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| **Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG)**  **25th Meeting, Geneva, 2-5 June 2020** | C:\Users\comas\AppData\Local\Temp\Rar$DRa0.735\jpg\ITU official logo_blue_RGB.jpg |
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| ITU-D PARTNERSHIP AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION | |
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| **Summary:**  The importance of partnerships and resource mobilization was highlighted by the World Telecommunication Development Conference 2017 (WTDC-17). This document reports on partnerships and resource mobilization activities undertaken in 2019.  **Action required:**  TDAG is invited to note this document and provide guidance as deemed appropriate.  **References:**  ITU Goal 5  Buenos Aires Action Plan, Section 4.5 of the WTDC-17 Final Report  [Resolutions 17 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017)](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-WTDC17-C-0115/) and 71 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of WTDC | |

1. Background

The importance of partnerships and resource mobilization was highlighted by the World Telecommunication Development Conference 2017 (WTDC-17).

In line with the Buenos Aires Action Plan, BDT continues to develop partnerships with a wide range of stakeholders, including other United Nations agencies, and endeavour to mobilize resources from funding agencies, international financial institutions, ITU Member States and ITU-D Sector Members and other relevant partners to implement the programmes and regional initiatives adopted by WTDC-17.

Resolution 17 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) instructs BDT to continue to actively conclude partnerships with Member States, ITU-D Sector Members, financial institutions and international organizations in order to sponsor implementation activities for regional initiatives. The resolution goes on to appealto international financial organizations/agencies, equipment suppliers and operators/service providers to contribute, fully or partially, to financing these regionally approved initiatives.

1. ITU-D partnership and resource mobilization strategic objective

The objective in this context is to facilitate, develop and strengthen collaboration with the widest possible range of partners from both developed and developing countries, private sector, development banks and other partners with the goal of enhancing resource mobilization for the implementation of programmes and regional initiatives for sustainable development.

1. Partnerships and results of resource mobilization

Information on partnership agreements (with and without financial contributions) signed between BDT and partners can be found in [**Document INF/2**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG25-INF-0002/).

In 2019, BDT mobilized financial resources valued at around USD 15.2 million through partnerships entered into with funding partners. These resources are being used to finance the implementation of activities and projects at national, regional and global levels.

The graph below shows the composition of co-financing arrangements between BDT and its partners.

The three major funding partners in 2019 were:

* The Brazilian National Telecommunications Agency (ANATEL), with a financial contribution of USD 7 million.
* The European Commission (EC), with a financial contribution of EUR 2.5 million.
* The Badir Program for Technology Incubators, Saudi Arabia, with a financial contribution of USD 1.2 million.

These partnerships are good examples of the efforts and work carried out by BDT in nurturing relationships with existing partners, while at the same time engaging them in a lasting relationship.

The chart below shows the nature and diversity of BDT funding partners in 2019.

As can be seen from the chart, ITU Member States (with 57 per cent) were the main funding partners of BDT in 2019. They are also the traditional donors of BDT. The percentage has gone down, compared to previous years, signalling increased diversity in the sources of funding. Based on the information in the chart, it is clear that BDT needs to double its outreach and engagement efforts to attract more non-traditional funding partners (such as bilateral agencies, development banks, foundations and corporate social responsibility funds from the private sector).

In 2019, BDT was successful in enhancing its collaboration with other UN agencies resulting in joint resource mobilization and partnership efforts. One positive outcome was a partnership forged with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Labour Organization (ILO), United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). This partnership resulted in an agreement with the European Commission to finance the project, “Support to Rural Entrepreneurship, Investment and Trade in Papua New Guinea” with a total budget of EUR 81.3 million (out of which EUR 2.5 million for BDT).

Entering in non-traditional partnerships with sister United Nations agencies allows BDT to raise its profile and expertise in other sectors (ecosystem).

1. Way forward

To strengthen BDT resource mobilization and partnership building, a consultancy firm isbeing recruited to develop a robust, forward-looking resource mobilization strategy and plan. This strategy and related action plan will take into account the changing landscape of the development sector, partners/donors while drawing lessons learned from past and current resource mobilization efforts by BDT. A Senior Advisor, Resource Mobilization and Stakeholder Engagement, is also being recruited to support BDT’s ongoing efforts in partnership building and resource mobilization. As part of capacity building for staff, a training in resource mobilization is planned for later this year.

Taking the above into consideration, BDT will continue to cultivate its relationship with existing partners, identify and engage new partners with the aim of attracting resources to finance large-scale projects to support the impactful implementation of WTDC-17 programmes and regional initiatives at global, regional and national levels.

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