|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Logo  Description automatically generated | **Regional Preparatory Meeting for WTDC-21 for the Americas (RPM-AMS)Virtual, 26-27 April 2021** | A close up of a sign  Description automatically generated |
|  | **Revision 1 to** |
|  | **Document** **RPM-AMS21/14-E** |
|  | **21 May 2021** |
|  | **Original: English** |
| Chairman, RPM-AMS |
| Report by the RPM-AMS Chairman |
|  |

# Introduction

The Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Americas (RPM-AMS) was organized online by the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), in collaboration with the government of Peru and the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL), from 26 to 27 April 2021.

The objective of RPM-AMS was to identify priorities at the regional level, for the development of telecommunications and information and communication technologies (ICTs), taking into account contributions submitted by Member States and ITU-D Sector Members from the Region. The meeting concluded with a set of proposals on priority areas that will serve as basis for the formulation of contributions to the World Telecommunication Development Conference, to be held in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia), from 8 to 19 November 2021 (WTDC-21). WTDC-21 will consider the ITU-D activities to be carried out over the next four-year period (2022-2025).

This report gives an account of the work and results of RPM-AMS.

# Participation

The meeting was attended by **200 participants**, including **128 delegates representing 20 Member States from the Americas region**, 11 participants from 7 Observer Member States, 23 participants from ITU-D Sector Members, 7 participants from Observer ITU-D Sector Members, 4 participants from 3 Observer Sector Members, 6 participants from Academia, 7 participants from UN System and 14 guests participants. Of this number, 82 were women (41%) and 115 were male participants (+3 non-binaries).

# Informal meeting of Heads of delegation

Considering that there were issues with the portal to access the informal heads of delegation meeting, the Secretary of the event, in consultation with present heads of delegations and ITU Authorities, decided to cancel the meeting to continue directly with the first session of the RPM-AMS meeting.

# Opening ceremony

The opening ceremony included high-level interventions. All interventions are posted on the [RPM-AMS website](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Conferences/WTDC/WTDC21/Pages/RPM-AMS.aspx). The speakers of the opening ceremony included the following:

**Ms Doreen Bogdan-Martin**, Director, Telecommunication Development Bureau, ITU.

**Ms Elisabeth Diaz**, Senior Coordination Officer, UN Development Coordination Office for Latin American and the Caribbean;

**Mr Oscar Leon**, Executive Secretary, CITEL;

**H.E. Mr Diego Eloy Carrillo,** Communications Vice Minister of Peru;

# Election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen

The virtual host country of the meeting, Peru, nominated H.E. Mr Diego Eloy Carrillo, Communications Vice minister of Peru, as the Chairman of RPM-AMS for WTDC-21. The recommendation was unanimously endorsed by the attendees.

The meeting also recommended the appointment of Ms Andrea Grippa, Brazil, Ms Kelly O´Keefe, USA, and Ms Xian Persaud, Bahamas, as Vice-Chairmen. Attendees unanimously endorsed this recommendation.

Mr Bruno Ramos, Regional Director of the ITU Office for Americas, was introduced by Ms Doreen Bogdan-Martin, BDT Director, as the Secretary of RPM-AMS.

# Adoption of the agenda and time management plan

The RPM-AMS had received 15 documents: 12 contributions for action (4 from the Secretariat, 3 from TDAG-WG Chairmen, 5 from membership, one of them after the deadline; and 3 contributions for information (1 from the Secretariat, 2 from membership).

To start the meeting, RPM-AMS agreed to accept all contributions.

The first document of the RPM-AMS to be presented by the Secretary was the agenda. The meeting approved the agenda as presented in [Document 1](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-RPMAMS-210426-TD-0001/en)(Rev.1).

The Secretary then presented the time management plan. Having examined all the inputs related to ITU-D action areas, no comments were received from the floor and the meeting adopted the proposed draft time management plan as it appeared in [Document DT/1](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-RPMAMS-210426-TD-0001/en)(Rev.1).

All meeting documents are available on the [RPM-AMS document management website.](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-RPMAMS-210426/sum/en)

# Digital trends in Americas

[**Document 2**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-RPMAMS-C-0002/en): The document titled **“Digital trends in Americas”** was presented by Mr Pablo Palacios, Programme Officer at the ITU Area Office in Chile.

This document provides an overview of trends and developments in ICT infrastructure, access and use in Americas, which includes 35 Member States and is home to a population of about 1 billion inhabitants. It highlights changes in ICT adoption since the last World Telecommunication Development Conference in 2017 (WTDC-17) and during the COVID-19 pandemic, tracks the evolution of regulation, and reviews progress and challenges in implementing the ITU Regional Initiatives for Americas. Its objective is to serve as a reference for the ITU membership in reviewing progress and identifying ICT development priorities in Americas.

RPM-AMS welcomed and noted the contribution.

# Reporting on the implementation of the Buenos Aires Action Plan (including the Regional Initiatives), and contribution to the implementation of the WSIS Plan of Action and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

[**Document 3**:](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-RPMAMS-C-0003/en) The document entitled “**Results-Based Management (RBM) implementation in BDT**” was introduced on behalf of the Director of BDT by Mr Stephen Bereaux, Deputy to the BDT Director. In 2019, BDT embarked on a comprehensive overhaul of its use of results-based management (RBM) to equip the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) for the challenges of a rapidly changing development landscape and make it Fit4Purpose. This reform introduces RBM for the implementation of all work programmes, as a managerial decision and monitoring tool, and to provide the evidence to demonstrate BDT's impact. RBM also serves as the platform to engage with internal and external partners, and to replicate and scale up successful projects and work programme initiatives. The meeting noted the contribution and no comments were made on Document 3.

[**Document 4**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-RPMAMS-C-0004/en): The document titled entitled “**Reporting on the implementation of the Buenos Aires Action Plan (including the Regional Initiatives), and contribution to the implementation of the WSIS Plan of Action and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)”** was presented by Mr Stephen Bereaux, Deputy to the BDT Director.

[Document 4](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-RPMAMS-C-0004/en) reports on the implementation of the BaAP, and its contribution to the implementation of the WSIS Plan of Action and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The ITU World Telecommunication Development Conference in 2017 (WTDC-17) convened in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and adopted the [Buenos Aires Action Plan](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Conferences/WTDC/WTDC17/Documents/WTDC17_final_report_en.pdf) (BaAP). The plan, which includes the ITU-D programmes, a set of Regional Initiatives, and new and revised resolutions, recommendations, and study group Questions, defines the mandate, objectives, and priorities of the ITU Development Sector (ITU-D) for the period 2018-2021. It also aligns the Development Sector’s work with the strategic objectives of ITU to allow countries to harness the full benefits of ICTs. The document 4 also highlights the change that the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT), the executing arm of ITU-D, has undergone to ensure that it is able to keep pace with the fast-changing environment in which it serves.

The Chairman also drew attention to the [Annex 1](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-RPMAMS-C-0004/en) to the same document, which is a mapping exercise showing the linkages between thematic priorities, study group Questions, regional initiatives, SDGs and WSIS action lines.

Document 4 [Annex 2](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-RPMAMS-C-0004/en) focusing onthe *implementation of the Regional Priorities* was presented by Mr Randall Treviño on behalf of the Regional Director of the ITU for the Americas. Itoutlines all activities undertaken by ITU between 2018 and 2020, as a direct response to the expected results of the ITU Regional Initiatives for Americas Region, which consists of 35 countries. Activities presented in this document depict outcomes and impact generated per Regional Initiative as well as per activity. They are grouped in chronological order, per topic. All activities carried out under the ITU Regional Initiatives for Americas are directly linked to and coordinated within the corresponding BDT Thematic Priorities, thus strengthening ITU’s delivery and impact at the regional and national levels. The annex highlights the contribution of activities to the work of the ITU-D study groups, as well as ITU’s contribution to the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines and Sustainable Development Goals.

Regional Initiatives are the five priority areas that were elaborated and agreed by the Members of Americas Region and approved by the 2017 World Telecommunication Development Conference, and are described in the BaAP. Regional Initiatives are intended to address specific telecommunication/ICT priority areas that require special action of ITU at the regional level. Under each Regional Initiative, a set of activities, initiatives, partnerships, and projects have been developed to meet the Region's needs. Annual ITU Regional Development Forums have been serving as coordination mechanisms, facilitating implementation of the Regional Initiatives. The ITU Regional Initiatives for the 2018-2021 period in the Americas are as follows:

* AMS1: Disaster risk reduction and management communications;
* AMS 2: Spectrum management and transition to digital broadcasting;
* AMS3: Deployment of broadband infrastructure, especially in rural and neglected areas, and strengthening of broadband access to services and applications;
* AMS4: Accessibility and affordability for an inclusive and sustainable Americas Region;
* AMS5: Development of the digital economy, smart cities and communities and the Internet of Things, promoting innovation.

The RPM-AMS welcomed and noted the contribution (Document 4), including Annexes 1 and 2.

# Report on the implementation of outcomes of other ITU Conferences, Assemblies and meetings related to ITU-D work: PP-18, WRC-19, RA-19, and WTSA-16

[**Document 5**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-RPMAMS-C-0005/en): The document, entitled **Report on the implementation of outcomes of other ITU Conferences, Assemblies and meetings related to ITU-D work: PP-18, WRC-19, RA-19, and WTSA-16,** was introduced Mr Marco Obiso, acting Chief of Department on behalf of the BDT Director.

The document provides a comprehensive view of the implementation of the ITU conferences relevant to the work of ITU-D, based on a mapping exercise conducted by BDT to link the BDT thematic focus areas with the relevant ITU resolutions, the WSIS action lines, the BDT study groups, SDGs and the targets of the Connect 2020 Agenda.

RPM-AMS welcomed and noted the contribution.

# Preparations for WTDC‑21

# Report of the TDAG Working Group on WTDC Preparations (TDAG-WG-Prep)

[**Document 6:**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-RPMAMS-C-0006/en) The document entitled **Final report of the TDAG Working Group on WTDC Preparations (TDAG-WG-Prep)** was presented by Mr Santiago Reyes-Borda, Chairman of the TDAG-WG on WTDC Preparations. It contains a final report on the work of the TDAG Working Group on WTDC Preparations (TDAG-WG-Prep) and on the decision taken by TDAG at its 23 November 2020 meeting, including on those items where the group had not reached a consensus.

The RPM-AMS noted the document.

The Chairman reminded participants about two important Initiatives that the Americas Region is involved in, namely: meaningful Youth engagement through the [Generation Connect – Americas Youth Group](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/Americas/Pages/GC-AMS.aspx) and the [Network of Women (NoW)](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Conferences/WTDC/WTDC21/NoW/Pages/Events/Regional/AMS/2021_04.aspx) for the Telecommunication Development Sector, officially launched on 7 April 2021. For the first time, these Initiatives are part of the preparatory process for WTDC. Moreover, the Chairman advised that the Working Group has fulfilled its terms of reference and submitted the final report of the Working Group outcomes to TDAG-21.

# Report of the TDAG Working Group on WTDC Resolutions, Declaration and Thematic Priorities (TDAG-WG-RDTP)

[**Document 7:**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-RPMAMS-C-0007/en) The document entitled **Report of the meeting of the TDAG Working Group on Resolutions, Declaration and Thematic Priorities (TDAG-WG-RDTP)** was presented by Dr Ahmad Reza Sharafat, Chairman, TDAG Working Group on WTDC Resolutions, Declaration and Thematic Priorities (TDAG-WG-RDTP) and it contains the progress report of the meeting of this TDAG Working Group. The TDAG-WG-RDTP will continue its work and submit its Final Report to TDAG-21.

During discussions, it was proposed that streamlining of resolutions across different Sectors may be done by adopting resolutions of the Plenipotentiary Conference. Study group Questions should also be aligned as far as possible, to avoid overlap.

It was also requested that the Questions be kept as they are to the extent possible, to ensure continuity of work on important areas of work.

The presenter addressed the comments, assuring that consultations are under way on the best way forward to ensure that study group Questions are as focused as possible and that they address the most important areas of work proposed during TDAG. The presenter also mentioned that a clear understanding on the way forward is aimed for at the next TDAG meeting.

RPM-AMS welcomed and noted the contribution.

[**Document 11:**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-RPMAMS-C-0011/en) The document entitled **Proposed Regional View on Thematic Priorities** was presented by Ms Kelly O´Keefe, from the United States.

The Document describes the preparatory work that has been carried out by CITEL within its Conferences Working Group to consider the ongoing work of TDAG and TDAG-WG-RDTP. CITEL membership have appreciated the discussions over the past months regarding a Fit4Purpose BDT and how to orient the work of BDT towards measurable outcomes and more focused and implementable thematic priorities.

This document proposes Americas Regional/CITEL views on the thematic priorities, based on the draft **Proposal for ITU-D Thematic Priorities (WTDC-21)** presented by the Chairman to the 5th meeting of the TDAG WG-RDTP that took place on 9 April 2021.

The understanding is that these thematic priorities will be contained in the Addis Ababa Action Plan and will be equivalent to the programmes in previous WTDC action plans.

The RPM-AMS noted the document.

# TDAG Working Group on Strategic and Operational Plans (TDAG-WG-SOP)

[**Document 8:**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-RPMAMS-C-0008/en) The document entitled **Report on the meeting of TDAG Working Group on Strategic, and Operational Plans (TDAG-WG-SOP)** was introduced by Ms Blanca González, TDAG Vice-Chairman, Ministry of Energy, Tourism and Digital Agenda (Spain). It contains a report on the activities of the TDAG Working Group on Strategic and Operational Plans (TDAG-WG-SOP) since its creation, as well as some recommendations on the way forward that TDAG approved at its 23 November 2020 meeting.

Ms González emphasized the need for a holistic approach to ensure the participation of all stakeholders and to improve the linkages between the ITU-D action plan and the ITU Strategic Plan.

Canada pointed out that, as previously agreed, TDAG, at its May meeting, would be defining and adopting ITU-D’s contribution to the Strategic Plan of the Union.

He also noted that the third Virtual Consultation of Councillors in June will initiate the preparation of a new Strategic Plan for the Union, drawing upon input from Member States, Sector Members and from the Sector advisory groups, and produce a coordinated draft new plan at least four months the 2022 Plenipotentiary Conference.

The Secretariat explained that, by the time TDAG meets at the end of May, there would be some clarity on the results of the consultation with Council Member States and with all Member States on the proposed postponement of WTDC-21 to June 2022.

RPM-AMS welcomed and noted the contribution.

# Priority setting for Regional Initiatives, related projects, and financing mechanisms

**Member contributions**

The Chairman informed that three contributions were received related to the identification of Regional Priority Areas and invited the contributors to present them.

[**Document 10:**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-RPMAMS-C-0010/en)The document on **Regional Priorities for the Americas 2022-2025** was introduced by Mr Daniel Carletti, from Argentina.

The document indicates that the regional priorities for 2022 to 2025 need to consider the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the inclusion of minorities and vulnerable sectors, and it hints at a socioeconomic construction post COVID-19, based on the principles of affordability and accessibility. The document proposes the deployment of infrastructure in the region, with particular emphasis on Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDC) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS). Digital literacy for the use of emerging technologies, the use of ICTs by women, inclusion of less attended communities, the enhancement of the digital ecosystem and the need to include all stakeholders and build alliances to connect the unconnected, are principles covered by the proposed regional initiatives.

The RPM-AMS noted the document.

[**Document 9:**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-RPMAMS-C-0009/en)The document on **Regional Priorities for the Americas 2022-2025** was introduced by Ms Diana Gómez, Mexico. It provides a proposal advocating for the importance of revising the regional initiatives in a way that reflects the progress made in the area of telecommunications/ICTs in a manner that ensures that the needs of the Americas Region are met by contributing to achieving the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. The contribution lists the proposed regional priorities as follows:

1. Deployment of modern infrastructure focused on all developing countries, including LDCs, LLDCS, SIDS, indigenous communities and critical environmental areas and fostering the development of community networks, develop broadband plans to cover rural communities;
2. Digital literacy, new applications, and services: need to develop human capacity, projects, and programs on digital capacity and inclusion;
3. Enhancement of the digital transformation ecosystem through connectivity projects;
4. Development of an enabling policy and regulatory environment to connect the unconnected.

The RPM-AMS noted the document.

[**Document 13:**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-RPMAMS-C-0010/en)The document on **Caribbean Priorities for Developing Regional Priorities for the Americas 2022-2025** was introduced by Mr Taylor Rodney, Secretary General of CTU.

Mr Rodney welcomed the support of ITU on digital transformation, digital economy and capacity building, and the help provided to Member States. He highlighted the need to develop digital ecosystems, develop jobs, promote harmonized regulation, digital payments, e-commerce and e-entrepreneurship, and reiterated the necessity to deploy enabling environment, develop national ICTs, include persons with disabilities, encourage the participation of women, and youth, etc.

The RPM-AMS noted the document.

[**Document DT/2**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-RPMAMS-210426-TD-0002/en)**:** Canada announced the recent submission of a document jointly prepared by Argentina, Brazil, Canada and the United States that combined the two multi-country contributions contained in documents [9](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-RPMAMS-C-0009/en) and [10](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-RPMAMS-C-0010/en).

The meeting agreed to create a drafting group to reach a consensus document on the regional priorities for the Americas Region for the 2022-2025 period, to be chaired by Ms Xian Persaud, from the Bahamas. The group met once and used [Document DT/2](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-RPMAMS-210426-TD-0002/en) as the basis for its discussions. Mr Miguel Alcaine and Mr Randall Treviño were assigned as Secretariat.

The morning plenary on Day 2 of RPM-AMS was chaired by one of the two vice-chairmen of the meeting, Ms Andrea Grippa, from Brazil.

The consolidated proposal ([Document DT/3](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-RPMAMS-210426-TD-0003/en)) was presented to the plenary by Ms Xian Persaud, Chairman of the drafting group, and was discussed in detail, with further changes being made to it. The output of the plenary was Document DT/3(Rev.1), which contains a consensus version of the regional priorities for the Americas Region for the 2022-2025 period, as follows:

* **AMS-1**: Deployment of modern, resilient, secure, and sustainable telecommunication/ICT infrastructure;
* **AMS-2:** Enhancement and expansion of digital literacy, skills and inclusion programs, especially among vulnerable populations;
* **AMS-3**: Effective support for the digital transformation and innovation ecosystems in the Americas through scalable, funded, and sustainable connectivity projects;
* **AMS-4**: Development of enabling policy and regulatory environments to connect the unconnected through accessible and affordable telecommunications/ICTs that support the achievement of SDGs and progress towards the digital economy.

These Regional Priorities will be submitted to COM-CITEL meeting, taking place online from 1 to 3 December 2021, for comments and further processing towards submission to the WTDC-21 as an Inter-American Proposal (IAP).

# Other business

**Generation Connect – Americas Youth Group**

[**Document 12**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-RPMAMS-C-0012/en)**:** The document entitled **Generation Connect - Americas Youth Group: "Call to Action for ICT Development in the Americas Region Towards 2025”** was presented by Ms Ana Veneroso, ITU Programme Coordinator, as a contribution from the BDT Director on behalf of the [Generation Connect Americas](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/Americas/Pages/GC-AMS.aspx) (GC-AMS). It contains the inputs of the representatives of GC-AMS Group - comprising 15 youth envoys - and is based on the discussions related to the main challenges and opportunities identified by youth from the Americas Region for sustainable ICT development. The results of these discussions are reflected in the Call to Action that has been built around five thematic priority areas identified by the GC-AMS members: Capacity Development; Network & Digital Infrastructure; Digital Innovation Ecosystem; Digital Inclusion and Digital Services, including some thoughts on Emergency Telecommunications in the Region.

GC-AMS aims at providing a unique participative process for youth to virtually discuss regional opportunities and challenges related to digital technologies. Through this platform, youth can share their interests, concerns, and perspectives on digital transformation, especially in the context of RPM-AMS and WTDC-21.

During RPM-AMS, a side event on GC-AMS was carried out and three youth representatives moderated the sessions. The side event was the opportunity for a dialogue on thoughts and insights on the common major digital issues facing young people in the Americas and their perspectives on the future of digital communication. The young participants will continue to be engaged in Generation Connect Initiatives on the journey to WTDC-21 and the preceding Generation Connect Youth Summit.

**Network of Women (NoW)**

RPM-AMS established the [Network of Women](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Conferences/WTDC/WTDC21/NoW/Pages/Events/Regional/AMS/2021_04.aspx) (NoW) for the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector as the fourth regional network to be launched by BDT. This initiative aims at building a community to support female delegates, expand their network, and advocate and share experiences and knowledge with other female delegates. The Network of Women also aims at promoting the active participation of women in ITU activities and the ICT sector, in general.

During RPM-AMS, a side event of the Network of Women (NoW) took place on Day 2. NoW aims at encouraging gender balance in the activities leading up to the WTDC-21.

**I-CoDI**

A presentation on the [International Center of Digital Innovation](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Pages/I-CoDI.aspx) (I-CoDI) was made by Mr Alex Wong, Senior Strategy Advisor, BDT, which was well received by the participants. Reference was made to the relevance of I-CoDI since it can support ITU Member States, ITU-D Sector Members, and other key stakeholders to integrate innovation into their national development agendas and activities. Taking into consideration that innovation is a critical priority for the BDT as per the Connect 2030 Agenda, the main objectives of I-CoDI were highlighted: support Member States integrate telecommunication/ICT innovation into their national development agendas; provide a service to key ITU-D constituents in order to help integrate telecommunication/ICT innovation into their activities; and develop the capacity within ITU/BDT to integrate innovation in their day-to-day activities.

RPM-AMS noted all these initiatives.

# Main outcomes

RPM-AMS, after considering all input documents and discussions, came to the following conclusions:

* RPM-AMS considered the report of **TDAG Working Group on WTDC Preparations (TDAG-WG-Prep)** welcoming all innovations proposed so far and reiterating the importance of involvement of youth and equal participation of women in WTDC;
* RPM-AMS considered the report of **TDAG Working Group on Resolutions, Declaration and Thematic Priorities (TDAG-WG-RDTP)** underlining the importance of the outcomes and proposals therein, considering strengthened involvement of Americas facilitated by CITEL;
* RPM-AMS considered the report of **TDAG Working Group on Strategic and Operational Plans (TDAG-WG-SOP)** drawing the attention to the importance of aligning BDT activities with the goals of the Union;
* RPM-AMS recognized that the ITU-D Regional Priorities constitute an effective mechanism for fostering implementation of the WSIS outcomes and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;
* RPM-AMS approved four regional priorities for Americas for the period 2022-2025, for submission to WTDC-21 as follows:
* **AMS-1**: Deployment of modern, resilient, secure, and sustainable telecommunication/ICT infrastructure;
* **AMS-2:** Enhancement and expansion of digital literacy, skills, and inclusion programs, especially among vulnerable populations;
* **AMS-3**: Effective support for the digital transformation and innovation ecosystems in the Americas through scalable, funded, and sustainable connectivity projects;
* **AMS-4**: Development of enabling policy and regulatory environments to connect the unconnected through accessible and affordable telecommunications/ICTs that support the achievement of SDGs and progress towards the digital economy.

These Regional Priorities will be submitted to COM-CITEL meeting, taking place online from 1 to 3 December 2021, for comments and further processing towards submission to the WTDC-21 as an Inter-American Proposal (IAP).

In addition to the above, RPM-AMS:

* Welcomed the “Digital trends Americas” report as part of the new series prepared by BDT;
* Launched the Network of Women (NoW) for the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector, paving the way for involvement in WTDC-21;
* Welcomed the creation of the GC-AMS Youth Group, which could serve as a means for meaningful engagement, empowerment, and participation of youth in the work of ITU.

# Closing ceremony

The closing ceremony included high-level interventions by the following speakers:

**Ms Doreen Bogdan-Martin**, Director, Telecommunication Development Bureau, ITU.

**H.E. Mr Diego Eloy Carrillo,** Communications Vice-Minister of Peru.

Annex 1

**Outcome of the Drafting Group on Regional Priorities for Americas (2022-2025)**

**Introduction**

This document contains a proposal agreed by the Administrations of the Americas region towards the definition and adoption of the Regional Priorities for the Americas for the period 2022-2025.

The proposed priorities are premised by principles of universality, equity and affordability to connect the unconnected, expand broadband infrastructure, provide the necessary skills and tools to enhance and accelerate innovation and digital transformation in the region, and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. The priorities focus on the needs of all developing countries in the region, including Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs), and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the Americas region, especially among vulnerable populations[[1]](#footnote-1). Regional priorities should be implemented through effective international cooperation for human and financial resource mobilization and with an active engagement of civil society, policy makers, regulators, the Internet technical community, international and regional financial institutions, international development agencies, industry partners, academia, and other relevant stakeholders throughout the region.

**Proposal**

The following priorities are proposed for the Americas Region, taking into consideration the principles outlined above.

**AMS1:** Deployment of modern, resilient, secure and sustainable telecommunication/ICT infrastructure

**Expected results:**

* Assistance in the design, funding and implementation of national, regional and sub-regional broadband plans and resilient networks, including support to community networks, with special attention to indigenous communities, underserved and unserved areas, critical environment areas and vulnerable populations, taking into account innovative connectivity solutions that can be locally deployed and managed, including access to spectrum and high-speed networks;
* Assistance in the development, funding and implementation of national emergency telecommunication plans and network infrastructure;
* Enhanced and strengthened confidence and security in the use of ICTs, including capacity building and support for the development of national cybersecurity strategies;
* Effective use of sustainable telecommunications/ICTs to mitigate climate change and enhance environmental sustainability;
* Assistance in the design of effective spectrum management plans, enabling affordable access to backbone facilities, development of IXPs, and appropriate use of universal service funds.

**AMS2**: Enhancement and expansion of digital literacy, digital skills and digital inclusion programs, especially among vulnerable populations.

**Expected results:**

* Support for the development of human capacity through national, regional and sub-regional capacity building projects, such as training programs or workshops, to exchange expertise and knowledge, as well as national and international experiences to provide practical skills and tools to bridge digital divides, including the gender digital divide, in order to contribute to the development of sustainable telecommunications/ICTs, enhancing competition, investment and innovation;
* Provision of diligent assistance in the planning, implementation and evaluation of projects and programs on digital literacy, digital skills and digital inclusion.

**AMS3**: Effective support for the digital transformation and innovation ecosystems through scalable, funded and sustainable connectivity projects.

**Expected Results:**

* Assistance in the planning and implementation of foundational infrastructure and special purpose e-services;
* Increased capacity building and multi-stakeholder cooperation to facilitate and enhance innovation in telecommunications/ICTs in support of digital transformation in the region, with special focus on all developing countries in the region, including LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS, indigenous communities, in particular youth and women in rural, remote, unserved or underserved areas and communities;
* Promotion of the active engagement of civil society, international financial institutions, industry partners, academia and other relevant stakeholders.

**AMS-4** - Development of enabling policy and regulatory environments to connect the unconnected through accessible and affordable telecommunications/ICTs that support the achievement of SDGs and the progress towards the digital economy.

**Expected results:**

* Support and promotion of sustainable telecommunications/ICTs in all developing countries in the region, including LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS, and protected areas for emergency communications and to protect, restore and promote a sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems;
* Support for the development of an enabling policy and regulatory environment and to facilitate investment and innovation to connect the unconnected and achieve the SDGs;
* Support for Member States in the implementation of policy and regulatory strategies to connect the unconnected with a focus on affordability, including support of small operators and community networks;
* Enhanced outreach to all developing countries in the region, including LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS, for greater participation in ITU processes and access to finance and expertise;
* Support for digital financial inclusion and fostering implementation of electronic transactions.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Vulnerable populations are intended to include women and girls, persons with disabilities and specific needs, older persons, youth, marginalized communities and indigenous people. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)