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|  | **Telecommunication DevelopmentAdvisory Group (TDAG)****29th Meeting, Virtual, 8-12 November 2021** | A close up of a sign  Description automatically generated |
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|  | **Document** **TDAG-2****1/2/4-E** |
|  | **14 September 2021** |
|  | **Original:** **English** |
| Director, Telecommunication Development Bureau |
| ITU-D partnerships and resource mobilization |
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| **Summary:**The importance of partnerships and resource mobilization was highlighted by the World Telecommunication Development Conference 2017 (WTDC-17). This document reports on partnerships and resource mobilization activities undertaken between 1 April and 31 August and builds on the report to the TDAG held on 24‑28 May 2021 under document **TDAG-21/7.****Action required:**TDAG is invited to note this document and provide guidance as deemed appropriate.**References:**ITU Goal 5Buenos Aires Action Plan, Section 4.5 of the WTDC-17 Final Report, Resolutions 17 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) and 71 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of WTDC |

1. Background

The World Telecommunication Development Conference 2017 (WTDC-17) highlighted the critical role of partnerships and resource mobilization in supporting the implementation of the Buenos Aires Action Plan, WSIS Action Lines and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The WTDC-17 Action Plan indicates that programmes and Regional Initiatives should be, where possible, implemented in partnership with a wide range of stakeholders. Resolution 17 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) instructs BDT to continue to actively conclude partnerships with Member States, ITU-D Sector Members, financial institutions, and international organizations in order to sponsor implementation activities for regional initiatives. The resolution goes on to appeal to international financial organizations/agencies, equipment suppliers and operators/service providers to contribute, fully or partially, to financing these regionally approved initiatives.

1. ITU-D partnerships and resource mobilization strategic objective

In accordance with the outcomes of the WTDC-17, the objective is to facilitate, develop and strengthen collaboration with the widest possible range of partners from both developed and developing countries with the goal of enhancing resource mobilization for the implementation of programmes and regional initiatives for sustainable development.

1. Partnerships and resource mobilization

Between 1 April and 31 August 2021, the BDT signed 27 agreements, out of which 20 have financial contributions amounting to around USD 5.7 million (co-financed by partners (73%) and ITU (27%). The list of these agreements can be found in document TDAG-21/2/INF/2**.**

BDT’s main funding partners were ITU Member States and other Governmental entities (35.3%), International and Regional organizations (34%) and Private sector entities (28%).

The three funding partners with the largest financial contributions during the period under review were:

* The Cellule D’appui à l’Ordonnateur National du Fonds Européen de Développement (COFED), Dem. Rep. of the Congo / Délégation de l’Union Européenne, Dem. Rep. of the Congo, with a signed financial contribution of about USD 1.2 million
* Huawei Technologies Co., Ltd. with a signed financial contribution of USD 670,000
* Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications (DITRDC), Australia with a signed financial contribution of about USD 650,000

The agreements were mainly dedicated to Africa (44%) followed by multi-regions (23%) and Asia-Pacific (20%). In terms of thematic areas, the breakdown is as follows: multi-thematic (47%) and Policy and Regulation (32%).

1. **Key Actions and Outcomes**

BDT has been conducting a series of strategic actions including the development and enhancement of its internal products and external services to enhance partnerships and resource mobilization, such as:

* **Enhancing Outreach material:** The BDT has developeda corporate presentation, that includes an introduction to ITU, WTDC, thematic priorities and flagship initiative to support its outreach activities towards potential partners.
* **Partner2 Connect Coalition:** ITU **launched** the Partner2Connect Digital Coalition to foster meaningful connectivity and digital transformation in the challenging-to-connect communities and countries including LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS. For more information regarding the Partner2Connect Coalition, please refer to the Document TDAG-21/2/15.
* **Collaboration with United Nations organizations:** BDT enhanced its cooperation with other UN organizations such as United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). The partnership with UNHCR focuses on digital cooperation in support of forcibility displaced people, refugees, stateless people, and their hosting communities at global, regional, and country levels. BDT and UNHCR will work together more systematically to accelerate digital inclusion of these groups of people in alignment with the UNSG’s Roadmap on Digital Cooperation. The work with UNICEF continues to focus on the Giga initiative aimed at consolidating achievements under phase one in priority regions of Africa, Central Asia, and the Eastern/Central Caribbean, and expanding into new regions, and in Asia Pacific and South America.
1. Summary

In 2021 (as of 31 August 2021), BDT signed with partners 45 agreements out of which 32 had financial contributions amounting to about USD 11.6 million, co-financed by the partners (78%) and ITU (22%).

BDT’s main funding partners were primarily ITU Member States and other Governmental entities, followed by International and Regional organizations and Private sector entities:



The following graphs show the allocations of the signed financial contributions per region and per thematic area.



**Comparative Analysis for the same period in 2020 and 2021(January-end of August)**

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1. Way forward

BDT has made remarkable progress in negotiating and concluding new partnerships with a diverse group of partners resulting in new resources mobilized. Ongoing efforts are aimed at consolidating existing partners and attracting new ones in order to attract more resources to finance large-scale and impactful projects required for the successful implementation of WTDC-17 and upcoming WTDC outcomes that include regional initiatives.

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