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| **Telecommunication Development Advisory 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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| Chairman, Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG) | |
| REPORT OF THE 24TH TDAG MEETING | |

1. **INTRODUCTION and HIGHLIGHTS**

The 24th meeting of the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG) was held at ITU headquarters in Geneva, from 3 to 5 April 2019, under the chairmanship of Ms Roxanne McElvane Webber. The meeting attracted 136 participants: 111 delegates representing 56 Member States, 22 ITU-D Sector Members, 2 from Academia and 1 Associate. TDAG Vice-Chairmen Mr Christopher Kemei (**Kenya**) Mr Abdulkarim Oloyede (**Nigeria**), Mr Al-ansari Almashakbeh (**Jordan),** Mr Arseny Plossky (**Russian Federation**), Mr Wim Rullens (**Netherlands**) and Ms Blanca Gonzalez (**Spain**) were present for the meeting,[[1]](#footnote-2) as were the chairmen of the ITU-D study groups: Ms Regina Fleur Assoumou Bessou (**Cote d’Ivoire**) Chairman of Study Group 1,and Mr Ahmad Reza Sharafat, (Islamic Republic of **Iran**) Chairman of Study Group 2. TDAG participants considered 41 written contributions, of which 5 were submitted by membership.

TDAG-19, the first meeting since the 2018 Plenipotentiary Conference, convened at a time of steady growth in the communications sector. ITU data presented for this meeting indicate that last year more than half of the world’s population (51.2 per cent) was using the Internet, and that currently there are more mobile-cellular subscriptions than people in the planet. Led by the **Americas** and **Europe**, in all regions of the world there was strong growth in mobile broadband service, with the greatest occurring in the three regions that started from the lowest base: **Asia and the Pacific**, the **Arab States** and **Africa**. Fixed telephone penetration rates declined in all regions of the world while the growth rate for fixed broadband subscriptions in developing countries accelerated in the last five years, reaching 10.4 subscriptions per 100 inhabitants in 2018. The strongest growth rates in the percentage of households with a computer were observed in the **Arab States** and the **CIS region**. In the **Africa** region, the proportion of households with access to a computer increased from 3.6 per cent in 2005 to 9.2 per cent in 2018. In all regions there has been an increase in the demand for digitally skilled workers coinciding with an inability of most countries to develop the requisite skills at the required pace, and while Internet access and use has increased substantially as mentioned above, 800 million people in the least developed countries (LDCs) still remain unconnected. In this context, TDAG assembled to review ITU-D activities and goals designed to bridge the gap in ICT access, connectivity and service, and provided advice to the BDT Director as indicated in this report.

Among other things, TDAG-19:

* Endorsed the ITU-D four-year rolling Operational Plan 2020-2023.
* Supported the BDT Director’s strategy to cluster topics in line with WTDC-17 and PP-18.
* Appointed individuals to serve in leadership positions to replace those who had stepped down: Ms Amparo Arango Echeverri (**Dominican Republic**) and Ms Aichurok Maralbek Kyzy (**Kyrgyz Republic**) to serve as TDAG Vice-Chairmen; Mr Al-ansari Almashakbeh (**Jordan**) to serve as a TDAG representative to the Inter-Sector Coordination Group; Ms Anastasia Sergeyevna Konukhova (**Russian Federation**) to serve as a Vice-Chairman in Study Group 1, and Mr Abdelaziz Alzarooni (**United Arab Emirates**) to serve as a Vice-Chairman in Study Group 2.
* Reviewed the BDT work in ten programmatic areas around the globe.[[2]](#footnote-3)
* Agreed on the requirements for in-kind contributions to be counted as one of the funding sources in projects undertaken.
* Agreed that relevant ICT statistics should be available to the study groups, that revisions to such data should be made by experts, and that regional offices would assist in BDT data collection capacity building efforts.
* Approved both the method proposed by the study groups to transmit their input to the BDT Director under Resolution 9 (spectrum management for developing countries) and the coordinators selected for this purpose: Study Group 1 Vice-Chairman Mr Roberto Hirayama (**Brazil**) and Study Group 2 Vice-Chairman Ms Nora Basher (**Sudan**).
* Expressed significant support and appreciation for the kind offer from the **Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia** to host World Telecommunication Development Conference 2021 (WTDC-21) in Addis Ababa.

The meeting also featured eight breakout sessions organized by the Director and BDT staff − four on process and governance topics and four on BDT substantive areas of work, along with six informal sessions during which all ITU Regional Directors, accompanied by staff from the regional offices, described activities undertaken to serve ITU membership in the field, particularly to implement the regional initiatives adopted at WTDC-17. A brief summary of each breakout session can be found in **Sections 6 - 10** of this report under the corresponding topic discussion, and full summaries can be found in **Annex 2**. The six informal sessions held on the regional initiatives are summarized here: [TDAG-19/DT/11](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG24-190403-TD-0011/en).

1. **OPENING and REMARKS**

The Chairman of TDAG, Ms Roxanne McElvane Webber (**United States**), opened the 24th meeting on 3 April 2019, 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; Ms Doreen Bogdan-Martin, Director of the ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT); Mr Chaesub Lee, Director of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Bureau; and Mr Yushi Torigoe, Deputy to the Director of BDT and Secretary of the meeting. Ms Webber introduced the TDAG bureau, which is made up of the TDAG Vice-Chairmen representing all the regions and the Chairmen of Study Groups 1 and 2..[[3]](#footnote-4)

**Address by the Secretary-General**

Mr Houlin Zhao, ITU Secretary-General opened the 24th meeting of the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group and called on participants to observe a minute of silence for Mr. Marcelino Tayob and Ms Maygenet Abede, the two ITU staff who were lost in the March 2019 plane crash. He remarked: “Today, we remember our dear colleagues from the Development Bureau, who worked in our Africa Regional Office, and who perished in this tragedy. Marcelino Tayob and Maygenet Abebe exemplified the best of ITU.”

As this was the first TDAG meeting since the Plenipotentiary Conference in October-November 2018 (PP‑18), in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, the Secretary-General congratulated Ms Doreen Bogdan-Martin on her election as Director of BDT.

Highlighting the main conclusions of PP-18, including a new Strategic Plan for ITU for 2020-2023, with bold and ambitious targets, and a reinforced role of ITU in areas ranging from deploying future networks in developing countries to strengthening ITU regional presence to building security and confidence in the use of ICTs, the Secretary-General also noted the new areas of work for ITU approved in Dubai, including bridging the financial inclusion gap, fostering innovation to support the digital economy and society, and encouraging the participation of small and medium-sized enterprises in the activities of the Union.

The Secretary-General urged TDAG to increase efforts to encourage investments in ICT development. “What you do here during the course of this meeting will help us continue to leverage technology to accelerate progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals and deliver on the promise of the digital economy.” He then highlighted some of the upcoming events and invited TDAG participants to attend: WSIS Forum 2019 in Geneva, Switzerland (8 to 12 April 2019); AI for Good Global Summit in Geneva, Switzerland (28 to 31 May 2019); the 19th edition of the Global Symposium for Regulators in Port Vila, Vanuatu (9 to 12 July 2019); ITU Telecom World 2019 in Budapest, Hungary (9 to 12 September 2019); and the World Radiocommunication Conference 2019 in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt (28 October to 22 November 2019).

## The Secretary-General also highlighted a recent meeting he had held with ICT ministers from the Africa region to discuss how to help Africa boost its development efforts, how to attract and encourage further investment in the continent, and how to work together to facilitate new partnership opportunities in Africa’s best interests.

**Address by the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT)**

Ms Doreen Bogdan-Martin, Director of BDT, joined the Secretary-General in paying tribute to Marcelino and Maygenet. Recognizing their dedication and outstanding work, the Director announced an ITU Solidarity Fund to continue to support the bereaved families. In addition, and in memory of their outstanding work for ITU, a number of fellowships are being considered in the name of Marcelino, and a sponsored Girls in ICT Prize in the name of Maygenet that will honour aspects of their work for which they were passionate. “We hope that this might serve as a way for their names to live on and continue to inspire us all, as they always did when they were with us,” Ms Bogdan-Martin said.

Welcoming participants to her first TDAG meeting as Director of BDT, Ms Bogdan-Martin said: “I am delighted to see the faces of so many long-standing and valued colleagues, and also to welcome those delegates who are new to the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group.” She thanked the TDAG bureau for having participated in the 2019 BDT Senior Management Retreat, which assessed working methods and identified clear and concrete actions for reform.

The Director outlined her strategic priorities, which include improved efficiency, achieving regional relevance, a greater focus on partnerships, more effective capacity building and data-driven thought leadership based on strengthening statistic-gathering and analysis capabilities. Our goal, she said, is to succeed in implementing the outcomes of WTDC-17 and connect the remaining 50 per cent of the world population through the work of a BDT that is fit for purpose.

As she put it: “Connecting the remaining half of the world’s population is a new type of challenge. These people and communities have different needs, and face different barriers − some of which are considerable. We need to work differently, to be much more innovative and creative in our approach to policy-making and ICT regulation, and to be more proactive in our efforts to identify new types of hybrid partnership models that can bring connectivity to where it is most needed.”

The Director underlined the need to reinforce collaboration with membership and within BDT to build on internal strengths, and where needed, to reform and streamline BDT priorities and processes. This means leveraging the skills of BDT staff and encouraging team work to be able to connect with and support the Member States.

The Director also emphasized the importance of creating inter-Sectoral synergies and leveraging ITU-wide skills and expertise. She also announced future actions and initiatives that will engage young people including creating a new youth development advisory group, and working towards more youth engagement in WTDC-21. Innovations to the workings of the TDAG were also announced, and the Director underlined the unique opportunity TDAG offered for discussion and strategic advice.

**Opening remarks by the Chairman of TDAG**

The TDAG Chairman extended a warm welcome to the former Chairman, Prof Vladimir Minkin (**Russian Federation**) and stated that TDAG will build on the tremendous work already achieved.

She noted her support and appreciation for the message delivered by the Secretary-General and the new BDT Director, which confirmed their commitment to connect the unconnected and to take actions that will have a real impact. Keeping in mind those that are continuing to grow and emerge, this, she stated, is the essence and focus of the Development Sector, and that this simple, concrete message will be important to guide and measure our efforts towards achieving these goals.

The TDAG Chairman emphasized that because ITU acts on behalf of its membership, when we support the work ITU elected officials are doing to connect and impact the world, we can change the world for good in a way that cannot be achieved in isolation as individual countries, companies, or academia.

She continued that TDAG would build on the ITU-D tradition of continuous improvement and innovation to work towards a more perfect ITU and in some measure a more perfect world. She expressed deep appreciation for all the information the new Director, Ms Doreen Bogdan-Martin and her staff prepared for TDAG consideration, particularly the reality in the regions – a herculean task – because as noted previously, information on the status of developing countries is necessary for TDAG to provide meaningful advice.

The TDAG Chairman was confident that the new leadership will continue to refine, improve and innovate, and left the participants with one of her favourite adages as apropos to the sector in general and to their upcoming work for TDAG-19… “we must always be prepared for endless transformation.”

1. **AGENDA, TIME MANAGEMENT and TDAG APPOINTMENTS**

**3.1** The meeting’s agenda and time management plan are contained in Documents[**1**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG24-C-0001/) and **DT/1** and were considered together. All meeting documents cited in this report were introduced on behalf of the BDT Director, unless stated otherwise.

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| The agenda was adopted without modification; the time management plan was adopted following modification. |

**3.2 New TDAG Vice-Chairmen appointed to vacant positions**

TDAG expressed gratitude to two of its vice-chairmen from the Americas and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) regions respectively, who had served admirably for the first year of the 2018-2021 period. TDAG then considered [**Document 7**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG24-C-0007/) containing letters from the administrations of the **Dominican Republic** and **Kyrgyz Republic** supporting their candidates for these vacant positions.

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| TDAG appointed by acclamation **Ms Amparo Arango Echeverri**, Manager of International Relations at the Dominican Institute of Telecommunications (INDOTEL), as a TDAG Vice‑Chairman, replacing Ms Katrina Naut.  TDAG also appointed by acclamation **Ms Aichurok Maralbek Kyzy**, Chief Expert of the Radio Spectrum Management Department of the State Communications Agency in the State Committee of Information Technologies and Communications of the Kyrgyz Republic, as a TDAG Vice‑Chairman, replacing Ms Nurzat Boljobekova. |

1. **2018 ITU PLENIPOTENTIARY and WSIS MATTERS RELEVANT TO ITU-D** 
   1. **The 20th ITU Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-18)**

PP-18 outcomes are contained in the Final Acts signed by Member States at the end of the conference, and reaffirm their commitment to a connected world, where information and communication technologies are a source for good for everyone, everywhere.[**Document 4**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG24-C-0004/)summarizes the new and revised resolutions, decisions and recommendations which provide guidance to the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector on ways to harness new technologies to benefit humanity.

Of particular note are:

* **Resolution 71** (Rev. Dubai, 2018) ITU strategic plan for 2020-2023.[[4]](#footnote-5)
* **Decision 5** (Rev. Dubai, 2018) on revenue and expenses for the Union for the period 2020-2023, which includes the ITU financial plan for 2020-2023.
* **Resolution 25** (Rev. Dubai, 2018) on strengthening the ITU regional presence.
* **New Resolution 209** on encouraging the participation of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the work of the Union.
* **New Resolution 213** on measures to improve, promote and strengthen ITU fellowships. Commenting on this resolution, TDAG requested a detailed breakdown of statistics regarding fellowships by gender, age and area of expertise. The secretariat clarified that a separate document providing these details will be submitted to Council-19, which will make recommendations to the ITU Secretary-General, in line with Resolution 213.

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| TDAG participants underlined the need to balance the budget for 2020-2023,acknowledged the importance of these resolutions and decisions, and stressed the need to include other equally important resolutions that have implications for the work to be carried out by ITU-D. TDAG requested, and the secretariat agreed, to update the document to include*:*   * **Resolution 70** on mainstreaming a gender perspective in ITU and promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women through telecommunications and ICTs. * **Resolution 136** on using telecommunications and ICTs for humanitarian assistance and to monitor and manage emergency and disaster situations for early warning, prevention, mitigation and relief. * **Resolution 169** on academia’s participation in the work of the Union. * **Resolution 175** on telecommunications/ICTs for persons with disabilities and with specific needs. * **Resolution 179** on the ITU role in child online protection. * **Resolution 196** on protecting telecommunication service users and consumers. * **Resolution 198** on empowering youth through telecommunications ICTs; and * **Resolution 176** on measurement and assessment concerns related to human exposure to electromagnetic fields. |

* 1. **ITU-D actions relevant to the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Plan of Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

In [**Document 3**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG24-C-0003/)**,** BDT highlightsimportant milestones in the global discussion on these topics. PP-18 recognized the ITU mandate and activities which implement certain WSIS outcomes and SDGs, and drew attention to the need to ensure that ITU activities relating to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development are implemented in close alignment with the WSIS process.

WTDC-17 established clear links between ITU-D objectives, outcomes and outputs, and relevant WSIS action lines and SDGs and their associated targets (see Document 3, Annex 1). In addition, Annex 2 reflects the relationship between the ITU-D study group Questions, WSIS action lines, and SDGs thus providing additional guidance on the contribution of the study groups to both processes.

All actions carried out by ITU-D in these areas on the basis of this guidance are reported to the ITU membership through regional development forums, TDAG, and the Council Working Group on WSIS. In addition, BDT flagship activities constitute a substantial part of the ITU contribution to the implementation of the WSIS outcomes, reflected in the annual report.

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| TDAG agreed that a segment on WSIS and SDGs should be included as a regular agenda item in the regional development forums. A suggestion was also made to consider the possibility of holding regional development forums (RDFs) back to back with WSIS and SDG regional forums, and with the UN Regional Commissions Regional Forums on Sustainable Development. |

1. **OPERATIONAL PLANS CONSIDERED** 
   1. **ITU-D four-year rolling Operational Plan 2020-2023**

The ITU-D four-year rolling operational plan is presented in [**Document 6**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG24-C-0006/)**,** and isaligned with the structure of the overall strategic plan for the Union for 2020-2023, and with the limits set in the financial plans for these years. The plan highlights a period dominated by implementation of WTDC-17 outcomes, relevant PP-18 decisions and resolutions, and preparations for the next WTDC which is planned for the last quarter of 2021.

TDAG discussed the key elements of the 2020-2023 rolling operational plan presented in five parts. Part 1 is the executive summary. Part 2 provides detailed descriptions of (i) outputs by objectives and policy issues related to outputs; (ii) outcomes and outcome indicators; (iii) annual expected results and performance indicators; and (iv) the risk analysis. Parts 3 and 4 provide descriptions of departments, and regional and area offices, including human resource allocations for the period 2020-2023. Part 5 provides details of regional initiatives per region premised on results-based management.

TDAG endorsed by acclamation the four-year rolling operational plan and expressed support for the Director’s vision, expressed as a milestone for her first 100 days in office. One of the first actions taken under the Director’s 100-day plan was to establish thematic clusters organized around the 11 programmes defined in the Buenos Aires Action Plan adopted by WTDC-17. The Director believes clustering will enhance the timeliness and quality of deliverables under the Buenos Aires Action Plan, reinforce collaboration within BDT and the other ITU Sectors, and leverage expertise from both headquarters and the regional and area offices.

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| TDAG endorsed the document and supported the BDT Director’s strategy to continue to improve service delivery through clustering topics based on the outcomes of WTDC-17 and PP-18. |

* 1. **General Secretariat four-year rolling operational plan 2020-2023**

The draft operational plan for the General Secretariat for 2020-2023, introduced on behalf of the Secretary-General in[**Document 25**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG24-C-0025/)**,** will be presented to the ITU Council session in June 2019 for approval. The Plan is published pursuant to No. 87A of Article 5 of the ITU Convention, which provides that the operational plan of activities to be undertaken by the ITU General Secretariat shall be prepared annually, on a four-year rolling basis.

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| TDAG noted the plan with appreciation. |

* 1. **Activities implementing the ITU-D Operational Plan 2018**

[**Document 2 (including Annexes 1 and 2):**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG24-C-0002/)“Performance Report 2018” provides the status of implementation of the objectives, outcomes and outputs defined in the ITU-D operational plan for 2018. The report is structured around the five objectives adopted by WTDC-14.

Under these objectives, several successful events were held: TDAG-18 in April 2018 (Geneva), a series of regional development forums, and study group and rapporteur group meetings. BDT continued to provide direct assistance to many countries by raising awareness, building capacity, and providing knowledge exchange tools and platforms. Some 43 new partnership agreements were signed with various stakeholders. BDT continued to help countries establish and strengthen their national computer incident response teams, and to organize cyber drills and activities on child online protection. ITU also enhanced its cooperation with a number of partners working in capacity building. Some 131 countries organized International Girls in ICT Day events in 2018, encouraging the 57,748 girls participating in 2186 events to take up careers and studies in ICTs. BDT continued to provide assistance to developing countries on ways to use ICTs to mitigate and address the effects of climate change, develop e-waste strategies, policies and regulatory frameworks; facilitate emergency disaster response and, in particular, improve communications for disaster relief.

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| TDAG noted the contents of the report with appreciation. |

1. **BDT MAJOR WORK AREAS, EVENTS and INITIATIVES**
   1. **Infrastructure and spectrum management activities**

[**Document 29**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG24-C-0029/)**:** “ITU-D infrastructure development” provides an overview of results achievedin conducting national and regional capacity-building workshops, national spectrum management assessments, and providing assistance for broadband connectivity.

BDT has continued to implement and update the ITU broadband maps with information obtained from administrations, regulators, operators and public sources. A project has been launched to develop a broadband mapping tool to help identify gaps and opportunities.Training courses have been developed on: 5G implementation in Europe and CIS; Broadband development based on 4G and 5G technologies; Digital future powered by 4G/5G; and the future of cable television, jointly organized by BDT, BR and TSB. Technical assistance was provided within the scope of the Korean Basic National Spectrum Management Project, and in developing broadband connectivity and ICT applications for free or low-cost digital access for schools and hospitals and underserved populations in rural and remote areas. Assistance was also provided in setting up sub-regional IPv6 testbeds to facilitate IPv4-to-IPv6 migration.

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| TDAG noted the document, recognizing that infrastructure development is one of the main goals articulated by ITU membership at WTDC-17 and at PP-18, and that this goal falls under SDG 9 - to build resilient infrastructure and foster innovation. |

* 1. **Spectrum Management Activities under Resolution 9**

A summary of ITU activities being undertaken to implement ITU-D Resolution 9 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) on the participation of developing countries in spectrum management can be found in [**Document 32**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG24-C-0032/)**.** WTDC-17 revised Resolution 9 among other things to instruct the BDT Director to report annually to TDAG on implementation of the resolution. Annex 1 to Resolution 9 lists specific needs identified by developing countries in spectrum management.

Of the 14 main topics listed for implementation under Resolution 9, ITU efforts have thus far focused primarily on: raising the awareness of national policy-makers on the importance of effective spectrum management for a country’s economic and social development; economic and financial aspects of spectrum management; innovative ways to license spectrum; training and dissemination of relevant ITU documentation; and assistance in developing methodologies to establish national tables of frequency allocations and spectrum redeployment.

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| TDAG noted the document with interest and appreciation. |

In a contribution to the meeting([**Document 36**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG24-C-0036/)) “Implementation of Resolution 9 Requirements” **Algeria** called upon TDAG to develop an action plan to implement the terms of Resolution 9. Such an approach was proffered by the Chairmen of Study Group 1 and Study Group 2 in a liaison statement to TDAG that can be found in [**Document 40**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG24-C-0040/en)**.** Documents 36 and 40 were therefore considered together, and following the discussion, the representatives from **Algeria** expressed support for the approach presented in the liaison statement and summarized below.

TDAG noted that ITU-D Study Groups 1 and 2 agreed that to fulfil the needs of developing countries stated in Resolution 9, they would identify study Questions for which close collaboration would be sought with ITU‑R.[[5]](#footnote-6) To that end, a contact point from each rapporteur group was assigned the task of ensuring that spectrum specific requirements and needs are gathered for each study question. In addition, a Vice-Chairman from Study Group 1 (Mr Roberto Hirayama (**Brazil)** and a Vice-Chairman from Study Group 2 (Ms Nora Basher (**Sudan**) will coordinate WTDC Resolution 9 issues with the contact points for each study Question. At each annual study group meeting, with support from the BDT Focal Point for Resolution 9, these vice-chairmen will submit a summary of the compiled findings on WTDC Resolution 9 issues to the ITU-D Study Group 1 and 2 Chairmen, who will transmit them to the BDT Director. The BDT Director can then coordinate with the BR Director as appropriate. The summary provided by the study group chairmen can also serve as a basis for the required contribution to TDAG on Resolution 9 implementation activities.

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| TDAG approved the approach proposed by the Chairmen of Study Group 1 and Study Group 2 recounted above and the coordinators selected. |

**6.3 Breakout session: Telecoms/ICT network infrastructure[[6]](#footnote-7)**

During the breakout session on telecoms/ICT infrastructure the discussion was structured around the following three questions:

1. How can ITU/ BDT most effectively assist countries in improving their last mile connectivity?
2. How can the information contained in the broadband maps be best used?
3. What impediments do countries face when attempting to complete the digital broadcasting transition and how can ITU assist them?

Participants suggested that a compilation of different case studies on last mile connectivity (e.g. business and financing models, regulations and policies) and guidelines on the possible solutions could be prepared. In addition, developing a platform to engage different stakeholders and promote collaboration on last mile connectivity and services was discussed. To best use the information contained in the broadband maps, participants suggested promoting the visibility and use of broadband maps, for example through a link on the regulators’ and ministries’ web pages. To assist countries with the digital broadcasting transition, participants recommended promoting the impact and benefits of the transition in specific regions and countries.

* 1. **Cybersecurity and ICT applications**

[**Document 30**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG24-C-0030/)**:** “Cybersecurity and ICT Applications Activities” provides a summary of work and activities carried out by BDT in cybersecurity and ICT applications. The BDT cybersecurity programme develops publications, conducts national and regional capacity-building workshops and collaborates with partners to deliver high-quality products and services.

An example of this is the “[National Cybersecurity Strategy Guide](https://www.itu.int/dms_pub/itu-d/opb/str/D-STR-CYB_GUIDE.01-2018-PDF-E.pdf)” launched at ITU Telecom World 2018 and developed through a multi-stakeholder effort, facilitated by ITU, in partnership with 11 intergovernmental and international organizations and private sector, academia and civil society entities. The main objective of this reference guide is to help countries develop and implement national cybersecurity strategies, including cyber-preparedness and resilience.

BDT also conducts regional and national cyber drills for ITU Member States, the aim being to enhance the communication between participating teams and further improve the incident response capabilities, and maintain and strengthen national and international cooperation among countries to ensure continued collective effort against cyberthreats.

In 2018, data collected from 155 countries in preparation for the third edition of the Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI) measured country progress in cybersecurity and helped to identify areas for improvement. The GCI was submitted to the ITU-D Study Group 2 meeting for review and comment. TDAG requested that the document clearly include an explanation on the distinction between countries that submitted the survey information and those that did not.

Turning to ICT applications and services, it was noted that a main pillar of this programme is assisting countries in the development of national sector-specific e-strategies, which can contribute to digital transformation. In the health sector, for example, the joint ITU-WHO National eHealth Strategy Toolkit, published in 2012, has become the reference point for many countries in digital health strategy development. In 2018, ITU and WHO helped several countries to develop e-health strategies. Several mHealth projects have been launched through the joint ITU-WHO “Be He@lthy, Be Mobile” programme, which promotes the use of mobile technologies for non-communicable diseases.

In e-agriculture, a Hackathon to end hunger was organized in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in order to identify and support innovative solutions to address challenges in the areas of food and agriculture. The ITU-FAO National e-Agriculture Strategy Guide has already been piloted in several countries. In one country, a blockchain-application was developed to track pigs. A report on the use of drones in agriculture has also been published.

A way forward in ICT applications that may resonate with Member States is the development of new tools to guide governments in their digital transformation process, for example the development of government enterprise architecture.

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| TDAG noted the document with appreciation, and encouraged BDT to continue measuring cybersecurity progress with the GCI while improving the methodology and scoring mechanism through continuous dialogue and collaboration with Member States, industry, academia, and experts in the area of cybersecurity and data analysis. TDAG suggested that a mechanism could be developed to ensure that products and services are developed taking into consideration such input from the membership. |

* 1. **Regulatory and market environment, including the Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR)**

[**Document 16**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG24-C-0016/)**:** “ITU-D Policy and Regulatory Programme”provides an overview ofthe main activities carried out in 2018, including the Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR), the Regional Economic Dialogues, the Global ICT Regulatory Outlook Report, analytical reports on 5G, artificial intelligence, and digital identity, and an econometric study on the impact of broadband, digitization and ICT regulation.

The 18th edition of the GSR, held in July in Geneva, attracted over 600 participants, including government ministers, heads of ICT national regulatory authorities and industry executives from more than 125 countries. GSR also provided a platform for regional regulatory associations and private-sector chief executive officers to exchange knowledge. GSR participants adopted [best practice guidelines](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regulatory-Market/Pages/bestpractices.aspx) on new regulatory frontiers to achieve digital transformation.

The 19th edition of GSR will be held from 9 to 12 July 2019 in Port Vila, Vanuatu, hosted by the Government of Vanuatu and the Telecommunications, Radiocommunications and Broadcasting Regulator (TRBR). The theme for this edition is “**Inclusive connectivity: The future of regulation”.**

TDAG had earlier warmly congratulated the Government of Vanuatu for its generous offer to host this event, which will take place for the first time in the Pacific islands.

BDT in its response to questions on where to find additional information provided links to past and upcoming Regional Economic Dialogues (REDs) and “Experts’ Knowledge Exchanges”. On the question of events focusing, in particular, on the digital economy and the collaboration with economic institutions which have primary responsibility for economic policy, BDT gave, as an example, the [Financial Inclusion Global Initiative (FIGI)](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/extcoop/figisymposium/Pages/default.aspx). Led by ITU, the World Bank Group and the Committee on Payments and Market Infrastructures, and with financial support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, FIGI is a three-year programme of collective action to advance research in digital finance and accelerate digital financial inclusion in developing countries.

With respect to the [Digital Ecosystem Portal](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regulatory-Market/Pages/Collaborative_Regulation/App_Economy.aspx), which was considered to contain a lot of material, including the report [“POWERING THE DIGITAL ECONOMY: Regulatory approaches to securing consumer privacy, trust and security”](https://www.itu.int/dms_pub/itu-d/opb/pref/D-PREF-BB.POW_ECO-2018-PDF-E.pdf) some questions were raised about the subject matter of this report. BDT noted these comments while clarifying that this portal aims to share knowledge and practices on issues relevant to policy-makers and regulators in the evolving ecosystem, responding to issues as raised by membership in the GSR Best Practice Guidelines.

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| TDAG noted the document with interest and appreciation and participants requested further clarification on events, portals, studies and research, and asked that information on reports and studies be made available to membership and shared with regional offices so that best practices on policy and regulation could be widely disseminated. BDT agreed, provided further clarification on where on the ITU website the reports could be found, and, as requested, here supplies the links to materials on the digital economy and GSR guidelines in the section above. |

* 1. **Digital inclusion**

[**Document 31**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG24-C-0031/) presents an overview of ITU-D Digital Inclusion Programme, including the objectives, strategies and key actions that have been implemented or are planned.

Notable activities include three self-paced online training courses on “ICT Accessibility: the Key to Inclusive Communication” developed and made available through the ITU Academy. A total of 15 video tutorials have been produced to show how to develop and remediate accessible digital documents. In addition, the ITU-D educational 360° [web accessibility programme, Internet for @ll](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Digital-Inclusion/Persons-with-Disabilities/Pages/Internet-for-@ll.aspx), has been developed and made available in English, French, Spanish and Arabic. The programme helps ITU Member States make public websites and information accessible to all citizens, including persons with disabilities, while building country expertise in ICT accessibility.

A Digital Skills Toolkit has been publicized, along with the joint ITU-ILO Digital Skills for Jobs Campaign on Decent Jobs for Youth, in order to incentivize stakeholders to train 5 million young people with job-ready digital skills.

Over 500 ITU members have enhanced their knowledge and/or successfully obtained ITU certifications in ICT accessibility topics through participation in face-to face training delivered at regional events or via online training offered by the ITU Academy. Around 300 indigenous people have also benefited from the successful online training course on indigenous radio/networks.

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| TDAG noted the document with interest and appreciation, acknowledging the need to highlight the importance of implementing policies on digital inclusion and accessibility, and underlining the need to foster an enabling environment to achieve trust in ICTs. |

* 1. **Capacity-building activities**

The [ITU Academy](https://academy.itu.int/index.php?lang=en) platform serves as the main delivery mechanism for ITU training activities. In 2018 alone, approximately 1 840 participants were trained through 55 courses delivered by the centres of excellence (CoE) network. Capacity-building activities focused primarily on policy and regulation, broadband access, cybersecurity, ICT applications and services, spectrum management, Internet governance, innovation, digital broadcasting, conformance and interoperability, cloud computing, quality of service and ICT accessibility. [**Document 18**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG24-C-0018/)**:** “Capacity Building Activities” highlights the training delivered to the ITU membership in close collaboration with partners, including the centres of excellence, the private sector, and academia.

The [Global ICT Capacity Building Symposium (CBS)](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Capacity-Building/Pages/events/CBS/2018/default.aspx), held in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, from 18 to 20 June 2018, attracted 331 participants from 36 countries. The theme was developing skills for the digital economy and society. The outcomes of the symposium provided strategic guidance to the national and international community on issues relating to skill development in the field of ICTs and digital technologies.

The publication “Capacity Building in a Changing ICT Environment 2018” features articles highlighting the different levels of skills required, from basic digital skills to more advanced competencies such as network management and data analytics.

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| TDAG noted the document with appreciation and noted the important activities related to the centres of excellence, ITU Academy, and working in partnership with other stakeholders. TDAG suggested that BDT could explore mechanisms to leverage the expertise created through the training activities and emphasized the importance of including the gender dimension in capacity building and skills development work. |

The Group on Capacity Building Initiatives (GCBI) was established pursuant to Resolution 40, adopted at WTDC-10, and revised at WTDC-2017 to advise the BDT Director on matters relating to capacity building.[**Document 17**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG24-C-0017/)provides a summary of their work.

During its meeting on 27-28 February 2018 in Geneva, GCBI exchanged regional experiences and noted an increase in the demand for digitally skilled workers in all regions and the inability of most countries to develop the requisite skills at the pace required by digital transformation. The target audience for capacity-building activities needs to be broad and include professionals, such as middle and senior-level managers, young people and students, researchers, SMEs, underserved communities and other ICT users.

TDAG welcomed the work of GCBI, thanked the previous Chairman Mr Santiago Reyes‐Borda (**Canada**) for his hard work and charismatic leadership, and welcomed the new GCBI Chairman Dr Lidia Stępińska-Ustasiak, Counsellor, Head of Social Policy Unit, Office of Electronic Communications (UKE) of **Poland**. TDAG expressed appreciation for the proposed future work of GCBI, including plans to develop an ITU capacity building framework, a harmonized way to take stock of activities, and new models to identify different target audiences.

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| TDAG noted the document with appreciation, recognizing the importance of doing work to build capacity for digital inclusion, including digital literacy. |

**6.8 Breakout session: Capacity building and skills development**

During the breakout session on capacity building and skills development, there was overall agreement that certified, structured training courses add greater value and impact compared with typical capacity-building workshops. In addition to the courses currently offered on the ITU Academy platform, participants suggested that training was also needed for policy-makers at decision-making and less technical levels. Participants agreed that ITU should expand its capacity development work to provide digital skills training to those at the bottom of the pyramid and outside the ICT sector. Such capacity-building work could be performed by involving local community networks and implementing training-of-trainers courses. Regional telecommunication organizations could help to map capacity development initiatives, select experts, and identify digital skills gaps and needs in the regions.

* 1. **ICT data and statistics, including World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Symposium (WTIS)**

[**Document 19**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG24-C-0019/)**:** “Report on ICT Data and Statistics 2018” provides a summary of the work carried out in 2018. The report covers data collection and dissemination, methodology development, data analysis, and capacity building.

ITU continued to collect internationally comparable ICT statistics through three questionnaires: the World Telecommunication Indicators questionnaire, the questionnaire on access and use of ICTs by households and individuals, and the ICT Price Basket questionnaire. Data collected were disseminated through the ITU World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Database.

Methodologies and international standards on ICT statistics are continuously improved through the work of the Expert Group on Telecommunication/ICT Indicators (EGTI) and the Expert Group on ICT Household Indicators (EGH). Meetings of EGTI and EGH took place in Geneva, in October 2018. Nearly 130 statistical experts from ICT ministries, national statistical offices telecommunication regulators from 54 countries and international organizations attended the meetings and discussed how to better track access to and use of ICTs by households and individuals.

BDT also successfully organized the 16th World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Symposium (WTIS-18) in Geneva, which attracted more than 320 participants from 85 countries, representing public and private organizations, including ministries, regulators, national statistical agencies, universities and research institutions, telecommunication operators, ICT firms and regional and international organizations. The “Measuring the Information Society Report 2018 - Volume 1” was released during WTIS-18. Unlike previous editions, however, it did not feature the ICT Development Index (IDI).

BDT explained that in 2018, the IDI was not published because of the limited data submitted by countries which required ITU to make excessive estimates and concerns over the quality of data submitted for some of the new indicators, even though BDT had organized capacity-building workshops to help address the new indicators in all the regions.

In order to remedy the issue and publish the IDI in 2019, the ICT Data and Statistics Division (IDS) has embarked on another series of capacity building workshops around the world. While this has helped to improve the quality of data, it may not solve all of the issues. An option for 2019 will be to use the old indicators for the IDI, and to phase in new indicators only when certain thresholds are met in terms of quantity and quality of the data provided by Member States. However, this will make ITU statistics lag behind developments in the ICT sector and not reflect the true technological evolution. TDAG noted that Resolution 131 (Rev. 2018, Dubai) has placed more demands on the staff in the division, and in order to carry out the work, resources will need to be increased.

The BDT Director noted that the quality and reliability of ITU data provides the basis for analysis and decision-making across the ITU membership and beyond. ITU will continue to provide capacity building for ITU Member States, and ITU regional offices can play a central role in interfacing with administrations. The BDT Director will submit a proposal to Council-19 to strengthen internal statistical capacity.

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| TDAG noted the document with interest and appreciation, recognizing that ICT statistics are a critical output of ITU and an essential input for ICT policy. TDAG also stressed that statistics published by ITU must be reliable and trustworthy. TDAG encouraged experts from Member States to contribute actively in the ongoing work.  BDT agreed that it will continue to make best efforts to collect the data associated with the new indicators including through capacity building workshops, and will engage the regional offices in these efforts. |

**6.10 Breakout session: ICT data and statistics**

During the breakout session on ICT data and statistics, participants underlined the need to maintain ITU’s role as the main source for global ICT data, and that trust, relevance, visibility, accessibility to data, and cooperation with various stakeholders are essential components. Participants agreed that data should be collected on emerging topics and new services, in partnership with other relevant organizations. Statistical work should be shared with ITU study groups as needed. The Measuring the Information Society Report could be divided into a series of smaller, more focused reports, which would enhance visibility and impact. However, participants noted that there could be drawbacks with this approach as they wanted everything contained in one publication that could serve as reference. Cost implications should be studied on submitting questionnaires in all the six languages, including translation of all documents into all official languages. Some suggested that ITU should be pragmatic and realistic when including new indicators in the ICT Development Index, focusing on indicators with widely available quality data. The conceptual framework also needs to be continuously revisited. The ICT Development Index analysis could be enhanced by exploring a number of factors that potentially impact the rankings and by including policy recommendations.

In [**Document 35**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG24-C-0035/)**,** the **Russian Federation** suggested actions to fulfil the new instruction given in Resolution 131 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) (Measuring Information and Communication Technologies to Build an Integrating and Inclusive Information Society) for ITU-D study groups to take into account the relevant findings in the “[Measuring the Information Society Report](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Pages/publications/misr2018.aspx)” (MISR).

TDAG agreed that IDS staff should present data to study group meetings relevant to questions under consideration. Rapporteurs or vice-chairmen of study groups could also attend the statistical expert meetings and could provide inputs. However, this should not add to the workload of study groups.

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| TDAG agreed that relevant ITU ICT statistics and information on the latest publications should be made available to study groups, that revision or update to such data should be made by experts in the statistics field in the expert group and that members of study groups could be invited to attend these meetings, as appropriate. |

**6.11 Emergency telecommunications, climate change, e-waste, LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS**

[**Document 26**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG24-C-0026/)**:** provides a summary of work on these topics and describes concentrated assistance to least developed countries (LDCs), landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) and small island developing states (SIDS).

Activities implemented in 2018 included face-to-face and online training, sharing guidelines and good practices on ICT access and use as part of policy guidance. A special report “[ICTs, LDCs, and the SDGs – Achieving Universal and Affordable Internet in the LDCs](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/LDCs/Pages/ICTs-for-SDGs-in-LDCs-Report.aspx)” has been published, highlighting that, while Internet access has increased substantially, 800 million people in LDCs are still unconnected.

BDT worked within the Environment Management Group (EMG) and was instrumental in establishing what is now known as the E-waste Coalition. During the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum in Davos, the E-waste Coalition published the report “[A New Circular Vision for Electronics - Time for a Global Reboot](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Climate-Change/Pages/ewaste/A-New-Circular-Vision-for-Electronics-Time-for-a-Global-Reboot.aspx)”, in which ITU and six other UN entities came together, with the support of the World Economic Forum and World Business Council for Sustainable Development, and called for an overhaul of the current electronic system, with the aim of supporting international efforts to address challenges relating to e-waste.

BDT organized the 3rd Global Forum on Emergency Telecommunications (GET-19): Saving Lives, held from 6 to 8 March 2019, in Balaclava, Mauritius. It was attended by multi-stakeholders from governments and private sector, international and non-governmental organizations.

A question was raised as to whether BDT plans to write similar reports on LLDCs and SIDS that face unique challenges due to transit relationship. BDT confirmed that similar reports are being prepared jointly with the Office of the High Representative for LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS in New York.

Clarification was also sought on the methodology used in the [country case studies](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/LDCs/Pages/Publications.aspx) referenced in the document and on whether ITU had discussed possible synergies with the case studies which the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) is carrying out under its “[Rapid eTrade Readiness Assessment of Least Developed Countries (eT Ready)](https://unctad.org/en/Pages/Publications/E-Trade-Readiness-Assessment.aspx)”, especially given that one of the seven areas of those studies is “ICT infrastructure and services”.

BDT explained that its case studies were carried out on the basis of structured interviews, survey data, and document review which translates to both primary and secondary sources. **The UNCTAD Programme on Rapid eTrade Readiness Assessment** was designed to provide a thorough overview of the current e-commerce situation in the countries. BDT works very closely with UNCTAD and the World Trade Organization (WTO) on the role of ICTs in facilitating trade. BDT is a partner on the “e-Trade for All initiative”, and participates in the annual UNCTAD e-Commerce week. UNCTAD and ITU also work closely as members of the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development. BDT will create links to the UNCTAD “eT Ready” assessments and explore whether it could link to ITU’s work on LDCs.

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| TDAG noted the report with interest and appreciation, recognizing the importance of initiatives on emergency telecommunications, climate change, e-waste, LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS to all members. |

**6.12 ITU-D projects**

[**Document 27**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG24-C-0027/)**:** “ITU-D Projects”provides an overview of the project implementation and outcomes in the six ITU-D regions: Africa, Americas, Arab States, Asia-Pacific, Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), Europe, as well as globally.

## Some 20 new projects, valued at around CHF 10.8 million, were developed and signed in 2018. Most projects are developed for Member States, co-financed by ITU and external partners.

## As at year-end 2018, the ITU project portfolio had 63 ongoing projects, valued at CHF 68 413 879 and with the following regional distribution of projects: Asia-Pacific (11); Africa (11); Americas (8); Arab States (9); and CIS (1). ITU projects are mostly funded through extra-budgetary resources. Projects have four types of funding sources: Funds in Trust (FIT), ICT Development Fund (ICTDF), voluntary contributions, and the ITU regular budget. Most projects have at least two funding sources.

Funds from ICTDF are granted as seed money to implement projects related to BDT areas of action in developing and least developed countries. Projects are chosen based on their potential long-term sustainable impact and their facilitation of multi-national cooperation and partnership.

For funding projects which implement the WTDC-17 regional initiatives, ITU Council-18 allocated CHF 2 million for the period 2018-2019 from the 2017 operational plan and included CHF 3 million for 2020-2021 in the Financial Plan 2020-2023. These funds were allocated as seed money to attract funds from partners. As an initial step towards the implementation of regional initiatives, ten new projects from all regions were under development at the end of 2018 for implementation from 2019.

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| TDAG noted these efforts with interest and appreciation. |

* 1. **Innovation**

[**Document 22**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG24-C-0022/)**:** “ITU-D Innovation”provides an overview of ITU-D innovation as one of the outputs and goals adopted at WTDC-17 and endorsed at PP-18.

TDAG noted the various actions implemented by BDT, particularly, in knowledge sharing, empowering stakeholders through innovation capacity building and in national innovation ecosystem assessments through close coordination with regional offices. TDAG welcomed the ways forward with regard to strengthening innovation activities, in particular, the launch of new toolkits to accelerate digital transformation, building an entrepreneurial ecosystem and nurturing innovation communities; scaling up expert-led digital innovation profile assessments; increasing innovation capacity building at the national, regional and global levels and creating synergies between different ITU platforms, for example ITU Telecom World and WSIS.

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| TDAG noted the document with interest and appreciation, recognizing innovation as an imperative for future growth in all sectors. |

**6.14 Breakout session: ITU-D Innovation**

The breakout session on innovation aimed to scale up the impact and delivery of the innovation programme throughout the organization. Discussions highlighted the need to build a culture of innovation in ITU (potentially by including physical innovation spaces) in line with the objectives set forth by the membership. The need to inject innovation into ITU’s products and services through co-creation with membership and promotion of entrepreneurship were key recommendations. Additionally, participants highlighted the importance of a national, regional and global platform to facilitate interaction between stakeholders and to enable knowledge sharing for sustainability. Furthermore, other measures, such as a measurement framework to help scale ICT-centric innovation and the development of an innovation assistance fund, were seen as beneficial to scale impact.

* 1. **Membership, partnership and private sector-related matters**

[**Document 20**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG24-C-0020/)**:** “ITU-D Sector Membership”provides an overview of the evolution of ITU-D Sector membership and its strategies and actions to strengthen membership in accordance with the outcomes of WTDC-17 and PP-18.

A number of strategic objectives were highlighted and include reaching out to new entities to join as Sector Members, Associates, Academia and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Reaching out to new entities is done in close coordination and cooperation with regional and area offices at various regional and international events, and goes hand in hand with communicating and promoting BDT programmes, projects, initiatives and actions. A pilot project implemented by ITU-D study groups to encourage SMEs to participate in their work has proved to be an attractive initiative. It is hoped that the decision of PP-18 to introduce reduced fees for SMEs will help increase industry participation, particularly from developing countries. Academia is the main growing segment, with 37 new affiliated academic institutions having joined the work of all three Sectors. Outreach for Academia is led by the General Secretariat, with the support of the three Sectors.

In 2018 ITU-D attracted eight new Sector Members: ECPAT International **(Thailand**); World Wide Web Foundation **(United States**); Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (**Zambia**); Mobile and Wireless Forum IVZW **(Belgium**); Turkcell Iletisim Hizmetleri A.S (**Turkey**); Sigma Telecom (**Turkey**); Symantec Corporation (**United States**); Masyarakat Telematika Indonesia (**Indonesia**). Furthermore, the following four joined as Associates: High-tech Bridge SA (Switzerland); Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd. (**India**); Axon Partners Group Consulting (**Spain**); and NRD Cyber Security (**Lithuania**). During the same period, nine Sector Members and one Associate left ITU-D: Sri Lanka Telecom Ltd. (**Sri Lanka**); Thuraya Telecommunications Company; PT Indosat Tbk. (I**ndonesia**); ADD International (**Bangladesh**); Sitronics Ex. JSC Intellect Telecom (**Russian Federation**); Guyana Telephone and Telegraph Co. Ltd. (**Guyana**); Central Science Research Telecommunications (**Russian Federation**); UMTS Forum (**United Kingdom**); Telecom Egypt Data S.A.E (TE Data) **(Egypt**); and Sysoco (**France**) (Associate).

In terms of Academia, the following five left all ITU Sectors: Ecole Polytechnique Federale de Lausanne (**Switzerland**); Lund University (**Sweden**); Aarhus University Department of Engineering (**Denmark**); University of Groningen (**Netherlands**); and King Abdullah University of Science (**Saudi Arabia**).

TDAG discussed measures to increase Sector membership while taking note that Academia and Associate categories are the main growing segments of membership. Member States, regional offices and Sector Member industry associations were invited to further engage and reach out to existing and prospective members, including SMEs, in national and regional events and the Private Sector Chief Regulatory Officers (CRO) meeting to be held at GSR-19.

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| TDAG noted these efforts with interest and appreciation, and BDT agreed to make best efforts to maintain existing members and recruit new ones, and would list all Sector Members in the regions on the Regional Presence website. |

[**Document 21**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG24-C-0021/)**:** “ITU-D Partnership and resource mobilization” presents the key objective, actions for results-based management, and ways forward to enhance partnership and resource mobilization.

After recalling the importance of partnership and resource mobilization highlighted by WTDC-17 and PP-18, the document presents an overview of the key objective, actions for results-based management, and future plans to enhance partnership and resource mobilization with diverse stakeholders including other United Nations agencies and international and regional organizations. The document also provides an analysis of the number of new partnerships signed during the four-year development cycle. In 2018, forty-three new partnership agreements and seven addenda/amendments were signed between BDT and various stakeholders.

BDT will continue to enhance resource mobilization and strengthen the partnership with multi-stakeholders from not only the ICT sector, but also beyond in the converged ecosystem to implement WTDC-17 outcomes, WSIS Goals, and PP-18 Goals – especially new Goal 5 - as well as the contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), SDG 17 in particular.

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| TDAG noted the document with interest and appreciation, recognizing the importance of partnerships to assist the ITU through the BDT address the gaps in ICT connectivity, access and use. |

**6.16 Breakout session: Partnership building and resource mobilization for projects**

The breakout session on partnership building and resource mobilization for projects aimed to strengthen strategic partnerships (including resource mobilization) with a variety of stakeholders. Discussions highlighted the need to adopt a multi-stakeholder platform approach, taking into consideration the interests and complementary capabilities of all parties, not only the beneficiary countries. A more flexible and modular approach towards project design and implementation was recommended for more inclusive stakeholder participation at different stages of the project cycle. Participants stressed the importance of enhancing efforts to raise awareness about ITU’s work including partnership opportunities, and exploring more strategic alliances with development banks and other UN agencies. Lastly, participants recalled the key role of ITU membership in promoting the work of ITU-D and supporting resource mobilization efforts for regional initiatives and projects.

1. **REPORTS FROM THE REGIONS: ACTIVITIES and TRENDS**

WTDC-17 and PP-18 actions made clear that the ITU regional presence was an important priority for membership in all Sectors, and that the regional offices should play an active role in carrying out the overall ITU strategic plan. In addition to TDAG’s six informal sessions during which all ITU Regional Directors, accompanied by staff from the regional offices, described activities undertaken to serve ITU membership in the field, particularly to implement the regional initiatives adopted at WTDC-17, all Regional Directors presented reports on their annual activities for 2018 and recent ongoing activities including capacity building, which going forward will include interfacing with administrations in the regions to build capacity in data collection and statistics. Information on the regional development forums scheduled for 2019 was also presented and TDAG participants engaged in a brainstorming breakout session to raise questions, exchange views and provide ideas and input on the ITU regional presence. The six informal sessions on the regional initiatives are summarized here: [TDAG-19/DT/11](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG24-190403-TD-0011/en), and summaries of the breakout session can be found in **Section 7.4 below** (brief) and in **Annex 2** (full) in this report.

**7.1 Activities in 2018**

[Annex 1 to Performance Report 2018](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG24-C-0002/) features world and regional trends in access to and use of ICTs from 2005 to 2018, as well as information on the implementation of regional initiatives in 2018.

All Regional Directors gave brief summaries of regional activities undertaken during 2018. They emphasized the importance of partnerships and mobilizing additional funding from ITU membership and other sources to implement the regional initiatives. Ways of collaboration and coordination among the regions and between regional and global activities of the three ITU Sectors were discussed.

In the **Africa region,** activities were implemented under 13 technical cooperation projects with an overall cost of USD 2.8 million, in collaboration with Member States. In addition, 41 actions under the BDT operational plan were implemented for an amount of CHF 850 000.

For example, ITU provided support to the Africa Telecommunications Union (ATU) in organizing the preparatory meetings for the World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-19) and other global events. ITU assisted countries as they sought to harmonize policies and regulatory frameworks in the region. Ongoing projects include: institutional reform, telemedicine, wireless broadband, judiciary training, computer incident response team (CIRT), m-diabetes, and m-cervical cancer. Several regional workshops were organized on conformance and interoperability, IPv6, cybersecurity, Internet of Things (IoT), ICT economics and finance, quality of service, international roaming, and ICT accessibility and digital inclusion. Several national workshops were also organized.

In the **Americas region**, activities were implemented under 12 technical cooperation projects for an amount of USD 1 million, in collaboration with Member States. In addition, activities under 35 actions in the BDT operational plan were implemented for a total amount of USD 589 000.

Twenty-two additional capacity building activities were implemented in ICT policy and regulation, IoT communication protocols, LTE radio access technologies, radio-frequency spectrum, cybersecurity, emergency communications, satellite communications, digital television, ICTs and climate change, Internet exchange points (IXPs) and optical access in network communications. Direct assistance was also provided to different countries in e-waste management, national ICT plans, transition from analogue to digital broadcasting, infrastructure deployment and web accessibility. Several regional workshops and forums on conformance and interoperability, Internet governance, cyberbullying, ICT accessibility and digital inclusion, cybersecurity and cyber drills, emergency telecommunications, and IoT were organized.

In the **Arab States region**, activities were implemented under five technical cooperation projects for USD 872 000, in collaboration with Member States. In addition, 29 activities were implemented for an amount of CHF 404 000.

Through the ITU Arab States region centres of excellence network, 13 capacity building courses were implemented in different aspects of ICT applications and services, new technologies and broadband. A cooperation agreement was signed to organize Girls in ICT Day events until 2019. Assistance was provided to the Arab Incubators and Technoparks Network, and a study was conducted on Internet networks and IXPs development in the region. Capacity building activities were organized and direct assistance was provided to various countries. Efforts related to cybersecurity were continued, e.g., through organizing the regional Cybersecurity Week, child online protection and other cybersecurity activities. The office promoted ICT accessibility by organizing the regional ICT Accessibility Week.

In the **Asia and the Pacific region**, activities were implemented under ten technical cooperation projects for a total amount of USD 668 000, in collaboration with Member States and partners. In addition, 35 activities were implemented for an amount of CHF 402 000.

The key emphasis was on specialized assistance and capacity building in the areas of radio spectrum management and monitoring, spectrum master plans, policy and regulatory frameworks, cybersecurity, CIRT, national cybersecurity strategies and child online protection, broadband, conformance and interoperability, ICT applications, telecommunication sector road maps and e-applications for Pacific Islands, quality of service, ICT indicators and statistics, Internet of Things, implementation of IPv6, ICTs for promoting innovation, ICTs for the empowerment of women, e-governance, smart and sustainable cities, e-agriculture, and emergency telecommunications. In terms of training, the focus was on the areas above and on quality of service, blockchain, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) for agriculture, digital financial services, digital skills for job creation, among others.

In the **Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) region**, BDT implemented 20 activities for an amount of CHF 292 000.

To raise ITU members’ awareness and disseminate best practices, regional events were organized on e-health, cybersecurity and child online protection, digital transformation, mobile number portability and conformance and interoperability, big data and cloud computing, IoT and future networks, spectrum management, and IMT-2020/5G. Other activities include online training courses on e-health for students, doctors and IT professionals, implementing ITU-T international standards to shape smart sustainable cities, country assistance on redistributing digital dividend frequencies for new technologies including IoT, as well as assessment of readiness to implement a national CIRT.

In the **Europe region**, BDT implemented activities under two technical cooperation projects for a total amount of USD 493 000 in collaboration with Member States. In addition, 26 activities were implemented for an amount of CHF 257 000.

Efforts to strengthen the implementation mechanism for the region were continued, including coordinating actions with relevant organizations and UN bodies in the region. More than 32 workshops, seminars, and expert group meetings on broadcasting, broadband, accessibility, cybersecurity, innovation, human capacity building were organized in 2018. In addition, human capacity of more than 660 professionals was built through the Europe region network of centres of excellence that offered more than 17 training opportunities in 2018. Direct assistance was provided to several countries in the fields of innovation, broadcasting, broadband, cybersecurity, and ICT applications. More than 10 publications and reports were written during the year.

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| TDAG noted all activities with interest and appreciation, and welcomed this open dialogue and interaction with the Regional Directors as a source of first-hand information allowing TDAG to become apprised of the tremendous amount of work on behalf of members, and to provide guidance and advice where needed. With so many activities implemented, TDAG asked how the impact of the activities could be best measured, suggesting that all success stories be widely shared, and any challenges faced in implementing planned activities be documented as lessons learned. |

**7.2 2019 Regional Development Forums**

The status of preparations for regional development forums (RDFs) to be held in 2019 can be found in [**Document 14**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG24-C-0014/). TDAG was invited to provide appropriate guidance to ensure that the forums provide the best possible value to the Development Sector, while contributing to the implementation of the WSIS action lines and achievement of SDGs.

PP-18 reviewed the role of regional offices, requesting that ITU ensure that all planned activities of the three Sectors and the General Secretariat in the regions are consolidated into the parts of the operational plans relating to regions and implemented in coordination with the regional offices.

WTDC-17 resolved to reinforce the platforms for regional coordination, including regional development forums, with the aim of strengthening the regional presence as an extension of ITU as whole, and ensuring that the activities of the Radiocommunication Bureau (BR) and the Telecommunication Standardization Sector (TSB) are effectively incorporated in the actions of regional offices. A series of regional development forums have been scheduled in 2019 with this in mind.

Building upon PP-18 and WTDC-17 outcomes, RDFs should provide an opportunity for dialogue between regional offices and decision-makers in ITU Member States and Sector Members on the activities carried out at the regional level, so that they can play a part in implementing the ITU strategic plan and the programmes, projects and regional initiatives set out in Resolution 17 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of WTDC. The format and function of RDFs have evolved based on the membership guidance in Resolution 25 (Rev. Dubai, 2018).

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| TDAG noted the contents of the document with appreciation, and, as mentioned, in discussing the report on WSIS activities, agreed that going forward a segment on WSIS and SDGs should be included as a regular agenda item at the regional development forums. |

**7.3 Financing Regional Initiatives**

The **Regional Commonwealth in the Field of Communications (RCC)** submitted [**Document 37**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG24-C-0037/)**:** “Proposals for Financing Regional Initiatives” which examines the practice by which ITU partners conclude agreements to implement projects within the framework of the regional initiatives that contain in-kind contributions. One reason for this approach, they explain, is the difficulty a number of developing countries have to allocate money for projects from their national budget, which is often approved long before the deadline for coordinating projects to implement the regional initiatives.

A proposal was put forward to preserve the practice of accepting the in-kind contributions of project partners.

BDT clarified that in-kind contributions can only be accepted to finance regional initiatives if they can be quantified using a sound methodology and have all supporting documentation to ensure compliance with internal financial regulations and external audit requirements. They stressed that accounting for in-kind contributions will occur in accordance with IPSAS (international public sector accounting standards).

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| In discussing the seed money that has been allocated by the Council for the regional initiatives, TDAG agreed that in-kind contributions that can be quantified can be included in project documents as one of the funding sources, and must be submitted with the initial project document. |

**7.4 Breakout session: The role of regional presence**

During a breakout session on the role of regional presence, discussions included suggestions on ways the regional and area offices can better respond to the needs of the members, represent the ITU as a whole, and leverage ITU’s membership in the wider United Nations family by working with UN Resident Coordinators. The need to ensure that regional and area offices possess the right skill sets to be able to provide direct assistance to members was also stressed. Bringing the work of the study groups closer to the countries was also mentioned. Roles and relationships of ITU Sectors and regional and area offices should be further clarified to strengthen collaboration and synergies. The breakout session also emphasized the need to comply with Joint Inspection Unit recommendations.

1. **ITU-D STUDY GROUPS**

Reports from both study groups, found in Documents 12 and 13, were considered together.

**8.1 Study Group 1**

Ms Regina Fleur Assoumou Bessou, Chairman of Study Group 1, presented the status of work undertaken in this group since the start of the new study period (2018-2021). Her report may be found in [**Document 12**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG24-C-0012/)**.** With seven Questions,Study Group 1 covers the enabling environment for telecommunications/ICTs. One hundred thirty one delegates from 57 Member States attended the first meeting in the 2018-2021 study period (30 April to 4 May 2018, ITU Headquarters, Geneva). Notable from this meeting: the appointment of 9 rapporteurs/co-rapporteurs and 71 vice-rapporteurs to lead the Questions under study; 93 contributions; the approval of work plans and initial outlines/tables of contents for all expected outputs assigned by WTDC-17; 29 incoming liaison statements and 13 outgoing liaison statements. Subsequent Rapporteur group meetings (17 to 28 September 2018) refined the outlines of study group Question deliverables, presented for review a report on trends in new broadcasting technologies for consideration at the upcoming annual Study Group 1 meeting as an annual deliverable, and continued to exchange information and develop text to be included in the reports, guidelines and case studies.

The second annual meeting of Study Group 1 (18 to 22 March 2019) which immediately preceded TDAG-19, attracted 160 participants from 57 Member States. Participants appointed nine additional vice-rapporteurs to support the Questions under study; received 152 contributions to advance the work; received 23 incoming liaison statements and dispatched five outgoing liaison statements. The meeting also featured a successful discussion panel on trends in new broadcasting technologies, services and applications, which also highlighted a report produced by the Question 2/1 Rapporteur Group report on this topic.

**8.2 Study Group 2**

Dr Ahmad Reza Sharafat, Chairman of Study Group 2 presented the status of work in this group since the start of the new study period (2018-2021). His report may be found in [**Document 13**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG24-C-0013/). With seven questions, Study Group 2 covers ICT services and applications to promote sustainable development. The first meeting in the 2018-2021 study period (7 to 11 May 2018, ITU headquarters, Geneva) was attended by 125 participants from 49 countries. Highlights from this meeting include: 12 rapporteurs/co-rapporteurs and 47 vice-rapporteurs appointed to lead the Questions under study; 99 contributions; 40 incoming liaison statements; 18 outgoing liaison statements; the approval of draft work plans and initial outlines/tables of contents for all expected outputs assigned by WTDC-17. Subsequent rapporteur group meetings (1 to 11 October 2018) refined the outlines of study group Question deliverables and continued to exchange information and develop text to be included in the reports, guidelines and case studies.

The second annual meeting (25 to 29 March 2019) which immediately preceded TDAG-19, brought together 133 participants from 49 countries. Participants at this meeting appointed two additional co-rapporteurs and seven additional vice-rapporteurs to support the Questions under study; received 101 contributions to advance the work, including draft chapters for final output reports and annual deliverables; received 27 incoming liaison statements and agreed on and dispatched 15 outgoing liaison statements. The meeting also featured a successful discussion panel on a holistic approach to creating smart societies which also highlighted a report produced by the Question 1/2 Rapporteur Group on this topic.

**8.3 Annual Reports**

As encouraged by WTDC-17 and the chairmen of the study groups, at their second annual meetings (March 2019) that immediately preceded TDAG-19, Study Group 1 and Study Group 2 each presented the first “annual deliverables” produced by the ITU-D study groups since their inception. Study Group 1 presented a report entitled ***Trends in New Broadcasting Technologies, Services and Applications[[7]](#footnote-8)*** and Study Group 2 presented a report entitled ***A Holistic Approach to Creating Smart Societies.[[8]](#footnote-9)*** The latter report suggests key principles in a holistic approach to creating smart societies, describes components of a layered architecture for a smart city and society and features some related case studies.

These reports will be published on the ITU-D study group website under the auspices of the Chairmen of Study Groups 1 and 2 respectively, under a new section to be added titled “Ongoing Work.” The reports are published there to provide ITU membership with timely information, to inform the public of the ongoing work, and to stimulate and encourage further contributions on these topics. TDAG noted that annual reports/deliverables produced by the study groups are desirable as a means to provide more timely information on important issues to study group participants and others, and as encouraged by WTDC-17 are new in the Development Sector and not yet covered in Resolution 1 (ITU-D Rules of Procedure).

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| TDAG noted the reports on study group activities with interest and appreciation, and observed that both study groups and all 14 Questions were making good progress towards the WTDC expected outputs under the leadership of the study group chairmen. TDAG commended the Chairman of ITU-D Study Group 1, Ms Regina Fleur Assoumou Bessou and the Chairman of ITU-D Study Group 2, Dr Ahmad Reza Sharafat for the impressive achievements both study groups have made in just one year in the 2018-2021 period.  Recognizing that expert knowledge exchanges on specific study topics had been conducted in several countries in 2018, TDAG appreciated that both study groups had been building synergies between the work undertaken in the study Questions and the activities in the regions. TDAG also noted that good progress was being made to identify possible links between ITU-D study Questions and ITU projects, ITU capacity building and WSIS activities, as well as with work in the other ITU Sectors. TDAG acknowledged the value of topical panel sessions held during the study group and rapporteur group meetings, including the additional sessions planned for the upcoming rapporteur group meetings in October 2019.  TDAG noted that the ITU-D study group website will feature a new section that will showcase ongoing work and will include the annual reports described above. TDAG participants also considered the possibility of involving external publishing companies to showcase quality work, and noted that it would be discussed further. |

**8.4 Appointment of two new Study Group Vice-Chairmen to vacant positions**

Nomination letters from the administrations of the **Russian Federation** and the **United Arab Emirates** for these candidates may be found in [**Document 8**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG24-C-0008/)**.**

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| TDAG appointed by acclamation **Ms Anastasia Sergeyevna Konukhova,** an international legal protection specialist at the Analysis Center of the Federal State Unitary Enterprise Radio Research and Development Instituteto serveas a Vice-Chairman of ITU-D Study Group 1.  TDAG appointed by acclamation **Mr Abdelaziz Alzarooni,** Information Security Engineer to serve as a Vice-Chairman of ITU-D Study Group 2. |

**8.5 Breakout session: ITU-D study groups - increasing efficiency**

The breakout session on ITU-D study groups considered three main issues to identify approaches and mechanisms to increase the efficiency and meaningfulness of ITU-D study group activities and outputs: (1) ITU-D study groups as a platform, (2) ITU-D study group deliverables and (3) the generation by members of great inputs for excellent outputs of ITU-D study groups. To allow for in-depth discussions in ITU-D study group meetings, the participation of experts should be ensured. Alternative mechanisms could be further explored (including 1-1 matchmaking and online collaboration and exchange) to provide stakeholders with opportunities to exchange experiences. While the content of the deliverables was satisfactory overall, more efforts are needed to raise awareness, present and share such reports and guidelines to a wider audience. Consolidated topical reports and the revision of existing reports to ensure that they reflect the changing digital environment was encouraged. Countries in particular regions would further benefit from deliverables that are customized to specific needs of the regions. Such a regional focus and additional in-depth input from the countries could be achieved through closer collaboration with regional and area offices. As for the meetings of ITU-D study groups, it is necessary to reconsider the structure and schedule of work to balance the allocated time and associated workload of each rapporteur group.

1. **COLLABORATION with the OTHER SECTORS**

Documents 5, 9, 10, 11, 24, 28, 38 and 41 were considered together. The **TDAG bureau** will consult on all liaison statements involving inter-Sector coordination and will provide appropriate responses within the time frame requested.

**9.1 Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG) on issues of mutual interest**

The Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG) on issues of mutual interest was established through decisions of the Sector advisory groups to optimize use of ITU resources. [**Document 5**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG24-C-0005/)**,** introduced by the ISCG Chairman, Mr Fabio Bigi (**Italy**)**,** contains the group’s most recent progress report which highlights recent achievements and future plans.

Under Resolution 191 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) (coordination efforts among the three Sectors) the ISCG mandate is now to identify mechanisms to strengthen cooperation and joint activity on issues of mutual interest among the three Sectors and the General Secretariat, paying particular attention to developing country interests and taking into account regional offices activities and their role to organize events, workshops, seminars, and symposia.

At its 4 April 2019 meeting, ISCG: agreed to a revised list of areas of mutual interest; agreed to revise its terms of reference[[9]](#footnote-10) to change the names of the TDAG representatives to ISCG, with Mr Al-ansari Almashakbeh replacing Ms Nurzat Boljobekova; agreed to request RAG and TSAG to add a hyperlink of the [ISCG website](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Conferences/TDAG/Pages/inter-sectoral-team-on-issues-of-mutual-interest.aspx) to their own websites; decided to post a mapping table of the ITU-D and ITU-T study group Questions on the [ISCG website](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Conferences/TDAG/Pages/inter-sectoral-team-on-issues-of-mutual-interest.aspx), to update the table as a living document,[[10]](#footnote-11) and to request the Inter-Sector Coordination Task Force (ISC-TF) to review the table to eliminate possible duplication; decided to post the table of resolutions adopted by the Plenipotentiary Conference (PP), Radiocommunication Assembly (RA), World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC), World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA) and WTDC on the [ISCG website](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Conferences/TDAG/Pages/inter-sectoral-team-on-issues-of-mutual-interest.aspx), so that each Sector could review, comment and use the mapping table to streamline resolutions as appropriate.

ISCG also proposed to start a practical trial of cooperation among the three Sectors and the General Secretariat on two or three specific topics to be discussed at the next meeting.[[11]](#footnote-12)

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| TDAG welcomed the progress report and commended Mr Bigi for the group’s achievements. TDAG approved the way forward and the appointment of Mr Al-ansari Almashakbeh (**Jordan**) as one of two TDAG representatives to the ISCG. |

[**Document 10**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG24-C-0010/) , an incoming liaison statement from ISCG dated 3 December 2018, submits to RAG, TSAG and TDAG for review, comment and approval revisions to its terms of reference that update the list of representatives to include Mr Al-ansari Almashakbeh. The revised terms are based on discussions that took place during the TDAG meeting and April 2018 Council meeting, and on revisions to Resolution 191 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) (coordination efforts among the three Sectors).

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| TDAG noted the document. |

Through [**Document 24**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG24-C-0024/), (Incoming liaison statement) TSAG reports that it approved the ISCG’s proposed revised terms of reference at its December 2018 meeting in Geneva. Also, in accord with revisions to Resolution 191 at PP-18 (Dubai), TSAG corrected the terms of reference to add the phrase “General Secretariat” and sent them to ISCG, and to TDAG and RAG for information.

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| TDAG noted the updates with interest. |

**9.2 Mapping Links between ITU-D, ITU-T, and ITU-R Study Group Activities**

Mapping between ITU-T study groups, working parties, work items, and ITU-D study Questions was initiated by ITU-T and began in the 2014-2017 study period. Three such tables have been developed: Table 1: ITU-D Questions vis-à-vis ITU-T Questions, including relevant work items (constantly evolving); Table 2: Matrix of ITU-D and ITU-T Questions; and Table 3: List of ITU-T Questions which could be related to ITU-D Questions even if no relevant ITU-T work items are planned/underway.

To facilitate coordination and further strengthen collaboration between the ITU-D study groups and the study groups in the other ITU Sectors, Study Group 1 and Study Group 2 updated these three tables at their first meetings in the 2018-2021 study period (April-May 2018), and continued this work during the ITU-D rapporteur group meetings in September and October 2018.. TDAG submitted the three updated mapping tables to the TSAG meeting in December 2018 for comment and any further action deemed appropriate.

Through [**Document 9**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG24-C-0009/): (Outgoing liaison statement) TDAG presents updates to the three tables that link ITU-D study Questions to related ITU-T work items and study Questions that TDAG sent to TSAG in December 2018.

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| TDAG noted the document, and thanked the chairmen of the ITU-D study groups along with Arseny Plossky (**Russian Federation**) and Dr Haim Mazar (**ATDI Group**) for their hard work to update the tables so comprehensively to support coordination between the Sectors. |

In **Document** [**41**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D18-TDAG24-C-0041): (Incoming liaison statement) the Chairmen of ITU-D Study Group 1 and Study Group 2 present to TDAG updates to charts mapping ITU-D Question-to-Question, ITU-D to ITU-T, and ITU-D to ITU-R to support collaboration. As many study group participants expressed uncertainty about the goal of the growing and extensive mapping exercises between and among the three Sectors, the statement also clarifies their understanding of the purpose of the various mapping exercises.

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| TDAG welcomed the liaison statement, noting that it is a result of extensive discussions in the ITU-D study groups, and that the statement clarifies their understanding that the purpose of the mapping tables is to identify topics of mutual interest and the entities responsible across the three ITU Sectors in accord with their mandates and Constitution and Convention of the Union, to improve information exchange within the Union on the topics of mutual interest, and so responsible entities in each Sector will know whom to contact for incoming and outgoing communications on such topics. |

In [**Document 11:**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG24-C-0011/) (Incoming liaison statement) **TSAG** provides updated mappings of common areas of work between the ITU-D and ITU-T study groups and between the ITU-R and ITU-T study groups for ITU inter-Sector coordination, specifically a chart: (i) matching ITU-D Study Group 1 and 2 Questions of interest to ITU-T study groups; and (ii) matching ITU-R 2working parties of interest to ITU-T study groups.

**TSAG** indicated that the mappings indicate either ongoing ITU inter-Sector cooperation or possibilities for new inter-Sector cooperation, and are expected to help the three Sectors avoid overlap. TSAG encouraged the groups to “take the next step” and engage in bilateral inter-Sector coordination, and invited any suggestions that would improve the collaboration and cooperation between the ITU Sectors. TSAG also requested to be informed of any overlap or possible duplication of work, and requested comments by 30 August 2019.

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| TDAG noted the document with interest. |

Through[**Document 28**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG24-C-0028/): (Incoming liaison statement) **TSAG** provides a table that maps the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference resolutions with WTSA, WTDC and RA resolutions, aimed at identifying candidate resolutions for streamlining. TSAG welcomes comments by 31 August 2019.

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| TDAG noted the document with interest. |

At its meeting 10-14 December 2018, TSAG had asked whether including rapidly evolving work items in the mapping tables is an appropriate way to support collaboration and cooperation across the Sectors, or whether it would be sufficient to include the study group Questions alone.Through **Document** [**38**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D18-TDAG24-C-0038), (Incoming liaison statement) **ITU-T Study Group 11** reports that at its most recent meeting (6 to 15 March 2019, Geneva) the decision was made to eliminate work items from the mapping lists because details of Questions and related work items are already listed on study group websites. Since the tables will now include the study Questions only, Study Group 11 reported that it does not have any updates to the matching tables provided by ITU-D study groups.

TSAG welcomes any comments by 31 August 2019.

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| TDAG noted the document. |

**10. PREPARATIONS for WTDC-21**

**10.1 Invitations and Contributions**

In **Document 39**, BDT presented the invitation from the Government of the **Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia** to host WTDC-21 in Addis Ababa in the last quarter of 2021. BDT indicated that consultations were under way with the Government of Ethiopia through its Ministry of Innovation and Technology in order to agree on the requirements for holding WTDC-21 outside Geneva. The offer from the Government of Ethiopia will be submitted to the ITU Council meeting in Geneva on 10-20 June 2019 to approve the place and dates in accordance with No. 42 of the ITU Convention.

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| TDAG thanked Ethiopia for the kind and generous invitation, expressed significant support for the proposal and noted the importance of beginning to make concrete plans, including decisions about regional preparatory meetings. TDAG Correspondence groups on WTDC will begin in 2020. |

## [Document 33](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG24-C-0033/): “Streamlining PP Resolution 208 and WTDC Resolutions 1 and 61” (Russian Federation) proposes to suppress Resolution 61 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) of WTDC on the appointment and maximum terms for TDAG and ITU-D study group chairmen and vice-chairmen, because PP-18 approved new Resolution 208 on this topic, and contains similar text found in Resolution 61. TDAG discussions indicated that while this suppression is justified, it will be necessary to modify Resolution 1 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of WTDC (Rules of procedure of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector) to ensure that it captures all relevant content in advance of supressing Resolution 61 at WTDC-21.

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| TDAG thanked the Russian Federation, noted the document with appreciation and agreed to take it into account in preparations for WTDC-21 and in proposals to update ITU-D Resolution 1 (rules of procedure). |

[**Document 34**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG24-C-0034/):the Russian Federation proposes that resolutions on WSIS and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted by PP and WTDC be streamlined at WTDC-21, specifically PP Resolution 140 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) on “ITU's role in implementing the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” and WTDC Resolution 30 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) on the “Role of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector in implementing the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, taking into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.”

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| TDAG thanked the Russian Federation, noted the document with appreciation and agreed to take it into account in preparations for WTDC-21. |

**10.2 Breakout session: WTDC preparatory process and format**

During the breakout session on the WTDC preparatory process and format, participants highlighted that during the previous WTDC the first three days were largely spent on policy statements. It was emphasized based on the experience of the last Plenipotentiary Conference that committees should start their meetings as soon as possible and preferably from day one of the conference, the policy statements could run in parallel with committee meetings. It was further suggested to consider organizing dialogue sessions/round tables one day prior to WTDC opening.

The discussions on regional preparatory meetings (RPMs) were focused on how these meetings could become more effective. There was general agreement that RPMs should be held back-to-back or together with other preparatory meetings organized by regional organizations. The group discussed as well that organizing informal inter-regional meetings could also facilitate discussion during WTDC, and suggested that this meeting(s) can be scheduled one day before the last TDAG prior to WTDC.

It was highlighted that there is a need to balance the work between committees (in particular committees 3 and 4), and also run committees in parallel as necessary. It was also suggested to engage more closely with other stakeholders, including academia and NGOs in the preparatory process.

The need to have a full understanding of the financial implications of conference proposals, including the regional initiatives, prior to their adoption was stressed.

**11. CALENDAR of ITU-D EVENTS**

[**Document 15**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG24-C-0015/)**:** “Calendar of ITU-D Events in 2019-2022”provides an overview of major meetings foreseen in this period, including the World Telecommunication Development Conference to be held in the last quarter of 2021, in line with Resolution 77 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) (scheduling future conferences, forums, Council etc. 2019-2023). The TDAG Chairman stressed ITU-D Resolution 1 Section 11(32), which provides that TDAG meetings should not take place in conjunction with the study group meetings, and that holding the TDAG meetings back to back with the study group meetings and WSIS results in four consecutive weeks of meetings for the Development Sector. Clustering major Sector meetings all together in this was an approach raised at PP-18 and expressly rejected by membership, she noted. Participants also requested that BDT make efforts to refrain from holding meetings that conflict with the Mobile World Congress meetings.

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| TDAG noted the document and emphasized the need to avoid conflicts with religious holidays, consecutive meetings of study groups, TDAG and WSIS, and major conferences in the sector. |

**ANNEX 1**

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

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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, Study Group 1 (Côte d'Ivoire)  Mr Nguyen Quy Quyen (Viet Nam) |
| 3 | Collaboration with other Sectors | **Mr Arseny Plossky** (Russian Federation)  Mr Al-ansari Almashakbeh (Jordan) |
| 4 | Capacity building and Academia | **Mr Ahmad Reza Sharafat**, Chairman, Study Group 2 (Islamic Republic of Iran)  Mr Abdulkarim Ayopo Oloyede (Nigeria)  Mr Hugo Darío Miguel (Argentina)  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 of America) |

**ANNEX 2**

**Summaries of TDAG-19 breakout sessions**

1. **Process and governance topics**

**1.1 Partnership building and resource mobilization for projects**

**Key takeaways:**

* The Telecommunication Bureau (BDT) is to focus on a multi-stakeholder platform approach taking into consideration the interests and complementary capabilities of all parties, not only the beneficiary countries.
* BDT is to consider a flexible and modular approach towards project design (governance structure, type of agreements and time-frame) and implementation (global and regional partnerships/projects open to embracing new partners at various stages).
* BDT and its membership are to enhance awareness-raising of ITU’s work, including partnership opportunities, exploring more strategic alliances with development banks and other UN agencies.
* Recall ITU-D membership’s key role in promoting the work of ITU-D and supporting resource mobilization efforts for regional initiatives and projects.

**Discussion summary:**

The ITU Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG) breakout session on partnership building and resource mobilization for projects was carried out with the objective of strengthening strategic partnerships (including resource mobilization) with a variety of stakeholders. Discussions focused on the need to adopt a multi-stakeholder platform approach for which projects can be modulated to accommodate interests from beneficiaries, donors and other partners. In particular, participants agreed on the need to better understand private-sector motivations and seek closer alignment with those of beneficiary countries.

A more flexible and modular approach towards project design and implementation was recommended. For all partners to benefit from the project and to ensure inclusiveness, their interests and capabilities should be matched within the structure of the project. Flexibility is required regarding the types of agreements and partnerships to enable partners to get involved at different stages.

Platforms for sharing information and opportunities were mentioned, while recognizing that the current fundraising scenario is very competitive. Participants agreed on the need for further efforts to raise awareness of ITU’s work and project portfolio. It was recommended that ITU continue to explore large-scale projects with strategic partners such as development banks and other UN agencies to (i) raise ITU’s visibility, (ii) avoid duplications and (iii) open to new sources of funds and partners.

National experiences with public-private partnerships (PPPs) were also shared, highlighting the importance of having appropriate national legislation and systems in place for the smooth functioning of PPPs. A forth “P” was noted, related to placing “people” (civil society) at the centre to thereby ensure a more inclusive approach. The concept of an “anchor partner” was shared, i.e. the key player(s) with high stakes in a project and therefore an interest in securing its success.

Lastly, participants recognized the competitiveness of fundraising. While ITU is a catalyst, as it already brings multi stakeholders together, it requires support from its membership in its effort to mobilize resources. It was therefore recommended that ITU membership take an active role in promoting the work of BDT for partnerships.

**1.2 The role of regional presence**

The discussions of the participants included suggestions on ways the regional and area offices can better respond to the needs of the members, represent the ITU as a whole, leverage ITU’s membership in the wider UN family by working with UN Resident Coordinators, and endeavour to increase its presence for countries. Field offices should monitor and evaluate projects in the field and bridge information flows between members. It was suggested to consider a specific number of online and physical meetings with countries and reflect that in a calendar shared with members.

Necessary human and financial resources should be reviewed in view of the limited resources available. In this regard, the financial procedures, transfer of funds for specific projects in the region, and related controls should also be reviewed.

The need to ensure that regional and area offices possess the right skill sets in order to be able to provide direct assistance to members was also stressed. Bringing the work of the study groups closer to the countries was also noted. Capacity building for field office staff should be conducted.

Participants discussed the need to strengthen collaboration and synergies between the regional and area offices, and other ITU Sectors. To that end, the roles and relationships concerning cooperation between Sectors and field offices should be further clarified.

Participants also emphasized the need to comply with Joint Inspection Unit recommendations.

**1.3 WTDC preparatory process and format**

Policy statements, regional preparatory meetings, inter-regional meetings, WTDC committees, other stakeholders, and regional initiatives.

Participants highlighted that during the previous WTDC, the first three days were largely spent on policy statements. It was emphasized based on the experience of the last Plenipotentiary Conference that committees should start their meetings as soon as possible and preferably from day one of the conference, the policy statements could run in parallel with committee meetings. It was further suggested to consider organizing dialogue sessions/round tables one day prior to WTDC opening.

The discussions on regional preparatory meetings (RPMs) were focused on how these meetings could become more effective. There was general agreement that RPMs should be held back-to-back or together with other preparatory meetings organized by regional organizations. The group discussed as well that organizing informal inter-regional meetings could also facilitate discussion during WTDC, and suggested that this meeting(s) can be scheduled one day before the last TDAG prior to WTDC.

It was highlighted that there is a need to balance the work between committees (in particular committees 3 and 4), and also run committees in parallel as necessary. It was also suggested to engage more closely with other stakeholders, including academia and NGOs in the preparatory process.

The need to have a full understanding of the financial implications of conference proposals, including the regional initiatives, prior to their adoption was stressed.

**1.4 ITU-D study groups - increasing efficiency**

**Key takeaways:**

* **In-depth discussions in ITU-D study groups could be facilitated** by ensuring the participation of experts and providing stakeholders with opportunities to exchange experiences (1-1 matchmaking, online collaboration and exchange, etc.), in addition to the formal study group settings.
* While the content of the deliverables was satisfactory overall, further efforts are needed to **raise awareness, present and share** such reports and guidelines. Consolidated topical reports and the revision of existing reports to ensure that they reflect the changing digital environment was encouraged.
* Countries in particular regions would further benefit from **deliverables that are customized to the specific needs of the regions.** Such a regional focus and additional in-depth input from the countries could be achieved through closer collaboration with regional and area offices.

**Discussion summary:**

1. Regarding possible improvements to **ITU-D study groups as exchange platforms**, the following points were raised:

* Ensure a **more flexible work structure and time management plan** by allocating time to each rapporteur group in proportion to the number of contributions received for consideration. This would require a flexible time management plan that is fixed when the contribution deadline is reached. At the same, changing the time management plan too close to the meeting should be avoided to allow members to plan their participation relating to specific questions of interest. Extending the deadline from 12 days to around 30 days may therefore be required.
* Encourage **more active use of the collaborative site** that facilitates online exchange of information during and between meetings (e.g. use of the platform to connect members with specific questions with members who have experiences in a specific area).
* Encourage “**speed-dating” sessions** by organizing in-depth exchange sessions to facilitate the sharing of experiences among specific countries and stakeholders to better understand commonalities, differences and lessons learned.
* Encourage **participation of authors of contributions** to ensure that sufficient expertise is available to answer more in-depth questions from other members when contributions are presented.
* Encourage **an open discussion between members of the management teams**, for example, to discuss what actions are undertaken by each member, identify problems to better measure progress made, etc.

1. Regarding the quality of **ITU-D study group deliverables** and ensuring their usefulness for the ITU membership, the following points were raised:

* **Dissemination of deliverables/reports**: the reports are of good quality, countries need to be more aware of them to assist them in responding to their national priorities. One possible approach is to extend expert meetings and exchanges in the regions on the topics under study and the deliverables that are elaborated on.
* **Consolidation of deliverables/reports**: centralize all information on a topic in a single document and consider revising existing reports instead of creating a new report on the same topic. Parts of reports that are common to several Questions could be merged and shared in topical reports.
* **Revision of current deliverables/reports**: consider revising the reports on Question topics that span several study periods rather than creating new ones (as is currently done for ITU-D Recommendations and in ITU-R study groups).
* **Region-specific reports**: reports, guidelines and/or conclusions could be tailored to meet the specific needs of the different regions.
* **Language and user-friendliness of reports**: a more **user-friendly and focused presentation** of the deliverables/reports explaining complex technical matters in a **simple language** was encouraged, noting that policy-makers are not necessarily technical experts.

1. Regarding the **generation of great inputs for excellent outputs**, a suggestion was made to **work more closely with regional offices**. National data that are collected in the countries in the regions could be made available to the study groups for specific studies, through close collaboration between the regional ITU-D Study Group 1 and 2 vice-chairmen, the Directors and focal points in the regional and area offices. Regional groups for ITU-D study groups, or certain study Questions, could be established as is done in ITU-T study groups.
2. **Programme topics**

**2.1 ICT data and statistics**

**Key takeaways:**

* Trust, relevance, visibility, accessibility to data and cooperation are essential components to re-establish ITU as the main global source for ICT statistics.
* Be pragmatic and realistic when including new indicators in the ICT Development Index (IDI). Revisit the conceptual framework and focus on indicators with widely available quality data.
* There are benefits and drawbacks to dividing the Measuring the Information Society Report into a series of smaller, more focused, high-impact reports. Cost implications need to be studied, including translation into all official ITU languages.
* The IDI analysis should explore various factors, including the size of the country, and should go beyond reporting rankings by also providing policy recommendations.

**Discussion summary:**

The discussion on ICT data and statistics centred on three questions. The first was how to re-establish ITU as the main global source for ICT data. Trust, relevance, visibility, accessibility to data and cooperation with diverse stakeholders were seen to be the essential components. Visibility and accessibility can be improved by ensuring that access to statistics is free and simple through the ITU website. This would prevent users from having recourse to other organizations that are using ITU data without due acknowledgement. Trust can be enhanced by ensuring that the website reflects the most recent version of methodologies. By developing methodologies and collecting data on emerging trends and new services, such as social media, OTT, IoT and AI, ITU will remain a relevant actor. It is important to reinforce and establish partnerships with other stakeholders, such as OECD and Eurostat and with other ITU Sectors. The functioning of expert groups can be improved by leveraging the vast knowledge of study groups when developing indicators on new topics, such as spectrum allocation. ITU delegates should have automatic access to the online expert groups, for example through their TIES account.

The second question focused on problems encountered in the 2018 IDI calculations and a possible way forward for the publication of the IDI in 2019. It was noted that during the IDI revision in 2017, indicators were proposed for inclusion therein without addressing what the underlying conceptual framework should be, leading to an unstable index. While some of the new indicators were appropriate, such as mobile network coverage, others have low data availability and are not fully harmonized among countries. Currently, too many data must be estimated. An assessment should be conducted if sufficient high-quality data are available before the inclusion of a new indicator. ITU should be realistic and pragmatic. Partnerships should be strengthened with other international and regional organizations, NGOs, academia, etc., and countries should have access to the raw data.

The third question concerned the publication of the Measuring the Information Society Report as a single report or as a series of smaller, more focused reports, which would also ensure a more timely release of the data. While a number of delegates noted that a series of shorter reports would enhance the visibility and impact of ITU data, others observed that since many different reports were already released every year – from ITU and from other organizations – there were benefits to maintaining the collated report. In any case, the financial implications should be studied, including translation of all reports into all official languages. Certain analytical suggestions were made. IDI rankings should be accompanied by recommendations for countries on improving their ranking. The report should also analyse the impact of various factors on the ranking, such as size of the country, and discuss separately landlocked developing countries and small island developing states. A high level of interest was also expressed in the price basket analysis.

**2.2 ITU-D Innovation**

**Key takeaways:**

* Build an innovation culture at ITU: ITU should inject innovation into its products and services through creation with membership and promotion of intrapreneurship, developing innovative business models, innovation risk management and an innovation lab.
* Encourage membership to help scale ICT-centric innovation works: a national, regional or global platform should be developed that facilitates interaction among stakeholders (including diaspora) and shares success stories, good practices, problems and solutions.
* Scale assistance to countries: provision should be made for an innovation road map and institutional framework for its implementation, and a measurement framework to help scale ICT-centric innovation.
* Help accelerate the innovation agenda of countries: innovation assistance funds can be established to accelerate countries’ innovation agendas.

**Discussion summary:**

**1. How can ITU build a culture of innovation throughout the organization?**

* ITU, in designing products and services, must inject innovation by co-creating and involving Member States (all stakeholders, young people, both genders, and persons with disabilities and specific needs) using a structured approach at the early stages.
* Other proposals included promoting intrapreneurship, building frameworks to address the objectives set by Member States and developing innovative business models to deliver sustainably on the objectives.
* The breakout group also noted the lack of experimentation space in ITU and proposed that ITU build an innovation lab.

**2. How might ITU membership help scale assistance to the countries to foster ICT-centric innovation ecosystems?**

* A platform is needed to work with all stakeholders in clusters, providing a space for people to improve innovation in their communities at an early stage.
* Countries should be encouraged to showcase their innovations, products and services, enabling people to find solutions and addressing similar challenges shared by others. For example, regional offices can consider a system allowing them to highlight specific innovative ideas brought by a particular country.
* Countries can share good practices with others through ITU.
* Countries require national entities to steer their innovations. They should establish a national innovation agenda and mechanisms for development, and receive assistance in building their road maps to scale implementation.

**3. How might countries contribute to sharing of good practices, monitoring of ICT innovation capabilities and developing action plans that address the growing digital innovation gap?**

* ITU should develop a key performance indicator system for countries to monitor and measure the progress of innovation within their countries.
* Innovation assistance funds can help accelerate the innovation agenda.

**2.3 Telecoms/ICT network infrastructure**

**Key takeaways:**

* Compilation of case studies on last mile connectivity, for example business and financing models, regulations and policies, and preparation of guidelines on the possible solutions.
* Creation of a platform to engage different stakeholders and promotion of collaboration on last mile connectivity and services.
* Promotion of the visibility and use of broadband maps, for example, through a link on the regulators’ and ICT ministries’ web pages.
* Promotion of the impacts and benefits of the analogue to digital broadcasting transition in specific regions and countries.

**Discussion summary:**

The discussion on telecoms/ICT network infrastructure focused on the following questions:

1. How can ITU/ BDT most effectively assist countries in improving their last mile connectivity?
2. How can the information contained in the broadband maps be best used?
3. What are the impediments countries are facing to completing the digital broadcasting transition and how can ITU assist them?

The discussion on Question 1 recognized that although different resources exist relating to last mile connectivity, the material is not easily accessible. It was also acknowledged that gaps in last mile connectivity exist both within a country and between neighboring countries. The main suggestions are:

* compilation of case studies on last mile connectivity, presenting the countries’ experiences and practices, business models, policies and regulations;
* consideration of community network models in policies and regulations by the regulators;
* development of policies and regulations to promote the last mile connectivity between and within countries;
* innovative thinking around financing, business and taxation models to promote last mile connectivity;
* creation of a platform to engage stakeholders (e.g. through success stories and business cases) and promote cooperation between satellite and terrestrial operators to provide last mile connectivity;
* use the universal service/access funds for last mile connectivity projects;
* creation of new business models to attract additional funding.

Regarding question 2, the importance of the data being collected and displayed on the broadband map was acknowledged. These data provide reliable information on broadband, for example for investments. Drawing on another example from an NGO, access to the broadband map was recalled to promote innovation, allowing users to consider new solutions to connectivity problems. Recommendations were made for greater visibility of the broadband map on the ITU website and other platforms, to allow more people to use and contribute to the map. Regulators and ICT ministries could be invited to include a link to the broadband map on their website, for example. Lastly, it was suggested that countries should be asked to provide data.

Concerning question 3, participants recognized that migration issues were central to countries’ policies. Promotion of the impacts and benefits of migration (e.g. through workshops and platforms) and ITU’s involvement in the policies, regulations and implementation at country level was proposed.

**2.4 Capacity building and skills development**

**Key takeaways:**

* ITU should extend its capacity development activities and provide digital skills training to those at the bottom of the pyramid and reach the unconnected. Training-of-trainers is a good approach in this regard.
* ITU should also provide training for decision-makers, including from non-ICT sectors. This training should be policy-related and not overly technical.
* Certified training is the best approach towards capacity building as it adds value and has a greater impact.
* Regional telecommunication organizations and local community networks should be involved in identifying gaps and reaching out to all citizens.

**Discussion summary:**

Around 30 delegates participated in the breakout group, including representatives from countries and Geneva missions. All three questions received due attention, with more emphasis on question 3 regarding extending ITU’s work on capacity and skills development to other target audiences. There was overall agreement that certified, structured training courses have greater value and impact compared with typical capacity-building workshops. In addition to the courses currently offered on the ITU Academy platform, training was also needed for policy-makers at decision-making and less technical levels. There was agreement that ITU should expand its capacity development work and provide digital skills training to those at the bottom of the pyramid and outside the ICT sector. In order to reach those currently unconnected, basic digital skills training for all age groups was required. Such capacity-building work could be performed by involving local community networks, and developing and implementing training-of-trainers courses. Regional telecommunication organizations could help in the process of mapping capacity development initiatives, selecting experts, and identifying digital skills gaps and needs in the regions. An interregional approach could strengthen capacity development efforts and increase impact.

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1. Once appointed, Vice Chairmen for the Americas region Ms Amparo Arango Echeverri (**Dominican Republic**) participated in the meetings remotely. TDAG Vice Chairmen Nquyen Quyen (**Viet Nam**) Kishore Babu Yerraballa (**India**) Hugo Dario Miguel (**Argentina**) and Tariq Alamri (**Saudi Arabia**), and Ms Aichurok Maralbek Kyzy (**Kyrgyz Republic**) were unable to attend. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. (i) Infrastructure and Spectrum Management; (ii) Cybersecurity and ICT applications, (iii) Regulatory and Market Environment, (iv) Digital inclusion, (v) Capacity Building, (vi) ICT Data and Statistics, (vii) Emergency Telecommunications, Climate Change, E-waste, LDCs, LLDCs and SIDs, (viii) ITU-D Projects, (IX) Innovation, (X) Membership, Partnership and Private Sector matters. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. Key areas of work for members of the TDAG bureau can be found in Annex 1 to this report. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. The plan contains the vision, mission, values, and five strategic goals for the Union; a set of common targets; the ITU results framework, including the four ITU-D objectives adopted by World Telecommunication Development Conference 2017 (WTDC-17); links to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); and links to the financial plan, including resources to be allocated to goals, objectives and outputs.

   [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. In the case of ITU-D Study Group 1, the Questions are: Question 1/1 on broadband deployment in developing countries; Question 2/1 on migration and adoption of digital broadcasting and implementation of new services; Question 4/1 on economic policies and methods of determining service cost; Question 5/1 on ICTs for rural and remote areas; and Question 7/1 on access to telecommunications/ICTs by persons with disabilities and with specific needs.

   For ITU-D Study Group 2, the Questions are: Question 1/2 on creating smart cities and society; Question 4/2 on conformance and interoperability and combating counterfeit ICT equipment and mobile device theft; and Question7/2 on human exposure to electromagnetic fields.

   [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
6. A full summary of all breakout sessions can be found in **Annex 2**. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
7. This report was submitted by the Rapporteur Group for Question 2/1 (DTV transition and new services implementation). [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
8. This report was submitted by the Rapporteur Group for Smart Cities/ICTs for social and economic development (Question 1/2). [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
9. Through a liaison statement dated 3 December 2018, ISCG new terms of reference were submitted to RAG, TSAG and TDAG for review, comment and approval. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
10. For this purpose, ISCG also agreed to send a liaison statement to RAG, TSAG and TDAG requesting this mapping table to be updated regularly. [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
11. ISCG will next meet during TDAG-20, which is planned for 24-27 March 2020. If necessary, ISCG may hold an e-meeting in conjunction with the TSAG-19 meeting (23-27 September 2019). [↑](#footnote-ref-12)