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| **TDAG Informal Coordination Group on the Youth Summit and the Global Celebration (TDAG-ICG-GYS)****3rd Meeting, Virtual, 22 January 2025** | A close up of a sign  Description automatically generated |
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|  | **Document** **TDAG-ICG-GYS/12-E** |
|  | **23 January 2025** |
|  | **English only** |
| Chair, TDAG-ICG-GYS |
| Report of the third meeting of the TDAG Informal Coordination Group on the Youth Summit and the Global Celebration |
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| **Summary:**The document contains a summary of the discussions held during the third meeting of the group and related decisions.**Action required:**For information.**References:*** Draft agenda: [TDAG-ICG-GYS/9](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D22-TDAG.ICG.GYS-C-0009)
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1. **Opening of the meeting and welcome remarks**

The Chair of the Third Meeting of the TDAG-ICG-GYS, Mr Abdoulkarim Oloyede from Nigeria, welcomed participants, expressed gratitude for their attendance, and gave the floor to Dr. Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava, Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) of the ITU, to deliver his welcome remarks. In his address, the BDT Director acknowledged the Chairs of the TDAG-ICG-GYS, the support of TDAG Chair to this Group and, thanked all delegates present. Additionally, the BDT Director commended Azerbaijan for its readiness to support the Global Youth Celebration, which will be held a day before WTDC-25. The BDT Director also extended his appreciation to Cuba for its contributions and support for the Global Youth Summit 2025 (GYS-25).

The TDAG Chair, Ms. Roxanne McElvane Webber recognized and expressed gratitude to the representatives of the Generation Connect Youth Envoys from all six ITU regions who joined the last session to present to the Group their valuable contribution.

1. **Approval of the Agenda**

The Chairintroduced the draft agenda for the meeting, as outlined in document [TDAG-ICG-GYS/9](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D22-TDAG.ICG.GYS-C-0009) and invited participants to provide comments, suggestions, or requests for changes. After confirming that there were no objections or requests for modifications, the Chairdeclared the agenda approved as presented.

1. **Updates on the Global Youth Summit preparations – BDT Secretariat**

The Secretariat provided an overview of the recent updates on the Global Youth Summit (GYS-25), beginning with the proposed venue for the event, the Meliá Varadero Hotel in Cuba, which meets international standards for hosting events and has a proven track record, including ITU events like Accessible Americas in 2021 and 2023. The host country, Cuba, has committed in-kind contributions, including the provision of the venue, logistical support, security, IT services, conference facilities, ground transportation, visa facilitation, and streamlined customs processes. The host country agreement is in the final stages of preparation. 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 ( 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/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D22-TDAG.ICG.GYS-C-0007) ) 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 GYS-25](https://www.itu.int/itu-d/meetings/global-youth-summit-25/) for more information.

The Chair then opened the discussion on the presentation by the Secretariat.

The delegate from Tanzania sought clarification on whether fellowship opportunities were available. In response, the BDT Director explained that the BDT team is actively working to secure extra-budgetary funding to sponsor eligible participants. He emphasized that the sponsorship package has been made available to facilitate the participation of GCYE and that additional voluntary funding is being sought from Member States to support this initiative.

1. **Contributions submitted to TDAG-ICG-GYS**

The Russian Federation presented contribution [TDAG-ICG-GYS/10](https://www.itu.int/dms_ties/itu-d/md/22/tdag.icg.gys/c/D22-TDAG.ICG.GYS-C-0010%21%21MSW-E.docx) 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/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D22-TDAG.ICG.GYS-C-0007)).

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 Annex 1.

**Updates on the Global Youth Summit preparations from the Host Country**

The representative from Cuba reported steady progress in meeting the logistical and technical requirements and highlighted the country’s proven experience in hosting international events, underlining its commitment to ensure a successful Global Youth Summit-25.

**Next Steps:**

1. The report on the progress of the TDAG- ICG-GYS jointly with the approved agenda will be presented at the Extraordinary Meeting of the TDAG on 23 January 2025 by the Chair of the Third Meeting of the Group.
2. 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.
3. Membership was once again encouraged to secure funds and sponsorships to support the participation of GCYE from their respective regions in the GYS-25 and Global Youth Celebration.
4. The Global Youth Celebration is confirmed to take place a day before the WTDC-25.

**Annex 1**

**ITU Global Youth Summit 2025**
**11-13 March 2025**
**Varadero, Cuba**

**Draft Agenda**

**11 March 2025**

* Opening Ceremony
* Workshop on Digital Skills for Digital Jobs
* Partner Sessions (TBD)
* Workshop on Cybersecurity
* Intersectional workshop on Ensuring E-Empowerment for ALL Youth: *Bridging the Gap in Education and Socio-Economic Opportunities for ALL Youth, Across Gender, Ability, Geographic Location*
* Dialogue on Youth as Agents of Change for Climate Action
* Workshop on *Living green: E-Waste*
* Emerging Technologies: AI for Good Session

**12 March 2025**

* Intergenerational dialogue: ICTs for Good Health and Well-being
* Workshop on economic aspects of national telecommunications/ICTs
* Workshop on Connectivity/Last-mile Connectivity
* Guided Speed Networking and Partnership Session to Promote and Foster the Implementation of Youth-Led Projects and Activities
* Workshop on equal and equitable access to, knowledge of and use of ICTs for youth, including for those from vulnerable groups (rural and remote communities)
* Workshop on Innovation and Entrepreneurship for Youth Digital Development: Youth as Agents of Change
* Workshop on Equitable Digital Empowerment - Women Leadership in the ICT sector
* Workshop on Telecommunication/ICT Business and Youth Cooperation
* Finalization of Key Messages/Outcomes of the ITU Global Youth Summit 2025 (GYS-25)

**13 March 2025**

* Workshop on Youth4Impact: Forward oriented action: Expanding impact at international, regional, and community levels
* Space for Global Dialogue: Final Reflections on Youth Regional Priorities and Future Actions
* Guided Reflection on Experience at ITU GYS and Final Networking Activities
* Intergenerational dialogue: Presentation of Key Outcomes of the GYS-25 to Policy and Decision Makers
* Closing Ceremony

**Draft Programme** - The draft programme is currently being refined and will include the two additional topics suggested by the Russian Federation and agreed during the 3rd TDAG ICG-GYS meeting held on 22 January 2025.

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