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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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|  | **Document** **TDAG-20/****11-E** |
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| Director, Telecommunication Development Bureau | |
| ITU-D Sector members, Associates and academia | |
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| **Summary:**  This document provides an overview of the evolution of ITU-D membership. It also recommends actions to strengthen this membership in accordance with the outcomes of the World Telecommunication Development Conference of 2017 (WTDC-17) and the Plenipotentiary Conference of 2018. ITU-D membership includes Sector Members, Associates and Academia[[1]](#footnote-1).  **Action Required:**  TDAG is invited to note the document and provide guidance as deemed appropriate.  **References:**  Resolution 71 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of WTDC; Resolutions 169 (Rev. Dubai, 2018), 205 (Dubai, 2018) and 209 (Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference. | |

1. **Background**

The World Telecommunication Development Conference in 2017 (WTDC-17) revised and adopted Resolution 71 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017[[2]](#footnote-2)) to promote active involvement of current Sector Members, Associates and Academia in ITU-D activities, including participation in the work of ITU-D study groups and to attract new members from the public, private and academic sectors.

Resolution 71 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) has brought enhanced focus to the evolving role of the private sector in ITU-D, with its instruction to BDT to continue to organize meetings for high-level industry executives such as the Industry Advisory Group for Development Issues (IAGDI). A wide representation of industry from the ITU‑D Sector Members from all regions participate in IAGDI meetings. The resolution also recognizes the work of the Chief Regulatory Officers (CRO).

Furthermore, the Plenipotentiary Conference in 2018 (PP-18) adopted several resolutions related to membership, such as Resolution 209 (Dubai, 2018) which encourages the participation of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the work of the Union.

Revisions to Resolution 169 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) now allow a representative of Academia to serve as rapporteur, vice-rapporteur or associate rapporteur in accordance with established rules of procedure of the respective Sectors. Academia is also encouraged to participate in the development of technical work in the Union.

Resolution 205 (Dubai, 2018) on ICT-centric innovation to support the digital economy was also adopted during PP-18. It instructs ITU to support Member States, upon request, in promoting an enabling environment for telecommunication/ICT-centric innovation by SMEs, start-ups, incubation centres and young entrepreneurs. The resolution also invites Member States, Sector Members and Associates to encourage the participation of telecommunication/ICT-related entrepreneurs, start-ups and incubation and acceleration centres in the ITU Telecom World and other relevant events of ITU.

1. **ITU-D membership strategic objectives**

In accordance with the outcomes of WTDC-17 and PP-18, BDT continues to focus on two overarching objectives in close coordination and collaboration with the General Secretariat, the other two Bureaux and regional and area offices:

* Outreach to new entities to join as Sector Members, Associates, SMEs and Academia.
* Enhance platforms and tools for engagement and retention of existing ITU-D Sector Members and Associates, and of Academia.

1. **ITU-D membership Status**

The table below illustrates the evolution of ITU-D membership (Sector Members, Associates and Academia[[3]](#footnote-3)) from 2009 to 2019. While 13 new entities joined as Sector Members in 2019, including leading ICT companies as detailed in section 3.1 below, denunciations by Sector Members because of industry consolidation or financial reasons is a matter of concern. On the other hand, Associates and Academia showed steady growth.

**Table** **– Evolution of ITU-D membership (Sector Members, Associates and Academia[[4]](#footnote-4))   
from 2009 to 2019**

|  | **2009** | **2010** | **2011** | **2012** | **2013** | **2014** | **2015** | **2016** | **2017** | **2018** | **2019** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Sector Members** | 316 | 311 | 323 | 330 | 346 | 338 | 340 | 331 | 318 | 310 | 307 |
| **Associates** | 3 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 12 | 14 | 17 |
| **Academia** | ‑ | ‑ | 25 | 36 | 45 | 86 | 109 | 107 | 125 | 156 | 163 |
| **TOTAL** | 319 | 316 | 354 | 373 | 400 | 434 | 460 | 450 | 455 | 480 | 487 |

The graph below shows the evolution of ITU-D membership from 1994 to 2019, which in general reports steady growth.

**3.1 Sector Members and Associates in 2019**

In 2019, ITU-D attracted ***13 new Sector Members***: AEPF (Chad), Amazon Web Services (United States), ANSUT (Cote d’Ivoire), BCSL (Bangladesh), Hughes Network Systems LLC (United States), Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers ICANN (United States), Loon LLC (United States), Mada-Qatar Assistive Technology Center (Qatar), MTN Group Management Services (South Africa), Reliance JIO Infocom (India), Sharing Mobile Group (China), Subah Infosolutions Ghana Limited (Ghana), U Mobile Sdn Bhd (Malaysia), ViaSat Inc (USA). ITU-D also attracted ***5 new Associates***: Afilias Ltd (Ireland), CACF-3g Technologies (Pakistan), Codewise (Poland), PWC (Switzerland), Silensec (Kenya).

**3.2 Academia in 2019**

Academia participate in the work of all three ITU Sectors with one single fee. Since 2011, more than 200 Academia have joined ITU. This segment has the highest growth rate, compared to the other membership categories. For 2019, through efforts coordinated with the General Secretariat, ***22 new Academia*** joined the three Sectors of ITU.[[5]](#footnote-5)

1. **Key actions and results**

BDT has been conducting a series of strategic actions to enhance engagement with, and participation of, ITU-D members in the work of the Sector.

* 1. **Enhancing ITU-D membership tools and services**

In close collaboration with the Strategic Planning and Membership Department (SPM), BDT introduced in the last quarter of 2019, the use of Linkedin Sales Navigator in order to gain greater access to ICT industry networks with the aim of attracting a higher number of prospective entities and increasing ITU-D membership.

In an effort to attract and welcome new ITU-D members, two kits were designed, developed, and are in use. The “Information Kit” for prospective members focuses on marketing the work of ITU-D and provides opportunities and benefits for joining ITU-D. The second kit is the “Welcome Kit” and includes practical information for newcomers so they may optimize their membership benefits.

BDT organized a ***Co-Creation Workshop for Academia*** in March 2019, with the aim to better understand the needs and expectations of academic and research entities affiliated to ITU. Academia, BDT focal points and other stakeholders shared success stories and presented proposals for new areas of collaboration, beyond Academia’s contribution to the ITU Journal, ITU study groups and, the ITU Academy platform in BDT. The report can be found [here](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Membership/PublishingImages/Outcome%20Brief_Co-Creation%20Workshop%20for%20Academia%20Members%20%28002%29.pdf).

BDT also held bilateral consultations with Academia during ITU events and meetings throughout 2019 to increase academic engagement in the work of ITU-D.

* 1. **Implementation of Resolution 71(Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017)**

BDT has carried out a series of activities in accordance with Resolution 71 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of WTDC-17 on strengthening cooperation between Members States, Sector Members, Associates and Academia of ITU-D with particular focus on the private sector.

In 2018, the Industry Advisory Group for Development Issues (IAGDI) held its first meeting in conjunction with the meeting of the Private Sector Chief Regulatory Officers (CRO) at the Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR-18). The IAGDI meeting called for action to facilitate access to connectivity in a sustainable manner by fostering inclusiveness, enabling broad deployment of infrastructure, driving up broadband adoption and creating an environment where innovation can flourish. As a follow-up to these events, CRO convened a meeting on 9 July 2019 at the Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR-19). Over 100 senior industry representatives identified best practices to accelerate digital connectivity and allow people everywhere to benefit from digital transformation and participate in the digital economy (see the [CRO Chairman Report](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Conferences/CRO/Documents/CRO10/CRO2019_chairman_report.pdf)).

In the future, IAGDI and CRO will hold joint meetings at various events such as ITU Telecom World, Global Symposium for Regulators, and strategic non-ITU events.

* 1. **Consultations with ITU-D Sector Members**

In 2019, the Director of BDT initiated a series of consultations with ITU-D membership to explore ways of retaining existing members and attracting new ones. In particular, a ***Special Session on ITU-D Membership*** was organized during ITU Telecom World 2019 to get feedback and inputs from current members on their expectations, the gap between their expectations and the services they actually receive, and new proposals of how to add value to their membership.

Consultative sessions on ITU-D membership are planned to take place during ITU-D study groups, in Geneva, Switzerland, on 19 February 2020 and on 26 March 2020 during TDAG.

1. **Way forward**

BDT will continue to focus on new approaches to enhance engagement and collaboration with membership and their networks in order to:

1. Increase the membership portfolio, while retaining current members in line with a “fit-for- -purpose” BDT vision.
2. Increase participation of members in the work of ITU-D activities and events and optimize their contribution to the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.
3. Enhance partnership-building opportunities with current members with the aim to co-finance projects, including regional initiatives.
4. Continuously improve tools and services to facilitate membership participation.

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1. Refer to Resolution 169 (Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, which enabled the new category of Academia to participate in the work of ITU. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Resolution 71 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017, “Strengthening cooperation between Member States, Sector Members, Associates and Academia of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector and the evolving role of the private sector in the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Refer to Resolution 169 (Guadalajara, 2010), which enabled the new category of Academia to participate in the work of ITU. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Academia participate in the work of all three ITU Sectors, including their advisory groups. Academia also participate in other global and regional conferences, workshops and activities of the Union, with the exception of plenipotentiary conferences, world radiocommunication conferences, world conferences on international telecommunications and the ITU Council, in conformity with the rules of procedure of the respective Sectors. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. RWTH Aachen University (Germany), The University of Dodoma (Tanzania), University of Tehran (Iran, Islamic Republic of), Tokyo Institute of Technology (Japan), Arab States Research and Education (Jordan), Amirkabir University of Technology (Iran, Islamic Republic of), Nazarbayev University (Kazakhstan), University of Surrey (United Kingdom), Tarbiat Modares University (Iran, Islamic Republic of), Universidad Técnica del Norte (Ecuador), University of California Irvine (United States), Hamad Bin Khalifa University (Qatar), Institut Scientifique Européan (France), Smart Quantum Communication (Korea, Rep. of), University of Bristol (United Kingdom), Hong Kong Applied Science and Technology (China), Université de Bordeaux (France), Ilmenau University of Technology (Germany), Centre for Development of Telematics (India), Concordia University (Canada), Shinshu University (Japan), Mila-Institut Québécois d’Intelligence (Canada). [↑](#footnote-ref-5)