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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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|  | **26 March 2018** |
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| SAMENA Telecommunications Council | |
| THE INDUSTRY ADVISORY GROUP FOR DEVELOPMENT ISSUES (IAGDI): ISSUES TO STRENGTHEN THE ROLE OF PRIVATE INDUSTRY IN ITU-D | |
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| **Summary:**  This contribution contains proposals of globally emerging issues and themes of telecommunication/ICT development that the Industry Advisory Group for Development Issues (IAGDI) can *address* and *provide* advisory support to the Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) with the ultimate purpose of strengthening the role of the private sector – industry in particular – to augment development endeavors of ITU-D in a form of *industry manifesto* or *communique* in a timely manner.  **Action required:**  TDAG is invited to approve the proposal contained in this document.  **References:**  WTDC Resolution 71 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) | |

# Background and Introduction

Given the advancements that are taking place within the digital communications industry and the resulting imperative for aligning private-sector needs with government-sector aspirations for national digital transformation, it has become critical to put into effect a multi-stakeholder platform, to be able to focus on the communications industry's development issues, which may not be effectively and promptly addressed without engaging all relevant private-sector entities and concerned public-sector bodies from within the Member States.

According to WTDC Resolution 71 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017), the Industry Advisory Group for Development Issues(IAGDI) was adopted to be created, having recognized the need to bring private-sector closer to the public-sector and thereby help strengthen the development work of the ITU-D. The IAGDI can be a platform for private industry to raise awareness of the emerging technologies in the converged and dynamic ecosystem.

As a leading private sector industry association representing more than 80 operators across 25 countries, SAMENA Telecommunications Council respectfully submits below for TDAG's consideration areas of importance and relevance, pertaining to and necessary for overcoming a wide array of issues faced globally by the industry and widely deemed important to all the stakeholders in being able to make progress in advancing the *Agenda for Sustainable Development*, which requires widespread availability and positive use of ICTs to further human progress, e.g.:

* SDG-conform service definitions and categorization;
* Data protection: safeguarding user information exchange, cyber-security, and data protection by design;
* Availability of relevant content and services through demand- and capacity-building;
* Addressing imperils of broadband regulation on sustainable investment by telecom operators;
* Breaking away from regulatory and financial burdens;
* Safeguarding the Internet for the next-generation of users;
* Creating new possibility in Public-Private-People partnerships for meeting global ICT goals.

# Proposal

As Resolution 71 has not indicated the detailed scope of IAGDI, SAMENA Telecommunications Council, as an active ITU-D Sector Member, proposes that IAGDI can *address* globally emerging issues and themes of telecommunication/ICT development (of which some examples are indicated above) and *provide* advisory support to the Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) with the ultimate purpose of strengthening the role of the private sector – industry in particular – to augment development endeavors of ITU-D in a form of *industry manifesto* or *communique* in a timely manner.

SAMENA Telecommunications Council, as a development partner to both private and public-sector stakeholders and as an entity active in developmental efforts to support ITU-D's work, encourages active participation by the private sector in IAGDI in order to contribute to ITU-D’s mandate toward achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

TDAG is invited to consider this proposal for the effective and timely outcome of IAGDI to meet the needs of a fast evolving and developing telecommunication/ICT sector.

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