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| C:\Users\ponder\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.Word\BDT-25th_anniversary_2017-Logo_411959-3_transparent.png | **World Telecommunication Development Conference 2017 (WTDC-17)**  **Buenos Aires, Argentina, 9-20 October 2017** | C:\Users\ponder\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.Word\BDT-25th_anniversary_2017-Logo_411959-1_transparent.png |
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| PLENARY MEETING | | **Addendum 1 to Document WTDC-17/23-E** |
|  | | **4 September 2017** |
|  | | **Original: Russian** |
| ITU Member States, members of the Regional Commonwealth  in the field of Communications (RCC) | | |
| DRAFT WTDC-17 Declaration | | |
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| **Priority area:**  WTDC-17 Declaration  **Summary:**  This document contains a draft of the WTDC-17 Declaration.  The documents was drawn up on the basis of Document TDAG16-21/31(Rev.1) containing the preliminary draft WTDC-17 Declaration. Changes are shown with revision marks.  This contribution proposes to:  • introduce a number of clarifications/changes with regard to references to UN General Assembly resolutions;  • clarify certain points of wording;  • reflect trends as regards development and the increasingly important role of telecommunications/ICTs in the economic and social development of society in recent years;  • reflect the views and proposals of other regional organizations, as well as the outcome of discussions at the TDAG-17 meeting.  **Expected results:**  WTDC-17 is invited to examine the proposed text and take the appropriate decisions.  **References:**  Documents [TDAG16-21/31(Rev.1)](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-TDAG21-C-0031/), [RPM-CIS16/26](http://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D14-RPMCIS-C-0026), [TDAG17-22/73(Rev.1)](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D14-TDAG22-C-0073) | | |

# I Introduction

The proposed preliminary draft WTDC-17 Declaration is based on Document TDAG16-21/31(Rev.1), and all proposed modifications are shown in revision marks in the text in question.

The RCC administrations endorse the approach proposed by the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG) regarding the use in the Declaration text of language reflecting a broader perspective that will be easily captured by people outside of ITU, in addition to Member States and Sector Members.

We also endorse the basic principles that guided the drafting group and TDAG when preparing a preliminary draft WTDC-17 Declaration and are set out in Annex 1 to Document TDAG16-21/40 (Rev.1) and shown below:

1) The Declaration must focus on core strategic areas of activity and, above all, reflect the interests of developing countries.

2) The text must also reflect the specific goals of ITU’s Telecommunication Development Sector, in accordance with the Union’s basic texts.

3) Repetitions in different sections should be avoided, and the same goes for specific technical information.

4) Comments made during preliminary discussions in the Correspondence Group should be taken into account.

The RCC administrations concur with the view of TDAG, that the Declaration must focus on the essential role of Telecommunications/ICTs in building the information society and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and Targets, and on their transformative role in fostering sustainable development.

However, we also believe that it is essential in the Declaration to reflect current trends as regards development and the increasingly important role of telecommunications/ICT in the economic and social development of society in recent years and the proposals of other regional organizations.

# II Proposals

WTDC-17 is invited to consider and adopt the proposed WTDC-17 Declaration.

**MOD** RCC/23A1/1

Draft WTDC-17 Declaration

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Buenos Aires, 2017), which took place in Buenos Aires, Argentina, under the theme of "ICT for Sustainable Development Goals" (ICT④SDGs),

recognizes that

*a)* telecommunications/ICTs are a key tool for implementing the World Summit on the Information Society Vision beyond 2015, approved by a Resolution of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), and a key enabler for social and economic development; and consequently for accelerating the timely attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals and Targets set out in UNGA Resolution A/70/1 "**Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**";

*b)* telecommunications/ICTs also play a significant role in various areas such as health, education, agriculture, governance, finance, commerce, disaster risk reduction and management, climate change mitigation and adaptation, particularly in least developed countries (LDCs), small island developing States (SIDS), landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) and countries with economies in transition;

*c)* access to modern, secure and affordable Telecommunication/ICT infrastructure, applications and services offers opportunities for improving peoples' lives and ensuring that sustainable development across the world becomes a reality;

*d)* widespread conformance and interoperability of telecommunication/ICT equipment and systems through the implementation of relevant programmes, policies and decisions can increase market opportunities and reliability and encourage global integration and trade;

*e)* telecommunication/ICT applications can be life-changing for individuals, communities and societies at large, but they canalso increase the challenge of building confidence and security in the use of telecommunications/ICTs;

*f)* broadband access technologies, broadband-enabled services and ICT applications offer new opportunities for interaction among people, for sharing the world's knowledge resources and expertise, for transforming peoples' lives and for contributing to inclusive and sustainable development across the world;

*g)* despite all the progress made during past years, the digital divide still remains, and is compounded by disparities in access, use and skills between and within ITU regions and individual countries, in particular between urban and rural areas, as well as in the availability of accessible and affordable telecommunications/ICTs, particularly for women, youth, children, indigenous people and persons with disabilities and specific needs;

*h)* ITU is committed to improving people’s lives and making the world a better place throughICTs;

*i)* the Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) in accordance with its functions, defined by the Constitution and the Convention, is playing a significant role in implementing the relevant parts of the WSIS Plan of Action, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Agenda "Connect 2020",

therefore declares that

1 universally accessible, secure and affordable telecommunications/ICTs are a fundamental contribution towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 and serve as a driving force for the development of the national and global economy and building a global information society;

2 innovation is essential in ushering high-speed, high-quality telecommunication/ICT infrastructure and services, especially in rural, remote and inaccessible areas;

3 with convergence, policy-makers and regulators should continue to promote widespread, affordable access to telecommunications/ICTs, including Internet access, through fair, transparent, stable, predictable and non-discriminatory enabling policy, legal and regulatory environments, including common approaches to conformance and interoperability that promote competition, increase consumer choices, foster continued technological and service innovation and provide investment incentives at national, regional and international levels;

4 new and emerging technologies such as broadband and mobile telecommunications, big data, the Internet of Things, and artificial intelligence, should be harnessed for purposes of supporting global efforts aimed at further development of the information society;

5 given the increasing demands for limited radio-frequency spectrum and satellite-orbit resources, effective and efficient spectrum management, including measures for avoiding harmful interference, are critical issues for policy-makers, regulators, operators, broadcasters and other parties;

6 increased participation of developing countries in ITU activities to bridge the standardization gap is needed in order to ensure that they experience the economic benefits associated with technological development, and to better reflect the requirements and interests of developing countries in this area;

7 that, given the crucial role of telecommunications/ICTs in digital transformation and, in particular, in the creation and adoption of the digital economy it is important to enhance international cooperation on sharing best practice in digital transformation and the development of approaches, regulatory texts, standards and applications for the digital economy;

8 digital literacy and ICT skills, as well as human and institutional capacity in the development and use of telecommunications/ICT networks, applications and services should be enhanced to enable all people to contribute to ideas, knowledge and human development;

9 measuring the Information Society and providing the proper indicators/statistics are important for both Member States and the private sector with the former being able to identify gaps that need public policy intervention, and the latter, in identifying and finding investment opportunities; particular attention should be focused on tools for monitoring implementation of the Sustainable Development Agenda;

10 an inclusive information society should take into account the needs of all individuals to use telecommunications/ICTs, in particular women, children and persons with disabilities and specific needs; reliable child online protection must be ensured;

11 building trust, confidence and security in the use of telecommunications/ICTs, as well as ensuring the protection of personal data, requires further international cooperation and coordination between governments, relevant organizations, private companies and other stakeholders in accordance with their roles and responsibilities;

12 cooperation between developed and developing countries as well as among developing countries are encouraged as this paves way for technical cooperation, technological transfer, joint research activities and sharing best practices;

13 public-private partnerships need to be further strengthened in order to identify and apply innovative technological solutions and financing mechanisms for inclusive and sustainable development;

14 policy-makers and regulators should continue to promote widespread, affordable access to telecommunications/ICTs, through fair, transparent, stable, predictable and non-discriminatory enabling policies, as well as through legal and regulatory frameworks that promote competition, increase consumer choices and foster continued technological and service innovation;

15 innovation should be integrated into national policies, initiatives and programmes to promote sustainable development and economic growth through multi-stakeholder partnerships, between developing countries and between developed and developing countries to facilitate technology and knowledge transfer;

16 international cooperation should be continuously enhanced amongst ITU Member States, Sector Members, Associates, Academia, and other partners and stakeholders to pursue sustainable development, through the use of telecommunications/ICTs;

17 ITU membership and other interested parties should cooperate in implementation of Connect 2020 global telecommunication/information and communication technology goals and targets.

Accordingly, we, the delegates to the World Telecommunication Development Conference, declare our commitment to accelerate the expansion and use of telecommunication/ICT infrastructure, applications and services for building and further development of the information society and bridging the digital divide, the timely attainment of the **Sustainable Development Goals and Targets set out in UNGA Resolution A/70/1 "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development"**.

The World Telecommunication Development Conference calls upon ITU Member States, Sector Members, Associates, Academia, United Nations agencies, and other partners and stakeholders to contribute towards the successful implementation of the Buenos Aires Action Plan.

**Reasons:** The proposed changes and additions are required because of the need to:

• introduce clarifications/modifications regarding references to UN General Assembly resolutions;

• clarify certain points of wording;

• reflect current trends as regards development and the increasingly important role of telecommunications/ICT in the economic and social development of society;

• reflect the views and proposals of other regional organizations, as well as the outcome of discussions at the TDAG-2017 meeting.

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