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| **TDAG Working Group  on the future of Study Group Questions (TDAG-WG-futureSGQ)**  **4th Meeting, Virtual, 21 January 2025** | | A close up of a sign  Description automatically generated |
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|  | **Document** **TDAG-WG-futureSGQ/25-E** | |
|  | **22 January 2025** | |
|  | **English only** | |
| Chair, TDAG-WG-futureSGQ | | |
| Report of the fourth meeting of the TDAG working group on the future of Study Group Questions | | |

**Opening of the meeting and welcome remarks**

Dr Ahmad Sharafat (Iran (Islamic Republic of)), Chair of the TDAG Working Group on the future of Study Group Questions (TDAG-WG-futureSGQ) welcomed all present (see [list of participants](https://www.itu.int/online/mm/scripts/s/gensel23?_lang=&_event=C-00014941&_event_type=ZSED)) for the fourth meeting of this TDAG Working Group. He acknowledged the presence of Dr Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava, Director of the BDT, who extended greetings to the participants and wished them successful outcomes for the meeting. The Chair also acknowledged the presence of Ms Roxanne McElvane Webber (Unites States), Chair of TDAG, who also wished the meeting well.

1. **Approval of the agenda**

The agenda was presented in Document [TDAG-WG-futureSGQ/1](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG.WG.SGQ-C-0017/)7. Six contributions were received and would be discussed in the meeting. The agenda was approved without comments.

1. **Review of the report of the third meeting held on 3 December 2024**

The Chair provided an overview of Document [TDAG-WG-futureSGQ/16](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG.WG.SGQ-C-0016/). He indicated that as was agreed in the last meeting, he will be presenting a first draft proposal which is a revision of extracts of Resolution 2 and of current terms of reference (ToR) of the study Questions. The report was noted.

1. **Contributions submitted to TDAG-WG-futureSGQ**

Document [TDAG-WG-futureSGQ/18](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG.WG.SGQ-C-0018/en) from Asia-Pacific Community (APT) was introduced by Mr Mohammad Khalil-Ur-Rahman (Bangladesh) in his capacity as focal point of APT. The APT contribution shared the agreement to the the majority views contained in Document [TDAG-WG-futureSGQ/11](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG.WG.SGQ-C-0011/) namely to keep the number of Study Groups to 2 and to have 10 study Questions in total. Mr Arseny Plossky (Russian Federation) requested a clarification as to whether this proposal is final. The Chair indicated, as was mentioned in previous meetings, that the output of this working group is a document to guide and to support members and regional groups when they submit their final contributions to WTDC-25. The document was noted with appreciation as it is a move towards more consensus.

Document [TDAG-WG-futureSGQ/19](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG.WG.SGQ-C-0019/en) from Kenya, UK, GDPI, GSMA and Spain was introduced by Mr Teddy Woodhouse (United Kingdom). The contribution proposed a new study Question on device affordability, with draft ToRs. Mr Arseny Plossky(Russian Federation), Mr Mohamed Amine Benziane (Algeria), Dr Fadel Digham (Chair, Study Group 2), Mr Roberto Hirayama (Coordinator and vice-Chair, Study Group 1) and Dr Emma Otieno (Kenya), commented on the document. There was agreement on the need to address the topic of device affordability while noting (a) such a Question may be included in a third Study Group as per a proposal made at TDAG 2024; (b) the need to maintain all elements on affordability in Question 4/1 (Economic aspects of national telecommunications/ICTs); (c) the importance to focus on the device affordability topic; (d) the possibility to address device affordability across a set of Questions proposed in document [TDAG-WG-futureSGQ/23](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG.WG.SGQ-C-0023/en) such as the Question on Broadband and rural & remote connectivity (A/1), on Consumer Protection (6/1), on ICT accessibility (5/1), on Digital Skills(5/2), on ICT for the Environment, EMF, Conformance & Interoperability (B/2) and on Cybersecurity (3/2); (e) the use of interim deliverables as a way to focus on the topic. Document [TDAG-WG-futureSGQ/19](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG.WG.SGQ-C-0019/en) was noted with appreciation. The Chair thanked the interveners and requested them to collaborate with the authors of the document to come up with an updated proposal that can be moved into relevant study Questions proposed in the working document [TDAG-WG-futureSGQ/23](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG.WG.SGQ-C-0023/en) for consideration at the next meeting of 4th March 2025. This collaboration will be led by Mr Teddy Woodhouse (United Kingdom) with the support of the Chair and the secretariat.

Document [TDAG-WG-futureSGQ/20](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG.WG.SGQ-C-0020/en) from China (People’s Republic of) was introduced by Ms Binyi Yang. The contribution proposed a new study Question on applying artificial intelligence in digital transformation together with draft ToRs. Mr Arseny Plossky(Russian Federation), Ms Caecilia Nyamutswa (Zimbabwe), Mr Roland Yaw Kudozia (Ghana), Mr Roberto Hirayama (Coordinator and vice-Chair, Study Group 1), Ms Nicola Bennett (Australia), Mr Mohamed Amine Benziane (Algeria), Dr Fadel Digham (Chair, Study Group 2) and Mr Joseph Burton (United States) commented on the document. There was agreement on the need to address the topic of artificial intelligence while noting (a) all study Questions benefit from utilising artificial intelligence within their specific context; (b) document [TDAG-WG-futureSGQ/23](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG.WG.SGQ-C-0023/en) has proposals on artificial intelligence in the revised ToRs of most study Questions; (c) the need to maintain flexibility in how artificial intelligence is addressed across study Questions instead of containing it in one study Question; (d) the possibility of setting up a joint rapporteur group in line with Resolution 1 to better address the cross cutting nature of the topic of artificial intelligence. Document [TDAG-WG-futureSGQ/20](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG.WG.SGQ-C-0020/en) was noted with appreciation. The Chair thanked the interveners and requested them to collaborate with the authors of the document to come up with an updated proposal that can be moved into relevant study Questions proposed in the working document [TDAG-WG-futureSGQ/23](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG.WG.SGQ-C-0023/en) for consideration at the next meeting of 4th March 2025. This collaboration will be led by Ms Binyi Yang (China (People’s Rep.)) with the support of the Chair and the secretariat.

Document [TDAG-WG-futureSGQ/21](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG.WG.SGQ-C-0021/en) was introduced by Mr Roberto Hirayama (Brazil) in his capacity as Study Group 1 (SG1) Coordinator on the Future of Study Questions. The document shared the revised ToRs for the ITU-D Study Group 1 Questions 1/1, 2/1, 3/1, 6/1 and 7/1 (Question 4/1 will be brought to the working group in the next meeting while that of Question 5/1 was already shared in the previous meeting). The ToRs were provided by the relevant management teams of the Questions concerned. Mr Ahmed Gad (Egypt), Mr Arseny Plossky (Russian Federation), Ms Caecilia Nyamutswa (Zimbabwe), Ms Natalia Vicente (GSOA), Dr Fadel Digham (Chair, Study Group 2) and Dr Emma Otieno (Kenya) commented on the document. There was agreement on integrating the revisions as far as possible in an update to document [TDAG-WG-futureSGQ/23](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG.WG.SGQ-C-0023/en) while noting (a) merging of Question 1/1 and Question 5/1 is requested and has benefits while the rural and remote connectivity aspect requires focus; (b) merging of 2 Questions aims at strengthening the topics discussed; (c) financing aspects to be maintained with Question 4/1 while joint deliverables can be done to focus financing on specific topics; (d) titles of study Questions need to be reviewed to adequately reflect mergers and focus on each study Question. Document [TDAG-WG-futureSGQ/21](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG.WG.SGQ-C-0021/en) was noted with appreciation. The Chair thanked the interveners and indicated that the document and their proposals will be integrated, as far as possible, in the update to the working document [TDAG-WG-futureSGQ/23](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG.WG.SGQ-C-0023/en). He reiterated that merging of Questions may entail expanding the management team of the new Question with co-rapporteurs appointed and tasked to focus on specific aspects of the new Question.

Document [TDAG-WG-futureSGQ/22](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG.WG.SGQ-C-0022/en) was introduced by Mr Victor Martinez (Paraguay) in his capacity as Study Group 2 (SG2) Coordinator on the Future of Study Questions. The document provides initial thoughts on new and revised study items for Study Group 2 Questions, as shared by the management teams of the Questions concerned. The document was noted with appreciation. The Chair thanked the contributor and indicated that the document and their proposals will be integrated, as far as possible, in the update to the working document [TDAG-WG-futureSGQ/23](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG.WG.SGQ-C-0023/en).

Document [TDAG-WG-futureSGQ/23](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG.WG.SGQ-C-0023/en) was introduced by the Chair Dr Sharafat. It is a first draft revision of extracts from Resolution 2 annexes including the terms of reference of study Questions. As agreed in the last meeting of the TDAG-WG-futureSGQ, it aims to capture the rich discussions held into a concrete document to be refined for submission to TDAG in May 2025. Further revisions will aim to engage the widest possible set of contributions received formally and informally. Mr Wenhua Ma (China (People’s Rep.), Mr Arseny Plossky (Russian Federation), Mr Guo-Qing Li (China (People’s Rep.), Mr Roberto Hirayama (Brazil), Dr Fadel Digham (Chair, Study Group 2) and Ms Roxanne McElvane Webber (Unites States), commented on the document noting (a) requests to maintain Question 7/2 (EMF); (b) counterfeit and mobile theft are items better kept in Study Group 2; (c) Question A/2 to consider keeping components of cloud computing and OTTs to maintain the work done in these areas as a stand-alone Question (Q3/1) until the study period that ended in 2021; (d) Artificial Intelligence is proposed in several revised ToRs of study Questions; (e) this is a working document to reach consensus on updates that will benefit all members; (f) while the traditional end of study period survey, sent to all members in January 2025, has a different purpose from the online consultation held in September-October 2024, any relevant results of the survey may be taken on board in updating the document, where possible. The document was noted with appreciation. It was agreed to update it in line with contributions received and discussions held in today’s meeting.

1. **Any other business**

Mr Hirayama conveyed the appreciation of Ms Regina Fleur Assoumou-Bessou, Chair of Study Group 1 who was not able to join the meeting. Dr Digham thanked all for the work towards a document that will benefit all members. The Chair of TDAG noted this is the most thorough work done on revision of study Questions and thanked the Chair, the vice Chairs, and the secretariat of this working group. Dr Zavazava appreciated the discussions and outcomes of this meeting which is one of most highly attended working groups. He reminded all participants of the TDAG emeeting on 23 January 2025 where a progress report of the TDAG-WG-futureSGQ as well as those of other working groups will be presented. The Chair acknowledged that all agenda items were covered and closed the meeting by expressing appreciation for the productive session. The meeting was adjourned with other thanks and positive remarks from the participants.

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