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| **TDAG Working Group  on the Declaration (TDAG-WG-DEC)**  **2nd Meeting, Virtual, 2 December 2024** | A close up of a sign  Description automatically generated |
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|  | **Document** **TDAG-WG-DEC/INF/1-E** |
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| Chair, TDAG-WG-DEC | |
| Mapping of the Kigali Declaration core topics and new and emerging issues | |
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| **Summary:**  The document contains a mapping of the Kigali Declaration core topics and new and emerging issues identified by recent UN conferences. The mapping was prepared by the TDAG-WG-DEC Chair to inform the discussion on the WTDC-25 Declaration during the second meeting of the group.  **Action required:**  For information  **References:**  Terms of Reference of TDAG-WG-DEC: [TDAG-24/DT/4](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG31-240520-TD-0004/en)  [Website of TDAG-WG-DEC](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Conferences/TDAG/Pages/2024/TDAG_WG_DEC.aspx) | |

## Introduction

## Mapping of core topics

This mapping of the core topics from the Kigali Declaration was developed to ensure that key priorities and commitments are carried forward into the new Baku Declaration. This approach aims to provide a structured foundation for discussions, identify gaps and align the new Declaration with the ongoing work in other Working Groups of TDAG, in particular the work of TDAG-WG-ITUDP on the definition of the new ITU-D Priorities to be submitted to the World Telecommunication Development Conference 2025 (WTDC-25) and emerging needs and challenges identified through an analysis of recent outcome documents of major United Nations conferences.

***How to read the table:*** The two sets of topics are organized as verticals and follow a logical sequence. Since the input topics for the Baku Declaration are streamlined into thematic clusters—unlike the multi-focus approach of the Kigali Declaration—there isn’t always a direct correspondence between individual paragraphs/items in the two Declarations. The acronyms used are spelled out under the table.

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| Kigali Declaration Text | Kigali Declaration Topics\* | Proposed Baku Declaration Topics\* |
| Overall theme | | |
| Kigali Declaration: ‘Connecting the unconnected to achieve sustainable development’  Baku Declaration – Chair’s proposal: ‘Fostering universal and meaningful connectivity for an equitable digital future’  *Alternatives considered:*   * ‘Charting pathways to prosperous and equitable digital futures’ * ‘Charting digital development pathways towards resilience and prosperity’ * ‘Driving inclusive growth through meaningful digital transformation’ * ‘Accelerating universal and meaningful connectivity for sustainable development’ * ‘Towards Universal and Meaningful Connectivity: Achieving Sustainable Digital Transformation for an Inclusive and Equitable Digital Society’ | | |
| [Introduction] | | |
| We, the high-level representatives of ITU Member States, delegates and participants endorse the present Declaration at the eighth World Telecommunication Development Conference, which took place in Kigali, Rwanda, from 6 to 16 June 2022 under the theme: Connecting the unconnected to achieve sustainable development. |  | Direct references to:   * Summit of the Future outcomes * SDGs * WSIS |
| We declare that (focus on challenges and opportunities) | | |
| 1) Telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICTs) have become the foundation for every economic sector and a catalyst for improving peoples' lives by way of social inclusion, decent employment and personal growth. Yet, in 2022 some 2.9 billion people remain unconnected, and for them, the transformative power of telecommunications/ICTs remains untapped. | Promise and potential of ICTs  Connectivity | Promise and potential of digital transformation  New and emerging technologies for better livelihoods, economic prosperity and sustainable development  Need for holistic approaches |
| 2) The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) has introduced many challenges and changed the way we live, work, learn and do business. In the digital era, universal, secure and affordable broadband connectivity is indispensable and provides opportunities for boosting productivity and efficiency, ending poverty, improving livelihoods and ensuring that sustainable development becomes a reality for all. Continuing to build confidence, trust and security in the use of telecommunications/ICTs remains of vital importance. | Connectivity  Universal access  Confidence, trust and security in the use of ICTs  ICTs for business, better livelihoods and sustainable development | Digital divides  Digital equity  Leave no one behind  Gender equality  Human-centred approaches  *[Universal values of the Agenda 2030]* |
| 3) Inequalities remain and continue to widen in the use of data and digital ICT-centric technologies, and in digitally skilled human resources, between regions, between and within countries in urban and rural areas, and between women and men. We recognize that available, affordable, dependable and accessible ICTs, when leveraged through adequate digital skills, can provide powerful drivers for development and are instrumental in timely, inclusive and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Capacity building/ development in different ICT areas, including spectrum management, remains a challenge. | Data and digital inequalities  Digital skills  Digital divides (gender, urban-rural)  Access to ICTs  Resilience  ICT capacity building  Spectrum management | Universal and meaningful connectivity  Electricity, including green and blue energy  *[COP, ABAS/SIDS]* |
| 4) Digital inclusion is a necessity, and insufficient digital capacity and lack of digital skills are core barriers to digital transformation and the digital economy. The demand for digitally skilled workers will increase with the accelerated move towards digital transformation. While many jobs have been and will be lost due to the COVID-19 pandemic, digital transformation and the digital economy can nurture new ICT-centric jobs. Education and capacity building for youth, and their access to digital skills and tools, are essential for youth engagement in shaping the digital future. | Digital transformation  Digital inclusion  Digital capacity  Digital skills  Digital economy  Job creation  Education  Capacity building  Youth and youth engagement | Digital economy  Digital societies |
| 5) We have just eight years left to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, and telecommunications/ICTs are agents of change that can shape the future for the better. Telecommunications/ICTs are instrumental in multistakeholder activities and sharing best practices as prescribed by the World Summit on the Information Society. Multistakeholder cooperation offers a platform for all to join forces, seize opportunities and leverage innovations offered by efficient new and emerging telecommunication/ICT services and technologies, while mitigating risks, so that progress towards sustainable development can be made collectively. | SDGs  ICTs as agents of change  Multistakeholder cooperation  Sharing of best practices  WSIS  Innovation  New and emerging technologies | Digital transformation  Digital data, tools, platforms and networks |
| 6) Developing countries, and in particular least developed countries (LDCs), landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) and small island developing states (SIDS), face additional challenges in mobilizing sufficient investment and financing for telecommunications/ICTs and digital infrastructures and require substantial support to provide universal, secure, reliable and affordable telecommunications/ICTs. | LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS  ICT investment and financing  Digital infrastructures  Connectivity | *[Global challenges]*  Sustainability, environmental issues and climate change  Natural hazards  Economic resilience |
| We commit to (focus on key areas of work and solutions) | | |
| a) Accelerating the expansion and use of efficient and up-to-date digital infrastructures, services and applications for building and further developing the digital economy, including mobilization of financial resources for providing universal, secure and affordable broadband connectivity to the unconnected as soon as possible. This will also include promoting investments in broadband infrastructure deployment, adoption and access with a view to supporting sustainable development, encouraging cooperation among Member States and creating alliances and partnerships between public and private sectors, international funding agencies and other stakeholders. | Digital infrastructures  Digital economy  Connectivity financing  Infrastructure investment  Sustainable development  International cooperation  Alliances and Partnerships  Resource mobilization | Digital resilience  Digital infrastructures (including investment and financing)  New and emerging technologies and services, including Artificial Intelligence *[GDC, DPA/LDCs, ABAS/SIDS, GPA/LLDC]*  Interoperability/ Open source/ Digital public services [existing work]  Confidence, trust and security in the use of ICTs  Space/ Access to orbits *[GDC]* |
| b) Urgently mitigating the impact of disasters and the COVID-19 pandemic by building digital resilience through bold and innovative national plans and recovery strategies for ensuring governance, business, education and social-life continuity. This includes providing the necessary platforms and networks for essential activities such as teleworking, e-commerce, remote learning, telemedicine and digital financial services, while paying special attention to the needs of women and girls, persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs, older persons and children, and at the same time preparing the ground for future developments in the post-COVID-19 era. In doing so, we commit to co-creating a secure, simplified and standards-based, well-coordinated approach in order to implement human-centred digital solutions that will empower individuals and businesses, while improving social well-being. We are also fully committed to tackling environmental and climate-change issues, notably in implementing telecommunication/ICT tools to mitigate the impact of climate change and addressing the impact of telecommunications/ICTs on the environment, in collaboration with users, the private sector, policy-makers and regulators. | Digital resilience  National plans and recovery strategies  Digital tools, platforms and networks  Digital inclusion  ICT Accessibility  Environmental and climate-change issues  Collaboration | Digital strategies  Policy and regulation  Need for agile approaches  Building data capacities  Evidence-based decision-making  Cross-sector approaches  Collaboration  Multi-stakeholder governance  Data governance [GDC] |
| c) Promoting sound, open, transparent, collaborative and future-proof policy and regulatory decisions with a view to facilitating digital transformation in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond. We will implement innovative strategies and policy/regulatory initiatives to bridge the widening digital divides by enabling universal, secure and affordable broadband connectivity and promoting increased digital inclusion, while enhancing confidence and security in the use of telecommunication/ICT infrastructure and services. As such, we will develop and implement policy/regulatory frameworks to help ensure infrastructure resiliency, interoperability and protection of data, as well as increase broadband uptake. Besides, we will adopt effective plans to develop and enhance digital capacities and skills that are required in the online world, without which the digital divides will continue to widen. | Policy and regulation  Connectivity  Interoperability  Digital capacities and skills  Digital transformation | Science, Technology and Innovation  Digital entrepreneurship  Youth and youth engagement  Collaboration |
| d) Fully exploiting the opportunities provided by digital transformation of various sectors of the economy by supporting all relevant stakeholders to unleash new and emerging telecommunication/ICT technologies and services. We will encourage innovation and youth engagement to foster sustainable development and address current and future challenges, such as poverty alleviation, job creation, gender inequality and cybersecurity. In doing so, we will put in place the necessary prerequisites, such as electricity, facilitate digital inclusion and implement evidence-based decision-making, to measure and maximize the impact of digital transformation. | New and emerging technologies and services  Innovation  Youth engagement  Electricity  Digital inclusion  Evidence-based decision-making  Digital transformation | Capacity building  Digital capacities, literacy and skills  Digital inclusion  ICT Accessibility |
| e) Providing support to and cooperating with developing countries, including LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS, in addressing their constraints for accessing digital-centric new and emerging telecommunication/ICT technologies and services and for the integration thereof into different sectors, such as government services, agriculture, education, health, finance, transport, etc. | LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS  New and emerging technologies and services  Cross-sector approaches | Early warning  Green digital action *[COP]*  e-waste |
| f) Promoting international cooperation and partnership among the ITU membership and development-oriented stakeholders for achieving sustainable development using telecommunication/ICT-centric digital technologies. We will enhance and encourage cooperation and partnership between developing countries and between developed and developing countries in order to facilitate sharing of technology, knowledge and best practices with a view to promoting sustainable development and economic growth. | International cooperation  Partnerships  Sharing of technology, knowledge and best practices | International cooperation  LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS  South-South and Triangular cooperation  *[GDC, ABAS/SIDS]*  Alliances and Partnerships  Sharing of technology, knowledge and good practices |
| [Closing] |  | ***Call to action*** |
| Accordingly, we, the delegates to the eighth World Telecommunication Development Conference, declare our commitment to the full and rapid implementation of this Declaration. We also pledge to spare no effort towards the expansion and use of tele­communications/ICTs and digital infrastructures, applications and services for building and establishing truly sustainable digital economies and societies.  The World Telecommunication Development Conference calls upon the ITU member­ship and all development-oriented stakeholders, including those in the United Nations system, to contribute actively to the successful implementation of this Declaration. | Commitment to the full and rapid implementation  Digital economies and societies | Commitment to the full and rapid implementation  Resource mobilization  Projects  Technical assistance  *[BDT core mandate]*  Digital economies and societies |

**Notes:**

GDC – Global Digital Compact (Summit of the Future outcome)

ABAS – Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (SIDS4 outcome)

COP – United Nations Climate Change Conference

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