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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/****52-E** | |
|  | **20 May 2020** | |
|  | **English only** | |
| United States of America | | |
| WTDC REFORM AND INNOVATION | | |
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| **Summary:**  The United States would like to support ongoing discussions through the TDAG Web Dialogues which have been exploring ways in which to improve the planning and preparations processes for WTDC-21 as well as the conference structure. The aim is to help increase the focus of the conference on development challenges and priorities and bridging the digital divide, which will further help the Membership attain better outcomes and a more fit4purpose BDT. The United States supports these Web Dialogues, and believes that it is necessary to continue the dialogue between TDAG-20 and TDAG-21 to identify concrete proposals and ideas that will support Member States and the BDT in preparing for WTDC-21.  **Action required:**  TDAG is requested to examine this contribution and endorse the proposed WTDC-21 reform and innovation ad hoc group with a targeted focus on regional preparations and conference program.  **References:**  WTDC Resolutions 1 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) and 31 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) | | |

**Discussion**

In order to advance discussions regarding WTDC-21 preparations and innovation, the BDT organized two TDAG Web Dialogues on WTDC. During the course of these Web Dialogues participants were able to engage in informal exchanges regarding ways to make WTDC-21 a more effective conference. During the web dialogues, participants were able to explore ideas aimed at improving the preparatory process, format and content of the conference in the lead up to TDAG-20. In order to capitalize on the momentum generated by these groups, we recommend that TDAG-20 establish a working group or ad hoc group to elaborate upon these ideas and develop clear recommendations for action.

**Proposal**

Building upon the ad hoc group proposed by Canada in document 37, and taking into account the discussions of the two WTDC Web Dialogues, it is proposed that a working group or ad hoc group of TDAG be established, and be assigned responsibility to examine and provide recommendations to TDAG-21 on regional preparations, conference program structure, and conference participation consistent with Resolution 1 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) and Resolution 31 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017).

The following is proposed to help develop the terms of reference of the working group or ad hoc group to help facilitate the development of clear recommendations and proposals to guide BDT and Member States in the lead up to WTDC-21.

**Regional Preparations**

* Process of Regional Preparatory Meetings (RPMS):
  + What does membership want from RPMs? What purpose do they serve? What is the optimum role for RTOs? For RPMs?
  + What role should Sector Members or other stakeholders play?
  + Within the scope of Res. 31 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017), how can the RPMs achieve greater efficiency and better outcomes?
  + Should each region continue to propose up to five regional initiatives, or should the regions just identify their main priorities (may include cross-cutting priorities with other regions)?
  + How to structure the regional priorities to attract donor support, maximize effective and efficient use of BDT seed money and increase impact in developing countries on the ground?
* Inter-regional Meeting:
  + If the BDT were to organize an inter-regional meeting(s), what could be the format, agenda and objectives?
  + How best to approach cross cutting regional priorities?

**WTDC Declaration:**

* Is there a continued need for a Declaration?
* Within the scope of the Res. 1 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) 1.8.2 call for a declaration, how best to develop, or eliminate the need for, a declaration?
* If it continues, what format should the declaration take and what would be the best approach to limit time spent negotiating the declaration at the WTDC?

**Draft ITU Strategic Plan:** Noting both the CS provisions and Res.1 at 1.8.2, is a total review of the ITU-D’s contribution to the draft Strategic Plan necessary, except to identify possible areas for modification to be communicated to PP-22?

**Conference Program**

* Organization and structure of the Conference: How can the work of the committees and working groups be structured or organized to optimize or find greater efficiencies?
* Stakeholder Engagement:
  + What types of new stakeholders do we want to attract and invite to WTDC-21? (e.g., donor organizations, development banks and financial institutions, private sector executives)
  + What are recommended approaches for having such new stakeholders be more involved regional Conference preparations?
* Activities/Events/Thematic Workshops:
  + What types of programs or events might help draw additional stakeholders and allow for the WTDC to be more focused on development topics and priorities?
  + How many thematic workshops or roundtables should there be, when should they occur, and how to balance these with the work on the Member proposals? How can such activities be more incorporated into the substantive work of WTDC-21?
  + What should the goals and format of these sessions be?
  + What is the recommended preparatory process for these workshops? What type of follow-up process is recommended?
* Should High Level Policy statements continue? What are other ways to attract senior-level principals and incorporate their participation?

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