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| C:\Users\comas\AppData\Local\Temp\Rar$DRa0.735\jpg\ITU official logo_blue_RGB.jpg**TDAG Working Group on Resolutions, Declaration and Thematic Priorities****9 April 2021, Virtual** |
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|  | **Document** **TDAG-WG-RDTP/****35-E** |
|  | **25 March 2021** |
|  | **Original:** **English** |
| Source: | Chairman, TDAG-WG-RDTP |
| **Title:**  | Proposal for ITU-D Thematic Priorities (WTDC-21) |

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| **Summary:** This document considers discussions at the 4th meeting of the TDAG WG-RDTP on [document 24(Rev.1)](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG27.RDTP-C-0024/en)v entitled, **Proposal for ITU-D Thematic Priorities (WTDC-21)**.**Action required:**TDAG-WG-RDTP is invited to examine this document and adopt the proposals contained therein.**References:**N/A |

This document considers discussions at the 4th meeting of the TDAG WG-RDTP on [document 24(Rev.1)](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG27.RDTP-C-0024/en) entitled, **Proposal for ITU-D Thematic Priorities (WTDC-21)**.

This document is being presented by the Chair as part of the preparatory process to WTDC-21. The Chair wishes to thank all the participants for their insightful contributions that has led to this version for consideration before submission of the final report to TDAG. It is hoped that the outcome of discussions here on Thematic Priorities will form part of the inputs to WTDC by TDAG. The Thematic Priorities will be contained in the Addis Ababa Action Plan under the section that had programmes in all previous WTDCs.

As contained in document 3 presented to the second meeting of the Working Group held on 21 October, I noted, “Based on TDAG discussions, it is very desirable to have **fewer, more focused, and consolidated** Thematic Priorities in order not to overstrain and spread the limited human and financial resources.” This is what we have tried to do in coming up with the four Thematic Priorities already discussed during the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th meeting which are presented below.

Addressing the issue of fewer Thematic Priorities is in partial fulfilment of one of the four areas of the Working Group’s mandate namely: To align the ITU-D thematic Priorities, proposed regional initiatives and proposed study group questions, taking into account proposals of ITU-D Study Groups, outcomes of the Regional Preparatory Meetings for WTDC-21, relating to the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and taking into consideration the WSIS Action Lines for which ITU has lead responsibility.”

**Finally, the four Thematic Priority areas being proposed are aimed at grouping the related areas together with the sole purpose of better coordination in the work the BDT, resulting in optimal resource allocation and use. The supporting components within each of the Thematic Priority area will facilitate the implementation of work by the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau in the same way programmes in the past were used as an implementation vehicle of activities, projects, and initiatives. The proposed four Thematic Priorities are not meant to lessen the importance of Supporting Components.**

**ITU-D Thematic Priorities**

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| 1. **Connectivity:** The focus of this Thematic Priority is on the deployment of modern, available, secure, accessible, and affordable broadband telecommunication/ICT infrastructure. This Thematic Priority would seek to foster the development of infrastructure and services by utilizing new and emerging digital technologies, including building confidence and security in the use of telecommunications/ICT.
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| 1. **Digital Transformation:** The focus of this Thematic Priority is on the development and use of telecommunications/ICTs and applications and services to close the Digital Divides and empower people and societies for sustainable development. This is of critical importance as societies adapt to the changes that are needed because of the Covid-19 pandemic. In so doing, there is need to recognize the important role that women and youth can play in making the digital society a reality.
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| 1. **Enabling Environment:** The focus of this Thematic Priority is on fostering an enabling policy and regulatory environment conducive to sustainable telecommunication/ICT development. This Thematic Priority comprises key enablers that underpin ITU’s work to deliver on the Connectivity and Digital Society priorities.
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| 1. **Resource Mobilization and International Cooperation:** The focus of this Thematic Priority is on mobilizing and attracting resources and fostering international cooperation on telecommunication/ICT development issues. This Thematic Priority is also cross cutting by providing the resources and fostering international cooperation to deliver the relevant global outcomes. The needs of LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS should be prioritized and given due attention.
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**Topics Pertaining to ITU-D Thematic Priorities**

The following activity areas/topics pertain to Thematic Priority “**Connectivity**”:

* ***Deployment of Future Networks***
* ***Resilient and Safe Digital Infrastructure*** *(*including EMF-related issues, availability, and reliability)**,**
* ***Cybersecurity****,*
* ***Connectivity in the Era of Pandemics and Other Disasters***, and
* ***Emergency Telecommunications.***

The following activity areas/topics pertain to Thematic Priority “**Digital Transformation**”:

* ***Digital Services and Applications*** *(health, education, agriculture, emerging technologies/digital platforms, digital financial services, etc.)*,
* ***Digital Economy*** (e-commerce, new business models, job market re-engineering, trade, and investment),
* ***Digital Innovation Ecosystems,*** and
* ***Environment*** *(climate change, and e-waste).*

The following activity areas/topics pertain to Thematic Priority “**Enabling Environment**”:

* ***Data and Market Analysis*** *(*statistics*),*
* ***Policy and Regulation*** *(Internet related issues, Consumer Protection and Privacy, etc.)*
* ***Digital Inclusion*** (gender issues, persons with disabilities and specific needs, financial inclusion, youth, and indigenous people), and
* ***Capacity and Skills Development.***

The following activity areas/topics pertain to Thematic Priority “**Resource Mobilization and International Cooperation**”:

* ***Projects,***
* ***Partnerships,***
* ***Mainstreaming the Needs of LDCS, LLDCs, and SIDS,***
* ***WSIS and SDGs,***
* ***Membership Engagement for Better Impact,*** and
* ***ITU-D Study Groups***.

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