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| **Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG)**  **27th Meeting, Virtual, 23 November 2020** | C:\Users\comas\AppData\Local\Temp\Rar$DRa0.735\jpg\ITU official logo_blue_RGB.jpg | |
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|  | **Document TDAG-20****/3/6-E** |
|  | **11 November 2020** |
|  | **Original:** **English** |
| United States of America | |
| Inter-Regional Preparatory Meetings (IRM) | |
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| **Summary:**  The United States seeks to reinforce support for Inter-Regional preparatory meetings for WTDC-21 being open to all ITU-D membership.  **Action required:**  Action  **References:**  TDAG-20/3/5-E, TDAG-WG-Prep/22 | |

As stated in document TDAG-WG-Prep/22, the United States believes that RTOs may select representatives to provide updates on the status of regional preparations and that IRMs should be open to participation of all ITU-D membership. Virtual platforms also will make it more practically feasible to include open participation and ensure that the preparations for WTDC take account of broad member viewpoints.

We further believe that past experiences in the other ITU Sectors demonstrate that an IRM open to all membership is a valuable part of the preparatory process. For example, in September 2020, prior to the TSAG meeting, the TSB organized an Inter-Regional Preparatory Meeting in advance of WTSA. This was open to all membership and allowed for presentations on the status of regional and ITU-T preparations. The BR organizes IRMs in advance of the WRC's that are similarly open to all ITU-R membership and which have been a valuable part of WRC preparations for many cycles. These meetings are non-decisional and are intended to help facilitate exchange of information among regions to lead towards consensus at WTDC. And such a meeting benefits from broad participation.

Such an open IRM also should be differentiated from other RTO coordination that could also take place in the lead up to the WTDC. Such informal coordination discussions among RTOs have been organized, formally or informally, in the lead-up to other ITU conferences and are not at issue here.

The TDAG WG-Prep has gained general consensus on holding two IRMs - one envisioned to be held earlier in the preparatory cycle before TDAG and another following the conclusion regional preparatory meetings, and held back to back with RPMs. The United States believes that with this approach, a WTDC IRM open to all ITU-D membership would be an excellent forum to help provide an overview of the status of regional preparations for all stakeholders involved in the preparatory process. But this would also not prevent any additional exchanges among RTO focal points.

The United States supports the following language to capture this view:

Should attendance at IRMs be limited, and if so, how many representatives from each region should attend IRMs?

RTO focal points should coordinate the IRM session presentations, and the two principal WTDC IRMs should be open to participation of all interested ITU-D members in order to promote transparency, inclusion and a full exchange of views. The option to participate virtually could support broader participation.

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