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|  | **Telecommunication Development** **Advisory Group (TDAG)**  **29th Meeting, Virtual, 8-12 November 2021** | | | A close up of a sign  Description automatically generated |
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| **28 October 2021** | |
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| Inter-American Telecommunication Comission (CITEL)  Inter-American Contribution (IAC) | | | | |
| Proposal for updates to the Draft Thematic Priorities | | | | |
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| **Summary:**  The following presents CITEL views on the working draft of the Thematic Priorities following the September 15-16 meeting of the TDAG working group on Resolutions, Declaration and Thematic Priorities (RDTP). This Inter-American Contribution seeks to address the bracketed sections, as well as add emphasis to future BDT work in support of broadband adoption and affordability, clarify language regarding support for developing countries and confirm support for four thematic priorities of Connectivity, Digital Transformation, Enabling Environment and Resource Mobilization and International Cooperation.  **Action required:**  Participants are invited to support this proposal.  **References:**  n/a | | | | |

**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 telecommunication/ICT infrastructure and services and bridging the digital divides. This Thematic Priority seeks to foster the development of infrastructure and services by utilizing existing as well as new and emerging connectivity solutions and new business models. In doing so, providing assistance to Member States to enhance and strengthen **confidence and security in the use of telecommunications/ICTs which is of vital importance**. |
| **Examples of possible Supporting Components (please note that this section will be dealt with during discussions on the Action Plan and Strategic Plan):**   * Deployment of Networks, including new Networking technologies; * Connecting remote and rural areas and unserved and underserved communities; * Resilient and Secure Digital Infrastructure (including EMF-related issues, availability, and reliability); * Cybersecurity; * Connectivity in Support of Pandemics and Disaster mitigation; and * Emergency Telecommunications. |
| 1. **Digital Transformation:** The focus of this Thematic Priority is on the development and use of telecommunications/ICTs and applications and services to support the digital transformation of society, close the Digital Divide and empower people and societies for sustainable development. This is of critical importance as societies adapt to changes, including those in the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic and other global disasters in future. In so doing, there is a need to recognize the needs of marginalized groups (e.g., women, youth and persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs). |
| **Examples of possible Supporting Components (please note that this section will be dealt with during discussions on the Action Plan and Strategic Plan):**   * Digital Services and Applications (leveraging telecommunications/ICTs for health, education, agriculture, public services, digital financial services, etc.); * Digital Economy (foster the development and use of telecommunications/ICTs in support of developing countries’[[1]](#footnote-2) transition to the digital economy) * Strategies to promote Digital Innovation; * Environment(climate change adaptation and mitigation, and e-waste); and |
| 1. **Enabling Environment:** The focus of this Thematic Priority is on fostering an enabling policy and regulatory environment conducive to sustainable telecommunication/ICT development that encourages investment in infrastructure and ICTs and increased adoption of telecommunications/ICTs. This Thematic Priority comprises key enablers that underpin ITU’s work to deliver on the Connectivity and Digital Transformation priorities. |
| **Examples of possible Supporting Components (please note that this section will be dealt with during discussions on the Action Plan and Strategic Plan):**   * Data and Market Analysis (statistics); * Policy and Regulation * Digital Inclusion and Accessibility (gender issues, persons with disabilities and specific needs, financial inclusion, youth, and indigenous people); * Adoption (affordability, relevant content, skills) * Capacity and Digital Skills Development; and * Internet Related Issues. |
| 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 resources and fostering international cooperation to deliver relevant global outcomes. The needs of developing countries, least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries, and countries with economies in transition as well as underserved and vulnerable populations should be prioritized and given due attention. |
| **Examples of possible Supporting Components (please note that this section will be dealt with during discussions on the Action Plan and Strategic Plan):**   * Projects; * Partnerships (B2G, B2B, etc.); * Mainstreaming the needs of developing countries, least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries, and countries with economies in transition; * WSIS and SDGs; * Membership engagement for better impact; and * ITU-D Study Groups. |

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1. Includes developing countries, least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries, and countries with economies in transition. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)