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|  | **27 March 2025** |
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| Director, Telecommunication Development Bureau |
| Regional Initiatives for the 2023-2025 Cycle and Vision for WTDC-25 |
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| **Agenda item:**8**Summary:**This document outlines the regional initiatives (RIs) adopted during WTDC-22 under the Kigali Action Plan, presenting an overview of key initiatives for each region. It also aims to inspire discussions during RPMs to define new regional initiatives for the upcoming WTDC-25 and for the next cycle.**Action required:**The RPMs is invited to note this report in its deliberation in identifying new regional initiatives.**References:**N/A |

# Regional Initiatives for 2023-2025 period

1. **Introduction**

The World Telecommunication Development Conference 2022 (WTDC-22), held in Kigali, Rwanda, marked a significant milestone in advancing the objectives of ITU's Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D). Under the Kigali Action Plan, 28 regional initiatives (RIs) were adopted to address region-specific ICT priorities. These initiatives align with the ITU’s strategic goals and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), emphasizing affordability, inclusivity, and digital innovation. Resolution 17 (Rev. Kigali, 2022) underscores the importance of collaboration and resource mobilization to implement these initiatives effectively.

1. **Regional Initiatives Across ITU-D Regions:**

**Africa Region:**

* AFR1: Supporting digital transformation to usher in a rapid transition to a digital economy while accelerating innovation in Africa.
* AFR2: Implementation and expansion of broadband infrastructures, connectivity and emerging technologies.
* AFR3: Building trust, safety and security in the use of telecommunications/information and communication technologies and protection of personal data.
* AFR4: Fostering emerging technologies and innovation ecosystems.

**Americas Region:**

* AMS1: Deployment of modern, resilient, secure and sustainable telecommunication/information and communication technology infrastructure.
* AMS2: Enhancement and expansion of digital-literacy, digital-skills and digital-inclusion programmes, especially among vulnerable populations.
* AMS3: Effective support for digital transformation and innovation ecosystems through scalable, funded and sustainable connectivity projects.
* AMS4: Development of enabling policy and regulatory environments to connect the unconnected through accessible and affordable telecommunications/information and communication technologies that support achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and progress towards the digital economy.

**Arab Region:**

* ARB1: Sustainable digital economy through digital transformation.
* ARB2: Enhancing confidence, security and privacy in the use of telecommunications/information and communication technologies in the era of new and emerging digital technologies.
* ARB3: Developing digital infrastructure for smart sustainable cities and communities.
* ARB4: Building capacities and encouraging digital innovation, entrepreneurship and future foresight.
* ARB5: Developing means of digital regulation.

**Asia-Pacific Region:**

* ASP1: Addressing special needs of least developed countries, small island developing states, including Pacific island countries, and landlocked developing countries.
* ASP2: Harnessing information and communication technologies to support the digital economy and inclusive digital societies.
* ASP3: Fostering development of infrastructure to enhance digital connectivity and connecting the unconnected.
* ASP4: Enabling policy and regulatory environments to accelerate digital transformation.
* ASP5: Contributing to a secure and resilient information and communication technology environment.

**CIS Region:**

* CIS1: Developing infrastructure to promote innovation and partnerships in the introduction of new technologies – the Internet of Things, including the industrial Internet, smart cities and communities, 5G/IMT-2020 and next-generation NET-2030 communication networks, quantum technologies, artificial intelligence, digital health, digital skills and environmental protection.
* CIS2: Cybersecurity and personal data protection.
* CIS3: Creating an enabling legal and regulatory environment to accelerate digital transformation.
* CIS4: Digital skills and information and communication technology accessibility for the public, in particular for persons with disabilities.
* CIS5: Development of smart cities and communities.

**Europe Region:**

* EUR1: Digital infrastructure development.
* EUR2: Digital transformation for resilience.
* EUR3: Digital inclusion and skills development.
* EUR4: Trust and confidence in the use of telecommunications/ information and communication technologies.
* EUR5: Digital innovation ecosystems.
1. **Focusing on Regional Initiatives for the AMS Region**

The AMS Region's initiatives highlight its dedication to harnessing ICTs for sustainable development, addressing critical challenges, and needs of assistance. Resolution 17 underscores the need for coordinated efforts and partnerships to implement these initiatives effectively. The following presents the objectives and Expected Results: of each Regional Initiative as agreed by WTDC-22.

* **AMS1: Deployment of modern, resilient, secure and sustainable telecommunication/information and communication technology infrastructure**

**Expected Results:**

1. Assistance in designing, funding and implementing national, regional and subregional broadband plans and resilient networks, including support to community networks, with special attention to indigenous communities, underserved and unserved areas, critical environment areas and vulnerable populations, taking into account innovative connectivity solutions that can be locally deployed and managed, including access to spectrum and high-speed networks.
2. Assistance in developing, funding and implementing national emergency telecommunication plans and network infrastructure.
3. Enhanced and strengthened confidence and security in the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs), including capacity building and support for the development of national cybersecurity strategies.
4. Effective use of sustainable telecommunications/ICTs to mitigate climate change and enhance environmental sustainability.
5. Assistance in designing effective spectrum-management plans, enabling affordable access to backbone facilities, development of Internet exchange points and appropriate use of universal service funds.
* **AMS2: Enhancement and expansion of digital-literacy, digital-skills and digital-inclusion programmes, especially among vulnerable populations**

**Expected Results:**

* 1. Support in developing human capacity through national, regional and subregional capacity-building projects, such as training programmes or workshops, to exchange expertise and knowledge, as well as national and international experiences, which will provide practical skills and tools to bridge the digital divides, including the gender digital divide, in order to contribute to the development of sustainable telecommunications/information and communication technologies, enhancing competition, investment and innovation.
	2. Provision of diligent assistance in planning, implementing and evaluating projects and programmes on digital literacy, digital skills and digital inclusion.
* **AMS3: Effective support for digital transformation and innovation ecosystems through scalable, funded and sustainable connectivity projects**

**Expected Results:**

* 1. Assistance in planning and implementing foundational infrastructure and special-purpose e-services.
	2. Increased capacity building and multistakeholder cooperation to facilitate and enhance innovation in telecommunications/information and communication technologies in support of digital transformation in the region, with special focus on all developing countries in the region, including least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing states, indigenous communities, and in particular youth and women in rural, remote, unserved or underserved areas and communities.
	3. Promotion of the active engagement of civil society, international financial institutions, industry partners, academia and other relevant stakeholders.
* **AMS4: Development of enabling policy and regulatory environments to connect the unconnected through accessible and affordable telecommunications/information and communication technologies that support achievement of the sustainable development goals and progress towards the digital economy**

**Expected Results:**

* 1. Support for and promotion of sustainable telecommunications/information and communication technologies in all developing countries in the region, including least developed countries (LDCs), landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) and small island developing states (SIDS), and in protected areas, for emergency communications and for protecting, restoring and promoting sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems.
	2. Support in developing an enabling policy and regulatory environment and in facilitating investment and innovation to connect the unconnected and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.
	3. Support for Member States in implementing policy and regulatory strategies to connect the unconnected, with a focus on affordability, including support for small operators and community networks.
	4. Enhanced outreach to all developing countries in the region, including LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS, for greater participation in ITU processes and better access to finance and expertise.
	5. Support for digital financial inclusion and fostering the implementation of electronic transactions.

These initiatives were designed and implemented to address the specific needs of the AMS region while contributing to global efforts to bridge the digital divide. By prioritizing partnerships, resource mobilization, and knowledge sharing, the regional initiatives aim to achieve sustainable development through ICTs and ensure that no one is left behind in the digital era.

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