

ITUWTDC

BAKU2025

REGIONAL PREPARATORY MEETING CIS

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Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan



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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



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 (16 April 2025)

- Views from regions (APT, ATU, RCC) and Member States (Egypt, Russian Federation) that include:
 - views on the number of study groups and study Questions,
 - merging proposals of study Questions,
 - changes to terms of reference (ToRs) of study Question (Q7/1)
- Proposed updates from SG1 and SG2 on the ToRs of current study Questions
- Two new topics proposed: device availability & affordability (from multiple sources) and application of AI (from China), with other emerging technologies through subsequent discussions
- A contribution from IAGDI-CRO reporting on two tech talks focused on the themes of SG1 and SG2

Draft consolidation document (16 April 2025)

Three subsequent **draft consolidation documents** were reviewed, based on contributions received and discussions held. The last version proposed:

- 10 study Questions (5 study Questions in each study group)
- Q1/1 (Broadband) & Q5/1 (Rural & remote areas) merged into a new Question A/1
- Q6/1 (Consumer) & Q7/1 (Accessibility) merged into a new Question B/1
- Q1/2 (Smart cities) & Q2/2 (E-services & applications) merged into a new Question A/2
- Q6/2 (Environment) & Q7/2 (EMF) merged into a new Question B/2
- Device availability & affordability included with Q4/2 (C&I, counterfeit and theft) as two separate pillars in a new Question C/2
- Emerging technologies (including AI) included with Q5/2 (Digital skills) as two separate pillars in a new Question D/2
- AI included also in other Questions within their scope of work

Progress made until the last meeting

Current directions:

- uphold the current two study groups.
- 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
- keep Q4/1 (economic aspects) and Q3/2 (cybersecurity) as standalone Questions
- avoid transfers of current study topics between the study groups
- title of QA/1 updated to *“Enabling policies and regulations to extend connectivity including broadband everywhere with focus on rural and remote areas”*

Further discussions needed:

- whether to add a third study group focused on statistics, and its implications (e.g. financial)
- whether to extend to six study Questions per study group, if consensus cannot be achieved with five Questions
- whether some specific Questions should be merged or not
 - Including: Q6/1 (consumer protection) with Q7/1 (accessibility), Q1/2 (smart cities) with Q2/2 (e-services and applications), Q6/2 (environment) with Q7/2 (EMF), Emerging technologies with Q5/2 (digital skills)
- whether some standalone or merged Questions should extend their scope to become more attractive

Future steps

One additional meeting is proposed to be held:

- A [face-to-face meeting \(2 x 1.5 hours\) during TDAG](#) (scheduled from 12 to 16 May 2025) to achieve consensus on remaining issues and 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 Makhoulf (LAS)
RCC (CIS regions)	Mr Arseny Plossky (Russian Federation)



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See you in Baku
Thank you !