|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **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 | |
|  |  |
|  | **Document** **TDAG-20/31-E** |
|  | **7 February 2020** |
|  | **Original:** **English** |
| United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland | |
| IMPROVING ACCESS TO ITU RESOURCES RELATED TO THE DIGITAL DIVIDE | |
|  | |
| **Summary:**  This contribution proposes actions to be taken by the Development Bureau to make information and best practice about bridging the digital divide more accessible and useful.  **Action required:**  TDAG is kindly requested to examine this contribution and approve the proposals contained therein.  **References:**  N/A | |

1. **Introduction**

The United Kingdom proposes that TDAG should request a set of actions from the Development Bureau related to bridging the digital divide through affordable access to telecommunications services.

1. **Proposals**

The Union has a commitment to accelerating efforts to bridge the digital divide, and it has many times emphasised the importance of this issue. ITU, and particularly the Development Sector, has a unique and important role with respect to promoting best practice in telecommunications regulation in order to decrease wholesale broadband costs and promote affordable connectivity.

There is unquestionably an invaluable body of data, best practices, regulatory policy capacity building programmes and their output, Recommendations and research developed by ITU for general use and at the request of individual Members, and other resources the ITU has with respect to bridging the digital divide. However, this body of information is not always easy to find and it is not thematically compiled or linked, which makes it difficult to use and apply.

Compiling and presenting this material in a more accessible and thematic way would be a significant benefit not just to the Union, but also to institutions, government agencies, NGOs, and many other stakeholders concerned with accelerating efforts to bridge the digital divide, particularly as regards to regulatory policy choices to promote access to affordable telecommunications services.

Accordingly, we propose that the Development Bureau take the lead in developing such a resource.

We suggest it should have the following characteristics:

* It should be accessible online in all the languages of the Union, organised in such a way that non-professionals can easily find basic information, yet drill down to technical detail as required;
* It should always be up to date and outdated material should be removed;
* It should bring together all the material relevant to the subject wherever it has been developed within the Union – and wherever possible it should sign post to relevant material from other organisations;
* It should, to the extent possible, provide links to the capacity and resource development programmes available, especially for developing countries, in implementing the best practices identified by the resource;
* It should make clear what the origin of material drawn from different sources is, especially where some material relates to consensus outcomes of ITU’s working bodies and some is from other sources.

We recognise that this represents a meaningful amount of work, but we believe it is fundamentally important to support efforts to bridge the digital divide and it is entirely in line with, and supported by, several Plenipotentiary, WTSA, and WTDC resolutions as well as Council decisions.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_