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| Chairman, TDAG Working Group on WTDC Resolutions, Declaration and Thematic Priorities | | | |
| Report of the meeting of the TDAG Working Group on Resolutions, Declaration and Thematic Priorities, 3 March 2021 | | | |
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| **Agenda item:**  Item 7.2  **Summary:**  This document contains the progress report of the TDAG Working Group on WTDC Resolutions, Declaration and Thematic Priorities. The group will continue its work and submit the next report to TDAG-21.  **Expected results:**  RPM-AFR is invited to note this document.  **References:**  [TDAG-20/3/4(Rev.1)](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG27-C-0004/) | | | |

**Summary**

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-21), scheduled to take place in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) on 8-19 November 2021, is fast approaching. As part of the ongoing preparation for what is expected to be a landmark development conference, the TDAG Working Group on WTDC Resolutions, Declaration and Thematic Priorities (TDAG-WG-RDTP) held its fourth meeting on 3 March 2021, attended by **146 participants from 54 Member States and 16 Sector Members**. The Working Group is open to all ITU Member States and ITU-D Sector Members and is chaired by Dr Ahmad Reza Sharafat (Islamic Republic of Iran).

The meeting considered seven contributions: one contribution on thematic priorities, one on the declaration and five on streamlining resolutions. It also heard oral progress reports from six regional telecommunication organizations (RTOs). The group is expected to hold its last meeting on 9 April 2021.

The following is a summary of the meeting.

1. **Opening of the meeting and welcome remarks**

1.1 The Director of the ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT), Ms Doreen Bogdan-Martin, welcomed participants and thanked them for their valuable and productive contributions to the WTDC-21 preparatory process, noting that the virtual environment demonstrates the potential of digital ICTs, and the dedication of membership to the work of the Union. Ms Bogdan-Martin informed participants that the *Road to Addis* series of events to raise awareness on the WTDC-21 connectivity agenda had gathered momentum. “We saw enthusiastic participation by representatives from various sectors at the second one that was held last month on the topic of partnerships,” the Director said, adding that Ms Wendy Mars, President of Cisco's Europe, Middle East, Africa and Russia region, made a statement that particularly stood out: “**What can be digital truly must be digital**.” Drawing on this statement the Director stated: “**We have our eyes fixed on our goal to connect the next 3.7 billion** **people.** That is why **the theme for WTDC-21 is: Connecting the Unconnected to Achieve Sustainable Development.** We all want to unleash the transformational power and potential of everything that can be digital.”

1.2 The Chairman of the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG), Ms Roxanne McElvane Webber (United States) made the observation that “it has been almost a year since delegates met in a physical environment. Despite that, there is reason to feel grateful. For those of us that are blessed to have health, to have connectivity, to have employment, it is a real privilege for us to come together and work.” She highlighted the importance of membership contributions.

1.3 The Chairman of the TDAG Working Group on WTDC Resolutions, Declaration and Thematic Priorities, Dr Sharafat, recalled the terms of reference the group:

* To **review WTDC resolutions**, examine their number and subject matter, and consider streamlining, to avoid repetitions and duplication with the resolutions of the Plenipotentiary Conference. The streamlining should take into account that some Sector resolutions are integrations of Plenipotentiary Conference resolutions and therefore these resolutions should not be considered as repetition.
* To **align the ITU-D thematic priorities**, proposed regional initiatives and proposed study group Questions, taking into account proposals of ITU-D study groups, outcomes of the regional preparatory meetings for World Telecommunication Development Conference 2021 (WTDC-21), relating to the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and taking into consideration the WSIS Action Lines for which ITU has lead responsibility.
* To propose elements and make recommendations to ITU membership for the future draft Declaration.
* To report its outcomes to TDAG.

1. **Adoption of the agenda**

2.1 The agenda in [Document 23(Rev.1)](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG27.RDTP-C-0023/en) was adopted.

1. **Report of the previous meeting of TDAG-WG-RDTP**
   1. Participants noted and approved the report of the third meeting of **TDAG-WG-RDTP**, held on 21 January 2021 (see Document 21 [TDAG-WG-RDTP/21](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG27.RDTP-C-0021)).
2. **Thematic priorities**

4.1 The Chairman presented a revised **proposal for WTDC-21 Thematic Priorities**, contained in [Document 24(Rev.1).](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG27.RDTP-C-0024/en) At the third meeting of TDAG-WG-RDTP in January 2021, theChairman proposed four thematic priorities for the next cycle 2022-2025, and participants made a number of suggestions. Following that meeting, the Chairman and the secretariat prepared a revised version of Document 20, renumbered as Document 24(Rev.1). The **four thematic priorities** put forward are **Connectivity; Digital Transformation; Enabling Environment; and Resource Mobilization and International Cooperation.**

4.2 Participants expressed appreciation for the efforts made to produce a revised document, and in particular for responding to the request made by several delegations to replace the proposed thematic priority “Digital Society” with “Digital Transformation”.

4.3 The delegate from Jordan, speaking on behalf of the League of Arab States (LAS) stated that the Arab group had met and discussed Document 24(Rev.1), and still holds the view that cybersecurity should be made a separate, stand-alone thematic priority and not a supporting component under the “Connectivity” thematic priority.

4.4 Delegations from the Arab States region backing this view expressed recognition for the tremendous, visible work and activities being carried out in the Development Sector under cybersecurity. The delegate from Saudi Arabia draw attention to the fact that one of the key objectives of ITU‑D is to build confidence and security in the use of telecommunications/ICTs and observed that some Questions in the study groups touch on protecting the rights of the consumer. He added that a new thematic priority on cybersecurity would thus bring all these highly related aspects under one umbrella.

4.5 The delegate from Algeria suggested that the **environment and emergency telecommunications** should also be considered as separate, stand-alone thematic priorities and not as topics falling under the “Connectivity” thematic priority.

4.6 With regard to the four proposed thematic priorities and their supporting topics, a representative from the Inter-American Telecommunications Commission (CITEL) from the Bahamas, expressed the view that more refinement or reduction in the number of topics would be necessary, otherwise BDT may run the risk of having the same challenges of spreading limited resources across a wide array of tasks.

4.7 CITEL considers that ITU‑D activities should reflect the limited human and financial resources to make the focus more meaningful and to achieve the objectives and interests of developing countries.

4.8 Regarding the proposed digital transformation thematic priority, the CITEL focal point commented that a wide array of topics falls within this priority. So, again this may spread the work of BDT across too many areas of the digital economy and away from connectivity, digital inclusion and the enabling environment.

4.9 CITEL is still analysing the thematic priorities and their supporting components and would provide a contribution to the next TDAG-WG-RDTP RDTP meeting planned for 9 April 2021.

4.10 A representative from the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT) from the Republic of Korea informed the meeting that APT members discussed Document 24(Rev 1) at their meeting at the end of February 2021 and expressed full support for all four proposed thematic priorities.

4.11 A representative from the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT) from Lithuania stated that the CEPT project team supports the four thematic priorities. In their view, Document 24(Rev.1) is a good basis to continue the discussion for the elaboration of Questions and to determine regional priorities.

4.12 The delegate from the United Kingdom pointed out that while welcoming the four thematic priorities, there is still some disagreement on the list of components after each paragraph where Document 24(Rev.1) states the “following topics can be considered as supporting components of this thematic priority”. The delegate also stated that Member States and Sector Members should be free to contribute to WTDC on the issues that are important to them within the overarching theme and the four thematic priorities for the conference, and proposed to remove the text beginning with "the following topics" under each of the four proposed thematic priorities.

4.13 The Chairman of CITEL’s Working Group for WTDC preparations, Mr. Santiago Reyes-Borda (Canada), drew the attention of the meeting to the importance of streamlining thematic priorities to focus ITU-D efforts with the available financial resources, despite the extraordinary efforts of BDT. The four thematic priorities will ensure that members have a fit-for-purpose ITU-D that takes into account the needs of Member States, particularly developing countries, least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing States (SIDS).

4.14 A delegate from Côte d’Ivoire suggested that Internet Governance and financial inclusion and mobile financial services should be considered in the thematic priority on digital transformation.

4.15 The delegate from Algeria observed that it is a good opportunity to try to reduce the number of thematic priorities but stressed that ITU-D could lose the essence of its work. Agreeing with this view a delegate from the Russian Federation observed that while WTDC produces specific well-known types of documents: a declaration, resolutions, an action plan and study group Questions, the goal of Document 24(Rev.1) on thematic priorities was unclear and needed to be clarified for all to have a common understanding going forward.

4.16 Responding on the relevance of thematic priorities to WTDC‑21, the Chairman explained that previous TDAG meetings had emphasized the need for a fit-for-purpose ITU‑D and that reducing the number of thematic priorities is a step in that direction. A specific document may (or may not) come out of WTDC-21, but essentially, the discussion on priorities will enable membership to identify what they need to do in terms of regional initiatives in their preparations for WTDC‑21.

4.17 The Chairman of TDAG reminded participants that BDT has upwards of 100 key performance indicators (KPIs) for the current 10 thematic priorities, and she commended the efforts of Dr Sharafat to narrow and consolidate some of these priorities. She urged participants to continue to work together to support a structure that will not only reflect membership priorities but will also allow BDT to measure success and impact.

4.18 The secretariat highlighted how the changing terminology, from programmes to thematic priorities, reflects the implementation of a results-based management approach that improves relevancy and reduces redundancy.

4.19 A delegate from the Russian Federation asked why, given that the terms of reference call for an alignment of thematic priorities, regional initiatives and study group Questions, the number of priorities are not aligned with the number of Questions, noting that regional initiatives are determined by regional telecommunication organizations.

4.20 A CITEL representative (United States) informed participants that work at CITEL had focused on how regional priorities interconnect with a reduced number of thematic priorities, study group Questions and other BDT work, and emphasized the importance of alignment in preparation for WTDC-21.

**Way forward**

4.21 The Chairman of TDAG-WG-RDTP (Dr Sharafat) thanked participants for the proposals to make changes to Document 24(Rev.1). Looking ahead, “**members have to be mindful that if they have too many priorities, there is no real priority,”** the Chairman of CITEL’s Working Group for WTDC preparations observed, adding that: **“If under each priority there is an endless list of topics, that will create an incredible burden on BDT to deliver on the expectations of Member States.”**

4.22 The Chairman of TDAG-WG-RDTP invited those who expressed views on Document 24 (Rev. 1) to engage in offline consultations that would lead to a consensus on thematic priorities at the group’s meeting on 9 April 2021.

**Agenda item 5 Declaration**

4.23 [Document 31](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG27.RDTP-C-0031/en) on **Draft Addis Ababa Declaration** was prepared and presented by the Chairman. The draft declaration is in two parts: Part 1 is the “We declare…” section, and Part 2 is the “We commit…” section.

4.24 Part 1 covers six topics: connecting the unconnected and the need for connectivity; what needs to be done to combat and to mitigate the impact of COVID‑19; the need to emphasize ICT skills; digital transformation; sustainable development goals; and the needs of developing countries, in particular, least developed countries (LDCs), landlocked developing countries (LLDCs), and small island developing States (SIDS).

4.25 Each paragraph in the “We declare…” section corresponds to a paragraph in the “We commit…” section. For example, paragraph a) in the “We declare…” section corresponds to paragraph 1) in the “We commit…” section, **with members committing to ensure that the unconnected 3.7 billion people in the world have reliable Internet** **access** to participate more effectively in economic, social, educational, and other activities. Paragraph b) commits to mitigating the impact of the COVID‑19 pandemic. Paragraph c) commits to bridging the widening ICT skills gap. Paragraph d) commits to digital transformation. Paragraph e) focuses on the sustainable development goals. Paragraph f) commits to promoting international cooperation among ITU membership and encouraging partnership between the developed and developing countries.

4.26 Some regional telecommunication organizations and Member States have expressed support for the draft declaration and others have proposed to improve its focus.

4.27 The Chairman recalled previous calls for a concise declaration, focused on solutions towards connecting the 3.7 billion people that are still unconnected to the Internet. The draft declaration focuses on topics in line with the theme of WTDC‑21 as approved by TDAG in November 2020: “Connecting the Unconnected to Achieve Sustainable Development”.

4.28 Some participants expressed appreciation and support for the proposed draft declaration and are keen to continue working on the document.

4.29 The delegate from Jordan noted that the declaration should normally reflect the actual outcomes of the conference. In this sense, the draft declaration is 50 per cent complete and should be complemented by those outcomes. The draft as it stands addresses the ongoing pandemic and the concern regarding digital transformation, but it should also be more forward-looking and futuristic, addressing new and emerging technologies, the impact on privacy and the security of the telecommunication/ICT sectors in terms of digital services and applications.

4.30 The delegate from Algeria called for wide consultation on the declaration and underlined the importance of connecting the unconnected priority and cybersecurity and personal data protection, compliance and interoperability, management of the radio-frequency spectrum, statistics and indicators, emergency telecommunications and climate change.

4.31 A CITEL representative (United States) reported that CITEL supports a declaration that is succinct, high level and focused on the WTDC theme of connecting the unconnected to achieve sustainable development, and that the declaration should advance the vision of how WTDC and members will work towards connecting the unconnected.

4.32 The Saudi Arabia representative noted that principles such as “short” when referring to the declaration are subjective; that with the new structure of the declaration, some of the important references that were in the “recognizing” part of previous declarations, and provisions and articles that guide ITU‑D work such as the WSIS Action Lines could be lost; and that the declaration should be balanced, at least in terms of the thematic priorities.

4.33 The Egypt representative applauded the first draft of the declaration, describing it as excellent, concise and to the point.

4.34 The Kuwait representative agreed with Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt, calling on each region to review the declaration, noting, for example, the absence of the notion of affordability.

4.35 The South Africa representative agreed that the draft declaration is a good starting point. However, looking at connectivity in a truly digital environment, there is a need to also highlight in the declaration the challenges that come with new technologies and that threaten to amplify current inequalities.

4.36 The Russian Federation representative expressed support for the interventions made by Jordan, Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and South Africa and stressed that declaration should reflect the ITU‑D’s purpose, activities, and concerns of developing countries.

4.37 The Nigeria representative called for connecting the unconnected to remain a priority, especially in the wake of the COVID‑19 pandemic and suggested that more time is needed to consider Document 31 at a national level and by the African Telecommunication Union.

4.38 The Côte d'Ivoire representative also called for more time for national and regional analysis to consider, for example, the inclusion of mobile financial services in the declaration.

4.39 A delegate from Lithuania, speaking on behalf of CEPT, noted that the work on the draft declaration is a sound basis for further collaboration and stated that the declaration should cover development matters.

**The way forward**

4.40 Chairman of TDAG-WG-RDTP noted that although the final declaration will be decided by the conference, the intention of the draft is to make the work of the conference more efficient. The Chairman will analyse all comments made during this meeting, and also asked participants to provide views and comments after proper consultations. If at all possible, the Chairman would like to receive comments and proposals through RTOs. He asked participants to expedite their deliberations in their regions and provide him their views to be able revise the draft declaration based on those comments as well.

4.41 While agreeing with this proposed way forward one delegation (Russian Federation) observed that “to provide regional views, we need regional meetings. It may be difficult to have that” adding that any Member State or Sector Member can submit their proposal.

4.42 The Chairman confirmed that although he requested input from regional telecommunication organizations, it is the right and privilege of each and every administration to provide input separately to the meetings of this group and to other meetings of the Union as well.

4.43 The Chairman, being aware that some regions may not have immediate meetings, encouraged participants, to the extent possible, to have offline consultations within their regions and then provide him with their views, which would eventually be expressed and stated during the next meeting on 9 April 2021.

**Agenda item 6 on streamlining WTDC resolutions**

4.44 Five documents were considered under this agenda item. The Chairman noted that the Plenipotentiary Conference (Dubai, 2018) has recognized the need to streamline resolutions, and invited Member States and Sector Members to revise WTDC resolutions to streamline them with plenipotentiary resolutions, where appropriate and required.

4.45 [Document 26](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG27.RDTP-C-0026/en) is a draft new Resolution on the “use of telecommunications/information and communication technologies in combating the COVID-19 pandemic, mitigating and eliminating its consequences” put forward by the Russian Federation for preliminary discussion, comments and suggestions.

4.46 The meeting noted the document and decided that it will revisit it at the next meeting on 9 April 2021, considering that some administrations and regional telecommunication organizations needed more time to review its content carefully.

4.47 [Document 27](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG27.RDTP-C-0027/en) and [Document 29](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG27.RDTP-C-0029/en) are interconnected and were considered together.

4.48 Document 27 on modifying Resolution 71 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of WTDC, “strengthening cooperation between Member States, Sector Members, Associates and Academia of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector and the evolving role of the private sector in the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector” was presented by Russian Federation.

4.49 Document 29 on suppression of Resolution 27 (Rev. Hyderabad, 2010), “admission of entities or organizations to participate as associates in the work of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector”was contributed and presented by the Russian Federation.

4.50 Considering that Resolution 27 has not been revised since 2010 and that its operational part provides mechanisms for the participation of Associates in ITU-D, it is proposed to merge Resolution 71 with Resolution 27 to ensure a holistic understanding of the role of Sector Members, Associates and Academia in ITU-D activities. It is further proposed to suppress Resolution 27.

4.51 The meeting noted the document and agreed with the suppression of Resolution 27.

4.52 [Document 28](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG27.RDTP-C-0028/en) is a proposal for suppression of Resolution 81 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) on “further development of electronic working methods for the work of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector" by the Russian Federation.

4.53 The provisions in Resolution 81 are covered in Resolution 167 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, “strengthening and developing ITU capabilities for electronic meetings and means to advance the work of the Union”. In addition, Resolution 1 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of WTDC, on the “rules of procedure of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector” has a section on electronic access. Resolution 81 in ITU‑D is, therefore, not needed. The meeting noted the document and agreed with the suppression of Resolution 81.

4.54 [Document 30](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG27.RDTP-C-0030/en) is a proposal from the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations on Resolution 1 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of WTDC. The delegate from Spain on behalf of CEPT stated that CEPT Com-ITU supports streamlining of resolutions and welcomes the efforts of the Russian Federation to review and streamline Resolution 1 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of WTDC.

4.55 The proposal reiterates the request made at TDAG-WG-RDTP meeting on 21 January 2021 to delete “ITU-D contribution to the draft ITU strategic plan” from Resolution 1. “Understanding the great importance of ITU-D contribution to the draft ITU strategic plan, TDAG established the Working Group on Strategic and Operational Plans (TDAG-WG-SOP). TDAG-WG-SOP had agreed that the ITU-D contribution to the ITU strategic plan would be developed through the Council Working Group on the Strategic Plan.”

4.56 TDAG had endorsed this proposal at its meeting on 23 November 2020, where it had also been agreed that “TDAG would review, progress and endorse the ITU-D component of the ITU Strategic Plan along its course to the Council and the Plenipotentiary Conference, rather than undertaking this activity at WTDC-21.”

4.57 The delegate from the United States speaking on behalf of CITEL expressed support for the proposal from CEPT.

4.58 The delegate from South Africa stated that their administration is uncomfortable and does not agree with the proposed course of action. The delegation holds the view that in the event of no consensus on the matter, perhaps individual regions or countries can submit their contributions directly to WTDC-21, particularly with respect to the proposed deletion of provision 1.8.2.**Resolution 1** (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017): the part (in bold) that mandates WTDC to establish, among other things, **ITU‑D's contribution to the draft ITU strategic plan**. Policy matters that have an impact on developing countries are considered at WTDC which is slightly different from the other Sectors, and delegations believe that WTDC is the best place for handling the strategic plan and this is reflected in a far greater turnout of developing countries in WTDC than in TDAG.

4.59 The delegate from Algeria, backing this view, confirmed the relevance of the conference, not elsewhere, in dealing with the strategic plan.

4.60 The delegate from Saudi Arabia, expressing a similar view, commented that transferring the role of the ITU-D component of the strategic plan to TDAG and the Council is complex and noted that his delegation had already expressed some concern when this proposal was made during a meeting of the TDAG Working Group on Strategic and Operational Plans. WTDC, the delegate noted, should address the operational plan and strategic plan of ITU-D, which constitute one of the most important elements of the Development Sector, and that the proposal will be discussed during the conference, alongside other resolutions for approval. The delegate concluded that the best way forward is for the TDAG Working Group on Strategic and Operational Plans to continue the work on the strategic plan and operational plan and submit these plans to the conference for further discussion and approval.

4.61 The **delegate from Kuwait asked the ITU Legal Affairs Unit** to provide a legal interpretation of Article 16 of the ITU Convention, provision 211 c), which says WTDCs “should fix the objectives and strategies for the balanced worldwide and regional development of telecommunications, giving particular consideration to the expansion and modernization of the networks and services of the developing countries as well as the mobilization of the resources required for this purpose…”.

4.62 Kuwait sought to know if there is a possibility that things which are in this article can be given to TDAG when the Convention states that this is the duty of WTDC. "If we are going to do this, we need to change the articles of the Convention. I need an answer from the legal department if we transfer that duty, how do we transfer it now to the TDAG group?”

4.63 **Comments from ITU Legal Affairs Unit:**

1. “With respect to answering the question if/how WTDC can assign specific matters within its competence to TDAG. The answer is this may be done through WTDC Resolution 24. The legal basis for this delegation of authority is CV 213A which reads:

116 CV/Art. 17

213A

PP-98

PP-02

*A telecommunication development conference may* assign specific matters within its competence to the telecommunication development advisory group, indicating the recommended action on those matters.

1. Under the Constitution and Convention, WTDC is not required to review the ITU-D contribution to the ITU strategic plan. However, this task is reflected under Resolution 1 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) which says that WTDC shall establish ITU‑D's contribution to the draft ITU strategic plan. Thus, it is within the purview of WTDC to amend this task if it so wishes. Please note that there is an existing mechanism through which the draft ITU strategic plan is developed, i.e., through the Council Working Group on the Strategic Plan. In essence, there is only one ITU Strategic Plan. Its approval is within the purview of PP.”

4.64 The delegate from Egypt expressed support to keep that duty with WTDC.

4.65 The delegate from Kuwait added that such a duty cannot be given to TDAG because it is clear that WTDC fixes the objectives and strategies of the Development Sector.

4.66 The delegate from the Russian Federation highlighted the importance of listening to the voice of developing countries. He underlined that his delegation, which is heavily involved in revising and streamlining Resolution 1 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of WTDC prefers to retain the existing wording (“**ITU‑D's contribution to the draft ITU strategic plan**”) until they hear the views of developing countries.

4.67 The delegate from the United States stated that the intention of the proposal to the TDAG Working Group on Strategic and Operational Plans regarding assignment of the task of reviewing the ITU-D contribution to the overall ITU strategic plan was to streamline and lessen the work during WTDC. It was hoped to reach consensus in advance of the conference.

4.68 The Chairman of TDAG explained that in previous years, WTDC and the Plenipotentiary Conference were held in the same year. So, in terms of determining what to do strategically, it made a lot of sense. Now ITU-D operates in a cycle where that timeline is a lot longer. So, in terms of putting together a strategic plan that does not go into effect for 18 months needs to be emphasized. In addition, the draft ITU-D contribution to the overall ITU strategic plan that used to be adopted at WTDC was never final. From WTDC it was submitted to the Plenipotentiary Conference for approval.

4.69 On a different, but related note, CITEL sought to know if at one point the Inter-Sector coordination Group on issues of mutual interest and the Inter‑Sector Coordination Task Force would provide additional input and mappings that could illustrate and guide members towards the issue of streamlining resolutions. CITEL will address inter-Sector coordination for streamlining resolutions and would welcome that input.

**Way forward**

4.70 Further discussions are needed on Document 30. The Chairman encouraged participants who have strong views or have expressed concerns to engage in offline consultations with representatives from CEPT.

**Agenda item 7: Regional Telecommunication Organizations (RTOs)**

4.71 APT: The representative of APT WTDC preparation explained that the group has prepared regional initiatives, draft resolutions on combatting pandemics, and reviewed Resolution 8 and Resolution 34, and the draft declaration for further discussion by APT WTDC preparations.

4.72 ATU: The delegate of the Cote d'Ivoire explained that ATU is working on Resolution 1, Resolution 2, and common proposals for WTDC.

4.73 CEPT: The representative of CEPT stated that the draft declaration and thematic priorities have been discussed in addition to nominations for chairmen and vice-chairmen of TDAG and study groups. CEPT invited colleagues from other regional organizations to coordinate preparations so that all regions can reach upstream consensus on a number of issues.

4.74 CITEL: The representative of CITEL noted that views from the Americas region are being gathered on how to align regional priorities with thematic priorities and to build consensus in advance of WTDC-21.

4.75 LAS: The delegate of Saudi Arabia stated that the League of Arab States has, in coordination with the ITU Regional Office, discussed draft initiatives, how to merge common resolutions, and draft revised resolutions.

4.76 RCC: The representative of RCC stated that agreement has been reached on regional initiatives and 19 common draft proposals. This agreement concerns modifications to 15 resolutions, suppression of two resolutions and one new resolution, which was considered by this meeting (see Document 26).

**Closing**

4.77 The Chairman of TDAG thanked participants for the inputs and contributions on which the group can now focus and comment on.

4.78 Participants thanked the Chairman for his efforts, wisdom and focus on concrete deliberations.

4.79 The Chairman noted the progress and good discussions, called on the continued support and participation of members, and expressed gratitude to the group, as well as for the constant engagement by the secretariat.

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