|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Extra-ordinary Meeting of the Telecommunication Development  Advisory Group (TDAG)**  **Virtual, 23 January 2025** | A close up of a sign  Description automatically generated |
|  |  |
|  | **Document** **TDAG-Extra/10-E** |
|  | **6 February 2025** |
|  | **English only** |
| Chair, Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG) | |
| Report of the Extra-Ordinary Virtual Meeting 23 January 2025, 13:00-16:00 | |
|  | |

**Introduction and highlights**

The virtual Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG) Extra-Ordinary Meeting was held under the chairmanship of Roxanne McElvane Webber (United States) on 23 January 2025 from 1300 to 1600 hours (CEST).

The objective of the meeting was to give the Informal Coordination Group on the Youth Summit and the Global Celebration (TDAG-ICG-GYS) an opportunity to report to TDAG on its work regarding the GYS to be held in Varadero, Cuba from 11 to 13 March 2025. Taking this opportunity, the four Working Groups of TDAG also reported on their ongoing work.

The meeting was attended by 147 virtual participants, including 83 female and 64 male participants from 41 member states. 9 documents were presented and discussed, including 5 reports from the TDAG informal coordination group and TDAG working groups and 3 contributions from the membership.

The following TDAG Vice-Chairs were present and participated in the meeting,[[1]](#footnote-2) as were the chairs of the ITU Development Sector study groups:

| **Position** | **Country** | **Name** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Chair | United States | **Roxanne McElvane WEBBER** |
| Vice-Chair (Chair, Study Group 1) | Côte d'Ivoire | **Regina Fleur Assoumou BESSOU** |
| Vice-Chair (Chair, Study Group 2) | Egypt | **Fadel DIGHAM** |
| Vice-Chair – Africa | Kenya | **Christopher Kipkoech KEMEI** |
| Nigeria | **Abdulkarim Ayopo OLOYEDE** |
| Vice-Chair – Americas | Brazil | **Andrea Mamprim GRIPPA** |
| Vice-Chair – Asia and the Pacific | China | **Ke WANG** |
| Iran (Islamic Rep. of) | **Ahmad Reza SHARAFAT** |
| Vice-Chair - Arab States | Saudi Arabia | **Shahad ALBALAWI** |
| Egypt | **Ahmed Abd El-Aziz GAD** |
| Vice-Chair - Europe | Spain | **Blanca GONZÁLEZ** |

The chairs of the TDAG working groups and the coordinators of the informal coordination group were also present at the meeting:

* TDAG Working Group on ITU-D Priorities (TDAG-WG-ITUDP): Mr Christopher Kemei (Kenya), Chair;
* TDAG Working Group on the WTDC Declaration (TDAG-WG-DEC), Mr Abdulkarim Oloyede (Nigeria), Chair;
* TDAG Working Group on the Future of Study Group Questions (TDAG-WG-futureSGQ): Dr. Ahmed Sharafat (Iran), Chair;
* TDAG Working Group on Streamlining Resolutions (TDAG-WG-SR): Ms Andrea Grippa (Brazil), Chair;
* TDAG Informal Coordination Group on the ITU Global Youth Summit 2025 and Global Youth Celebration (TDAG-ICG-GYS): Ms Agustina BRIZIO (Argentina), Ms Ke WANG (China), Mr Abdulkarim OLOYEDE (Nigeria), and Ms Shahad ALBALAWI (Saudi Arabia), Coordinators.

**Address by the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau**

The BDT Director welcomed all participants to the first statutory meeting of the ITU-D in 2025, paving the road to WTDC-25 in Baku, Azerbaijan.

Dr. Zavazava emphasized the successful mobilization of resources in 2024, marking it as the largest in ITU history, with over 65 agreements signed, enabling substantial progress in advancing sustainable digital transformation globally. He noted that an additional 227 million people came online in 2024, contributing to ITU’s mission to bridge the digital divide.

He noted that the purpose of this meeting was to discuss the progress of the TDAG Informal Coordination Group on the ITU Global Youth Summit 2025 and Global Youth Celebration (TDAG-ICG-GYS). The Director reminded the delegates of objective of this group:

* 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;
* Organize the Global Youth Summit and the Youth Celebration.

Acknowledging that the Informal Coordination Group had met three times previously, the Director thanked the coordinators of the group: Ms Agustina BRIZIO (Argentina), Ms Ke WANG (China), Mr Abdulkarim OLOYEDE (Nigeria), and Ms Shahad ALBALAWI (Saudi Arabia). He also emphasized that the GYS-25 represents a key opportunity to engage youth in the digital development agenda.

In terms of preparations for GYS-25, Dr. Zavazava highlighted Cuba’s progress in hosting the summit, noting that the country’s experience hosting international events would ensure a smooth and successful gathering. He also mentioned the importance of securing sponsorships to support the participation of youth from developing regions and underrepresented countries, such as LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS.

The BDT Director also recognized the successful meetings held thus far by the TDAG Working Group on ITU-D Priorities (TDAG-WG-ITUDP); the TDAG Working Group on the Declaration (TDAG-WG-DEC); the TDAG Working Group on the Future of Study Group Questions (TDAG-WG-futureSGQ); and the TDAG Working Group on Streamlining Resolutions (TDAG-WG-SR). He noted that TDAG Working Groups serve to accelerate the work ahead of the WTDC and that Membership contributions are extremely helpful and appreciated.

Regarding the WTDC-25 preparations, the BDT Director noted that arrangements and venue for WTDC-25, the Baku Convention Centre, proposed by the Ministry of Digital Development and Transport of Azerbaijan are state of the art. He expressed his confidence in a successful WTDC-25 and reiterated the Secretariat's commitment to supporting a smooth and efficient process.

The Director informed TDAG that the Minister of Digital Development and Transport of Azerbaijan will chair WTDC-25, and that the host country has agreed to host the Youth Celebration scheduled on the day before the opening of the conference.

In a few days, BDT will begin Regional Development Forums held back-to-back with Regional Preparatory Meetings, to establish synergies with these events and generate ideas for the latter in advance of WTDC-25.

The Director emphasized the importance of continued collaboration in achieving the goals set for the GYS-25 and WTDC-25 and wished TDAG members productive discussions during the extra-ordinary session.

The BDT Director’s full opening remarks are available on the [Director’s corner](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/bdt-director/Pages/Speeches.aspx?ItemID=529) of the BDT website.

**Opening remarks by the Chair of TDAG**

The TDAG Chair, Ms Roxanne McElvane Webber, thanked the BDT Director and his team for all the support they give to TDAG, its Working and Coordination Groups, and for their efforts thus far towards WTDC-25 preparation.

She congratulated the BDT for the substantial achievements made in mobilizing resources to implement BDT and projects in a transparent and accountable manner. In particular she appreciated the creation of a new Projects Board which meets monthly to review project status, and the BDT Project Dashboard, which membership can consult at any time to discern the state of implementation and progress of BDT projects funded by these resources. She thus congratulated the BDT not only for its successes in raising additional funds for BDT projects and priorities of Membership, but for initiating corresponding and complementary procedures to ensure all resources are managed with heightened accountability and transparency.

The TDAG Chair extended her appreciation for the work accomplished by the TDAG Working Group chairs and the focal points from the Secretariat for their excellent work.

The TDAG Chair gave the floor to the TDAG Bureau members and chairs of the TDAG WGs for a brief introduction and thanked all TDAG members for their contribution to this extra-ordinary TDAG meeting.

**Agenda Item 1: Opening**

**Document:** [**1**](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG.EXTRA-C-0001/) **- Draft agenda (Director, BDT)**

**Document:** [**DT/1(Rev.3**](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG.EXTRA-250123-TD-0001/en)**) - Draft Time Management Plan****(Director, BDT)**

The agenda contained in document [1](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG.EXTRA-C-0001/) and the time management plan contained in document [DT/1(Rev.3](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG.EXTRA-250123-TD-0001/en)) were presented and considered by TDAG.

|  |
| --- |
| TDAG agreed to the proposed agenda.  TDAG noted the time management plan document. |

**Agenda Item 2: Report on the work of the TDAG Informal Coordination Group on the Youth Summit and the Global Celebration (TDAG-ICG-GYS)**

**Document:** [**2(Rev.3**](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG.EXTRA-C-0002/)**) - Report on progress of the TDAG Informal Coordination Group on the ITU Global Youth Summit 2025 and Global Youth Celebration (TDAG-ICG-GYS) (Chair, TDAG-ICG-GYS)**

Presented by Mr Abdulkarim OLOYEDE (Nigeria), a Coordinator of the Informal Coordination Group on the Youth Summit and the Global Celebration (TDAG-ICG-GYS) that chaired its most recent meeting, the report highlighted deliberations of the WG and matters covered at its working meetings related to the ongoing preparations for the Global Youth Summit (GYS-25), 11 to 13 March 2025 in Cuba and for the Youth Celebration prior to WTDC-25 in Baku, Azerbaijan.

The report summarized three meetings held to date, focusing on the preparation and agenda-setting for the Global Youth Summit:

* **Youth Summit Agenda**: The group helped to develop a draft agenda focused on ICT-related topics aligned with ITU priorities and the interests of youth from all six regions. The agenda was refined through input from regional consultations and youth representatives.
* **Engagement and Collaboration**: Regional consultations, mentoring programs, and co-creation processes were conducted to ensure active participation and representation of youth perspectives. Youth envoys played a central role in shaping the agenda and proposed solutions for advancing digital development.
* **Host Country Arrangements**: The Government of Cuba was acknowledged for its logistical and in-kind support for the Summit. Delegates to the meeting were informed that preparations for the Global Youth Celebration, preceding WTDC-25, were also progressing, with Azerbaijan reaffirming its support.
* **Sponsorship and Participation**: Fellowship efforts and the need for sponsorships to ensure the participation of youth from underrepresented regions, including LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS were highlighted. Member states were also encouraged to include youth in their delegations.

As requested by a delegate during the discussion, practical information is available on the GYS-25 website: <https://www.itu.int/itu-d/meetings/global-youth-summit-25/>. Other member states commended the progress of the TDAG-ICG-GYS, emphasizing the importance of maintaining a youth-centered approach and ensuring inclusivity in participation.

The BDT Director highlighted the Secretariat’s commitment to finalizing logistical arrangements, including website updates, and stressed the importance of securing sponsorships to facilitate the participation of youth from LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS. He also reiterated the value of the Summit in amplifying youth voices in ICT development and encouraged member states to actively support these efforts.

|  |
| --- |
| TDAG noted with appreciation the report of the Coordinator of the Informal Coordination Group on the Youth Summit and the Global Celebration (TDAG-ICG-GYS) and congratulated the group on the progress of their work.  TDAG thanked the Host Country, Cuba, for the arrangements in hosting GYS-25 and the BDT for the support in organizing this event. TDAG agreed to the agenda of GYS-25, as presented in document [TDAG-ICG-GYS/12](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG.ICG.GYS-C-0012/). |

**Agenda Item 3:**

**a. TDAG Working Group on the Declaration (TDAG-WG-DEC)**

**Document:** [**3**](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG.EXTRA-C-0003/) - **Report on progress of the TDAG Working Group on the Declaration (TDAG-WG-DEC)**

The Chair of the TDAG Working Group on the Declaration (TDAG-WG-DEC), Mr Abdulkarim Oloyede (Nigeria), presented a progress report on the group’s efforts to prepare a draft Declaration for WTDC-25. The report outlined three meetings held in 2024, where discussions focused on the structure, themes, and language of the Declaration.

Key highlights included:

1. **Proposed Theme:** The group proposed the theme “Universal, Meaningful, and Affordable Connectivity for an Inclusive and Sustainable Digital Future,” emphasizing its alignment with ITU-D priorities and the WTDC-25 objectives.
2. **Structure of the Declaration**: A draft structure was presented, building on the format of the Kigali Declaration from WTDC 2022. The proposed framework included an introduction, declarations of intent, commitments, and a call to action.
3. **Engagement with Regional Preparatory Meetings**: The group aims to gather feedback on the draft Declaration from regional preparatory meetings, ensuring alignment with regional perspectives and ICT priorities.
4. **Next Steps**: The group aims to finalize a comprehensive draft by its March 2025 meeting, incorporating feedback available from membership and regional organizations, and present the final proposal at the May 2025 TDAG meeting.

The group emphasized collaboration and actionable language to address the pressing issues of digital connectivity and development.

The BDT Director commended the progress made by the TDAG Working Group on the Declaration, recognizing the proposed theme, structure, and methodology as a solid foundation for the WTDC-25 Declaration. He emphasized the importance of the Declaration in articulating ITU-D’s vision and priorities for global digital development. The Director underscored the need for inclusivity and broad consultation, encouraging member states and regional organizations to actively provide feedback through regional preparatory meetings. The Director reaffirmed the Secretariat’s commitment to supporting the working group and ensuring the draft Declaration is finalized on schedule for presentation at the TDAG meeting scheduled 12 to 16 May 2025.

Chairs of the TDAG Working Groups were also invited to participate in the upcoming RPMs

|  |
| --- |
| TDAG noted with appreciation the report of the Chair of the TDAG Working Group on the Declaration (TDAG-WG-DEC) and acknowledged the proposed theme and structure. TDAG also supported the regional preparatory meetings as key opportunities for Membership to refine the draft Declaration so that a version containing these inputs could to be submitted to the May 2025 TDAG meeting. |

**Document:** [**8**](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG.EXTRA-C-0008/) **- APT view on the theme and structure of the Baku Declaration (Asia-Pacific Telecommunity)**

Presented by the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity, this document recalled the APT WTDC25-2 meeting held from 10-11 December 2024 which considered the Draft annotated outline of the Baku Declaration 2025, as contained in Document [TDAG-WG-DEC/4(Rev.1)](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG.WG.DEC-C-0004/).

The presentation emphasized the importance of aligning the declaration with ITU-D priorities and the broader objectives of the WTDC-25. The APT expressed agreement with the proposed theme of the declaration, “Universal, Meaningful, and Affordable Connectivity for an Inclusive and Sustainable Digital Future,” and supported its adoption as a central element for WTDC-25 discussions. The APT contribution alsostated support for the titles under ‘We Support’ and ‘We Commit.’.

Regarding the structure of the declaration, the APT recommended maintaining a concise format, similar to the structure used in the Kigali Declaration, with a focus on actionable commitments.

|  |
| --- |
| TDAG noted the APT’s contribution and its alignment with ongoing efforts to finalize the declaration’s theme and structure. The input was welcomed as a valuable addition to the preparatory process for WTDC-25. |

**b. TDAG Working Group on the Future of Study Group Questions (TDAG-WG-futureSGQ)**

**Document:** [**4(Rev.1**](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG.EXTRA-C-0004/)**) - Progress report on the work of the TDAG-WG-futureSGQ (Chair, TDAG-WG-futureSGQ)**

The Chair of the TDAG Working Group on the Future of Study Group Questions (TDAG-WG-futureSGQ) Dr. Ahmed Sharafat, presented the progress report, detailing the group’s activities and preliminary outcomes. The report highlighted the group’s four meetings held to date, with the most recent session convened on 21 January 2025.

The working group’s efforts focused on reviewing and optimizing the structure and scope of study group questions for the 2025–2029 study cycle. Key achievements included:

* Survey Results: An online consultation captured member perspectives on existing questions. High priority was assigned to topics such as broadband connectivity, cybersecurity, and rural and remote telecom access.
* Proposals for Consolidation: Recommendations were made to reduce the number of study questions from 14 to 10, improving efficiency and alignment with ITU-D strategic objectives. Suggestions included merging overlapping topics, such as broadband and rural access, as well as smart cities and e-services.
* Study Group Structure: A majority of participants that responded to the survey supported retaining two study groups, with discussions ongoing regarding their specific mandates.

The Chair, TDAG-WG-futureSGQ re-emphasized the collaborative nature of the discussions, with significant input from APT and ITU-D study group chairs. It was noted that document [TDAG-WG-futureSGQ/23](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG.WG.SGQ-C-0023/en), prepared by the Chair, TDAG-WG-futureSGQ and containing draft revisions to Resolution 2 and proposed terms of reference for study group questions, served as the basis for the group’s deliberations. The next steps outlined included further refining document 23, integrating feedback from the January 2025 meeting of the working group, regional preparatory meetings, and aligning study group questions with ITU-D priorities.

During the discussions,

* One Member State expressed concerns about the alignment of regional meeting schedules with the working group’s timelines, emphasizing challenges in providing detailed inputs on study group questions.
* Another Member State proposed that the working group provide a concise set of questions or topics to facilitate efficient discussions during regional preparatory meetings.
* One representative suggested that proposals for merging or modifying study questions should include clear problem statements and detailed topics to ensure alignment with ITU-D strategic priorities.
* Some delegates stressed the importance of balancing efficiency in reducing study questions with ensuring comprehensive coverage of emerging ICT issues.
* Another intervention emphasized the value of incorporating feedback from the ITU global survey on study group performance to enhance the working group’s outcomes.

The Chair TDAG-WG-futureSGQ clarified that regional inputs are not mandatory; they are welcome at varying levels of detail. He also reiterated that document 23 would continue to serve as the basis for ongoing revisions, with continued opportunities for feedback from all Membership including the regions; he also highlighted the importance of achieving consensus for the May 2025 TDAG meeting.

|  |
| --- |
| TDAG noted with appreciation the report of the TDAG Working Group on the Future of Study Group Questions (TDAG-WG-futureSGQ). Acknowledging the progress made by the working group and mindful of the upcoming RPMs, TDAG supported the continued engagement of all Membership and regional groups to ensure a globally representative and efficient study group structure. |

**Document:** [**7**](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG.EXTRA-C-0007/) **- APT view on the number of ITU-D Study Groups and the number of Study Questions for 2025-2029 Study Period (Asia-Pacific Telecommunity)**

The Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT) presented its views on the number of ITU-D study groups and study questions for the 2025–2029 study period. These views were formulated during the APT Preparatory Group’s virtual meeting held from 10 to 11 December 2024.

In line with the majority views contained in Document [TDAG-WG-futureSGQ/11](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG.WG.SGQ-C-0011/), the APT recommended maintaining the current structure of two study groups, emphasizing that this arrangement provides sufficient scope for addressing priority topics.

APT supported reducing the number of study questions to 10, noting that this would enhance the efficiency and focus of ITU-D’s work. However, the proposal acknowledged that adjustments might be necessary if further analysis during preparatory processes identified additional priority topics.

The APT highlighted the importance of aligning the study questions with emerging ICT trends, ITU-D strategic objectives, and regional development priorities. It emphasized that the streamlined structure would help ensure a more effective study cycle while maintaining comprehensive coverage of key issues.

|  |
| --- |
| TDAG took note of the APT’s contribution, which was welcomed as a valuable input into the ongoing deliberations of the TDAG Working Group on the Future of Study Group Questions. |

**c. TDAG Working Group on the ITU-D Priorities (TDAG-WG-ITUDP)**

**Document:** [**5**](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG.EXTRA-C-0005/)**- Report on progress of the TDAG Working Group on the ITU-D Priorities (Chair, TDAG-WG-ITUDP)**

Presented by Mr Christopher Kemei (Kenya), Chair of TDAG Working Group on the ITU-D Priorities (TDAG-WG-ITUDP), the report outlined the group’s activities and outcomes to date. The report detailed two meetings held in 2024 and emphasized the group’s role in defining ITU-D priorities for the 2025–2029 study period, in alignment with the ITU Strategic Plan and the WTDC -25.

Key highlights included:

1. Initial Discussions: The group reviewed the current ITU-D priorities, operational plans, and strategic objectives.
2. Proposed Streamlining: A draft document prepared by the Chair, with Secretariat support, proposed consolidating the existing five ITU-D priorities into four overarching themes:

* Connectivity and Digital Resilience
* Sustainable Digital Transformation and Innovation
* Enabling Environment
* Inclusive and Secure Digital Society

1. Feedback and Refinements: The group received constructive feedback, including proposals to incorporate risk analysis, monitoring mechanisms, and alignment with regional and global ICT priorities. Members emphasized the importance of continuity, clarity, and actionable language.

During the TDAG discussions:

* A Member State emphasized the importance of aligning the proposed ITU-D priorities with both regional and global ICT development goals, highlighting the need for continuity between the current and proposed priorities.
* Another representative suggested incorporating risk analysis and monitoring frameworks into the ITU-D priorities to ensure the effective implementation and evaluation of initiatives.
* A delegate proposed that the working group provide more detailed explanations of key terminologies and concepts within the draft priorities to enhance understanding and applicability across member states.
* One intervention stressed the value of maintaining a streamlined structure for ITU-D priorities, ensuring they remain actionable and aligned with the ITU Strategic Plan and WTDC objectives.
* Several members supported presenting the updated draft to regional preparatory meetings for broader consultation, noting that regional input would help ensure the priorities are globally representative and reflective of emerging challenges.

|  |
| --- |
| TDAG noted with appreciation the report of the TDAG Working Group on the ITU-D Priorities (TDAG-WG-ITUDP) and acknowledged the progress made in streamlining the ITU-D priorities. The proposed draft was recognized as a strong foundation, with members emphasizing the importance of inputs from all Membership, including from the regions, and alignment with global ICT goals. It was agreed that the updated draft would be available for Membership on the website and presented at regional preparatory meetings for broader consultation. |

**d. TDAG Working Group on Streamlining Resolutions (TDAG-WG-SR)**

**Document:** [**6**](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG.EXTRA-C-0006/) **- Progress report on the work of the TDAG-WG-SR (Chair, TDAG-WG-SR)**

Presented by Ms Andrea Grippa (Brazil), Chair of TDAG Working Group on Streamlining Resolutions (TDAG-WG-SR), the report outlined the group’s efforts to review and streamline ITU-D resolutions for the 2025 WTDC. The report highlighted four meetings held in 2024, with significant progress made in clustering related resolutions and identifying areas for potential amendments.

Key achievements included categorizing resolutions into thematic clusters to facilitate targeted revisions, with volunteers assigned to several clusters. Contributions from Member States and regional organizations were reviewed, including specific proposals from Australia and Ghana on amending resolutions related to regional initiatives and sustainable development. The Chair, TDAG-WG-SR emphasized the importance of collaboration and welcomed further contributions to ensure all clusters are adequately addressed.

The group’s next steps included refining proposals for clustered resolutions, integrating feedback from Membership and regional preparatory meetings, and finalizing a report by May 2025. Member states were encouraged to provide additional input and to volunteer for clusters that remained unassigned.

|  |
| --- |
| TDAG noted with appreciation the report of the TDAG Working Group on Streamlining Resolutions (TDAG-WG-SR) and commended the progress of the working group and reaffirmed its support for streamlining resolutions to ensure clarity, efficiency, and alignment with ITU-D priorities. |

**Agenda Item 4: Any other business**

**Document:** [**9**](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG.EXTRA-C-0009/) **- WTDC Preparation (Russian Federation)**

Presented by the Russian Federation, this document invited the Secretariat to include on the WTDC-25 website information relevant to the preparation and submission of proposals, including the Conference Proposal Interface (CPI) tool for WTDC-25.

The Secretariat assured members that the WTDC website and the CPI were in the final stages of preparation and would be operational shortly. The Secretariat also noted that contributions for the regional preparatory meetings were being processed and made available on the relevant platforms. Additionally, updates on practical details, registration links, and supporting documents for WTDC would be published on the website in the coming days.

|  |
| --- |
| TDAG took note of the contribution and welcomed the Secretariat’s assurance that the WTDC website and CPI were being finalized and would be operational shortly. |

The TDAG Chair provided information on the arrangements for TDAG-25:

* Dates: 12-16 May 2025, in Geneva, with remote participation
* Proposal to schedule:
  + Meeting of the TDAG Bureau on Sunday 11 May from 16:00 to 17:00
  + RPM Coordination meeting from 09:00-10:00 on Monday 12 May

Mr Christopher Kemei (Kenya), Chair of the TDAG Working Group on the ITU-D Priorities (TDAG-WG-ITUDP) informed TDAG members of his retirement in December 2024, after a long career at the Communications Authority of Kenya. He would therefore be stepping down from his position of Chair, TDAG-WG-ITUDP.

The TDAG Chair recognized Mr Christopher Kemei’s long standing contribution to the work of the TDAG and thanked him for his contribution to the work of the BDT.

The meeting acknowledged the retirement of TDAG Vice Chair Christopher Kemei, with participants joining TDAG Chair in expressing their deep gratitude for his outstanding contributions to ITU-D and his leadership of the TDAG Working Group on ITU-D Priorities. Members highlighted his professionalism, collaborative spirit, and dedication to advancing ITU-D’s mission over many years.

The Director of the BDT recognized Mr Kemei’s exceptional service and presented a certificate of appreciation on behalf of the ITU, acknowledging his important legacy within the organization. Mr Kemei expressed his gratitude to colleagues, reaffirming his commitment to staying connected with ITU activities in a personal capacity.

It was announced that Inga Rimkeviciene (Lithuania, TDAG Vice Chair, Europe) would succeed Mr Kemei as Chair of the TDAG Working Group on ITU-D Priorities. Ms Rimkeviciene expressed her appreciation for the trust placed in her and committed to continuing the group’s work, building on the strong foundation established under Mr Kemei’s leadership. Members warmly welcomed her appointment and pledged their support for the group’s ongoing activities.

**Closing remarks by the TDAG Chair**

The Chair thanked all participants for their active engagement and contributions throughout the meeting. She emphasized the importance of continued collaboration in preparing for the WTDC-25 and acknowledged the progress made by the TDAG working groups in advancing their mandates. The Chair also highlighted the need for Membership including regional groups to remain actively involved in the preparatory process, particularly through contributions to the working groups and regional preparatory meetings.

**Closing remarks by the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau**

The meeting concluded with closing remarks from the TDAG Chair and the Director of the BDT.

The Director of the BDT expressed his gratitude to all participants, commending their commitment and dedication. He reaffirmed the Secretariat’s efforts to provide the necessary tools, resources, and support for the WTDC preparations. The Director acknowledged the significant contributions of TDAG Working Group Chairs, Vice Chairs, Coordinators, and Secretariat staff, noting that their work has laid a strong foundation for the conference. He also extended warm wishes to Christopher Kemei on his retirement, acknowledging his admirable legacy within ITU-D.

The meeting closed with a call for continued collaboration, inclusivity, and efficiency as ITU-D advances toward a successful WTDC-25.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Not present for the meeting: Vice-Chair for the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) Orozobek Zhazybaevich Kaiykov (Kyrgyz Republic) and Vice-Chair from Americas Agustina BRIZIO (Argentina). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)