indicators or use best examples to monitor achievements in order to replicate success stories. This system of ICT indicators should also contribute to the SDGs monitoring framework. Reporting is an important task that is encouraged.

**4.3. Priorities related to cooperation and assistance measures**

Cooperation in and between international organizations is of key importance, especially it should allow:

- to promote collaborative working with all stakeholders;

- to ensure effective development in the regions;

- to support human and institutional capacity, to analyse and find best possibilities for development of the regional initiatives and projects;

- to cooperate under auspices of BDT (e.g. organize workshops or ad hoc expert meetings) to analyse issues of significant importance for a Member State;

- to prepare reports and highlight results and success stories are considered as important aspects of cooperation and assistance;

- to strengthen the use of ICT for climate change mitigation, disaster management and emergency telecommunications;

- to promote strategies, policies and practices for digital inclusion, in particular for those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons.

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