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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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| Canada | | |
| Achieving Organizational and Operational Efficiencies at WTDC-21 | | |
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| **Summary:**  This contribution proposes the creation of a Working Group or Ad Hoc Group of TDAG, tasked with identifying areas where WTDC-21 organizational and operational efficiencies could be achieved, and consequently assist the BDT in establishing a streamlined and focused plan of action which responds to the needs of the ITU-D membership within its human and financial resource limitations.  **Action required:**  Action to organize a comprehensive reform strategy in the preparations for WTDC-21.  **References:**  Reports of the First and Second Web Dialogues on WTDC Reform.  Document TDAG-20/46 (Streamlining PP Resolution 58 and WTDC Resolution 31); Document TDAG-20/43 (Preparations for WTDC-21); Document TDAG-20/22 (LS/R on Streamlining Resolutions); Document TDAG-20/28 (2019 Progress Report on the Implementation of Results-Based Management in BDT; Document TDAG-20/34Rev.1 (Incoming LS – LS on Streamlining Resolutions) | | |

**World Telecommunication Development Conferences**

**Achieving Organizational and Operational Efficiencies at WTDC-21**

**Introduction**

WTDCs have played an important role in providing direction and guidance to the BDT. Nonetheless, since the inception of the WTDC in 1994 there has been no review undertaken to identify areas where organizational and operational efficiencies could be achieved. Such efficiencies will assist the BDT in establishing a streamlined and focused plan of action which responds to the needs of the ITU-D membership within its human and financial resource limitations.

The two Web Dialogues held virtually on WTDC reform have provided an excellent pathway to achieving meaningful reform prior to and during WTDC-21. It is Canada’s view that the following considerations also be taken into account in the formulation of a way forward to ensure a successful Conference:

* **Streamlining of WTDC resolutions; examine their number and subject matter**.

One of the key activities tasked to TDAG in preparation for WTDC-21 is in the review of WTDC resolutions including actions associated with streamlining. In the preparations for WTSA-20, TSAG has established a Rapporteur Group to review WTSA Resolutions, *inter alia*, to avoid repetitions and duplication with the Resolutions of the Plenipotentiary Conference. . In a recent TSAG Liaison Statement (LS-30R1), a related approach of ‘streamlining-by-restructuring’ was identified through an analysis of the operational parts (resolves, instructs, etc.) of WTSA/PP/WTDC/RA/Council Resolutions in terms of giving specific tasks to ITU-T study groups and TSAG. This approach can be duplicated by TDAG to ensure that the WTDC is well-equipped to reduce the number and length of its Resolutions.

* **Process of Regional Preparatory Meetings**

As far as the preparatory process is concerned, there is a need to streamline and simplify the process as much as possible. In general, this would mean placing the onus on the regional organizations to identify their own limited number of priorities (perhaps 2) (the word ‘initiatives’ is too ambiguous and should be changed). To one of the RTO meetings an RPM could be attached, which would be of limited duration and could, for example, assist the regions in formulating their priorities against existing programmes and activities, and in discussing funding opportunities and limitations.

It should be noted that the majority of RTO meetings are open to representation from other RTOs in the interest of promoting inter-regional exchange and consultation. One dedicated inter-regional meeting could be organized closer to the Conference to provide an opportunity for discussion on areas of commonality and where further negotiation may be necessary.

* **Continued need for a Conference Declaration**

Regarding the Declaration, it would be preferable to have a brief, concise statement at the end of the Conference which reflects the main features of the agreed Action Plan and the strategies necessary to carry them out within the BDT’s resource constraints. A streamlined Declaration would function the same way a Communiqué does at the end of many meetings.

It would be feasible for the Reform Working Group to prepare a draft outline of the structure of the Declaration which would identify its constituent elements. A streamlined Declaration.

* **Strengthening Results-Based Management within ITU-D**

As is stated in Document TDAG-20/28, in 2019 the BDT undertook a comprehensive overhaul of its use of RBM to make this fundamental tool more relevant for the implementation of all work programmes, for use as a managerial decision and monitoring tool, for measuring BDT’s impact and efficacy, and as a platform to engage with internal and external partners. It will also be used to replicate and scale up successful projects and work programme initiatives.

RPM can also be used to develop an efficient overlay between the BDT areas of action and the implementation of the SDGs, taking into consideration the WSIS Action Lines (C2, C5 and C6) for which ITU has lead responsibility.

In order to maintain the momentum in implementing these measures, companion actions to reform the WTDC process as a whole will be essential.

* **Review of the Strategic Plan**

Aside from there being nothing in the treaty texts of ITU to suggest that a review of the ITU strategic plan is necessary (this being clearly within the remit of the plenipotentiary conference), such ‘contribution’ by ITU-D should be limited to providing the BDT Director with any pertinent information that could be used in the preparation of the Sector for the Plenipotentiary Conference. TDAG and the WTDC could use the evaluation and implementation criteria in section 4 of Annex 1 to advise the Director on, for example, ITU-D’s contribution to achieving the “one ITU concept”. It would be expected that TDAG could examine further details of the Strategic Plan in the intervening period between WTDC-21 and PP-22, taking into account the outcome of the WTDC (again, it would be the role of TDAG to advise the Director, in accordance with Article 17A of the Convention, and not to ‘approve’ or ‘endorse’ the Strategic Plan).

* **Plan of Action, including programmes and regional initiatives**

Within a results-based framework, the Plan of Action needs to reflect the objectives of ITU-D and the expectations of a set of activities and programmes which can be realistically achieved. It must not be infused with a long list of unachievable actions and confused with a non-sustainable list of regional ‘initiatives’ and actions reflected in resolutions which cannot be implemented. To assist the BDT in the implementation phase of the Action Plan post-WTDC, a limited number of regional ‘priorities’, articulated through the regional organizations, and based on the defined scope of the conference, could be elaborated.

* **ITU-D study group Questions**

While study group Questions could be identified by the WTDC, it would seem logical that high priority Questions in general could be identified post-WTDC based on the agreed Action Plan, taking into account areas of work which could best be implemented in coordination with ITU-R or ITU-T.

**Proposal**

It is proposed that a working group or correspondence group of TDAG be established to carry out a detailed set of tasks identified in part in the proposals from the Web Dialogues, and in part on the proposals submitted to TDAG. A reformed and focused WTDC-21 offers the potential for the establishment of a programme of work which is sensitive to the needs of developing countries but is more efficient, effective and fit-for-purpose.

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