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| **Extra-ordinary Meeting of the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG)****Virtual, 23 January 2025** | A close up of a sign  Description automatically generated |
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|  | **Document** **TDAG-Extra/2(Rev.3)-E** |
|  | **23 January 2025** |
|  | **English only** |
| Chair, TDAG-ICG-GYS |
| Report on progress of the TDAG Informal Coordination Group on the ITU Global Youth Summit 2025 and Global Youth Celebration (TDAG-ICG-GYS) |
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| **Agenda item:**Item 2**Summary:**The document contains a summary of discussions and an update on the progress of the Group.**Action required:**For information.**References:*** Report of the first meeting of the TDAG-ICG-GYS: [TDAG-ICG-GYS/5](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG.ICG.GYS-C-0005/)
* Report of the second meeting of the TDAG-ICG-GYS: [TDAG-ICG-GYS/8](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG.ICG.GYS-C-0008/)
* Report of the third meeting of the TDAG-ICG-GYS: [TDAG-ICG-GYS/12](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG.ICG.GYS-C-0012/)
* Summary Report on the Regional Consultations held with Generation Connect Youth Envoys (GCYE) towards the ITU Global Youth Summit (GYS-25) and its Annexes: [See documents](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG.ICG.GYS-C-0007/)
* Proposed calendar of meetings and Chair rotation: [TDAG-ICG-GYS/3](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG.ICG.GYS-C-0003/)
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1. **Introduction**

TTDAG-ICG-GYSwas entrusted with the task ‘to contribute their expertise and ideas to organize a successful Global Youth Summit and possible Youth Celebration’ and to ‘consider the input documents on the Global Youth Summit and Youth Celebration presented at TDAG-2024 and provide advice to the BDT Director on the scope and programme of both events. The Terms of Reference of the group can be consulted in Annex 1 of document [TDAG-ICG-GYS/5](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG.ICG.GYS-C-0005/)**.**

The coordinators of the informal group are Ms Agustina BRIZIO from Argentina, Ms Ke WANG from China, Mr Abdoulkarim OLOYEDE from Nigeria, and Ms Shahad ALBALAWI from Saudi Arabia.

TDAG-ICG-GYS held its first meeting on 25 September 2024, chaired by Ms. Brizio and a second meeting on 6 December 2024, chaired by Ms. Wang. The third meeting was held on 22 January 2025 and chaired by Mr Abdoulkarim Oloyede from Nigeria. Reports of all meetings are available on the [Website of the TDAG-ICG-GYS](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Conferences/TDAG/Pages/2024/TDAG_ICG_GYS.aspx).

1. **Global Youth Summit (GYS-25) preparations**

*Logistics and Coordination with Host Country*

The Secretariat provided the following updates on the preparations for the GYS-25 the three meetings of the group:

* The Government of Cuba offered to host the GYS-25 from 11–13 March 2025.
* Ongoing collaboration between BDT and the Cuban Government is on track.
* The Cuban Government has carefully selected a suitable venue in Varadero, Cuba, and has made significant progress in addressing logistical and facility requirements, with final formalities currently underway.

*GYS-25 Agenda and Programme*

During its first meeting, the group agreed to improve the agenda and programme of the GYS through a co-creation and validation process with the GCYE community. The discussions underscored the importance of maintaining a youth-centred approach to the Summit’s preparations while ensuring alignment with ITU’s and BDT’s mandate and work.

BDT put in motion a co-creation process aimed at identifying the key ICT topics, including perspectives and challenges for youth from among the six ITU regions. Inputs received through this co-creation process were developed by the regional GCYE youth exclusively, with BDT acting merely as a facilitator.

At the second meeting of the group, BDT presented the Summary Report on the Regional Consultations held with Generation Connect Youth Envoys (GCYE) towards the ITU Global Youth Summit (GYS-25) and its Annexes ([TDAG-ICG-GYS/7 and its Annexes)](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG.ICG.GYS-C-0007/) which encompasses the ICT related inputs and views received from each of the 6 Regional GCYEs. BDT also informed that in follow-up of the inputs received from the 6 regional youth, it was noted that in addition to the topics of interest of youth to be addressed at the GYS presented in the TDAG document 13 [Annex 1](https://www.itu.int/dms_pub/itu-d/md/22/tdag31/c/D22-TDAG31-C-0013%21N1%21MSW-E.docx), two additional topics: Connectivity (Last-mile connectivity) and Cybersecurity were identified as priorities across several regions. As a result, it was proposed that these topics be also included in the Agenda and Programme of the GYS-25.

Two GCYE representatives from each ITU region were invited to provide summaries of their regional input documents, highlighting ICT-related challenges, opportunities, and actionable solutions proposed by youth. The Delegates expressed strong appreciation for these youth regional contributions, which can be considered by ITU members, if they wish so, in shaping their national, regional digital agendas.

At the third meeting of the group, the Secretariat provided an overview of the recent updates on the Global Youth Summit (GYS-25). The secretariat also clarified that the event agenda aligns with ICT-related priorities and challenges highlighted by Generation Connect Youth Envoys (GCYE), as presented at the second meeting of the TDAG Informal Coordination Group on the Youth Summit and the Global Celebration and that active planning for sessions and speakers is underway. Efforts to boost participation include widely shared sponsorship packages, and direct outreach to potential sponsors, particularly to support underrepresented regions. The Group was invited to consult the [Website of the TDAG-ICG-GYS](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Conferences/TDAG/Pages/2024/TDAG_ICG_GYS.aspx) for more information.

The Russian Federation presented contribution [TDAG-ICG-GYS/10](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG.ICG.GYS-C-0010/en) which proposes several modifications to the existing agenda and programme. Delegates from Member States, including the Republic of Korea, China, Ghana, the UK, and Canada manifested agreement to maintain the agenda as proposed by BDT Secretariat reflected in the document [TDAG-ICG-GYS/11 (Rev.1)](https://www.itu.int/dms_pub/itu-d/md/22/tdag.icg.gys/c/D22-TDAG.ICG.GYS-C-0011%21R1%21MSW-E.docx) aligned with the views and ICT related topics of interest summarized after regional consultations and presented by the GCYE representatives from each of the 6 ITU regions to the Second Meeting of the Group on 6 December 2024 (see document [Summary Report on the Regional Consultations held with Generation Connect Youth Envoys (GCYE) towards the ITU Global Youth Summit (GYS-25)](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG.ICG.GYS-C-0007/en)).

The TDAG Chair reiterated that the agenda had been developed over a year with significant input from youth, emphasizing its alignment with youth-centric goals and interests. Several countries stressed the challenge of adding new topics in the agenda from practical perspective including how this would affect timely planning for speakers and sessions. The BDT Director highlighted the importance of finalizing the agenda at the upcoming Extraordinary Meeting of the TDAG.

Following discussions on the document from the Russian Federation a decision was made to add two additional topics to the agenda: 1) Economic aspects of national telecommunications/ICTs and 2) Telecommunication/ICT Business and Youth Cooperation. With these adjustments the agenda was approved.

The BDT Secretariat updated the agenda to include the proposed addition of the two points indicated above on 12 March 2025 as requested. See document [TDAG-ICG-GYS/12](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG.ICG.GYS-C-0012/).

It was noted that the GYS-25 is expected to produce an Outcome Document for information to ITU members focusing on ICT development youth-related topics, reflecting the views of youth and outcomes from the Summit’ sessions. This document can be used by ITU Members, as they wish, for Regional Preparatory Meetings or in their WTDC-25 submissions within the required deadlines. The Director emphasized that, as with other BDT events, the document will be acknowledged and included in official records.

The Youth Celebration towards the WTDC-25 is intended to be a social event, previous to the Conference, aiming to celebrate youth within the global digital development agenda.

*Sponsorship and Fellowship Support*

During the three meetings, ITU Member States were called to facilitate the participation of their national GCYE. The group further encouraged all ITU members to support the participation in GYS of GCYE from LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS, including securing sponsorships either directly or by identifying potential donors, and to cover the operational costs of the event. A sponsorship package has been developed by BDT to this effect [ITU-GYS-2025-Sponsorship-Package.pdf](https://www.itu.int/itu-d/meetings/global-youth-summit-25/wp-content/uploads/sites/34/2024/12/ITU-GYS-2025-Sponsorship-Package.pdf).

BDT indicated that Member States could bring additional youth participants within their delegations, provided the necessary registration and validation processes were followed. Although the event remains open to all youth delegates, for individuals not affiliated with ITU, the registration would undergo a due diligence process to ensure compliance with ITU event standards. The inclusion of additional delegates, while encouraged, would be managed within the logistical capacity of the host country.

*Youth Celebration prior to WTDC-25*

Efforts are underway to ensure a Youth Celebration prior to WTDC-25 in Azerbaijan. No side events are planned during the WTDC-25 itself, considering that some delegations only consist of one or two members. This approach avoids potential conflicts with the work of Working Groups or Ad Hoc Groups, ensuring uninterrupted progress of the Conference.

1. **Next steps**
2. **GYS Agenda Updates:** The Secretariat incorporated the two additional approved topics identified during the second meeting as of interest of youth: connectivity (last mile) and cybersecurity and the two additional topics approved during the third meeting: 1) Economic aspects of national telecommunications/ICTs and 2) Telecommunication/ICT Business and Youth Cooperation to the agenda.
3. **Calendar of Upcoming Meetings:** Given the agreement reached on the agenda, the group may reconsider the need to of hold a Fourth Meeting of the TDAG-ICG-GYS currently scheduled for 17 February 2025.

**Note:** The third meeting of the TDAG-ICG-GYS was held on 22 January 2025. For information on the results of this meeting see document [TDAG-ICG-GYS/12](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG.ICG.GYS-C-0012/).

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