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| **ANNEX 1 (to document TDAG-WG-RDTP/DT/3)** |

**WTDC THEMATIC TOPICS AS ADOPTED BY WTDC CONFERENCES (1994 – 2017)**

This document presents an evolution of WTDC thematic topics/programmes from 1994 to 2017. As Membership prepares for WTDC-21, the information herein contained serve as reference material when discussing future Thematic Topics.

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| **YEAR** | **Thematic Priorities** | **Final Report** | **Remarks** |
| First World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-94) held by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) since the establishment of its Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D), took place in  Buenos Aires, Argentina, from 21 to 29 March 1994  **Six programmes of the 1999–2003 draft Strategic Plan for ITU-D**  **(1994-2003)** | 1. Sector reform, regulation and legislation | <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/conferences/WTDC/WTDC21/Pages/default.aspx> |  |
| 2. Technologies and GII development and applications |
| 3. Rural development and universal service |
| 4. Finance and economics |
| 5. Private-sector development of partnerships |
| 6. Human resources development and management |

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|  | **Thematic Priorities** |  |  |
| The Second World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-98) was held at in Valletta, Malta, from 23 March to 1 April 1998 | 1. Reform, legislation and regulation of telecommunications | <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/conferences/WTDC/WTDC21/Pages/default.aspx> |  |
| 2. Technologies and global information infrastructure (GII) development and applications, including GMPCS and Internet |
| 3. Rural development and universal service/access |
| 4. Finance and economics, including WTO issues, tariffs, accounting rates, etc. |
| 5. Development partnership with the private sector |
| 6. Capacity building through human resources development and management |
| 7. Special programme for least developed countries: A programme to make a difference |
|  | **Thematic Priorities** |  |  |
| The Third World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-02) was held at Lütfi Kirdar Convention and Exhibition Centre in Istanbul, Turkey from 18-27 March 2002 | 1. Regulatory reform | <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/conferences/WTDC/WTDC21/Pages/default.aspx> |  |
| 2. Technologies and telecommunication network development |
| 3. E-strategies and e-services/applications |
| 4. Economics and finance, including cost and tariffs |
| 5. Human capacity building |
| 6. Special Programme for least developed countries |
|  | **Thematic Priorities** |  |  |
| ITU’s fourth World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-06), which took place from 7 to 15 March 2006 in Doha, Qatar, | 1. Regulatory reform | <https://www.itu.int/ITU-D/conferences/wtdc/2006/index.html> |  |
| 2. Information and communication infrastructure and technology development |
| 3. E-strategies and ICT applications |
| 4. Economics and finance, including costs and tariffs |
| 5. Human capacity building |
| 6.Least developed countries and small island developing states, and emergency telecommunications |
|  | **Thematic Priorities** |  |  |
| The fifth World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-10), is taking place in Hyderabad, India from 24 May to 4 June 2010 | 1. Information and communication infrastructure and technology development | <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/conferences/WTDC/WTDC21/Pages/default.aspx> |  |
| 2. Cybersecurity, ICT applications and IP-based network-related issues |
| 3. Enabling environment |
| 4. Capacity building and digital inclusion |
| 5. Least developed countries, countries in special need, emergency telecommunications and climate change adaptation |
|  | **Thematic Priorities** |  |  |
| ITU's sixth [**World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC)**](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Conferences/WTDC/WTDC14) took place at the Dubai World Trade Centre in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, from 30 March to 10 April 2014 | 1. Policy and regulatory environment  2. Telecommunication/ICT networks, including conformance and interoperability and bridging the standardization gap  3. Innovation and partnership  4. Cybersecurity  5. ICT applications and services  6. Capacity building  7. Telecommunication/ICT statistics  8. Digital inclusion  9. Concentrated assistance to LDCs, SIDS and LLDCs.  10. ICTs and climate-change adaptation and mitigation  and Emergency telecommunications | <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/conferences/WTDC/WTDC21/Pages/default.aspx> |  |
|  | **Thematic Priorities** |  |  |
| The World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-17) convened in **Buenos Aires, Argentina, from 9 to 20 October 2017** | 1. Telecommunication/ICT network infrastructure and services  2. Cybersecurity  3. Disaster risk reduction and management, and emergency telecommunications  4. Policy and regulatory framework  5.ICT data and statistics  6. Capacity building and human skills development  7: Innovation  8. Concentrated assistance to LDCs, SIDS, LLDCs and countries with economies in transition  9.Telecommunication/ICT services and ICT applications  10. Digital inclusion for empowering women and girls, persons with disabilities and other people with specific needs  11. Climate-change adaptation and mitigation | <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/conferences/WTDC/WTDC21/Pages/default.aspx> |  |

**Explanatory Note:**

1. In implementing WTDC-17 outcomes, BDT work was clustered along the following Thematic Priorities (each with its own Theory of Change[[1]](#footnote-1)) to focus on impact in line with the adopted Results Based Management approach:

* Capacity development
* Cybersecurity
* Digital inclusion
* Digital innovation ecosystems
* Digital services and applications
* Emergency telecommunications
* Environment
* Network and digital infrastructure
* Policy and Regulation
* Statistics

1. The current number of Thematic Topics is ten (10). For better impact, coordination and focus, further clustering could be considered by combining topics that are related.
2. **Note:** Concentrated assistance to LDCs, SIDS, LLDCs and countries with economies in transition was mainstreamed into the then (10) Thematic Priorities

**DISCUSSION POINTS**

1. Are all the current Thematic Topics still relevant?
2. Which of the current Thematic Topics could be combined and which could be dropped?
3. Which new Thematic Topics could be considered for adoption?

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1. A ‘theory of change’ explains how activities are understood to produce a series of results that contribute to achieving the final intended impact. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)