|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG)**  **23rd Meeting, Geneva, 9-11 April 2018** | C:\Users\comas\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.Word\ITU official logo-blue.png |
|  |  |
|  | **Document** **TDAG-18/38-E** |
|  | **13 April 2018** |
|  | **Original: English** |
| Chairman, Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG) | |
| FINAL REPORT OF THE 23Rd TDAG MEETING | |

**Introduction**

The 23rd meeting of the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG) was held at ITU headquarters in Geneva, from 9 to 11 April 2018, under the chairmanship of Ms Roxanne McElvane Webber. 124 delegates representing 68 administrations, 19 Sector Members, and 2 academia attended TDAG-18. There were 36 incoming contributions, of which 8 were from membership.

This report summarizes the conclusions of TDAG’s 23rd meeting.

**1.** **Opening**

The Chairman of TDAG, Ms Roxanne McElvane Webber, opened the group’s 23rd meeting on 9 April 2018 and welcomed participants and elected officials, and introduced her vice-chairmen. With her on the podium were Mr Brahima Sanou, Director of the ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT); Mr Houlin Zhao, ITU Secretary-General; Mr Malcolm Johnson, ITU Deputy Secretary-General and Mr Yushi Torigoe, Deputy to the Director of BDT and Secretary of the meeting.

Mr Houlin Zhao, ITU Secretary-General, highlighted that 2018 is an important year for TDAG as members will review decisions taken at the World Telecommunications Development Conference (WTDC-17) and set the roadmap for ITU-D for the next four years. The advice members will give to the Director of BDT will be critical for driving the SDGs and global development. Mr Zhao also mentioned 2018 as a special year related to the preparations of the 2018 Plenipotentiary Conference. Like in Buenos Aires, he reminded TDAG of the importance of developing the “4 I’s” – Infrastructure, Investment, Innovation and Inclusivity – which are central to ITU’s strategy of leveraging ICTs to help accelerate the achievement of the SDGs. Finally he stressed that TDAG has a very important role to play in translating the Buenos Aires Action Plan into action, so that it can make a positive impact on people’s lives across the world.

## 2. Address by the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

The BDT Director, Mr Brahima Sanou, welcomed the new members of the TDAG Bureau at its first meeting after WTDC-17, recognizing the leadership of Ms Roxanne McElvane Webber, as its Chairman. He also thanked Professor Vladimir Minkin for his commitment and dedication as chairman of TDAG over the past eight years.

Informing TDAG of progress that has already been made since WTDC-17, Mr Sanou highlighted that BDT, as an agent of change for development, continues to adapt to the rapidly evolving environment and digital transformation. To this end, BDT offers a neutral platform for discussion and to exchange knowledge on key policy and regulatory developments which impact innovation and investment, including in particular through the implementation of the Regional Initiatives. He also highlighted that BDT continues to intensify its collaboration with the United Nations system and other partners in the implementation of the SDGs where ICTs can play a decisive role, including health, education, gender equality, agriculture, e-waste and emergency telecommunications.

## 3. Opening remarks by the Chairman of TDAG

The Chairman of TDAG, Ms Roxanne McElvane Webber, provided her opening remarks. She recognized that TDAG is an important platform for ITU-D Membership to provide advice and support to the BDT Director. She expressed her commitment to build on the solid foundation that the BDT Director has laid together with the previous TDAG Chairman, Prof. Vladimir Minkin, to facilitate the growth of the ICT sector worldwide.

The Chairman of TDAG encouraged members to provide their views and opinions on current issues and share thoughts and ideas for the implementation of the four-year rolling operational plan, the work of ITU-D Study Groups, Regional Initiatives, ITU-D led projects and other related activities. Ms McElvane Webber also shared her strategic perspective on grounding the decisions of TDAG into the needs and realities of developing countries for the benefit of all people.

The Chairman of TDAG requested TDAG Vice-Chairs and the Chairs of the ITU-D Study Groups as well as the BDT Regional Directors to briefly introduce themselves. She noted the importance of continuing communication and synergies with the members of TDAG. She further stressed that the Vice-Chairs will be involved across focus areas in collaboration with the Regional Directors, bringing the perspective of all regions to TDAG and the activities of the Development sector.

**4.** **Adoption of the agenda and consideration of the Time Management Plan**

Documents 1 and DT/1 were considered together.

|  |
| --- |
| The agenda and the draft Time Management Plan were approved without change. |

## 5. Outcomes of WTDC-17

**5.1 Report on WTDC-17**

Documents 4, 8 and 9 were considered together.

[**Document 4**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG23-C-0004): The document entitled “Report on the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-17)” was introduced on behalf of the BDT Director. The document provides TDAG with a summary report on its conclusions.

TDAG provided feedback on the Conference, including on the high level policy statements and the work load of the different committees.

|  |
| --- |
| TDAG welcomed the document and noted the summary report of WTDC-17. |

[**Document 8**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG23-C-0008)**:** The document entitled “Financial implications of the Regional Initiatives approved by WTDC-17” was introduced on behalf of the BDT Director. The document provides an overview of the Regional Initiatives adopted in the Buenos Aires Action Plan during WTDC-17 and presents four options with justifications, for the allocation of resources towards the implementation of Regional Initiatives.

TDAG raised the issue of the financial implications for ITU of the decisions taken by WTDC-17 and the importance of prioritizing and mobilizing resources to support the implementation of the newly adopted Regional Initiatives.

|  |
| --- |
| TDAG welcomed and noted the document. |

[**Document 9**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG23-C-0009)**:** The document entitled “Summary of the BDT Management Retreat 2018” was introduced on behalf of the BDT Director. The document provides a summary of the main discussions and conclusions that took place during the Retreat, from 5 to 9 February 2018, in Geneva, Switzerland.

|  |
| --- |
| TDAG welcomed the document and noted the BDT Management Retreat 2018 debrief. |

**5.2 TDAG’s scope of work and working methods**

Documents 7 (Rev.1), 10, and 24 were considered together.

[**Document 7(Rev.1)**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG23-C-0007)**:** The document entitled “TDAG's scope of work and working methods” was introduced on behalf of the BDT Director. The document provides a summary of the scope of work and working methods of TDAG as outlined in WTDC Resolutions 24 and 61 (Rev. Dubai, 2014), and WTDC Resolution 1 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) and the Buenos Aires Action Plan which defines the mandate of ITU-D for the period 2018‑2021.

[**Document 10**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG23-C-0010)**:** The document entitled “Electronic working methods for ITU-D events”was introduced on behalf of the BDT Director. The document provides an overview of the ITU-D Events Electronic Working Methods (EWM), including PC/Mac and mobile applications, meeting documents, ITU-D publications, electronic correspondence tools and live tools during events.

|  |
| --- |
| TDAG noted both documents, recognizing current efforts by BDT in electronic working methods for ITU-D events. |

[**Document 24**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG23-C-0024)**:** The document entitled “Effective use in the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector of the six official languages of the Union on an equal footing”was introduced by the Central African Republic. The document highlights the importance of the effective use in the work of ITU-D of the six languages of the Union as a means of ensuring that the work of the ITU-D study groups is more accessible to all developing countries.

While recognizing the importance of the question of linguistics, in particular for developing countries, and of treating all six languages of the Union on an equal footing, discussions recognized existing efforts of BDT and highlighted that when analyzing possible future technical solutions, financial implications must also be considered.

|  |
| --- |
| TDAG welcomed the document and suggested that in future meetings, BDT may consider making a presentation on these issues to provide information on available resources. |

[**Document 28:**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG23-C-0028)The Documententitled“Internet of Things (IoT) Online Resources Portal”was introduced by Singapore. The document proposes to consolidate the information of all activities and resources on the topic of IoT undertaken by ITU on a single online resources portal to facilitate the development and adoption of IoT among ITU Member States, especially developing countries, and strengthen the sharing of information, best practices and relevant research and development.

While participants supported the need to consolidate information of ITU activities and resources as well as relevant research and development on key topics such as IoT and recognized its potential to strengthen the sharing of ITU-wide information and best practices, TDAG suggested that further discussion may be required, in particular relating to the implementation and scope of the proposal and its financial implications.

|  |
| --- |
| TDAG welcomed the document, noting that further discussion on its implementation is required. |

[**Document 35**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG23-C-0035)**:** The Document entitled "Work and procedures of the World Telecommunication Development Conferences" was introduced by Brazil. The document contains proposals on the structure of work and procedures within the World Telecommunications Development Conferences, and proposes the creation of a correspondence group on this issue.

There was general support for the proposal to have a discussion among membership on how to improve the structure and functioning of future WTDCs. Participants also agreed that the outcomes of this discussion could be discussed in a future TDAG meeting.

|  |
| --- |
| TDAG noted the document with appreciation and agreed that this advice to the Director will be taken into account, including mechanisms for implementation, in the preparations for the next WTDC and could be discussed at future TDAG meetings. |

**5.3 Collaboration with the other Sectors**

[**Document 5(Rev.2)**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG23-C-0005)**:** The document entitled “Inter-Sector Coordination Team on Issues of Mutual Interest” was introduced on behalf of the BDT Director. The document highlights the inter-sectoral coordination activities that have been undertaken in the Sector advisory groups since the last TDAG meeting in May 2017.

|  |
| --- |
| TDAG welcomed the document. |

Documents 23 (Rev.1) and 36 were considered together.

[**Document 23**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG23-C-0023)**(Rev.1) :** The document entitled "Reply Liaison Statement to ITU-D Study Group 1 (Copy to TDAG and for information to RAG and ITU-R Study Group 5)" was introduced by a representative of ITU-R. Its two attachments contain the mapping of ITU-R and ITU-T study group Questions to ITU-D study group Questions. This liaison statement from ITU-R Study Group 1 to ITU-D Study Group 1 is from June 2017 and relates to the Final Report on WTDC Resolution 9 (Rev. Dubai, 2014). The liaison statement was shared with TDAG for information.

|  |
| --- |
| TDAG thanked ITU-R Study Group 1 for the liaison statement and noted this document. |

[**Document 36**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG23-C-0036)**:** The document entitled "Studies in response to Resolution 9" submitted by the BR Directorwas introduced by a representative of BR. The document provides a provisional list of ITU-R studies in the field of radio spectrum management that might be of interest for the developing countries as a response to the WTDC Resolution 9.

|  |
| --- |
| TDAG noted the document and invited the SG Chairmen to integrate the information, to the extent possible and as required, in the work of the Questions under study. It was noted that the BR will update the list as appropriate. |

Documents 25 and 27 were considered together.

[**Document 25**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG23-C-0025) entitled “Incoming liaison statement - LS/R on ITU inter-sector coordination (reply to TSAG - LS 1 - E)” was introduced together with its attachments showing a mapping of ITU-T and ITU-D study group Questions by a representative of TSB. The document was submitted for information by ITU-T Study Group 5 on Inter-Sector Coordination in reply to an earlier liaison statement. TSAG consolidated the input on this topic provided by all ITU-T study groups and provided its feedback to TDAG in the liaison statement contained in Document 27.

[**Document 27**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG23-C-0027)**:** The document entitled “Incoming liaison statement - LS/o on ITU inter-Sector coordination [to ISCT, TDAG, ITU-D SGs, RAG, ITU-R SGs, ITU-T SGs]” and its attachments showing a mapping of ITU-T and ITU-D study group Questions was introduced by a representative of TSB. This liaison statement was sent by TSAG to TDAG for comment and already contains the revised ITU-D study group Questions, as available in the WTDC-17 [Final Report](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Conferences/WTDC/WTDC17/Documents/WTDC17_final_report_en.pdf).

|  |
| --- |
| TDAG thanked ITU-T for the liaison statements and noted the documents. Reply liaison statements will be sent. |

[**Document 29**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG23-C-0029)**:** The document entitled "Streamlining PP and WTDC Resolutions" was presented by the Russian Federation. The document contains proposals for streamlining specific resolutions covering more than one Sector.

TDAG supported in principle the importance of streamlining resolutions and noted that it could revisit the matter following PP-18. A similar streamlining exercise was undertaken in ITU-D in advance of WTDC-17 that resulted in the abrogation of six Resolutions, five of which were merged with existing ones.

TDAG was informed that work is underway in a TSAG Rapporteur Group to identify common principles for streamlining WTSA Resolutions in the lead up to PP-18.

|  |
| --- |
| TDAG noted the document and thanked the Russian Federation for the proposal. |

[**Document DT/2**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG23-180409-TD-0002)**:** The document entitled "ITU-D’s representatives to the ITU Coordination Committee for Terminology (ITU CCT)" was presented on behalf of the BDT Director. In accordance with WTDC Resolution 86 (Buenos Aires, 2017) on the “Use in the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector of the languages of the Union on an equal footing” the document invites TDAG to appoint the respective vice-chairmen of Study-Group 1 and Study-Group 2 to represent ITU-D in ITU CCT at the level of vice-chairmen.

|  |
| --- |
| TDAG noted the document and approved the appointment to ITU CCT of Mr Peter Mbengie (Cameroon), from ITU-D SG 1, and Ms Ke Wang (China), from ITU-D SG 2. |

[**Document 37**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG23-C-0037)**:** The document entitled "Progress report of Chairman of ISCT"was introduced by the Chairman of ISCT. This document contains a report of the meeting of the Team that took place on 9 April.

|  |
| --- |
| TDAG welcomed and considered the document and thanked Mr Bigi for leading the work of ISCT over the new four-year period.  TDAG discussed the draft revision of the ISCT terms of reference provided in Annex 1 of document 37 and noted that the issue will be discussed further and decided during Council. During the TDAG discussion, no objection was expressed to adding the activities of the General Secretariat in the analysis of ISCT as indicated in the proposed revisions to the terms of reference, however, TDAG noted that further clarification was needed on a number of issues.  Questions were raised regarding the composition and title of ISCT. Further questions were raised about the relationship of the Inter-Sectoral Coordination Task Force (ISC-TF) and the ISCT, the first being an internal-ITU coordination mechanism, while the latter is a body composed of representatives of the three advisory groups. TDAG recommended and the BDT Director agreed to inform Council about the discussions that took place during TDAG on this issue.  Ms Nurzat Boljobekova and Mr Arseny Plossky were appointed TDAG representatives to ISCT. |

[**Document DT/3**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG23-180409-TD-0003)**:** The document entitled "Revised Terms of Reference of the Inter-Sector Coordination Team" was introduced by the Chairman of ISCT.

The document was discussed in the ISCT meeting.

**6.** **Report on the implementation of the ITU-D Strategic Plan and Operational Plan 2017**

[**Document 2:**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG23-C-0002/en)The document entitled “Performance Report 2017”was introduced on behalf of the BDT Director. The Performance Report 2017 provides the summary of the implementation of the objectives, outcomes and outputs defined in the ITU-D Operational Plan, together with the respective performance indicators. It also provides the threat and risk assessment for 2017, specified for each objective and relevant outputs.

TDAG expressed its appreciation for the comprehensive report and the hard work performed by the BDT during 2017. TDAG called upon the BDT to continue efforts to strengthen collaboration and coordination with regional and expert organizations related to topics such as cybersecurity. TDAG requested additional information on some of the cooperation agreements and related projects and activities mentioned in the report.

|  |
| --- |
| TDAG welcomed the document and noted this report with appreciation. |

## 7. ITU-D contribution to the implementation of the WSIS Plan of Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

[**Document 3**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG23-C-0003)**:** The document entitled “ITU-D contribution to the implementation of the WSIS Outcomes and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”was introduced on behalf of the BDT Director. The document provides an update on the contribution of ITU-D to the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, taking into account the outcomes of WTDC-17, that agreed on ITU-D objectives, outcomes and outputs, and on their contribution to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and WSIS Action Lines (WSIS AL).

TDAG called upon BDT to continue highlighting members’ existing needs and circumstances, including infrastructure requirements, and how this can be addressed to strengthen ICTs as a cross-cutting tool to achieve the SDGs. Discussions also highlighted the need for continued reporting on BDT activities and participation in relevant forums related to the WSIS and SDG implementation and the need to illustrate more explicitly the relevant links between outputs and outcomes of BDT work with WSIS AL and SDGs as defined by WTDC-17. TDAG also underlined the importance of partnerships and collaboration with all stakeholders to achieve the objectives of the WSIS AL and to leverage ICTs for SDGs, while taking note of several BDT activities undertaken at the regional level, including a series of ITU Regional Development Forums to facilitate implementation of Regional Initiatives, specific regional WSIS-SDG events fostering implementation and alignment of both processes, and contributions to UN Regional Forums on Sustainable Development.

|  |
| --- |
| TDAG noted the document with the various clarifications and additions provided. |

## 8. ITU-D four-year rolling Operational Plan 2019-2022

[**Document 6(Rev.1)**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG23-C-0006)**:** The document entitled “ITU-D four-year rolling Operational Plan 2019-2022”was introduced on behalf of the BDT Director. The document presents the outline and key elements of the draft four-year rolling Operational Plan for the Telecommunication Development Sector for the 2019-2022 timeframe.

|  |
| --- |
| TDAG supported the document with appreciation, including a slight revision already reflected in the final report of WTDC-17. |

[**Document 32**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG23-C-0032)**:** The document entitled "Draft four-year rolling Operational Plan for the General Secretariat for the period 2019-2022" was presented on behalf of the Secretary General.

|  |
| --- |
| TDAG noted the document with appreciation. |

## 9. ITU-D Study Group-related matters

Documents 12 and 13 were considered together.

[**Document 12**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG23-C-0012)**:** The document entitled “Scope of work of ITU-D Study Group 1 for the 2018-2021 study period” was introduced by Chairman of ITU-D Study Group 1, Ms Regina Fleur Assoumou Bessou. The document provides the scope of work of ITU-D Study Group 1 for the 2018-2021 study period as agreed by the 2017 World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-17). It also contains information on WTDC-17 decisions with impact on ITU-D study groups and the work plan for Study Group 1 to implement the mandate.

[**Document 13**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG23-C-0013)**:** The document entitled “Scope of work of ITU-D Study Group 2 for the 2018-2021 study period”was introduced by the Chairman of ITU-D Study Group 2, Dr Ahmad Reza Sharafat. The document provides the scope of work of ITU-D Study Group 2 for the 2018-2021 study period as agreed by the 2017 World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-17). It also contains information on WTDC-17 decisions with impact on ITU-D study groups and the work plan for Study Group 2 to implement the mandate.

The chairman welcomed both Study Group chairmen, highlighting new developments in the Study Group working methods for this period, including the pilot project to promote SME participation, and reminded members that annual meetings have interpretation in all six languages and translation of documents submitted on time. She also encouraged workshops to enrich the Study Questions, and noted that lessons learned and best practices from the workshops and contributions submitted on time and in accord with Resolution 1 would be published for the meetings and on the website by BDT each year for incorporation into the final reports, as appropriate.

|  |
| --- |
| TDAG welcomed both documents. |

[**Document 34**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG23-C-0034)**:** The document entitled "Proposal for holding a panel session on Early Warning System (EWS) in the first ITU-D SG2 Meeting" was presented by Japan for information. The document proposes this panel to share experiences and knowledge for use of EWSs amongst ITU-D members to support the preparation of the annual and final reports of Q5/2.

The BDT Director thanked Japan for this initiative and for informing TDAG of the upcoming panel session. He also emphasized the importance of Early Warning Systems for many countries around the world and highlighted that this is an area where membership across the globe can work together. The Study Group 2 Chairman reiterated the interest of this topic to many countries and urged that best practices can be shared among all countries. He added that the panel session will take place during the Study Group 2 meetings as a mini workshop, to be followed in October by a larger workshop. TDAG also proposed that the Secretariat lead the agenda in collaboration with the SG2 Chairman and the support of membership.

|  |
| --- |
| TDAG noted with appreciation the document, which was submitted to provide information about important upcoming Study Group activities. TDAG also showed appreciation for the work on Early Warning Systems and for membership efforts to organize workshops to enrich the work of the Study Group Question.  TDAG also suggested that the next study group meetings could identify further topics that could be the subject of workshops or seminars at future study group meetings. |

## 10. Regional Development Forums (RDFs)

[**Document 14(Rev.2)**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG23-C-0014)**:** The document entitled “Regional Development Forums”was introduced on behalf of the BDT Director. This document provides an update on the six RDFs scheduled to be held in 2018, taking into account the outcomes of WTDC-17 that resolved to strengthen the platforms for regional coordination, including the Regional Development Forums (RDFs), clearly defining their role as an implementation framework as well as a contribution to the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines and SDGs.

|  |
| --- |
| TDAG welcomed and noted the document, which included the schedule of RDFs for 2018. |

## 11. Report on ITU-D major events/initiatives

**11.1 Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR)**

[**Document 16**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG23-C-0016)**:** The document entitled “Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR)”was introduced on behalf of the BDT Director. This document provides a summary of the 17th edition of the Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR-17), held in Nassau, Bahamas, and information on GSR-18 that will be held at the Geneva International Conference Centre (CICG), Geneva, Switzerland from 9-12 July 2018 under the theme “New Regulatory Frontiers”. Thematic events include the “Global Dialogue on Artificial Intelligence (AI), Internet of Things (IoT) and cybersecurity – policy and regulatory challenges and opportunities”, the Regional Regulatory Associations Meeting and the Industry Advisory Group for Development Issues (IAGDI)/Chief Regulatory Officers (CRO) Meeting.

|  |
| --- |
| TDAG welcomed and noted the document with appreciation. |

**11.2 Capacity building activities**

**a) GCBI**

[**Document 17(Rev.1)**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG23-C-0017)**:** The document entitled “Report of the Chairman of the Group on Capacity Building Initiatives (GCBI)”was introduced by the Chairman of GCBI. The document provides an update on the work of GCBI in providing guidance and support to ITU capacity building activities.

TDAG congratulated the GCBI Chairman for the report and GCBI for the important work accomplished. A key recommendation presented was to expand the target group of ITU’s capacity building activities beyond regulators and policymakers to reflect the changing digital ecosystem, e.g. SMEs, microenterprises, students, youth, women, civil society and academia. The BDT Director encouraged Member States to include these and other groups in need of capacity building within their delegations, as a means to reach this wider audience.

|  |
| --- |
| TDAG thanked the Chairman of GCBI for this document and took note of it. |

**b)**  **Report on Capacity building initiatives**

[**Document 18**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG23-C-0018)**:** The document entitled “Capacity building activities”was presented on behalf of the BDT Director. The document provides an overview of key BDT capacity building activities in 2017 under the framework of the ITU Academy, the work of the Centres of Excellence network, the ITU publication “Capacity Building in a Changing ICT Environment”, and the ITU-Academia Partnership Meeting held in September 2017 in Budapest, Hungary. It also summarizes WTDC-17 outcomes with respect to capacity building.

The Global ICT Capacity Building Symposium (CBS) held in 2016 was a great success; members are invited to participate in the forthcoming CBS-18.

The ITU regional offices play an important role in coordinating and implementing capacity building activities at the regional level, including those related to the Centers of Excellence.

The current cycle of the Centers of Excellence will come to an end in 2018 and a new cycle will be launched. Academic institutions are encouraged to submit their applications to become Centers of Excellence.

In order to increase the involvement of SMEs, Chambers of Commerce could be approached, through which SMEs could provide input.

|  |
| --- |
| TDAG welcomed and noted the document. |

* 1. **World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Symposium (WTIS)**

[**Document 19**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG23-C-0019)**:** The document entitled “15th World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Symposium (WTIS) 2017 and 2018” was introduced on behalf of the BDT Director. The document provides a summary of the 15th WTIS held in Hammamet, Tunisia, from 14 to 16 November 2017 that featured policy debates on ICT policy and monitoring for sustainable development, bringing together users and producers of ICT data. Delegates endorsed the work of the Expert Group on Telecommunication/ICT Indicators (EGTI) and the Expert Group on ICT Household Indicators (EGH). The ITU flagship publication Measuring the Information Society Report 2017 was launched, which includes the latest ICT Development Index (IDI).

Based on the information presented, the Chairman suggested that for next year’s TDAG, data related to the current status of telecommunications around the world, particularly for developing and least developed countries should be presented during the meeting, so that TDAG will have an accurate context for the advice they are being asked to provide to the Director for the benefit of the Sector as a whole.

|  |
| --- |
| TDAG took note of the document with appreciation. |

[**Document 31**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG23-C-0031)**:** The document entitled "Optimizing the working mechanisms of ICT indicators" was presented by China. The document contains three proposals to further enhance the transparency and openness of the working mechanisms of ICT indicators, as well as to include the element of innovation and development in ICT applications into the existing IDI system.

TDAG welcomed the proposals, noting that suggestions made in this document could be considered and further discussed in future expert groups and study group meetings, so as to stabilize the recently made changes to the IDI framework and methodology.

|  |
| --- |
| TDAG took note of the document with appreciation. |

**11.4 Innovation**

[**Document 22**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG23-C-0022)**:** The document entitled “ITU-D Innovation”was introduced on behalf of the BDT Director. This report provides an overview of ITU-D Innovation as one of the outputs and goals adopted at WTDC-17 and PP-14, respectively, and provides ITU-D innovation objectives and strategies, the key actions already undertaken or planned as well as ways to implement ITU-D innovation.

|  |
| --- |
| TDAG welcomed the document with appreciation. |

## 12. Membership, Partnership, Private Sector-related matters

Documents 20, 21 and 26 were considered together.

[**Document 20**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG23-C-0020)**:** The document entitled “ITU-D Sector membership” was introduced on behalf of the BDT Director. The document provides an overview of the evolution of ITU-D Sector membership, and strategies and actions to strengthen ITU-D membership in accordance with the outcomes of WTDC-17 and PP-14.

|  |
| --- |
| TDAG welcomed the document and noted the report with appreciation. |

[**Document 21(Rev.1)**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG23-C-0021)**:** The document entitled “ITU-D partnership and resource mobilization”was introduced on behalf of the BDT Director. The document presents an overview of the objectives, activities, products and strategies carried out to enhance partnership and mobilize resources.

[**Document INF/3**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG23-INF-0003/) entitled “Partnership Agreements signed (2014-2017)” as an annex to document 21 contains information on partnership agreements signed during the period 2014-2017.

|  |
| --- |
| TDAG welcomed the document and its annex and noted the report with appreciation. |

[**Document 26**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG23-C-0026)**:** The document entitled “Linkages between achieving the objectives in the BaAP, partnerships and mobilization of resources by LDCs and SIDSs”was introduced by Comoros. The document highlights the importance and challenges of securing partnerships to develop and implement the main areas defined in the WTDC-17 Action Plan faced by LDCs and SIDSs, and the key role of regional offices. It suggests that regional exchange platforms could be created to encourage and facilitate agreements between LDCs and SIDSs with relevant partners, and to provide support for LDCs and SIDSs in concluding innovative partnership agreements focusing on technical assistance and transfer of skills.

|  |
| --- |
| TDAG noted the document with appreciation. |

[**Document 33**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG23-C-0033)**:** The document entitled "The Industry Advisory Group for Development Issues (IAGDI): Issues to strengthen the role of private sector in ITU-D" was presented by SAMENA Telecommunications Council. The document contains proposals for IAGDI's contribution to the work of ITU-D.

TDAG supported this document and agreed that the private sector has an important role to play in the Development Sector, as indicated in Resolution 71. TDAG acknowledged the fast pace of the technology sector and how regulators, especially in developing countries, should encourage a proper regulatory environment to promote healthy competition and industry growth.

|  |
| --- |
| TDAG noted the document with appreciation. It also noted that the first IAGDI activity is tentatively planned for GSR 2018, and that work is being undertaken with the BDT to establish its structure. |

## 13. Calendar of ITU-D events

[**Document 15**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG23-C-0015)**:** The document entitled “Calendar of ITU-D events”was introduced on behalf of the BDT Director. It presents a calendar of ITU-D events planned for the period 2018-2021.

|  |
| --- |
| TDAG noted the document. |

## 14. Any other business

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_