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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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| Director, Telecommunication Development Bureau | |
| Summary of the Survey results on WTDC reform | |

**Summary**

This document provides a summary of the responses submitted to the survey launched by BDT in parallel to the Web Dialogues on the reform of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC).

The survey aimed at gathering views from stakeholders such as ITU Member States, Sector Members, and relevant organizations on WTDC preparations, content and structure, stakeholder engagement, side event.

A preliminary analysis of the survey results was shared during the Second Web Dialogue on the held the 30 April 2020.

45 responses to the survey were submitted, among which some were incomplete, resulting in 20 complete responses used in this analysis. The responses received have been analysed, identifying the common views and trends presented below.

The results are shown following the fours thematic areas emerged as a focus for WTDC change.

1. Preparatory process;
2. Content and structure;
3. Stakeholder engagement;
4. Side events.

**Topic 1: Preparatory process**

Most survey participants felt that the overall preparatory process on WTDC should be improved and strengthened. The preparatory process should be more focused on the substantial issues, to identify those ICT development related topics to be addressed at WTDC.

In terms of process harmonization and inclusiveness, some views were expressed on the need to better integrate the ITU led preparatory process (e.g. Regional Preparatory Meetings - RPM) with the ones undertaken by the Regional Telecommunication Organizations (RTOs). Some proposed to hold the meetings back to back, while some others proposed more frequent online consultations, to allow as many entities as possible to be part of the discussions.

Most participants called for an increased engagement of Sector Members in the WTDC preparatory process, and some, of potential donors such as Development Banks and foundations, among others.

Related to the above, most participants also stressed the importance of the interregional meetings as mechanism to improve dialogue across regions to achieve consensus on possible common areas of interest, to avoid lengthy discussions at the WTDC. Some suggested to undertake such interregional consultations using various tools including e-meetings and on-line consultations.

**Topic 2: Content and structure**

Most survey participants stressed the need for WTDC to be more focused on discussions around ICT development issues as well as having in-depth discussions on how to address them, including the potential financial resources to be made available. Some participants called for more engagement of donors and funding institutions to be part of the conference programme, so that effective interaction between the potential recipients of assistance and potential providers could take place.

Some participants questioned the need to discuss the ITU-D contribution to the ITU strategic plan. They felt that such discussions might be better positioned to take place at the Plenipotentiary Conference, using TDAG as platform for dialogue and consensus building mechanism between plenipotentiary conferences.

Concerning the Study Groups, some participants stated that discussion on Study Group questions should be more linked to the work of ITU-D and BDT, and the Questions outcomes to be articulated to generate more concrete outcomes and usable deliverables. It was also suggested to reduce the number of questions through a streamlining process

On the regional initiatives, most of the survey participants saw the need to maintain the concept as it reflects the needs of the concerned region. However, more prioritization and strategizing might be necessary to realistically identify those regional priorities that would more likely generate impact in the specific region, rather than putting forward a “wish list” which tended to be difficult to address with the limited resources available.

**Topic 3: Stakeholder engagement**

Most of the survey participants called for active participation (pre, during and post conference) of different stakeholder apart from ITU Member States, such as Sector Members, the donor community and civil society, among others. It was felt that engaging such a variety of stakeholders would increase WTDC attractiveness, as well as create opportunities to strengthen ITU-D role and visibility in the ICT for development global arena.

Some survey participants pointed out the need to engage stakeholders mainly on the substantial aspects, in order to instigate interest on the ITU-D mandate and current work, and to build long-term synergies that might be solidified through joint programmes and bankable projects.

Some survey participants felt it would be important to ensure participation of traditional and non-traditional stakeholder at the highest level, designing a WTDC programme to facilitate an active role for such VIPs, such as letting them own thematic events (see next paragraph) as well as to create collaboration platforms (especially during the preparatory process) to allow advocacy from BDT on the relevant discussions that will occur at the conference

**Topic 4: Side events**

Most of the survey participants expressed the need to repurpose the overall concept of side events, moving away from the traditional structure. To this end, it was suggested to consider side events (to be renamed “thematic events”) as an integral part of the WTDC programme, agenda and time management plan; such events would delineate the separation between the statutory elements of WTDC, with the substantial elements.

Some of the topics suggested for thematic events were connectivity, youth, ICT entrepreneurship, engagement with the UN system, donor involvement, SDGs, digital and gender divide

It was also suggested that the outcomes of the thematic events would be taken as discussion items for the conference and turned into actions (projects, conference outcomes such as resolutions, WTDC action plan and declaration) that would drive the ITU-D agenda for the subsequent four years.

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