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| **Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG)**  **23rd Meeting, Geneva, 9-11 April 2018** | P:\SUP\Logos\Post-150th Anniv\ITU-logo-UNblue.jpg |
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|  | **Document** **TDAG-18/4-E** |
|  | **31 January 2018** |
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| Director, Telecommunication Development Bureau | |
| Report on the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-17) | |
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| **Summary:**  The seventh World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC) was held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, from 9 to 20 October 2017. The purpose of this document is to provide TDAG with a summary report on its conclusions.  **Action required:**  TDAG is invited to note this summary report of WTDC-17 and to provide guidance as deemed appropriate.  All documents of the conference are available on the ITU [WTDC-17](http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Conferences/WTDC/WTDC17/Pages/default.aspx) website.  **References:**  [Final Report of WTDC-17](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-WTDC17-C-0115/en) | |

**Introduction**

1. The seventh World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-17) of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) was held from 9 to 20 October 2017 in Buenos Aires, Argentina, under the theme of "ICT for Sustainable Development Goals” (ICT④SDGs). It attracted 1368 participants from 134 Member States, 62 ITU-D Sector Members, 10 Academia, observers and the United Nations and its Specialized Agencies. The conference was chaired by Mr Oscar Martín González from Argentina. The list of [presiding officers of the conference](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-WTDC17-C-0054/en) as well as the [secretariat of the conference](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-WTDC17-C-0052/en) can be found under the respective links.
2. The conference opened with a welcoming video message by Mr António Guterres, United Nations Secretary-General. During the first three days of WTDC-17 in Buenos Aires, four plenary sessions were dedicated to the High-Level Segment, a special platform for high-ranking officials from the ITU membership to express their views on emerging trends and on matters of strategic importance to the development of the telecommunication and information and communication technology sector worldwide. A total of 53 speakers addressed the conference, including one Deputy Prime Minister, ministers, deputy and vice ministers, ambassadors, and others. The key note statement from Dr Tedros, Director General of WHO, was provided at the Plenary session by a WHO representative in Buenos Aires.
3. Side events and lightning sessions on 13 topics related to theme of ICT④SDGs were held during the WTDC-17. In addition, 2 Ministerial Roundtables and a gala event were organized to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the ITU-D. All former Directors of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) were present in the celebrations.

**Buenos Aires Declaration**

1. In adopting the Buenos Aires Declaration, the delegates to the WTDC-17 have declared their commitment to accelerate the expansion and use of telecommunication/ICT infrastructure, applications and services for building and further developing the information society and bridging the digital divide, the timely implementation of WSIS Action Lines and attainment of the sustainable development goals and targets. The conference called upon the ITU membership and other interested parties and stakeholders to contribute towards the successful implementation of the Buenos Aires Action Plan.

**Contribution of the ITU-D to the ITU Strategic Plan**

1. WTDC-17 adopted the ITU-D contribution to the ITU Strategic Plan 2020-2023 with 4 objectives, 16 related outcomes and 17 outputs.

* Objective 1. Coordination: Foster international cooperation and agreement on telecommunication/ICT development issues
* Objective 2. Modern and secure telecommunication/ICT infrastructure: Foster the development of infrastructure and services, including building confidence and security in the use of telecommunications/ICTs
* Objective 3. Enabling environment: Foster an enabling policy and regulatory environment conducive to sustainable telecommunication/ICT development
* Objective 4. Inclusive digital society: Foster the development and use of telecommunications/ICTs and applications to empower people and societies for sustainable development

**Buenos Aires Action Plan (BaAP)**

1. The Buenos Aires Action Plan aims to provide a simple, comprehensive but functional instrument for the achievement of the strategic Objectives of ITU-D, underpinned by agreed Outcomes, through the implementation of Outputs.
2. The Buenos Aires Action Plan follows a results-based structure, in which outcomes are identified for the objectives. Outcomes provide an indication as to whether the objective is being achieved. Outputs are all the products and services ITU-D will develop and deliver to members through the implementation framework agreed in this Buenos Aires Action Plan in order to achieve the related ITU-D strategic objectives and will be specified in the rolling ITU-D Operational Plan each year. The Buenos Aires Action Plan structure follows the structure of the strategic plan, so as to ensure a consistent planning hierarchy and linkage across the different planning tools and instruments within ITU (strategic, financial and operational planning).
3. The Buenos Aires Action Plan is based on the objectives of the ITU-D contribution to the ITU strategic plan. For each of the objectives, the following information is provided:

* Objective
* Outcomes and related performance indicators
* Outputs and related implementation frameworks including, as relevant
  + Programmes
  + Regional initiatives
  + Study Group Questions
* References to relevant:
  + PP resolutions
  + WTDC resolutions and recommendations
  + WSIS action lines
  + Sustainable development goals and targets.

1. ITU-D will implement the Outputs (development of product and services) through the programmes, regional initiatives and Study Group Questions. These Outputs that will also contribute to the implementation of relevant WSIS action lines, WTDC resolutions and recommendations and sustainable development goals and targets.

**Programmes**

1. Programmes provide a coordination mechanism among all elements of the implementation framework and are responsible for assisting the membership to develop products – such as model policies, regulations, strategies, plans, frameworks, procedures, guidelines, manuals, toolkits and learning-management systems; economic and financial mechanisms; network and frequency planning tools, and spectrum-management tools; conformity assessment and interoperability testing guidance; research and analysis of relevant trends, including through reports, case studies, benchmarks and websites; collection and sharing of relevant best practices and technical standards; data and resource collection and dissemination; database development and development of other online resources, such as learning platforms and portals; and capacity-building materials, – and for providing these products for use by members.
2. In addition, programmes provide services to members, such as capacity building, legal, policy, regulatory and technical advice, providing platforms to foster cooperation among and exchanges between members and partners on relevant issues and raising awareness among members on key issues and trends. The products and services developed by programmes can be for use by members on a national, sub regional, regional or global basis.
3. Programmes should, where possible, be implemented in partnership with other organizations and stakeholders, including Sector Members, Associates, Academia, non-governmental organizations and other United Nations agencies to leverage the impact of the products and services developed under the programme.

**Regional initiatives and other projects**

1. WTDC-17 adopted five regional initiatives per development region. The execution of these regional initiatives will be carried out under the relevant objective of the Buenos Aires Action Plan. Regional initiatives are intended to address specific telecommunication/ICT priority areas, through partnerships and resource mobilization to implement projects. Under each regional initiative, projects are developed and implemented to meet the region's needs. The products and services to be developed through regional initiatives, in order to achieve related objectives and outcomes under the ITU-D contribution to the ITU strategic plan, will be identified in relevant project documents.
2. In fulfilling the Union's dual responsibility as a United Nations specialized agency and executing agency for implementing projects under the United Nations development system or other funding arrangements so as to facilitate and enhance telecommunication/ICT development, ITU-D offers, organizes and coordinates technical cooperation assistance through regional initiatives and projects.

**Chairmen and vice-chairmen of TDAG and ITU-D Study Groups**

1. In application of Resolution 61 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017), the conference adopted the composition of the TDAG Bureau and appointed the TDAG chairman and vice-chairmen, as listed in **Annex 1**. The conference also appointed ITU-D Study Groups chairman and vice-chairmen, as listed in **Annex 2**.

**Resolutions and Recommendations**

1. The conference approved 42 revised and four new Resolutions, and abrogated six Resolutions, five of which were merged with existing ones. **Annex 3** provides the list of revised Resolutions approved by WTDC-17. **Annex 4** contains the list of new Resolutions approved by WTDC-17. **Annex 5** shows resolutions which were abrogated by WTDC-17.

**Study Group Questions**

1. WTDC-17 adopted 7 questions each for Study Groups 1 and 2. ITU-D Study Groups are responsible for developing reports, guidelines and recommendations based on input received from the membership for review by their members. Information is gathered through surveys, contributions and case studies, and is made available for easy access by the membership using content-management and web-publication tools. The Study Groups examine specific task-oriented telecommunication/ICT questions of priority to ITU-D Membership, to support them in achieving their development goals.
2. Outputs agreed on in the ITU-D Study Groups, and related reference material, are used as input for the implementation of policies, strategies, projects and special initiatives in Member States. These activities also serve to strengthen the shared knowledge base of the membership. Sharing of topics of common interest is carried out through face-to-face meetings, online e-forums and remote participation, in an atmosphere that encourages open debate and exchange of information as well as input from experts on the topics under study. The products to be developed under Study Group Questions will be defined in the work plan of each Study Group Question.

**Financial Implications of the decisions taken at WTDC-17**

1. The conference noted the report of the Committee 2 on Budget control (document [WTDC-17/85](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-WTDC17-C-0085/en)), which includes the financial implications of the implementation of the regional initiatives for the year 2018-2021.

**Celebrations of 25th anniversary of ITU-D**

ITU-D was established in 1992 by the Additional Plenipotentiary Conference held in Geneva. Two ministerial roundtables and a gala event were organized to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the ITU-D. ITU membership and partners were recognised for their contributions. All former Directors of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) participated in the celebrations and received special awards in recognition for their contribution to the global social-economic development and for their leadership of BDT.

Annex 1

**Composition of the TDAG Bureau**

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|  | **TDAG Bureau** |
| Chairman: | Ms Roxanne McElvane Webber (United States) |
| Vice-chairmen: | Ms Regina Fleur Assoumou Bessou (Chairman, Study Group 1) |
| Mr Ahmad Reza Sharafat (Chairman, Study Group 2) |
| Mr Christopher Kipkoech Kemei (Kenya) |
| Mr Abdulkarim Ayopo Oloyede (Nigeria) |
| Mr Hugo Darío Miguel (Argentina) |
| Ms Evelyn Katrina Naut Sención (Dominican Rep.) |
| Mr Al-Ansari Almashakbeh (Jordan) |
| Mr Tariq Al-Amri (Saudi Arabia) |
| Mr Kishore Babu GSC Yerraballa (India) |
| Mr Nguyen Quy Quyen (Viet Nam) |
| Ms Nurzat Boljobekova (Kyrgyzstan) |
| Mr Arseny Plossky (Russian Federation) |
| Mr Wim Rullens (Netherlands) |
| Ms Blanca Gonzalez (Spain) |

Annex 2

**List of Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of Study Groups**

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|  | **Study Group 1** |
| Chairman: | Ms Regina Fleur Assoumou Bessou (Côte d’Ivoire) |
| Vice-chairmen: | Mr Peter Ngwan Mbengie (Cameroon) |
| Mr Amah Vinyo Capo (Togo) |
| Mr Roberto Mitsuake Hirayama (Brazil) |
| Mr Víctor Antonio Martínez Sánchez (Paraguay) |
| Mr Ahmed Abdel Aziz Gad (Egypt) |
| Ms Sameera Belal Momen Mohammad (Kuwait) |
| Mr Yasuhiko Kawasumi (Japan) |
| Mr Sangwon Ko (Korea (Rep. of)) |
| Mr Almaz Tilenbaev (Kyrgyzstan) |
| Mr Vadym Kaptur (Ukraine) |
| Ms Amela Odobasic (Bosnia and Herzegovina) |
| Mr Krisztián Stefanics (Hungary) |

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|  | **Study Group 2** |
| Chairman: | Mr Ahmad Reza Sharafat (Iran (Islamic Republic of)) |
| Vice-chairmen: | Mr Roland Yaw Kudozia (Ghana) |
| Mr Henry Chukwudumeme Nkemadu (Nigeria) |
| Ms Celina Delgado Castellón (Nicaragua) |
| Ms Nora Abdalla Hassan Basher (Sudan) |
| Mr Nasser Al Marzouqi (United Arab Emirates) |
| Ms Ke Wang (People’s Republic of China) |
| Mr Ananda Raj Khanal (Nepal (Republic of)) |
| Mr Yakov Gass (Russian Federation) |
| Mr Tolibjon Oltinovich Mirzakulov (Uzbekistan) |
| Mr Filipe Miguel Antunes Batista (Portugal) |
| Mr Dominique Würges (France) |

Annex 3

**List of Revised Resolutions Approved by WTDC-17**

| **Revised Resolutions** | **Title** |
| --- | --- |
| RESOLUTION 1 | Rules of procedure of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector |
| RESOLUTION 2 | Establishment of study groups |
| RESOLUTION 5 | Enhanced participation by developing countries in the activities of the Union |
| RESOLUTION 8 | Collection and dissemination of information and statistics |
| RESOLUTION 9 | Participation of countries, particularly developing countries, in spectrum management |
| RESOLUTION 11 | Telecommunication/information and communication technology services in rural, isolated and poorly served areas and indigenous communities |
| RESOLUTION 15 | Applied research and transfer of technology |
| RESOLUTION 16 | Special actions and measures for the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition |
| RESOLUTION 17 | Implementation of and cooperation on regionally approved regional initiatives at the national, regional, interregional and global levels |
| RESOLUTION 18 | Special technical assistance to Palestine |
| RESOLUTION 20 | Non-discriminatory access to modern telecommunication/information and communication technology facilities, services and related applications |
| RESOLUTION 21 | Coordination and collaboration with regional and subregional organizations |
| RESOLUTION 22 | Alternative calling procedures on international telecommunication networks, identification of origin in providing international telecommunication services |
| RESOLUTION 23 | Internet access and availability for developing countries and charging principles for international Internet connection |
| RESOLUTION 25 | Assistance to countries in special need: Afghanistan, Burundi, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Haiti, Liberia, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Somalia and Timor Leste |
| RESOLUTION 30 | 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 |
| RESOLUTION 31 | Regional preparations for world telecommunication development conferences |
| RESOLUTION 34 | The role of telecommunications/information and communication technology in disaster preparedness, early warning, rescue, mitigation, relief and response |
| RESOLUTION 37 | Bridging the digital divide |
| RESOLUTION 40 | Group on capacity-building initiatives |
| RESOLUTION 43 | Assistance in implementing International Mobile Telecommunications (IMT) and future networks |
| RESOLUTION 46 | Assistance to indigenous peoples and communities through information and communication technology |
| RESOLUTION 47 | 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 |
| RESOLUTION 48 | Strengthening cooperation among telecommunication regulators |
| RESOLUTION 55 | Mainstreaming a gender perspective for an inclusive and egalitarian information society |
| RESOLUTION 58 | Telecommunication/information and communication technology accessibility for persons with disabilities and specific needs |
| RESOLUTION 59 | Strengthening coordination and cooperation among the three ITU Sectors on matters of mutual interest |
| RESOLUTION 62 | Assessment and measurement of human exposure to electromagnetic fields |
| RESOLUTION 63 | IP address allocation and facilitating the transition to IPv6 deployment in the developing countries |
| RESOLUTION 64 | Protecting and supporting users/consumers of telecommunication/ information and communication technology services |
| RESOLUTION 66 | Information and communication technology and climate change |
| RESOLUTION 67 | The role of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector in child online protection |
| RESOLUTION 69 | Facilitating creation of national computer incident response teams, particularly for developing countries, and cooperation between them |
| RESOLUTION 71 | 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 Development Sector |
| RESOLUTION 73 | ITU Centres of Excellence |
| RESOLUTION 75 | Implementation of the Smart Africa Manifesto and support for development of the information and communication technologies sector in Africa |
| RESOLUTION 76 | Promoting information and communication technologies among young women and men for social and economic empowerment |
| RESOLUTION 77 | Broadband technology and applications for greater growth and development of telecommunication/information and communication services and broadband connectivity |
| RESOLUTION 78 | Capacity building for countering and combating misappropriation and misuse of ITU-T numbering resources |
| RESOLUTION 79 | The role of telecommunications/information and communication technologies in combating and dealing with counterfeit telecommunication/information and communication devices |
| RESOLUTION 80 | Establishing and promoting trusted information frameworks in developing countries to facilitate and encourage electronic exchanges of economic information between economic partners |
| RESOLUTION 81 | Further development of electronic working methods for the work of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector |

Annex 4

**List of New Resolutions Approved by WTDC-17**

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| **New Resolutions** | **Title** |
| DRAFT NEW RESOLUTION [PLEN-1] | Special assistance and support to the Government of Libya for rebuilding its telecommunication networks |
| DRAFT NEW RESOLUTION [COM3-1] | Combating mobile telecommunication device theft (Buenos Aires, 2017) |
| DRAFT NEW RESOLUTION [COM3-2] | Facilitating the Internet of Things and smart cities and communities for global development |
| DRAFT NEW RESOLUTION [COM4-1] | Use in the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector of the languages of the Union on an equal footing |

Annex 5

**List of Resolutions Abrogated by WTDC-17**

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| **Abrogated Resolutions** | **Title** |
| RESOLUTION 32 | International and regional cooperation on regional initiatives (Merged with Resolution 17) |
| RESOLUTION 35 | Support for development of the African information and communication technology sector (Merged with Resolution 75) |
| RESOLUTION 39 | Agenda for connectivity in the Americas and Quito Action Plan (Abrogated) |
| RESOLUTION 50 | Optimal integration of information and communication technologies (Merged with Resolutions 37 and 54) |
| RESOLUTION 54 | Information and communication technology applications (Merged with Resolutions 37 and 50) |
| RESOLUTION 68 | Assistance to indigenous peoples within the activities of the Telecommunication Development Bureau in its related programmes (Merged with Resolution 46) |

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