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|  | **Second Inter-Regional Meeting (IRM-2) to prepare for the WTDC-21Virtual, 13-14 December 2021** | A close up of a sign  Description automatically generated |
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|  | **Document** **IRM21-2/62-E** |
|  | **28 February 2022** |
|  | **Original: English** |
| Chairman, IRM-2 |
| Report by the IRM-2 Chairman |
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**Summary**

The second Interregional Meeting (IRM-2) to prepare for the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC) took place online on 13-14 December 2021, attended by **166 participants**, broken down as follows: **140 delegates** representing **54 Member States**, **23 participants** representing **13 Sector Member entities, 2 participants** from Academia, and **1**participant under Resolution 99 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference. An equal number of men (83) and women (83) took part in the event. The list of participants can be found [here](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-RPMIRM-C-0032/).

The meeting considered 26 written contributions from membership, dealing with the streamlining of WTDC resolutions, a draft WTDC declaration, thematic priorities, regional initiatives, and the strategic plan. Real progress has been made in all of these areas, as could be gleaned from these contributions and from the updates provided by the six principal regional telecommunication organizations: the African Telecommunications Union (ATU); the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL); the League of Arab States (LAS); the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT); the Regional Commonwealth in the Field of Communications (RCC); and the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT).

IRM-2 was chaired by Ms Roxanne McElvane Webber (United States), the current Chairman of the ITU Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG). IRM-2 took place at a time when discussions were ongoing regarding the hosting of the forthcoming WTDC in the wake of challenges related to planning and organizing the conference at the initially agreed venue: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. In these circumstances, ITU had sought to ensure continuity by asking the Chairman of TDAG to chair this IRM on an interim basis, noting that it is TDAG that had established the IRM at its meeting in November 2020.

The following is a summary of the meeting.

1. **Opening of the meeting**

**Ms Doreen Bogdan-Martin,** Director of the ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT), welcomed participants underlining that: “This IRM is an important stage on our journey to make WTDC-22 a truly landmark event. Our goal is a conference that delivers tangible, achievable and impactful outcomes.” Ms Bogdan-Martin recalled that on 30 November 2021, she had “launched ITU's latest figures on the state of global connectivity revealing that an estimated 2.9 billion people remain entirely cut off from the online world.” She also recalled that her participation in the Internet Governance Forum (on 6-9 December 2021) had left her in “no doubt whatsoever about the level of global concern over the increasingly dire implications for those on the wrong side of the digital divide. She stressed that: “With connectivity now at the top of every national agenda, our next WTDC offers us an unmissable chance to accelerate progress towards a fully connected planet. We urgently need to find effective ways to channel the unprecedented wave of political will around connectivity into rapid and meaningful progress. ” She thanked Ms McElvane Webber for accepting to chair IRM-2 at such a short notice.

Thanking the Director and the participants for their faith in her, Ms McElvane Webber said she had every confidence that the issue of the venue would be resolved soon. She noted with great appreciation the tremendous work done by the regions and how things were shaping up well, providing a solid basis on which to move forward. Most regions are agreeing on the resolutions that should be modified or suppressed; and on draft new resolutions, on pandemics (COVID-19 included) and on digital transformation.

1. **Approval of the agenda**

The agenda in Document [34 (Rev.2)](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D18-RPMIRM-C-0034) was approved.

1. **WTDC update from the BDT secretariat**

WTDC preparations got under way in June 2020 when TDAG established its three groups to help prepare different parts of the conference: the Working Group on WTDC Preparations (TDAG-WG-Prep), which completed its work and presented its report to TDAG in November 2020; the Working Group on Resolutions, Declaration and Thematic Priorities (TDAG-WG-RDTP) and the Working Group on Strategic and Operational Plans (TDAG-WG-SOP) which completed their work and presented their reports to the TDAG meeting of 8-12 November 2021. In addition, TDAG WG-SOP saw its mandate extended to coordinate the TDAG input to the ITU-D component of the ITU strategic plan and to prepare the draft WTDC Action Plan.

Six regional preparatory meetings had been completed by the end of April 2021. And the first of three interregional meetings (this one being the second) was held in March 2021. The third IRM is planned for 10-11 March 2022.

Initially, WTDC was to be held on 8-19 November 2021 in Addis Ababa, at the kind invitation of the Government of Ethiopia, but was postponed to 6-15 June 2022 because of the COVID‑19 pandemic. Then a six-month state of emergency declared in Ethiopia on 2 November 2021 prompted concerns at the TDAG meeting on 8-12 November 2021 over whether WTDC could still be held there.

On 6 December 2021, a circular was sent to all ITU Council Member States advising that the arrangements to hold WTDC in Ethiopia had become a challenge. In line with this circular and the commitment made by the Secretary-General to membership at the TDAG meeting, the secretariat has been engaging with membership to seek a potential alternative host country.

Assuming that the dates of 6 to 15 June 2022 remain unchanged, the deadline for submission of candidatures for TDAG and study group positions would be 28 February 2022; and the final deadline for submission of membership contributions would be 16 May 2022 in line with Resolution 165 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference on, deadlines for the submission of proposals and procedures for the registration of participants for conferences and assemblies of the Union.

Following this update from the BDT secretariat, one delegation (Egypt) sought to know how soon ITU members would be informed of the exact place and dates of the conference. The secretariat responded that once an official invitation is received from a potential host country, first, a consultation by correspondence of Council Member States would have to be carried out on the change of place and dates of the conference (in accordance with No. 42 of the Convention). Second, all Member States of ITU having the right to vote would be invited to inform the Secretary-General of their concurrence with the change of place and dates of the conference (pursuant to No. 46 of the ITU Convention). The result of this consultation would then be circulated to all members.

1. **Update on preparations of regional telecommunication organizations (RTOs)**

**4.1** The **African Telecommunications Union (ATU)** has held the following preparatory meetings: a meeting in October 2020, hosted by Sudan; a meeting in August 2021, hosted by South Africa; and the joint ITU/ATU Regional Preparatory Meeting for Africa (RPM-AFR), held on 29-30 March 2021, hosted by Burkina Faso. This meeting adopted the preparatory structure for ATU and established two Working Groups: Working Group 1 in charge of developing African common proposals on working methods, the declaration, action plan, and regional initiatives; and Working Group 2 in charge of general ICT development issues and programmes, including study group Questions. This Working Group 2 has been addressing broadband connectivity, including rural and remote areas, digital inclusion, cybersecurity and building confidence and trust in the use of ICTs, spectrum management, bridging the standardization gap, digital transformation, and implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

ATU will focus on finalizing African common proposals at its next preparatory meeting (planned in February 2022). Already, some African common proposals had been submitted to TDAG and its working groups, notably:

* African common proposal on modifications to Resolution 1 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) — *Rules of procedure of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector.*
* African common proposal on African common position on the proposed revision of provision 1.8.2 of WTDC Resolution 1.
* African common proposal on ITU-D Thematic priorities.
* African common proposal on Addis Ababa Declaration.

ATU indicated that it had modified several resolutions, suppressed one resolution, and developed one new resolution as highlighted below.

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| **MOD: Resolution 2 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017)** |
| Establishment of study groups |
| **MOD: Resolution 11 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017)** |
| Telecommunication/information and communication technology services in rural, isolated and poorly served areas and indigenous communities |
| **MOD: Resolution 37 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017)** |
| Bridging the digital divide |
| **MOD: Resolution 46 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017)** |
| Assistance to indigenous peoples and communities through information and communication technology |
| **MOD: Resolution 63 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017)** |
| IP address allocation and facilitating the transition to IPv6 deployment in the developing countries |
| **MOD: Resolution 47 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017)** |
| Enhancement of knowledge and effective application of ITU Recommendations in developing countries, including conformance and interoperability testing of systems manufactured on the basis of ITU Recommendations |
| **MOD: Resolution 34 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017)** |
| The role of telecommunications/information and communication technology in disaster preparedness, early warning, rescue, mitigation, relief and response |
| **SUP: Resolution 53 (Rev. Dubai, 2014)** |
| Strategic and financial framework for the elaboration and implementation of the Dubai Action Plan |
| **Draft new Resolution** |
| Digital transformation |

In terms of leadership positions in TDAG and ITU-D study groups, **ATU members support the candidature of Ms Regina Fleur for the chairmanship of ITU‑D Study Group 1 for a second term**.

**4.2** The **Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL)** has held several meetings and looks forward to continuing to work constructively with other regions to ensure that the preparatory process for WTDC takes into account the key priorities of developing countries, in particular, least developed countries (LDCs), landlocked developing countries (LLDCs), small island developing States (SIDS) and countries with economies in transition. In this regard, CITEL wants to see increased participation of these countries in the work of ITU-D, particularly stakeholders from the Americas region. In the light of the persisting COVID-19 pandemic, the issue of connectivity remains a top priority.

CITEL is determined to ensure that WTDC outcomes reflect concrete and coordinated efforts and policies among all stakeholders (i.e. Member States, Sector Members, Associates, civil society, NGOs, international financial institutions, the private sector and development banks).

The Regional Preparatory meeting for the Americas (RPM-AMS), held on 26-27 April 2021 (i.e. after the first Interregional meeting of 11 March 2021), approved the following four regional priorities for the Americas region for the period 2022-2025,which have since been endorsed by CITEL:

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

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

**AMS3:** Effective support for the digital transformation and innovation ecosystems 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 the progress towards the digital economy.

RPM-AMS launched the Network of Women for WTDC Americas Chapter (NoW4WTDC) – a platform for collaboration and information exchange between new and experienced delegates to increase the participation and leadership of women in ITU-D.

CITEL has agreed on the following inter‑American proposals (IAPs), with two proposed for suppression (SUP) and the others for modification (MOD) as shown in the table below.

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| **SUP: Resolution 81 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017)** |
| Further development of electronic working methods for the work of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector |
| **SUP: Resolution 61 (Rev. Dubai, 2014)** |
| Appointment and maximum term of office for chairmen and vice-chairmen of study groups in the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector and of the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group |
| **MOD: Resolution 86 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017)** |
| Use in the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector of the languages of the Union on an equal footing |
| **MOD: Resolution 78 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017)** |
| Capacity building for countering and combating misappropriation and misuse of ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector numbering resources |
| **MOD: Resolution 11 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017)** |
| Telecommunication/information and communication technology services in rural, isolated and poorly served areas and indigenous communities |
| **MOD: Resolution 24 (Rev. Dubai, 2014)** |
| Authorization for the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group to act between world telecommunication development conferences |
| **MOD: Resolution 46 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017)** |
| Assistance to indigenous peoples and communities through information and communication technology |
| **MOD: Resolution 58 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017)** |
| Telecommunication/information and communication technology accessibility for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs |
| **MOD: Resolution 64 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017)** |
| Protecting and supporting users/consumers of telecommunication/information and communication technology services |

CITEL is working on the following draft inter‑American proposals:

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| **MOD: Resolution 62 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017)** |
| Assessment and measurement of human exposure to electromagnetic fields |
| **MOD: Resolution 79 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017)** |
| The role of telecommunications/information and communication technologies in combating and dealing with counterfeit telecommunication/information and communication devices |
| **MOD: Resolution 22 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017)** |
| Alternative calling procedures on international telecommunication networks and identification of origin in providing international telecommunication services |
| **MOD: Resolution 37 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017)** |
| Bridging the digital divide |
| **MOD: Resolution 1 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017)** |
| Rules of procedure of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector |
| **MOD: Resolution 66 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017)** |
| Information and communication technology and climate change |
| **MOD: Resolution 8 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017)** |
| Collection and dissemination of information and statistics |
| **MOD: Resolution 47 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017)** |
| Enhancement of knowledge and effective application of ITU Recommendations in developing countries, including conformance and interoperability testing of systems manufactured on the basis of ITU Recommendations |
| **MOD: Resolution 82 (Rev. Dubai, 2014)** |
| Preserving and promoting multilingualism on the Internet for an inclusive information society |
| **MOD: Resolution 73 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017)** |
| ITU centres of excellence |
| **MOD: Resolution 59 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017)** |
| Strengthening coordination and cooperation among the three ITU Sectors on matters of mutual interest |
| **MOD: Resolution 85 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017)** |
| Facilitating the Internet of Things and smart cities and communities for global development |
| **MOD: Resolution 84 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017)** |
| Combating mobile telecommunication device theft |

CITEL has agreed on the following candidatures for leadership positions in ITU-D study groups and in TDAG for the period 2022-2025.

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|  | **Nominations of CITEL** |
| **Group and position** | **Candidature**  | **Country** |
| **TDAG Chairman**  | Roxanne McElvane Webber | United States |
| **TDAG Vice-Chairman** | Agustina Brizzio | Argentina |
| **TDAG Vice-Chairman** | Andrea Grippa | Brazil  |
| **Study Group 1 Vice-Chairman** | Roberto Mitsuake Hirayama | Brazil |

**4.3** In the **League of Arab States (LAS)**, the Arab Preparatory Group for WTDC was established in December 2019 by the Council of the Arab Ministers of Communications and Information and has since held three meetings as follows: 25-27 August 2020; 17-18 February 2021; and 1-2 September 2021.The Arab Preparatory Group is currently focused on modifying seven resolutions, is suggesting the suppression of two resolutions, and is proposing two new draft resolutions as follows:

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| **MOD: Resolution 8 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017)** |
| Collection and dissemination of information and statistics |
| **MOD: Resolution 9 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017)** |
| Participation of countries, particularly developing countries, in spectrum management |
| **MOD: Resolution 22 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017)** |
| Alternative calling procedures on international telecommunication networks and identification of origin in providing international telecommunication services |
| **MOD:Resolution 34 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017)** |
| The role of telecommunications/information and communication technology in disaster preparedness, early warning, rescue, mitigation, relief and response |
| **MOD: Resolution 45 (Rev. Dubai, 2014)** |
| Mechanisms for enhancing cooperation on cybersecurity, including countering and combating spam |
| **MOD: Resolution 67 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017)** |
| The role of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector in child online protection |
| **MOD: Resolution 71 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017)** |
| 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 |
| **SUP: Resolution 27(Rev. Hyderabad, 2010)** |
| Admission of entities or organizations to participate as associates in the work of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector |
| **SUP: Resolution 61 (Rev. Dubai, 2014)** |
| Appointment and maximum term of office for chairmen and vice-chairmen of study groups in the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector and of the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group |
| **Draft new Resolution** |
| The role of telecommunications/ICTs in pandemic situations (such as COVID-19), especially in developing countries |
| **Draft new Resolution** |
| Digital transformation for sustainable development, including establishing data and cloud computing centres in developing countries |

The Arab Preparatory Group holds the view that four priorities have been agreed upon to date and that the fifth priority is still in square brackets [i.e. Building confidence, trust, and security in the use of ICTs], meaning that further negotiations are needed.

Turning to the draft Addis Ababa Declaration, the Arab Preparatory Group believes that the current text could serve as a basis for further proposals and refinement by ITU Member States in their preparations for WTDC. The group praised the efforts that have gone into developing the draft declaration; extended special thanks to Dr Ahmad Sharafat as Chairman of the Working Group on Resolutions, Declaration and Thematic Priorities for his own efforts in drafting the initial text; and said it looked forward to continuing the discussion in WTDC itself, where the declaration would be finalized.

The Arab Preparatory Group has agreed on the following nominations for ITU-D study groups, TDAG and the WTDC Editorial Committee.

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|  | **Nominations from the Arab Group**  |
| **Group**  | **Position**  | **Country** |
| **TDAG**  | Vice-Chairman | Saudi Arabia |
| **Study Group 2** | Chairman | Egypt |
| **Study Group 2** | Vice-Chairman  | United Arab Emirates  |
| **WTDC-Editorial Committee** | Vice-Chairman  | Kuwait |

**4.4** In the **Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT)**, the APT Preparatory Group for WTDC coordinates regional activities for world telecommunication development conferences to ensure that the interests of APT members on ICT development issues are well represented. These activities include developing proposals from APT members as inputs to WTDC; and assisting APT members during WTDC.

The APT Preparatory Group for WTDC is structured around three Working Groups: Working Group 1, dealing with the “Programme on Study Groups and Associated Questions”; Working Group 2 on “Working Methods, Declaration and Action Plan”; and Working Group 3 on “General ICT Development Issues including Regional Initiatives”.

The APT Preparatory Group has held three ordinary meetings and an extraordinary meeting, and will hold its next meeting on 24-28 January 2022 in hybrid format (in-person in Bangkok and virtual). This meeting will continue the ongoing discussions in the region on modifications to Resolution 45 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) on the *mechanisms for enhancing cooperation on cybersecurity, including countering and combating spam*, alongsiderelated resolutions, recommendations and decisions.

The APT Preparatory Group has three different types of outcomes: APT Common Proposals (ACPs); APT positions and APT views. In February and March 2022, the group will hold consultations on ACPs, which would subsequently be submitted to ITU in April 2022.

Meanwhile, the group has agreed on seven Preliminary APT Common Proposals (PACPs) as follows:

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| **MOD:Question 6/1** |
| Consumer information, protection and rights: Laws, regulations, economic bases, consumer networks |
| **MOD: Resolution 8 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017)** |
| Collection and dissemination of information and statistics |
| **MOD:Resolution 64 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017)** |
| Protecting and supporting users/consumers of telecommunication/information and communication technology services |
| **MOD: Resolution 37 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017)** |
| Bridging the digital divide |
| **MOD: Resolution 48 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017)** |
| Strengthening cooperation among telecommunication regulators |
| **MOD: Resolution 69 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017)** |
| Facilitating creation of national computer incident response teams, particularly for developing countries, and cooperation between them. |
| **Draft new Resolution** |
| Using information and communication technologies to combat pandemics |

**4.5** In the **Regional Commonwealth in the Field of Communications (RCC**),the “Working Group on work with ITU” (WG- ITU) is responsible for WTDC preparations and is under the RCC Commission for the Coordination of International Cooperation. At a joint meeting of the RCC Commission and WG-ITU on 13 April 2021, Mr Alexey Borodin of the Russian Federation was appointed as new Chairman of the RCC Working Group on work with ITU. At another joint meeting on 26-27 August 2021, Mr Arseny Plossky of the Russian Federation was appointed Coordinator of the Working Group on WTDC preparations. These meetings also reviewed potential RCC common proposals and discussed ITU-D study group issues.

Building on its earlier presentations to the IRM-1 meeting in March 2021 on WTDC resolutions, the Russian Federation highlighted what had since become Draft RCC Common Proposals and how they had evolved. The following highlights show four resolutions proposed for suppression, 12 for modification and one draft new resolution.A more detailed overview is given in section 5 of this report (Contributions from members).

**Rules of procedure**

Substantive changes have been made to Resolution 1 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) — *Rules of procedure of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector* — based on the results of the discussions at different regional forums. In addition, RCC has agreed that the following four resolutions should be suppressed:

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| **SUP: Resolution 27 (Rev. Hyderabad, 2010)** |
| Admission of entities or organizations participate as Associates in the work of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector |
| **SUP: Resolution 61 (Rev. Dubai, 2014)** |
| Appointment and maximum term of office for chairmen and vice-chairmen of study groups in the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector and of the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group |
| **SUP: Resolution 81 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017)** |
| Further development of electronic working methods for the work of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector |
| **SUP: Resolution 86 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017)** |
| Use in the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector of the languages of the Union on an equal footing |

**ICT statistics and World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)**

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| **MOD: Resolution 8 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017)** |
| Collection and dissemination of information and statistics |
| **MOD: Resolution 30 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017** |
| The role of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector in implementing the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, taking into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development |

**Regional issues**

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| **MOD: Resolution 21 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017)** |
| Coordination and collaboration with regional and subregional organizations |
| **MOD: Resolution 31 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017)** |
| Regional preparations for world telecommunication development conferences |
| **MOD: Resolution 17 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017)** |
| Implementation of and cooperation on regionally approved regional initiatives at the national, regional, interregional and global levels |

**Digital divide**

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| **MOD: Resolution 15 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017)** |
| Applied research and technology transfer |
| **MOD: Resolution 37 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017)** |
| Bridging the digital divide |

**Emergency communications**

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| **MOD: Resolution 34 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017)** |
| The role of telecommunications/information and communication technology in disaster preparedness, early warning, rescue, mitigation, relief and response |

**Consumer protection and accessibility**

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| **MOD: Resolution 58 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017)** |
| Telecommunication/information and communication technology accessibility for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs |
| **MOD: Resolution 64 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017)** |
| Protecting and supporting users/consumers of telecommunication/information and communication technology services |
| **MOD: Resolution 67 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017)** |
| The role of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector in child online protection  |

**Internet of Things**

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| **MOD: Resolution 85 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017)** |
| Facilitating the Internet of Things and smart cities and communities for global development |

**Telecommunication/ICT4COVID-19**

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| **Draft new Resolution** |
| The use of telecommunications/information and communication technologies in combating the COVID-19 pandemic, mitigating and eliminating its consequences |

RCC has agreed on the following candidates for ITU-D study groups and for TDAG, extending their mandates for a second term:

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|  | **RCC nominations**  |
| **Group and position** | **Candidature**  | **Country** |
| **TDAG Vice-Chairman**  | Mr Arseny Plossky  | Russian Federation  |
| **Study Group 1 Vice-Chairman**  | Ms Anastasia Konukhova  | Russian Federation  |
| **Study Group 2 Vice-Chairman**  | Ms Maria Bolshakova  | Russian Federation  |

A meeting is planned for January-February 2022 to examine any new proposals or changes to proposed draft revisions of WTDC resolutions and regional initiatives for the CIS.

**4.6** The **European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT)** established the Com-ITU CEPT Project Team on WTDC in May 2020 to identify issues which Europe considers to be of crucial importance for ITU-D; prepare and coordinate CEPT positions and contributions; and develop draft European Common Proposals (ECPs). The Project Team has since held seven meetings, with the next meeting scheduled for 2225 January 2022. It has notably focused on participating in TDAG meetings and meetings of TDAG working groups, as well as on preparations for the Regional Preparatory Meeting (RPM-EUR) that took place on 18-19 January 2021. The five draft regional priorities (initiatives) agreed upon at RPM-EUR for the period 2022-2025 were subsequently endorsed by CEPT and have become the second European Common Proposal, the first one being Europe’s vision for ITU-D. The two tables below show the ECPs that have been finalized and those that are still under consideration.

**Finalized ECPs (i.e. proposals that have been approved by CEPT Member State administrations)**

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| **ECP 01: Vision for ITU-D** |
| **ECP 02: Regional Priorities for Europe (2022-2025):** |
| RP-EUR 1: Digital infrastructure developmentRP-EUR 2: Digital transformation for resilienceRP-EUR-3: Digital inclusion and skills developmentRP-EUR-4: Trust and confidence in the use of digital technologiesRP-EUR-5: Digital innovation ecosystems |
| **ECP 03: MOD Resolution 15 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017)** |
| Applied research and transfer of technology |
| **ECP 04: MOD Resolution 21 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017)** |
| Coordination and collaboration with regional and subregional organizations |
| **ECP 05: MOD Resolution 30 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017)** |
| Role of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector in implementing the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, taking into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development |
| **ECP 06: MOD Resolution 31 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017)** |
| Regional preparations for world telecommunication development conferences |
| **ECP 09: MOD Resolution 45 (Rev. Dubai, 2014)** |
| Mechanisms for enhancing cooperation on cybersecurity, including countering and combating spam |
| **SUP Resolution 69 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017)** |
| Mechanisms for enhancing cooperation on cybersecurity, including countering and combating spam and facilitating the creation of computer incident response teams |
| **ECP 10: MOD Resolution 23 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017)** |
| Internet access and availability for developing countries and charging principles for international Internet connection |
| **SUP Resolution 63 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017)** |
| IP address allocation and facilitating the transition to IPv6 deployment in the developing countries |

**Candidate ECPs (i.e. awaiting approval by Member State administrations)**

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| **ECP 07: MOD Resolution 34 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017)** |
| The role of telecommunications/information and communication technology in disaster preparedness, early warning, rescue, mitigation, relief and response |
| **ECP 08: MOD Resolution 37 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017)** |
| Bridging the digital divide |
| **ECP 11: SUP Resolution 61 (Rev. Dubai, 2014)** |
| Appointment and maximum term of office of chairmen and vice-chairmen of study groups in the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector and of the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group |
| **ECP 12: SUP Resolution 81 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017)** |
| Further development of electronic working methods for the work of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector |
| **ECP 13: MOD Resolution 71 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017)** |
| 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 |
| **SUP Resolution 27 (Rev. Hyderabad 2010)** |
| “Admission of entities or organizations to participate as Associates in the work of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector” |
| **ECP 14: MOD Resolution 66** |
| Information and communication technology and climate change |
| **ECP 15: MOD Resolution 85** |
| Facilitating the Internet of Things and smart cities and communities for global development |
| **ECP 16: MOD Resolution 67** |
| The role of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector in child online protection |

1. **Contributions from members**

**5.1** The Russian Federation, on behalf of RCC, presented Documents [**36**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D18-RPMIRM-C-0036)**,** [**37**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D18-RPMIRM-C-0037)**,** [**38**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D18-RPMIRM-C-0038)**,** [**39**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D18-RPMIRM-C-0039)**,** [**40**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D18-RPMIRM-C-0040)**,** [**41**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D18-RPMIRM-C-0041)**,** [**42**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D18-RPMIRM-C-0042)**,** [**43**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D18-RPMIRM-C-0043)**,** [**45**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D18-RPMIRM-C-0045)**,** [**46**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D18-RPMIRM-C-0046)**,** [**47**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D18-RPMIRM-C-0047)**,** [**48**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D18-RPMIRM-C-0048)**,** [**49**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D18-RPMIRM-C-0049)**,** [**51**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D18-RPMIRM-C-0051)**,** [**52**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D18-RPMIRM-C-0052)**,** [**53**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D18-RPMIRM-C-0053)**,** [**54**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D18-RPMIRM-C-0054)**,** [**55**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D18-RPMIRM-C-0055)**;** all of whichcontain proposals to revise or abrogate WTDC resolutions already presented to the first IRM in March 2021 (except Resolution 17). These proposals have since been updated and approved at RCC level as common proposals. The presentations focused on the updates, which are summarized here.

**Document** [**36**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D18-RPMIRM-C-0036)**:** Draft revision of Resolution 8 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) "Collection and dissemination of information and statistical data" first proposes to change this title to “Development, collection and dissemination of information and statistics for international comparisons in the field of telecommunications /ICTs.” It then takes on board the changes made to Resolution 131 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference on *measuring information and communication technologies to build an integrating and inclusive information society* and the introduction of the new ITU Index. It instructs BDT to support the development, collection and dissemination of information and statistics for international comparisons in the field of telecommunications /ICTs by also using resources from ITU regional and area offices. It calls on BDT to consult Member States regularly and encourage them to submit contributions according to the procedure defined in WTDC Resolution 1 for issues related to the identification of indicators and data collection methodologies within the ITU-D study groups, the Expert Group on ICT Household Indicators (EGH) and the Expert Group on Telecommunication/ICT Indicators (EGTI). At present, these contributions follow different procedures, complicating the work of delegates in study groups. The amendments also seek to clarify the list of member organizations of the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development to increase cooperation, particularly on indicators for digital skills.

**Document** [**37**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D18-RPMIRM-C-0037)**:** Draft revision of Resolution 15 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) "Applied research and transfer of technology" reflects changes that now make direct reference to the ITU Constitution; the Addis-Ababa Action Agenda of the 2015 Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which recognizes the transfer of technology as a powerful driver of economic growth and sustainable development; and the Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, which emphasizes the need to promote access to, and the transfer of, technology.

The proposed changes highlight how South-South cooperation channels hold enormous potential for effective technology transfer. RCC believes that this resolution, as amended, would enable ITU to step up cooperation for developing countries and countries with economies in transition when it comes to technology transfer. All three ITU Bureaux are instructed to promote the exchange of information on the transfer of technology, especially with international and regional financial institutions.

**Document** [**38**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D18-RPMIRM-C-0038)**:** Draft revision of Resolution 21 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) "Coordination and collaboration with regional and subregional organizations" now includes a reference to Resolution 25 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on *strengthening the regional presence.*

**Document** [**39**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D18-RPMIRM-C-0039)**:** Draft revision of Resolution 30 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) "Role of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector in implementing the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, taking into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" is a streamlining with Resolution 140 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on *ITU’s role* *in implementing the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as in their follow-up and review processes.*

**Document** [**40**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D18-RPMIRM-C-0040)**:** Draft revision of Resolution 31 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) “Regional preparations for world telecommunication development conferences” is a streamlining with Resolution 58 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on *strengthening of relations between ITU and regional telecommunication organizations and regional preparations for the Plenipotentiary Conference*; and with 25 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on *strengthening the regional presence*. The proposed revision seeks to clarify the status of regional telecommunication organizations in WTDC preparations.

**Document** [**41**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D18-RPMIRM-C-0041)**:** Draft revision of Resolution 58 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) "Telecommunication/information and communication technology accessibility for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs" is a streamlining with Resolution 175 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference that carries the same title. The draft revision also includes input from ITU-D Study Group 1, based on activities for the period 2018-2021. Several other amendments seek to make the text clear and concise and include references to key, recent documents from the United Nations on accessibility. BDT is instructed to assist Member States in developing their national strategies to address the needs of persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs in telecommunication/ICT services. Member States are invited to raise awareness about the activities of government, the private sector, and non-governmental organizations so that persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs are fully informed (in a timely manner) of the ICT services available to facilitate their lives and bridge the digital divide.

**Document** [**42**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D18-RPMIRM-C-0042)**:** Suppression of Resolution 61 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) "Appointment and maximum term of office of chairmen and vice-chairmen of study groups in the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector and of the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group" aims to eliminate the current duplication with Resolution 208 (Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on *appointment and maximum term of office for chairmen and vice-chairmen of Sector Advisory Groups, Study Groups and other groups,* which covers all ITU Sectors. Salient parts of Resolution 61 would thus be transferred to WTDC Resolution 1 *(Rules of procedure of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector*).

**Document** [**43**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D18-RPMIRM-C-0043)**:** Draft revision of Resolution 67 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) "The role of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector in child online protection" is an alignment with Resolution 179 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on *ITU’s role in child online protection*. The proposed revisions include references to the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 70/1, on transforming our world: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which addresses various aspects of child online protection in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular SDGs 1, 3, 4, 5, 9, 10 and 16; and the United Nations Human Rights Council Resolution 20/8, which stresses that “the same rights that people have offline must also be protected online”. The revisions further highlight the Internet as a major platform for many different kinds of educational, cultural and entertainment activities for children and clarify the work of BDT in child online protection through a number of instructions.

**Document** [**45**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D18-RPMIRM-C-0045)**:** Draft revision of Resolution 34 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) "The role of telecommunications/information and communication technology in disaster preparedness, early warning, rescue, mitigation, relief and response" is a streamlining with Resolution 136 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the *use of telecommunications/information and communication technologies for humanitarian assistance and for monitoring and management in emergency and disaster situations, including health-related emergencies, for early warning, prevention, mitigation and relief*.The changes also seek to reflect the research and work undertaken over the period 2018-2021. The resolution has been restructured fundamentally for better logical flow and clarity. Details that were overburdening the text have been deleted, making it more user friendly.

**Document** [**46**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D18-RPMIRM-C-0046) **(Rev.1):** Draft revision of Resolution 37 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) "Bridging the digital divide" is a streamlining with Resolution 139 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the *use of telecommunications/information and communication technologies to bridge the digital divide and build an inclusive information society.*The revision also makes the text concise and lighter. BDT is instructed to continue taking measures to develop cooperation with international financial institutions, donor agencies and private-sector associations on projects aimed at bridging the digital divide and inform Member States on these efforts on a regular basis. BDT is further instructed to create and maintain a resource on the ITU website, where members of the Union can find information on ITU-partnered institutions and United Nations agencies that have funding and technical assistance programmes for bridging the digital divide. The Secretary-General is requested to include the issue of the digital divide in the list of areas of mutual interest to the three ITU Sectors and the General Secretariat in the context of Resolution 191 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on *the strategy for the coordination of efforts among the three Sectors of the Union*.

**Document** [**47**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D18-RPMIRM-C-0047)**:** Draft revision of Resolution 64 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) "Protecting and supporting users/consumers of telecommunication/information and communication technology services" is a streamlining with Resolution 196 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on *protecting telecommunication service users/consumers*.The revision also reflects activities and findings outlined in the report of ITU‑D Study Group 1, carried out under Question 6/1 on *Consumer information, protection and rights: Laws, regulations, economic bases, consumer networks*, where the topic of digital skills was discussed at length throughout the 2018-2021 study period.

Other notable amendments include the addition of the term “data” and the concept of “digital transformation” to make the resolution more concrete and useful for consumers, considering that data play a key role in the digital economy and in digital transformation; and the spotlight put on the need to promote digital skills among users and consumers of telecommunication/ICT services, including persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs. In this regard, Member States are encouraged to build the confidence and trust of telecommunication/ICT users and consumers through continuous development of policies that guarantee the provision of the highest possible quality of services.

**Document** [**48**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D18-RPMIRM-C-0048)**:** Draft revision of Resolution 85 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) "Facilitating the Internet of Things and smart cities and communities for global development" is a simplification of the text, along with several updates, for example: the changed titles of Resolution 197 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on *facilitating the Internet of Things and smart sustainable cities and communities* and of Resolution 200 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) on *Connect 2030 Agenda for global telecommunication/information and communication technology, including broadband, for sustainable development*; and the inclusion of the title of Resolution 71 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference: *strategic plan for the Union for 2020-2023* as a specific reference. The expression “smart sustainable cities and communities” has been abbreviated as SSCC” and has been used throughout the resolution. BDT is instructed to support Member States, in particular developing countries, in adopting IoT and SSCC through the provision of capacity building and best practices aimed at facilitating the development of enabling environments and infrastructure and at fostering digital innovation ecosystems.

**Document** [**49**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D18-RPMIRM-C-0049)**:** Draft suppression of Resolution 86 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) "Use in the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector of the languages of the Union on an equal footing" aims to eliminate duplication with Resolution 154 on the *use of the six official languages of the Union on an equal footing,* as updated by the Plenipotentiary Conference in 2018.

At the first IRM-1 meeting in March 2021, the proposal was merely to update Resolution 86. However, considering the significant revisions that have since been made to WTDC Resolution 1 (*Rules of procedure of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector*), it is now proposed to suppress Resolution 86 and transfer its salient sections to WTDC Resolution 1.

**Document** [**51**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D18-RPMIRM-C-0051)**:** Proposals 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" respond to the need expressed by the Plenipotentiary Conference in 2018 to streamline resolutions where appropriate and required. This resolution has not been revised since 2010, and has been overtaken by events.

**Document** [**52**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D18-RPMIRM-C-0052)**:** Proposals for modification of Resolution 71 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017), "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" take on board Resolution 169 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) on *admission of Academia to participate in the work of the Union*. Academia includes colleges, institutes, universities and their associated research establishments concerned with the development of telecommunications/ICTs. In addition, the proposed transfer of relevant provisions from Resolution 27 to Resolution 71 would contribute to a clearer and holistic understanding of the role of Sector Members, Associates and Academia in ITU-D activities. Resolution 27 would thus be suppressed.

**Document** [**53**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D18-RPMIRM-C-0053)**:** Proposals on suppression of Resolution 81 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) “Further development of electronic working methods for the work of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector” highlight the duplication of this resolution with Resolution 167 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on *strengthening and developing ITU capabilities for electronic meetings and means to advance the work of the Union*, as well as with the provisions on electronic working methods in WTDC Resolution 1 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) on the *rules of procedure of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector*. It is thus proposed to transfer the relevant provisions from Resolution 81 to WTDC Resolution 1 and to suppress Resolution 81.

**Document** [**54**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D18-RPMIRM-C-0054)**:** A draft new resolution on "Use of telecommunications/information and communication technologies in combating the COVID-19 pandemic, mitigating and eliminating its consequences" instructs BDT, in coordination with the Radiocommunication Bureau and the Standardization Bureau, to develop guidelines and best practices on how telecommunications/ICTs can be used to define the communications infrastructure needed to support the exchange of timely information on pandemic-induced emergencies and responses.

In particular, the three Bureaux should work together to provide developing countries with technical assistance and support in the development of telecommunication/ICT infrastructure for telemedicine services. They should also work with other relevant international and regional telecommunication organizations to improve the ITU digital skills toolkit to support Member States in developing national and regional strategies to combat the COVID-19 pandemic and its aftermath.

**Document** [**55**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D18-RPMIRM-C-0055) **(Rev.1):** Draft revision of Resolution 17 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) "Implementation of and cooperation on regionally approved regional initiatives at the national, regional, interregional and global levels” was being tabled for the first time. It seeks to improve and strengthen cooperation between regional telecommunication organizations and BDT, including through ITU regional offices. New references have been added to this resolution, notably, Resolution 21 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) on *coordination and collaboration with regional and subregional organizations;* and Resolution 52 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) on *strengthening the executing agency role of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector.* The latter emphasizes the importance of establishing partnerships between the public and private sectors as an efficient means of implementing sustainable ITU projects, and of utilizing locally available expertise in executing ITU projects on a regional or country-wide basis.

Key amendments stress how BDT should continue to actively assist developing countries in elaborating and implementing regional initiatives, including establishing preliminary estimates of financial contributions in kind and/or in cash for the implementation of projects. This point was said to be particularly important because often, agreeing on a project is highly dependent on its preliminary estimated financial cost.

BDT is instructed to provide, through ITU regional offices, information accumulated during implementation of the regional initiatives of each region to Member States and regional telecommunication organizations. This would improve coordination and awareness on the types of projects agreed upon and under implementation. Such information should also be made available to ITU-D study groups, which cover a wide spectrum of work, allowing them to highlight in their reports important material on the projects being implemented.

**5.2 Resolution 1**

**Document** [**50**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D18-RPMIRM-C-0050) **(Rev.1):** Proposals for revising WTDC Resolution 1 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) “Rules of procedure of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector” take on board inputs from the two ITU-D study groups, based on their experience gained over the 2018-2021 study period; from other ITU Sectors; and from the meetings of WG-ITU RCC, TDAG-WG-RDTP and COM-ITU CEPT. The Russian Federation, on behalf of RCC, walked participants through the many changes that have been made to this resolution since the IRM-1 meeting in March 2021.The proposals are aimed at implementing the decisions of the 2018 Plenipotentiary Conference, streamlining and further clarifying the text of the resolution. They contain several salient provisions from WTDC Resolutions 61, 81 and 86, which RCC has proposed to abrogate.

**The way forward:** The meeting noted the updates on resolutions with appreciation; welcomed the growing synergies among the regions in the numbers of resolutions proposed for revision or suppression; and suggested that the latest versions of the RCC contributions should be sent to other RTOs as information documents. The meeting further commended the efforts made to uphold the decision of the 2018 Plenipotentiary Conference to streamline resolutions, and looks forward to the comments and feedback that members would share with RCC. As the interim Chairman put it: “Let the collaboration begin.”

**5.3 Declaration**

**Document** [**35**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D18-RPMIRM-C-0035)**:** “Draft Addis Ababa Declaration” is a contribution from Samoa supporting the draft declaration from TDAG-WG-RDTP, albeit with some suggested changes.

**Document** [**59**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D18-RPMIRM-C-0059)**:** “APT View on Draft Addis Ababa Declaration”. In this contribution, the following 13 countries lend full support to the draft WTDC Declaration as submitted by the Chairman of TDAG-WG-RDTP (i.e. without change): Australia, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines, Samoa, Singapore and Thailand. These countries unanimously endorsed the TDAG-WG-RDTP text as the common view of the Asia-Pacific region during the 3rd meeting of the APT Preparatory Group for WTDC, held on 5-8 October 2021.

 **The way forward:** The meeting noted both documents 35 and 59 with appreciation; recalled that there were some changes made to the draft declaration during the TDAG meeting in November 2021; and underlined that the declaration would be finalized at WTDC itself. Considering that Document 59 was written before the TDAG November 2021 meeting, APT stated that it would review its common view at its meeting in January 2022 and would notify the membership of any changes.

**5.4 Thematic Priorities**

**Document** [**58**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D18-RPMIRM-C-0058)**:** “APT View on Revised Proposal for ITU-D Thematic Priorities (WTDC)”. In this contribution presented by Dr Ahmad Sharafat as Chairman of the APT Preparatory Group for WTDC, the 13 countries listed in Document 59 above unanimously support the four thematic priorities from TDAG-WG-RDTP that did not have any square brackets. These are: **Connectivity; Digital Transformation; Enabling Environment; and Resource Mobilization and International Cooperation.**

**5.5 Regional Initiatives**

**Document** [**44**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D18-RPMIRM-C-0044)**:** CIS Regional Initiative Project "Development and increasing digital literacy for persons with disabilities and with specific needs" was presented by the Russian Federation, on behalf of RCC. This project would build on the success of an earlier ITU regional initiative approved at WTDC-14 for the CIS countries, namely “Providing access to telecommunication services for persons with disabilities”, and implemented in the Kyrgyz Republic. A key achievement of this initiative was the establishment of an Information and Training Center for people with disabilities at the Institute of Electronics and Telecommunications in Bishkek. Experience from operating this centre has shown that persons with disabilities and with specific needs face enormous, often insurmountable, difficulties in accessing modern ICT services. RCC expects to make recommendations for improving digital literacy for these people. RCC also plans to create a small network of training centres covering remote areas.

**Document** [**56**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D18-RPMIRM-C-0056)**:** “CIS Regional Initiative Digital Skills Project (Digital Skills)” was presented by the Russian Federation, on behalf of RCC. With this second regional initiative project on digital skills, RCC plans to make recommendations for the development of digital skills among citizens in the field of art and culture and to reduce barriers to public access to museums. Restrictions imposed because of the COVID-19 pandemic have made it difficult for citizens to access cultural sites such as art galleries and museums. This project is inspired by the fact that art and cultural sites can be made available in virtual formats.

**Document** [**57**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D18-RPMIRM-C-0057)**:** "Development of infrastructure to promote innovation and partnerships in the implementation of new technologies — Internet of Things, including industrial Internet, smart cities and communities, communication networks 5G/IMT-2020 and next generations NET-2030, quantum technologies, artificial intelligence (AI), digital health, digital skills, environmental protection" was presented by the Russian Federation, on behalf of RCC. With this regional initiative, RCC aims to develop telecommunication/ICT infrastructure and foster innovation and partnerships in the implementation of technologies in the areas listed above. Expected results include technology transfer, bridging the digital divide and improving digital skills of citizens in the countries of the region.

**5.6 Strategic Plan**

**Document** [**60**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D18-RPMIRM-C-0060)**:** “APT View on Asia-Pacific Vision for the ITU-Development Sector” was presented by Australia. This contribution highlights the priorities set out in the vision endorsed by the 13 countries listed in Document 59 above. APT member administrations want an ITU-D that focuses on reducing the telecommunication/ICT divide between developing and developed countries; that supports a successful WTDC with clear outputs and goals; that is results-focused and adheres to results-based management principles; and that continues to strengthen the efficient, transparent, and accountable operation of BDT, including regional and area offices.

1. **WTDC Action Plan**

**Document** [**DT/1**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-RPMIRM-211213-TD-0001/)**:** “ITU-D Action Plan — draft structure” was presented by the Chairman of the TDAG Working Group on Strategic and Operational Plans (TDAG-WG-SOP), Ms Blanca Gonzalez. According to this draft structure, the next ITU-D Action Plan would comprise a glossary of terms, an introduction, thematic priorities and their supporting components, linkages, objectives and outputs, regional initiatives, study group Questions, and Resolutions and Recommendations, along with infographics to make the information more concise and easier to read.

**Comments from the floor**

Participants expressed appreciation for the remarkable work done by TDAG-WG-SOP. Nevertheless there were calls for some updates and clarifications. Recalling the TDAG meeting of 8-12 November 2021, the Russian Federation said that it had expressed concern over the direction the document on the ITU-D Action Plan was taking and that there had been no consensus on the main points. Moreover, from the discussions on the structure laid out for thematic priorities, TDAG, the Russian Federation recalled, had concluded that three RTOs (CEPT, APT and CITEL) support a set of four thematic priorities, while the other three RTOs (RCC, ATU and LAS) support a set of five thematic priorities. Yet the document presented does not reflect those views from the November 2021 meeting of TDAG and should not, therefore, be submitted in its current form to the Council Working Group on strategic and financial plans (CWG-SFP) for 2024-2027. The United States echoed a similar concern, adding that there had been a lot of discussion not just about thematic priorities but also on strategic objectives, and stressed the need to clarify the next steps so that the regions can develop proposals that would allow WTDC to finalize the ITU-D Action Plan. In particular, the interaction between the CWG-SFP process and the process for developing the ITU-D Action Plan should be clarified.

**The way forward:** The interim Chairman of IRM-2, Ms Roxanne McElvane Webber, underlined the need to update and present clear, accurate documents, particularly, to IRM-3 planned for 10-11 March 2022. As Chairman of TDAG, she also recalled that the TDAG meeting of November 2021 delivered many outputs on the declaration, thematic priorities, study group Questions and on the ITU-D contribution to the overall ITU strategic plan. The best way forward, she said, is to package all the material and make it available as outputs and products of TDAG. In other words, a baseline is needed that reflects the current state of play so that people move forward together based on the most recent data or on where discussions stand, indicating where there is consensus and where there is not.

On the question of the interrelationship between the CWG-SFP process and the development of the ITU-D Action Plan, the interim Chairman said it is a matter of reflecting accurately where things stand in the output documents from the TDAG meeting of November 2021. The Chairman of the Council Working Group on the strategic and financial plans,Mr Frederic Sauvage (France), could not agree more. Mr Sauvage went on to explain the timeline for work in his group. CWG-SFP held its first meeting on 29-30 September 2021 and agreed on ten principles to guide its discussions: simplification and clarity; focus; One ITU; vision and mission; goals; targets; regional presence; linkage with financial plan; developments at the UN level; and ITU results-framework. This meeting was followed by virtual consultations at the beginning of November 2021. The zero draft strategic plan, published by the ITU secretariat on 10 December 2021, was based on these ten principles and on the various contributions and advice from participants in the virtual consultations. Mr Sauvage underlined the difficulty of making substantive headway at this point, in terms of a consensus on the draft ITU-D Action Plan. The time will come after the second meeting of CWG-SFP (13-14 January 2022), when an exchange of views will have taken place on the thematic priorities, alongside the various categories that members want to reflect in the 2024-2027 strategic plan. CWG-SFP is expected to submit a draft strategic plan to the Council meeting in March 2022 for endorsement.

The interim Chairman of IRM-2 thanked the Chairman of CWG-SFP for his commitment to following all TDAG and IRM meetings tirelessly to produce a strategic plan that reflects the will of the membership. "The best thing that can be provided for that process is an accurate output from TDAG. Members can then use that as a basis or as background information as they contribute to the CWG-SP process,” she said.

**Closing**

Ms Bogdan-Martin reflected on the solid progress achieved in many critical areas and urged active participation in the third and final IRM, scheduled for 10-11 March 2022. She thanked Ms Roxanne McElvane Webber for her commitment and expert stewardship of the meeting. Closing the meeting, Ms McElvane Webber noted that even in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, members had been able to continue their work, maintain a momentum, and move forward. “We are moving in a direction that will make ITU an impactful organization because all its members are focused in the same direction, as can be seen in the vision statements and call for efficiencies that are coming out of the regions. All of this is going to pay off,” she concluded.

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