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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-20/26-E** |
|  | **31 January 2020** |
|  | **Original: English** |
| Director, Telecommunication Development Bureau | |
| Status on a feasibility study to establish A  CAPACITY-BUILDING institute IN ITU | |
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| **Summary:**  This document informs TDAG of the status of a feasibility study to establish a capacity-building institute in ITU. The ITU Council, at its session in June 2019, instructed the Director of BDT “to undertake an in-depth analysis and review of current training and capacity-building activities undertaken by the Group on Capacity Building Initiatives, the ITU Academy and centres of excellence, and report to Council-20 on the results of the study and on the possible creation of a capacity-building institute in ITU”.  **Action required:**  TDAG is invited to note this document.  **References:**  ITU Council Document C19/115-E  ITU Council Document C19/98 | |

**Introduction**

One of the core mandates of ITU is to strengthen capacity in the field of digital technology development in line with the resolutions of the World Telecommunication Development Conference and the Plenipotentiary Conference. This mandate is implemented through a number of programmes and projects, including the ITU Academy e-learning platform, the ITU centres of excellence network, regional and national capacity-development workshops, as well as through a series of other training activities carried out in collaboration with partners from the private sector, academia and other training providers.

During the ITU Council session in June 2019, Saudi Arabia submitted a contribution proposing to establish a capacity-building institute in ITU (Document C19/98). The document highlighted that ITU training should empower officials of developing countries with the skills needed to manage their critical resources, roll out infrastructure and develop national plans and strategies in collaboration with ICT experts from governments, industry and academia.

Council-19 agreed to instruct the Director of BDT “to undertake an in-depth analysis and review of current training and capacity-building activities undertaken by the Group on Capacity Building Initiatives, the ITU Academy and centres of excellence, and report to Council-20 on the results of the study and on the possible creation of a capacity-building institute in ITU”.

**Status of the feasibility study**

Based on the above instruction from the Council, ITU prepared the terms of reference of the feasibility study. These terms cover the following elements:

* Review of global landscape of capacity-development progammes in the field of digital technologies.
* Stocktaking of existing capacity-development activities provided by ITU.
* Identifying existing gaps and areas of improvement.
* Assessing demand for a new training institute.
* Resource requirements and governance structure for the new training institute.
* Alternative options to improve ITU work in capacity development.
* Recommendations on the way forward.

The study will be carried out by an independent consultancy. To this end, a Request for Proposal was published by ITU on 28 January 2020, with a closing date of 26 February 2020. It is estimated that the work will start in April 2020 and continue over a period of three to four months. An oral progress report will be made during Council-20.

Saudi Arabia is generously financially supporting the preparation of the study.

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