Chair, TDAG-WG-futureSGQ

Presentation of the Report on the progress of the
TDAG Working Group on the Future of Study Group Questions

_____

Contact:	Name/Organization/Entity:	Mr Ahmad Reza Sharafat, Chair, TDAG Working Group on the future of Study Group Questions
	Phone number:	+ 98 912 106 1716 (Iran) ; +41 77 247 6006 (Switzerland)
	E-mail:	ahmad.sharafat@gmail.com

ITUWTDC

BAKU2025

REGIONAL PREPARATORY MEETING **AFRICA**

8-9 April 2025
Nairobi, Kenya

#ITUWTDC
itu.int/go/RPM-AFR-25
Follow us at @ITUAfrica

Hosted by:

COMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY OF KENYA

Organised by:

ITU

Report on the progress of the TDAG Working Group on the Future of Study Group Questions

Dr Ahmad Reza Sharafat, Chair, TDAG Working Group on the Future of Study Group Questions (TDAG-WG-futureSGQ), Iran (Islamic Republic of)
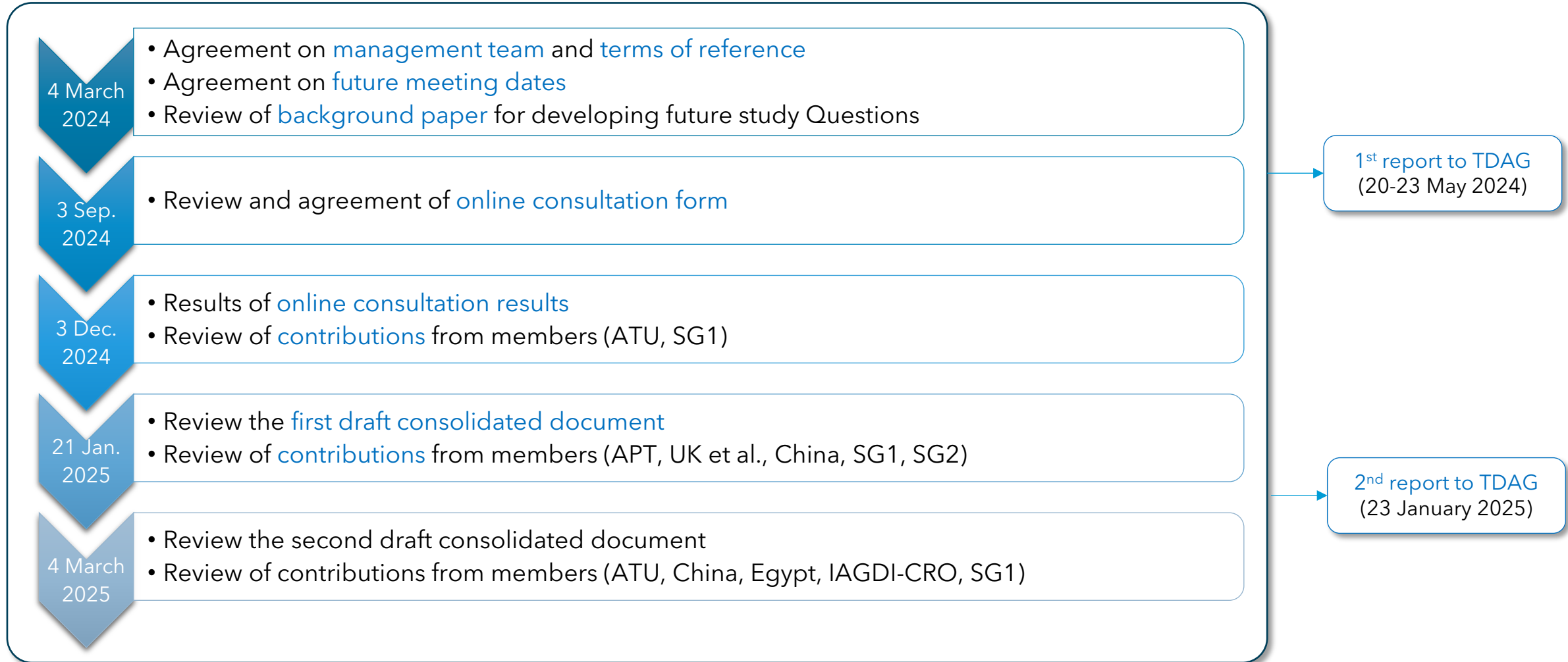
Management team and coordinators

- Chair: Ahmad Reza Sharafat (Iran (Islamic Republic of))
- Vice-chairs: Regina Fleur Assoumou-Bessou (Côte d'Ivoire), Fadel Digham (Egypt)
- Study group coordinators: SG1: Roberto Hirayama (Brazil)
  SG2: Victor Martinez (Paraguay)

Terms of reference

1. To act as a single platform for focused discussions on future ITU-D study Questions, and to assist ITU membership in their preparations for the next WTDC by proposing specific changes to Resolution 2 (Rev. Kigali, 2022) on the scope of ITU-D study Questions, their number, titles, and terms of reference, taking into consideration the evolution of ICTs, priorities of ITU membership, as well as current and past activities/outcomes of ITU-D study groups.

2. To align, as far as possible, the proposed study Questions to BDT thematic priorities, proposed regional initiatives, the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and WSIS Action Lines (C2, C5 and C6) for which ITU has lead responsibility.

3. To research and acquire views of ITU membership through relevant channels including surveys, contributions and meetings.

4. To liaise with ITU-D Study Groups through the appointed ITU-D Study Groups 1 and 2 coordinators for the future of study Questions. The coordinators may, inter alia, upon the request of the ITU membership, assist them to prepare contributions on Future of Questions.

5. To submit regular updates to TDAG.

Meetings held

4 March 2024
- Agreement on management team and terms of reference
- Agreement on future meeting dates
- Review of background paper for developing future study Questions

3 Sep. 2024
- Review and agreement of online consultation form

1st report to TDAG (20-23 May 2024)

3 Dec. 2024
- Results of online consultation results
- Review of contributions from members (ATU, SG1)

21 Jan. 2025
- Review the first draft consolidated document
- Review of contributions from members (APT, UK et al., China, SG1, SG2)

2nd report to TDAG (23 January 2025)

4 March 2025
- Review the second draft consolidated document
- Review of contributions from members (ATU, China, Egypt, IAGDI-CRO, SG1)

Online consultation highlights in 1 slide – 48 responses

Current Questions

- Important: Q1/1 Broadband (93.8%) then Q3/2 Cybersecurity (85.4%) then Q5/1 Rural & remote telco (81.3%)

- Not Important: Q4/2 C&I, Counterfeit & mobile theft (20.8%) then Q2/1 Broadcasting & Q7/2 EMF (14.6%)

Future Structure

- 2 Study Groups (63%) next is 3 Study Groups (23%)

- 10 study Questions (35%) next is 14 Questions (25%)

Discontinuing

- Questions studied over several periods: Q2/1 (27%) then Q4/2 & Q7/2 (23%)

- Lack of interest: Q4/2 (23%) then Q2/1 (21%)

- Do not address directly ITU strategic goals: Q6/1, Q4/2 & Q6/2 (10%)

Merging

- Q1/1 Broadband & Q5/1 Rural & Remote telecoms (62.5%)

- Q1/2 Smart cities & Q2/2 E-services & applications (58.3%)

- Q3/1 Disaster risk reduction & Q6/2 Environment (56.3%)

- Q6/2 Environment & Q7/2 EMF (54.2%)

Future Topics
- Artificial Intelligence then new approaches to Regulation
Cross Cutting Topics
- Economic Aspects
- Digital Skills (also high as stand alone topic)

New proposals for merging
1. Q6/1 & Q4/2
2. Q4/1 & Q5/1
3. Q4/2 & Q6/2 ewaste part to device affordability then Q3/1 & Q6/2 non ewaste part & Q7/2 in a new Questions
4. Q2/1 & Q7/2 to deal with all spectrum matters
5. Q5/2 & Q2/2
6. Q6/1 & Q7/2
7. Q6/2 & Q7/2 & Q3/1
8. Q7/1 & Q2/1

Contributions received until the last meeting (4 March 2025)

– Views from regions (APT, ATU) and Member States (Egypt) that include: the number of study groups and study Questions, views on the scope and merging proposals of study Questions

– Proposed updates from SG1 and SG2 on the terms of reference of current study Questions

– Two new topics proposed: device availability & affordability (device A&A) (from multiple sources) and application of AI (from China)

– A contribution from IAGDI-CRO reporting on two tech talks focused on the themes of SG1 and SG2

– Two subsequent **draft consolidation documents** based on contributions received and discussions held, which proposed so far:

  • 10 study Questions

  • Q1/1 Broadband & Q5/1 Rural & remote telecoms (62.5%) merged into a new Question A/1

  • Q1/2 Smart cities & Q2/2 E-services & applications (58.3%) merged into a new Question A/2

  • Q4/2 Counterfeiting & mobile theft parts merged with Q6/1 Consumer protection into a new Question B/1

  • Q6/2 Environment, Q7/2 EMF (54.2%) and Q4/2 Conformance & interoperability part merged into a new Question B/2

  • Q3/1 Disaster risk reduction proposed to be moved to SG2 as Q2/2

  • Initial proposal for including the new topics (device A&A and AI) into current Questions

Progress made until the last meeting

Consensus achieved:

- uphold the current two study groups. A possible third study group to be discussed as a separate topic.

- have five study Questions in each of the two study groups

- merge Q1/1 (broadband) and Q5/1 (rural and remote areas) of the current study period

- agree on focus for Q4/1 (economic aspects)

- include the new topic on AI (Document TDAG-WG-futureSGQ/30) into an existing study Question

Further discussions needed to achieve consensus:

- where to fit the new topic on device availability & affordability (Document TDAG-WG-futureSGQ/19)

- whether some specific Questions should be merged or not
  - including: Q6/1 (consumer protection) with Q4/2 (counterfeit & device theft) or Q5/2 (digital skills), Q7/1 (accessibility) with Q5/2 (device theft), Q1/2 (smart cities and communities) with Q2/2 (e-services and applications), Q4/2 (C&I) with Q6/2 (environment) and Q7/2 (EMF)

- in which study group some Questions should be studied
  - including: Q3/1 (disaster risk management) and Q3/2 (cybersecurity)

- whether some standalone or merged Questions should extend their scope to become more attractive
  - Including: Q1/1 (broadband) merged with Q5/1 (rural and remote areas), and Q2/1 (broadcasting)

Future steps

Two additional meetings are proposed to be held:

- One virtual meeting on 16 April 2025, to achieve consensus on the remaining issues

- A face-to-face meeting during TDAG (scheduled from 12 to 16 May 2025) to reach a **final consolidated document** which shares information to assist

  - ITU membership in their preparations for the next WTDC by proposing specific changes to Resolution 2 (Rev. Kigali, 2022) on the scope of ITU-D study Questions, their number, titles, and terms of reference, taking into consideration the evolution of ICTs, priorities of ITU membership, as well as current and past activities/outcomes of ITU-D study groups

Regional focal points

RTO	Focal point(s)
APT (Asia-Pacific)	Mr Mohammad Khalil-Ur-Rahman (Bangladesh)
ATU (Africa)	Ms Caecilia Nyamutswa (Zimbabwe)
CEPT (Europe)	Ms Madalina Clapon (Romania) Mr Teddy Woodhouse (United Kingdom)
CITEL (Americas)	Mr Roberto Hirayama (Brazil)
LAS (Arab States)	Mr Belkassem Makhlouf (LAS)
RCC (CIS regions)	Mr Arseny Plossky (Russian Federation)

ITUWTDC
BAKU2025

See you in Baku

Thank you !