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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-18/20-E** |
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| Director, Telecommunication Development Bureau |
| ITU-D Sector membership |
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| **Summary:**  ITU-D Sector membership includes Sector Members, Associates and Academia. This document provides an overview of the evolution of ITU-D Sector membership, and strategies and actions to strengthen the ITU-D membership in accordance with the outcomes of WTDC-17 and PP-14. **Action Required:** TDAG is invited to note the report and to provide guidance as deemed appropriate.**References:** WTDC Resolution 71 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017); PP Resolutions 187 (Busan, 2014) and 169 (Rev. Busan, 2014) |

1. **Background**

World Telecommunication Development Conference in 2017 (WTDC-17)  revised and adopted Resolution 71 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) to promote active involvement of current Sector Members, Associates and Academia in the ITU-D activities, including participation in the work of ITU-D study groups and motivate prospects from the public, private and academic sectors to become members. In particular, it instructed the BDT Director to strengthen the ITU‑D Sector Members, Associates and Academia portal in order to help exchange and disseminate information for all ITU members.

Resolution 71 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) also brings enhanced focus to the evolving role of the private sector in the ITU-D Sector by instructing, amongst others, the creation of the Industry Advisory Group for Development issues (IAGD) promoting a wide representation of industry from the ITU‑D Sector Members from all regions.

Furthermore, the Plenipotentiary Conference in 2014 (PP-14) adopted several Resolutions related to membership, such as Resolution 187 (Busan, 2014), which instructs Council to review Sector membership through the Council Working Group on Finance and Human Resources (CWG-FHR). More specifically, Resolution 187 (Busan, 2014) instructs Council to: *review the current structure, benefits and pricing methodologies, the practical application of rights and obligations and the current criteria for fee-exemptions; develop guidelines and training for chairmen, vice-chairmen and study group counsellors; and, study the possibility of establishing a new category of participation for not-profit entities*. It further instructs Council to *develop a comprehensive consultation strategy with the entire membership to ensure that all points of view are thoroughly considered.*

CWG-FHR has continued to review the participation of Sector Members, Associates and Academia and will report to Council 2018, amongst others, on the application of criteria for membership fee exemptions which was approved in Council 2017.

PP-14 also made important revisions to Resolutions 169 on Academia, through which a single fee for Academia membership allows them to participate in the work of all Sectors as well as global and regional conferences, workshops and activities of the Union, with the exception of treaty-making conferences and Council.

BDT will continue to take the necessary measures to implement the outcomes of PP-14, WTDC-17, CWG-FHR and Council, in consultation with all the relevant ITU-D meetings including TDAG and ITU-D Study Groups.

1. **Strategic Objectives**

In accordance with the outcomes of WTDC-17 and PP-14, BDT, in close coordination and collaboration with the General Secretariat, the other two Bureaux, and Regional/Area offices, has focused on two overarching objectives:

* Outreach to bring new entities to join as Sector Members, Associates and Academia; and
* Enhance platforms for engagement and retention of existing ITU-D Sector Members, Associates and Academia.
1. **Status Analysis**

**3.1 Chart 1** below illustrates the increase of ITU-D Sector membership (ITU-D Sector Members, ITU-D Associates & ITU Academia[[1]](#footnote-1)) from 1994 to December 2017.

The decline of overall membership figures in 2017 is mainly due to the termination of a pilot project of Academia Members, the renewal of which is under the process to be revived in 2018.

**3.2 Charts 2 and 3** below show ITU-D Sector membership by Category and by Region.

**3.3 Charts 4 and 5** below show ITU-D Sector Members & Associates and ITU Academia by Region.

1. **Key Actions and Results**

BDT had been conducting a series of strategic actions and will enhance efforts towards improving its products, services and engagement opportunities for ITU-D Sector Members, Associates and Academia.

* 1. **Enhancing** **ITU-D Sector** membership **tools and services**:

Information-dissemination platforms such as the ITU-D Sector Membership Portal (<http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Membership/Pages/default.aspx>) and the webpage were strengthened to promote benefits and visibilities of membership with ITU’s areas of actions, opportunities for engagement in projects and for partnership, and highlights of success stories from membership. Consolidated information on ITU’s programs, products and services were also designed and implemented for outreach to new prospective and to existing Members for better engagement. BDT continues to enhance its outreach and communication materials and outreach tools in close collaboration with ITU-wide efforts such as an ITU online Members’ Zone platform – MyITU project, which shall enable customized content, enhanced networking and collaboration between and amongst Members.

**4.2 Recognition of long-standing support to the ITU-D Sector:**

On the occasion of the ITU-D 25th Anniversary celebrations during WTDC-17 held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on 11 October 2017, long-standing ITU-D Sector Members have been recognized with special awards for each Region: e.g., ArmenTel CJSC Armenia Telephone Company, ​Orange, ​PT. Telekomunikasi Indonesia Tbk, ​Sudatel Telecom Group, ​Telecomunicaciones de México, and ​Telkom SA SOC Ltd. (<https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Pages/ITU-D-Anniversary-Awards.aspx>)

Awards were also presented to Members in recognition of their contributions to ITU-D projects with different categories such as the Administration, International/Regional Organization and Foundation: e.g., the Department of Communications and the Arts, Australian Government, the ​European Commission and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

**4.3 New platforms for engagement with Academia:**

Academia fosters innovative and sustainable solutions by providing a space where talent, research and technology come together to solve the world's most pressing problems. With the increasing portfolio of Academia Members, BDT strengthened various types of collaborative platforms in addition to existing ones - such as ITU Academy and ITU Journal amongst others.

***The ITU-Academia Partnership Meeting***: *Developing Skills for the Digital Era* was held in Budapest, Hungary, on 19-21 September 2017 and contributed to enhanced cooperation between ITU and academic institutions, and between academic institutions and Centers of Excellence.

In 2017, further to consultations with Academia Members and prospects, BDT completed a  **collaborative research study** with renowned experts from the scientific community from around the world for an impact study on ICTs for sustainable development address the challenges and opportunities offered by ICTs in the areas of innovation, governance, education, job creation and economic growth. This academic-driven research was implemented through pro-bono work and research by leading authors. The book, ***"ICT-centric economic growth, innovation and job creation"* [https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Pages/IMPACT-STUDY.aspx]** was launched at the *Ministerial Roundtable on ICT④SDGs* organized to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) during the WTDC-17, on 11 October, 2017.

In partnership with Argentina, BDT organized the joint event **“*Academia④SDGs: from research to innovative solutions to accelerate sustainable development*”** during the WTDC-17, which attracted over 100 participants. Panellists showcased existing and new ITU-D platforms for Academia engagement and highlighting Academia-led projects and initiatives in ICT④SDGs. <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Membership/Pages/WTDC17_Academia4SDGs.aspx>

BDT also undertook outreaching activities for Academia members: e.g., workshop for awareness raising of areas for academic engagement and mapping of potential areas for joint collaboration with University of Applied Sciences and Arts – Western Switzerland (HES-SO) networks and programs, ITU Academia members, and other research institutions.

**4.4 Enhancing private sector engagement in work of ITU-D**:

BDT enhanced collaboration and synergies with its private sector Members in the converged ICT ecosystem through partnerships with industry associations, regional and international organizations and their existing networks and affiliated members. In addition to the membership drive work carried out under ITU-D programs, projects, initiatives and actions, the Private Sector Chief Regulatory Officers (CRO) platform was put in place, where private sector has been engaging through proposals and initiatives with regulatory bodies to contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Goal 17 in particular.

The 8thedition of the ***Private Sector Chief Regulatory Officers (CRO) meeting*** and CRO Working Group (CRO WG) on Digital Financial Inclusion (DFI) were held in 2017 during the Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR-17). It brought together senior industry executives to share experiences and exchange ideas on how to strengthen the private sector’s involvement and engagement in global, regional and national initiatives and to identify mechanisms to better foster an enabling regulatory and collaborative environment for future development of the sector. <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Conferences/CRO/Pages/CRO8.default.aspx>

Also during GSR-17, the ***Industry Leader’s Debate*** focused on “Emerging technologies as enablers of socio-economic development” and “Collaborative approaches between public and private sector and the role of strategic partnerships”, where the industry shared on the impact of these technologies and solutions offered by industry across the sectors on digital transformation on society, and explored potential opportunities for partnerships between the private sector, government and other actors to leverage the benefits of digital transformation for society.

The ***Public-***[***Private Sector Roundtable on "Partnering for SGDs"***](http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Conferences/WTDC/WTDC17/Pages/Programme-PreEvents.aspx#ChildVerticalTab_13) took place on 8 October 2017 as a pre-event to WTDC-17, with more than 100 participants. The private sector has a fundamental role in advancing the newly-adopted sustainable development agenda. It is a driver of innovation, productivity and technological efficiency and will remain an important player in terms of investment for sustainable economic growth, job creation, and transformation towards an inclusive society and digital economy.  The roundtable highlighted CRO progress and outcomes, collected inputs and recommendations to further promote enhanced cooperation between Member States, Sector Members, Associates and Academia. <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Conferences/CRO/Pages/CRO8.default.aspx>

1. **Ways Forward**

While ITU-D programs, projects, initiatives and activities under its areas of action provide products and services for ITU membership, BDT will strengthen its membership services, products, and communication tools for greater engagement with existing, new and prospective members including Academia through innovative and inclusive multi-stakeholder partnership platforms.

Following Council 2017’s decision for trial participation of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in ITU-T and ITU-D study groups, BDT will kick off the implementation of the pilot project for participation of in ITU-D Study Groups new study period as from 2018, for which the progress will be reported to Council and PP-18. BDT will also foster increased ITU Academia engagement in ITU-D study groups and ITU Academy, in particular.

The implementation of the recently revised and approved WTDC Resolution 71 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017), particularly the establishment of the ITU-D Industry Advisory Group for Development (IAGD), will begin in 2018. Along with the CRO meeting, the First IAGD meeting will take place during GSR-18, in July 2018, in Geneva. Private sector is invited to actively participate in IAGD and contribute to ITU-D’s mandate to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The diverse nature of Sector Members, Associates and increasing number of Academia continues to foster fertile ground for collaboration and exchange in a converged ICT ecosystem. BDT will continue to focus on a multi-stakeholder approaches for enhanced engagement and partnerships with membership and their networks and associations affiliated members, as well as through existing and new BDT events at global and regional levels.

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1. Refer to PP-10 Resolution 169 (Guadalajara, 2010), which enabled the new category of Academia participation in the work of ITU. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)