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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-18/35-E** |
|  | **27 March 2018** |
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| Brazil | |
| WORK AND PROCEDURES OF THE  WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCES | |
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| **Summary:**  The aim of this document is to start and encourage a reflection process on the revision of the structure of work and procedures within the World Telecommunications Development Conferences, by creating a correspondence group on this issue.  **Action required:**  TDAG is invited to approve the proposal contained in this contribution.  **References:**  Document TDAG-18/4-E | |

# 1 Introduction

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.

As the main achievements, the conference approved 42 revised and four new Resolutions, abrogating six of them, five of which were merged with existing ones. WTDC-17 also adopted 7 Questions each for Study Groups 1 and 2 and adopted five regional initiatives per development region.

Despite the success of the products achieved and delivered by the Conference, the Brazilian Administration believes some improvements could be made in the structure of work and procedures of the next WTDCs.

# 2 Discussion

During WTCD 17, four plenary sessions were dedicated to the High-Level Segment, which consists of 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 telecommunications/ICTs worldwide, and 2 Ministerial Roundtables as well.

Those Ministerial Roundtables were very much appreciated by membership and participants, and we believe that this kind of activity could be extended to encompass more high-ranking officials present at the conference, providing a direct link to the subjects of Resolutions and Study Questions under discussion.

On the other hand, side events and lightning sessions on 13 topics related to theme of ICT④SDGs were held during the WTDC-17, with great success of attendance as well. In this sense, those events could also be extended and allocated along with the discussions of Resolutions and Study Questions under discussion.

Committee 3 “Objectives” (COM 3) was established by the Plenary of WTDC-17 to: review and approve the agenda and make proposals for the organization of work; review and approve the outputs, key expected results and key performance indicators for the Objectives; review and agree on the related Study Group questions, related regional Initiatives and establish appropriate guidelines for their implementation, review and agree on relevant Resolutions; and to ensure that the output is in accordance with a results-based management approach aiming to improve management effectiveness and accountability. COM3 had twelve sessions during WTCD-17 and despite the outstanding work of its Chairman and regional vice-chairs, we believe that an excessive load of work was put on it in relation to the available time. Some revision could be made, in order to reach more effectiveness and proper conditions of participation for membership during the meetings.

In this sense, it is suggested that:

1. Documents and contributions start being presented in the first days/week of the conference, alternated with High level statements;
2. Ad hoc groups on relevant matters should be created the soonest;
3. Work of COM3 be split into sub-committees (related matters issues);
4. Study Questions should be discussed in conjunction with related Resolutions and, when possible and relevant, preceded by some technical discussion (workshop, side event, roundtable) with invited experts in the related matter;
5. Resolutions 1 and 2, allocated in COM4 (Working Methods) should be the first to be discussed, being simplified and streamlining methods and processes, in synergy with COM3 activities;
6. ITU should facilitate a dialogue platform/interface among high level officials present at the Conference.

Some other suggestions by membership shall be discussed.

# 3 Proposal

In this regard, the Brazilian Administration suggests that it is important to start a reflection and discussion within the framework of TDAG in order to bring useful and effective suggestions for the structure of work and procedures for the next WTDCs, specially by enhancing the role of high-ranking officials during the conference, enhancing technical discussions in WTDC related matters and streamlining the work of COM3.

The Brazilian Administration invites the TDAG to create a correspondence group, open to all membership, to discuss the revision of the work and procedures of WTDCs.

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