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| C:\Users\comas\AppData\Local\Temp\Rar$DRa0.735\jpg\ITU official logo_blue_RGB.jpg**TDAG Working Group on WTDC Preparations**  **7 September 2020, Virtual** | | |
|  | | **Document TDAG-WG-Prep/9** | |
|  | | **25 August 2020** | |
|  | | **English only** | |
| **Source:** | EMEA Satellite Operators Association (ESOA/GSC) | |
| **Title:** | Promoting WTDC | |

**Summary**

ESOA proposes various options that can be considered in order to establish the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC) as a point of reference globally for development policy and ensure maximum participation.

**Action required:** Participants are invited to consider this contribution in view of effectively promoting WTDC

**Promoting Wider Participation in WTDC**

The WTDC represents values and principles of collaboration, inclusivity, equality and above-all: leave no one behind. With this in mind, and in order to make WTDC “THE” reference event and the BDT “THE” reference institution internationally for development, ESOA considers that:

1. The ITU should look for opportunities to promote WTDC at events organised by other institutions such as: OCHA, UNICEF, WEF, FAO, the Broadband Commission, European Commission, etc.
2. Consider this text instead: “The ITU should make best efforts to bring all relevant stakeholders together e.g. with a session dedicated to WTDC, at events organised by the most relevant private sector stakeholders (mobile, satellite, OTTs, etc.) to profile the event in front of high-level industry executives, call for greater cross-sector collaboration and drive greater engagement in WTDC.”
3. The ITU should be mindful to ensure that engagement with private sector stakeholders is balanced across the major relevant industry sectors and not perceived as an endorsement of any one industry sector/D-member. Therefore, any session or activity organised during a private sector event should be considered as a platform for the ICT sector as a whole in line with the overarching objective of promoting connectivity for all. Accordingly, at any given sector event, we suggest that the ITU ensure multi-sector representation and involvement in any sessions/activities/communications arising from the initiative.

We would highlight the clear need for the ITU to continue to encourage a multi-technology approach to achieve its objectives. We believe this approach will help position the BDT as the unique umbrella body that is actively fostering an inclusive approach amongst technologies and helping to break down silos between sectors in order to connect everyone and deliver on the SDGs.

**During the conference**

During previous meetings, the possibility of having separate tracks during the conference was discussed. A separate track approach could discriminate against smaller ITU Member States and Sector Members who may not have the resources to engage in parallel tracks and would therefore necessarily be excluded from one or more activities. Such an approach should therefore in our view be avoided. This recommendation is also in line with previous TDAG discussions around the desire to simplify engagement with the ITU and in its meetings and events.

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