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| **Telecommunication DevelopmentAdvisory Group (TDAG)****24th Meeting, Geneva, 3-5 April 2019** | C:\Users\comas\AppData\Local\Temp\Rar$DRa0.735\jpg\ITU official logo_blue_RGB.jpg |
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| Director, Telecommunication Development Bureau |
| REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE GROUP ONCAPACITY BUILDING INITIATIVES (GCBI) TO TDAG |
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| **Summary:**This document covers the work undertaken by the Group on Capacity Building Initiatives (GCBI). The group was established pursuant to Resolution 40 which was adopted by the World Telecommunication Development Conference 2010 (WTDC-10), and revised at WTDC-2017, to advise the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) on matters related to capacity building.**Action required:**TDAG is invited to note this document and provide guidance as deemed appropriate.**References:**WTDC Resolution 40 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017), on the Group on Capacity Building InitiativesWTDC-14 Resolution 73 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017), on ITU Centres of ExcellencePP Resolution 169 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) on admission of Academia to participate in the work of the ITU |

The Group on Capacity Building Initiatives (GCBI) was established pursuant to Resolution 40 which was adopted by the World Telecommunication Development Conference 2010 (WTDC-10), and revised at WTDC-17, to advise the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) on matters related to capacity building.

1. **Report on the 6th GCBI meeting (27-28 February 2018)**

The GCBI held its 6th meeting on 27-28 February 2018 in Geneva. The group discussed:

* Agenda topics for its future work, outcomes of WTDC-17, and the review of the Operational Processes and Procedures (OPP) document for the ITU Centres of Excellence (CoE) network.
* With respect to the revised OPP document for the Centres of Excellence Network which was presented by the Secretariat, after a detailed discussion by the GCBI the document was adopted and considered a good basis for implementing the next cycle of the CoE network. In terms of the selection of new CoEs for the next round, the group approved the proposed timeline within which the whole process would be implemented.
* Expiry of the GCBI members’ term of office: The group noted that the first term of service for the members of the GCBI would come to an end in December 2018 and that the call for nominations for the next four years would be initiated.
* Exchange of regional experiences: The group made presentations relating to their respective regions, and the following issues emerged from the presentations and subsequent discussions:
* While there are important differences across regions when it comes to capacity building issues, most of the emerging ICT trends are global.
* There is an increase in the demand for digitally skilled workers in all regions and most countries are not able to develop the required skills at the pace dictated by the digital transformation.
* The target audience for capacity building activities needs to be broad and include professionals (e.g. middle and senior-level managers), young people and students, researchers, SMEs, underserved communities and other users of ICT. In particular, there is an increasing growth of “digital natives” who are spearheading innovative ICT advances.
* Capacity building should be customized to respond to specific needs and priorities of different target groups. In this respect, strong stakeholder engagement and feedback of technology users beyond policy makers and regulators is important to analyze capacity building needs and priorities.
* Training should take a more interdisciplinary approach, where one course combines the technical, business and regulatory aspects.
* Topics to be delivered should take into consideration the desired impact that should be achieved. Training workers for future labour market needs should focus on the digital transformation and digital economy, including topics around AI, big data analytics and data science, IoT, cloud computing and cybersecurity. In addition, training is required for ICT users with a focus on ICT applications and solutions and non-technical aspects of the digital economy and society.

The full report of the meeting is available on the ITU Academy [website](https://academy.itu.int/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=226&catid=2&lang=en).

1. **Nomination of new GCBI members**

According to the GCBI terms of reference, members shall serve for one term (one four-year period), in line with the WTDC cycle, and can serve for another term, after which they may no longer be eligible for appointment.

For a number of GCBI members, the first or second term came to an end in 2018. Therefore, a call for nomination was launched by the BDT Director, inviting the regional telecommunications organizations to coordinate the selection of candidates from their regions, and propose the names of two candidates.

In accordance with Resolution 40, the GCBI is to be composed of “two competent capacity-development experts representing each of the six regions”, who are familiar with the developments in the ICT sector and the needs of their region with respect to capacity building.

All regional telecommunication organizations completed the process of nomination and the new list of GCBI members is contained in Annex 1.

1. **7th GCBI meeting**

The 7th meeting of GCBI will take place on 19-20 March 2019 in Geneva.

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