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| **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 |
|  | **Revision 1 to** |
|  | **Document** **TDAG-18/38-E** |
|  | **17 May 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. One hundred twenty four delegates representing 68 administrations, 19 Sector Members, and 2 from academia attended TDAG-18. Participants considered 36 contributions, of which 8 were submitted by membership.

Among other things, TDAG-18:

* Supported the ITU-D four-year rolling Operational Plan 2019-2022.
* Agreed that Mr Fabio Bigi (**Italy**) would lead the Inter Sector Coordination Team (ISCT) over the new four-year period.
* Appointed Ms Nurzat Boljobekova (**Kyrgyzstan**) and Mr Arseny Plossky (**Russian Federation**) to be the TDAG representatives to the ISCT.
* Appointed Study Group 1 Vice Chair Mr Peter Mbengie (**Cameroon**) and Study Group 2 Vice Chair Ms Ke Wang (**China**) to be ITU-D’s representatives on the ITU Coordination Committee for Terminology (ITU CCT)

**1.** **Opening**

The Chairman of TDAG, Ms Roxanne McElvane Webber (**United States**), opened the 23rd meeting on 9 April 2018, welcoming the participants and elected officials. With her on the podium were Mr Houlin Zhao, ITU Secretary-General, Mr Malcolm Johnson, ITU Deputy Secretary-General, Mr Brahima Sanou, Director of the ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT), and Mr Yushi Torigoe, Deputy to the BDT Director and Secretary of the meeting. Ms Webber introduced the TDAG Vice Chairmen by region: Mr. Christopher Kemei (**Kenya**), Mr. Abdulkarim Oloyede (**Nigeria**), Mr. Hugo Miguel (**Argentina**), Ms. Katrina Naut (**Dominican Republic**), Mr. Al-ansari Almashakbeh (**Jordan**), Mr. Tariq Alamri (**Saudi Arabia**), Mr. Kishore Babu Yerraballa (**India**), Mr. Nguyen Quyen (**Viet Nam**), Ms. Nurzat Boljobekova (**Kyrgyzstan**), Mr. Arseny Plossky (**Russian Federation**), Mr. Wim Rullens (**Netherlands**), and Ms. Blanca Gonzalez (**Spain**)..[[1]](#footnote-2)

Mr Houlin Zhao, ITU Secretary-General, highlighted that 2018 is an important year for TDAG as members will review decisions made at the World Telecommunications Development Conference (WTDC-17) which 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, he noted. Mr Zhao also mentioned 2018 as a special year for the preparations of the 2018 Plenipotentiary Conference. As 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 to leverage 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

Mr Brahima Sanou welcomed the new members of the TDAG Bureau to 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 been made since WTDC-17, Mr Sanou highlighted that BDT, as an agent of change for development, continues to adapt to the rapidly evolving digital transformation and environment. To this end, the Director noted, BDT offers a neutral platform to discuss and exchange knowledge on key policy and regulatory developments which impact innovation and investment, including and in particular through implementation of the Regional Initiatives. He also highlighted that BDT continues to intensify its collaboration with the United Nations system and other partners to implement 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

In her opening remarks, Ms Roxanne McElvane Webber recognized TDAG as 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 (**Russian federation**), to facilitate the growth of the ICT sector worldwide.

The Chairman encouraged members to provide their views and opinions on current issues and share thoughts and ideas to implement the four-year rolling operational plan, the work of ITU-D Study Groups, Regional Initiatives, ITU-D led projects and other related activities. Ms Webber also shared her strategic perspective to ground TDAG decisions in the needs and realities of developing countries, for the benefit of all people. Along these lines, she emphasized her desire to have current and specific information about the status of developing countries in all regions presented for TDAG participants, juxtaposed with data on developed countries, so that TDAG would have accurate context on which to base its advice.

The Chairman requested TDAG Vice-Chairs, the Chairs of the ITU-D Study Groups, and the ITU Regional Directors to briefly introduce themselves. She noted the importance of continuing communication and synergies among these groups. She further stressed that the Vice-Chairs would be engaged across specific 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.

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| 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): “Report on the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-17)” introduced on behalf of the BDT Director, summarizes the conclusions of the Conference.

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| TDAG provided feedback on the Conference, including on the high level policy statements and the work load of the various committees.  TDAG welcomed and noted the summary report of WTDC-17. |

[**Document 8**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG23-C-0008)**:** “Financial implications of the Regional Initiatives approved by WTDC-17,” introduced on behalf of the BDT Director, describes the Regional Initiatives adopted in the Buenos Aires Action Plan and presented four options, with justifications, for allocating financial resources to implement the Regional Initiatives.

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| TDAG raised the issue of the financial implications for ITU of the decisions made by WTDC-17 and the importance of prioritizing and mobilizing resources to implement the newly adopted Regional Initiatives.  TDAG welcomed and noted the document. |

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

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| TDAG welcomed and noted the 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)**:** “TDAG's scope of work and working methods,” introduced on behalf of the BDT Director, summarizes these topics as outlined in WTDC Resolutions 24 and 61 (Rev. Dubai, 2014), WTDC Resolution 1 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) and the Buenos Aires Action Plan. All TDAG participants, particularly TDAG Bureau Members, are encouraged to review these documents periodically.

[**Document 10**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG23-C-0010)**:** “Electronic working methods for ITU-D events,”introduced on behalf of the BDT Director, 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.

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| TDAG noted both documents, recognizing existing BDT efforts that make electronic working methods available for ITU-D events. |

[**Document 24**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG23-C-0024)**:**  “Effective use in the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector of the six official languages of the Union on an equal footing,” introduced by the **Central African Republic**, stresses the importance of using the Union’s six official languages to ensure that the work of the ITU-D study groups is accessible to all developing countries.

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| While recognizing the importance 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 in this area 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)“Internet of Things (IoT) Online Resources Portal,” introduced by **Singapore**, proposed that the ITU consolidate all information about activities and resources on IoT undertaken by ITU in a single, online portal. The purpose of the portal would be to facilitate IoT development and adoption by ITU Member States, especially developing countries, and to strengthen information sharing on best practices, relevant research and development.

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

[**Document 35**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG23-C-0035)**:** "Work and procedures of the World Telecommunication Development Conferences" was introduced by **Brazil**. The contribution discussed the structure of work and procedures for World Telecommunications Development Conferences, suggested certain possibilities for continued improvements, and proposed that TDAG create a correspondence group to work on these issues.

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| There was general support for the proposal to have a discussion among membership on ways to improve the structure and functioning of future WTDCs. TDAG noted the document with appreciation and agreed that this advice to the Director would 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)**:** “Inter-Sector Coordination Team on Issues of Mutual Interest,” introduced on behalf of the BDT Director, highlights the activities in this area that have been undertaken in the Sector advisory groups since the last TDAG meeting in May 2017.

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| TDAG welcomed and noted the report. |

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

[**Document 23**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG23-C-0023)**(Rev.1) :** "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. The statement contains two attachments, one which matches related ITU-R and ITU-T study group Questions to ITU-D study group Questions, and a second from ITU-R Study Group 1 to ITU-D Study Group 1 from June 2017 that relates to the Final Report on WTDC Resolution 9 (Rev. Dubai, 2014). The liaison statement was shared with TDAG for information.

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

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

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| TDAG noted the document and invited the SG Chairmen to integrate the resources, to the extent possible and as required, in the work of the Questions under study. TDAG noted that the list would be updated by BR as appropriate. |

Documents 25 and 27 were considered together.

[**Document 25**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG23-C-0025): “Incoming liaison statement - LS/R on ITU inter-sector coordination (reply to TSAG - LS 1 - E)” was introduced by a representative of TSB together with its attachments that matched related ITU-T and ITU-D study group Questions. 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 (below).

[**Document 27**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG23-C-0027)**:** “Incoming liaison statement - LS/o on ITU inter-Sector coordination [to ISCT, TDAG, ITU-D SGs, RAG, ITU-R SGs, ITU-T SGs]” with its attachments matching related ITU-T and ITU-D study group Questions, was introduced by a representative of TSB. This liaison statement was also sent by TSAG to TDAG for comment and 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).

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

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

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| TDAG supported in principle the importance of streamlining resolutions and noted that it could revisit the matter following PP-18. TDAG noted that a similar streamlining exercise was undertaken by ITU-D in advance of WTDC-17 and had 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)**:** "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 invited TDAG to appoint a vice-chairman from Study-Group 1 and from Study-Group 2 to represent ITU-D in ITU CCT.

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| TDAG appointed Mr Peter Mbengie (Cameroon) from ITU-D SG 1, and Ms Ke Wang (China) from ITU-D SG 2 to ITU CCT. |

[**Document 37**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG23-C-0037)**:** "Progress report of Chairman of ISCT,"introduced by its Chairman, reports on the Team’s meeting on 9 April.

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| TDAG welcomed and considered the report, and thanked Mr Bigi for agreeing to lead the ISCT over the new four-year period.  Ms Nurzat Boljobekova and Mr Arseny Plossky were appointed TDAG representatives to ISCT.  TDAG discussed the draft revision of the ISCT Terms of Reference provided in Annex 1 to document 37. No objection was expressed to adding the activities of the General Secretariat in the analysis of ISCT, however, TDAG agreed that further clarification was needed on a number of issues. For example, questions were raised regarding the composition and title of ISCT. Additional questions were raised regarding 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 noted that the issue would be discussed further and decided upon during Council, and recommended that the BDT Director inform Council about the discussions that took place during TDAG. |

Finally, TDAG noted that ISCT had considered changes to the list of areas of mutual interest proposing to add “leadership issues” and “regional participation,” as stated in Document 25, and without specifc comment, forwarded to TDAG the original text. The Chairman of TDAG would therefore appreciate further clarification on this proposal.

[**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.

This temporary document was discussed at the ISCT meeting that immediately preceded TDAG-18, and its its disposition in TDAG is reflected in the conclusions on the Chairman of ISCT’s report above.

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

[**Document 2(Rev.1):**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG23-C-0002/en)“Performance Report 2017,” introduced on behalf of the BDT Director, summarizes implementation of the objectives, outcomes and outputs defined in the ITU-D Operational Plan, together with the related performance indicators. It also provides the threat and risk assessment for 2017, specified for each objective and relevant output.

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| TDAG noted and expressed its appreciation for the comprehensive document and for the BDT’s hard work during 2017. TDAG called upon BDT to continue efforts to strengthen collaboration and coordination with regional organizations, and requested additional information on some of the cooperation agreements and related projects and activities mentioned in the report. |

## 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)**:** “ITU-D contribution to the implementation of the WSIS Outcomes and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,”introduced on behalf of the BDT Director, updated ITU-D activities in this area, taking into account the outcomes of WTDC-17 that agreed on ITU-D objectives, outcomes and outputs, and on ways these activities could contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and WSIS Action Lines (WSIS AL).

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| TDAG called upon BDT to continue highlighting member’s existing needs and circumstances, including infrastructure requirements, and how such needs could 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 activities of BDT undertaken in the regions, 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.2)**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG23-C-0006)**:** “ITU-D four-year rolling Operational Plan 2019-2022,” introduced on behalf of the BDT Director, presented the outline and key elements of the Sector’s plan for this period.

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| 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 "Draft four-year rolling Operational Plan for the General Secretariat for the period 2019-2022" was presented on behalf of the Secretary General.

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| TDAG noted th 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)**:** “Scope of work of ITU-D Study Group 1 for the 2018-2021 study period,” introduced by Chairman of ITU-D Study Group 1, Ms Regina Fleur Assoumou Bessou, described the mandate and work to be accomplished by ITU-D Study Group 1 as agreed by WTDC-17. It also referenced the WTDC-17 decisions that impact ITU-D study groups, and contained the first iteration of the four-year work plan for Study Group 1 to implement the mandate.

[**Document 13**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG23-C-0013)**:** “Scope of work of ITU-D Study Group 2 for the 2018-2021 study period,” introduced by the Chairman of ITU-D Study Group 2, Dr Ahmad Reza Sharafat, described the mandate and work to be accomplished by of ITU-D Study Group 2 as agreed by WTDC-17. It also referenced the WTDC-17 decisions that impact ITU-D study groups, and contained the first iteration of the 4-year work plan for Study Group 2 to implement the mandate.

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| The chairman welcomed both Study Group chairmen, highlighting new developments in the Study Group working methods for this period, including pilot project to promote SME participation, and reminded members that annual meetings have full interpretation of all discussions and translation of those contributions submitted on time. She also encouraged workshops to enrich Study Group meetings, and noted that best practices from such meetings would be included in reports from the annual meetings, to be published each year and incorporated into the final reports, as appropriate.TDAG welcomed both documents. |

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

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| 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 stressed the interest of this topic to many countries and urged best practices to be shared among all countries, adding that the panel session would take place during the Study Group 2 meetings as a mini workshop, to be followed in October by a larger workshop. TDAG noted the information, which was submitted to inform participants about important upcoming Study Group activities. TDAG noted its appreciation for the work on Early Warning Systems and for efforts to organize the workshop to enrich the work of the Study 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 such meetings. |

## 10. Regional Development Forums (RDFs)

[**Document 14(Rev.2)**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG23-C-0014)**:** “Regional Development Forums,”introduced on behalf of the BDT Director, provided an update on the six Regional Development Forums (RDFs), scheduled to be held in 2018, taking into account the outcomes of WTDC-17 that resolved to strengthen the platforms for regional coordination. In particular, the report emphasized RDF’s role as both a framework for implementation and as a contributor to the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines and SDGs.

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| TDAG welcomed and noted the report, 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)**:** “Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR),” introduced on behalf of the BDT Director, summarized the 17th edition of the Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR-17), held in Nassau, Bahamas. The report also provided information on GSR-18, which 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 for 2018 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.

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| TDAG noted the report with appreciation. |

**11.2 Capacity building activities**

**a) GCBI**

[**Document 17(Rev.1)**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG23-C-0017)**:** “Report of the Chairman of the Group on Capacity Building Initiatives (GCBI)”was introduced by its Chairman. The report described the GCBI’s work to provide guidance and support to ITU capacity building activities.

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| TDAG congratulated the GCBI Chairman for the report and the GCBI for the important work accomplished, and encouraged GCBI members to continue their good work. A key recommendation from GCBI was to expand the target group of ITU’s capacity building activities to reflect the changing ecosystem, e.g. SMEs, microenterprises, students, youth, women, civil society and academia.  In order for this to happen, the BDT Director encouraged Member States to include youth, women and others in need of capacity building within their delegations.  TDAG thanked the Chairman of GCBI and took note of the report. |

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

[**Document 18**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG23-C-0018)**:** “Capacity building activities,” presented on behalf of the BDT Director, provided 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 summarized WTDC-17 outcomes with respect to capacity building.

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| TDAG welcomed the report and congratulated BDT on its activities in this area.  The Global ICT Capacity Building Symposium (CBS) held in 2016 was a great success and 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 proposals for applications to become Centers of Excellence.  In order to increase the involvement of SMEs in the work on capacity building, Chambers of Commerce could be approached, through which SMEs could provide input.  TDAG welcomed and noted the report. |

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

[**Document 19**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG23-C-0019)**:** “15th World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Symposium (WTIS) 2017 and 2018,” introduced on behalf of the BDT Director, summarized the 15th WTIS held in Hammamet, Tunisia, from 14 to 16 November 2017. WTIS featured policy debates on ICT policy and monitoring for sustainable development, and brought together users and producers of ICT data. WTIS 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).

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| Based on the information shared in this report, the Chairman repeated her suggestion that for next year’s TDAG, data related to the current status of telecommunications around the world could be presented during the meeting, so that Members can have the most updated information on which to base their advice to the BDT Director.  TDAG noted the report with appreciation. |

[**Document 31**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG23-C-0031)**:** "Optimizing the working mechanisms of ICT indicators," presented by **China**, contained three proposals to further enhance the transparency and openness of the working mechanisms of ICT indicators, and proposed to add an element titled “innovation and development in ICT applications” into the existing IDI system.

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

**11.4 Innovation**

[**Document 22(Rev.1)**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG23-C-0022)**:** “ITU-D Innovation,”introduced on behalf of the BDT Director, provided an overview of this topic as one of the outputs and goals adopted at WTDC-17 and PP-14, respectively. ITU-D innovation objectives and strategies, the key actions already undertaken or planned, as well as ways to implement ITU-D innovation were also featured.

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| TDAG noted the report 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)**:** “ITU-D Sector membership,” introduced on behalf of the BDT Director, describes the growth, evolution and current status of ITU-D Sector membership. Strategies and actions to strengthen ITU-D membership in accordance with the outcomes of WTDC-17 and PP-14 were also presented.

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| TDAG welcomed the information and noted the report with appreciation. |

[**Document 21(Rev.1)**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG23-C-0021)**:** “ITU-D partnership and resource mobilization,”introduced on behalf of the BDT Director, presented 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/)**:** “Partnership Agreements signed (2014-2017),” an annex to document 21 described the partnership agreements signed during 2014-2017.

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

[**Document 26**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG23-C-0026)**:** “Linkages between achieving the objectives in the BaAP, partnerships and mobilization of resources by LDCs and SIDSs,”introduced by **Comoros**, 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 ITU regional offices. Comoros suggestsed 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 establishing innovative partnership agreements focusing on technical assistance and transfer of skills.

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| TDAG noted the contribution with appreciation. |

[**Document 33**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG23-C-0033)**:** "The Industry Advisory Group for Development Issues (IAGDI): Issues to strengthen the role of private sector in ITU-D," presented by **SAMENA Telecommunications Council**, proposed various ways that IAGDI's could contribute to the work of ITU-D.

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| TDAG supported this document and agreed on the important role that the private sector has 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 also noted that the first IAGDI activity is tentatively planned for GSR 2018, and that work is being undertaken with the BDT to establish the IAGDI structure. |

## 13. Calendar of ITU-D events

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

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| TDAG noted the information and the calendar of events. |

## 14. Any other business

N/A

**ANNEX 1**

**Areas of work of TDAG Chairman and Vice-chairmen**

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|  | **Key Areas of Work** | **Leaders /** Co-leaders |
| 1 | Strategic Plan, Operational Plan and Declaration | **Ms Blanca Gonzalez** (Spain)  Mr Christopher Kipkoech Kemei(Kenya)  Mr Wim Rullens (Netherlands) |
| 2 | Rules of procedure of ITU-D (WTDC Resolution 1) | **Ms Regina Fleur Assoumou Bessou**, Chairman, SG1 (Côte d'Ivoire)  Mr Nguyen Quy Quyen (Viet Nam) |
| 3 | Collaboration with other Sectors | **Ms Nurzat Boljobekova** (Kyrgyzstan)  Mr Arseny Plossky (Russian Federation) |
| 4 | Capacity building and Academia | **Mr Ahmad Reza Sharafat**, Chairman, SG2 (Iran (Islamic Republic of))  Mr Abdulkarim Ayopo Oloyede (Nigeria)  Mr Hugo Darío Miguel (Argentina)  Ms Katrina Naut (Dominican Rep.)  Mr Tariq H Alamri (Saudi Arabia) |
| 5 | Private sector | **Mr Kishore Babu GSC Yerraballa** (India)  Mr Al-ansari Almashakbeh (Jordan) |
| 6 | TDAG mandate (WTDC Resolution 24) | Ms Roxanne McElvane Webber (United States) |

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1. Key areas of work for members of the TDAG Bureau can be found in Annex 1 to this report. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)