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| **Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG)**  **30th Meeting, Geneva, Switzerland, 19-23 June 2023** | A close up of a sign  Description automatically generated |
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|  | **Document** **TDAG-2****3/4-E** |
|  | **11 May 2023** |
|  | **Original:** **English** |
| Director, Telecommunication Development Bureau | |
| ITU-D partnerships and resource mobilization | |
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| **Summary:**  The importance of partnerships and resource mobilization was highlighted by the World Telecommunication Development Conference 2022 (WTDC-22). This document reports on partnerships and resource mobilization activities undertaken in 2022.  **Action required:**  TDAG is invited to note this document and provide guidance as deemed appropriate.  **References:**  Sections 3.1 and 3.3 of the Kigali Action Plan, WTDC-22 Final Report  Resolution 17 (Rev. Kigali, 2022), WTDC-22 Final Report  WTDC-22 Declaration  Section 4.5 of the Buenos Aires Action Plan, WTDC-17 Final Report | |

1. **Background**

The World Telecommunication Development Conference 2022 (WTDC-22) recognized the importance of Resource Mobilization and International Cooperation, as a new ITU-D Priority and Enabler of the Kigali Action Plan: “The focus of this Priority is on mobilizing and attracting resources and fostering international cooperation on telecommunication/ICT development issues. This Priority is also cross cutting by providing resources and fostering international cooperation to deliver relevant global outcomes. In doing so, the needs of developing countries, least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries, and countries with economies in transition as well as underserved and vulnerable populations should be prioritized and given due attention.” (Kigali Action Plan)

Resolution 17 (Rev. Kigali, 2022) on “Implementation of and cooperation on approved regional initiatives at the national, regional interregional and global levels” instructs the BDT Director “to ensure that BDT facilitates the active involvement of regional and subregional telecommunication organizations in the different phases of project management established by ITU, as well as in forging partnerships and resource mobilization, with a view to effectively advancing the implementation of regional initiatives.”

1. **ITU-D partnerships and resource mobilization strategic objective**

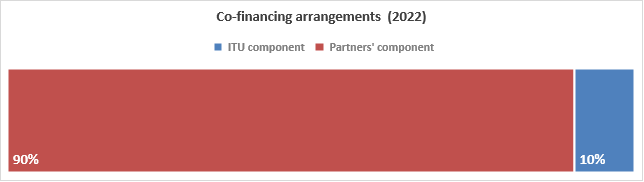
In accordance with the outcomes of the WTDC-22, the objective is to facilitate, develop and strengthen partnership and international collaboration with the widest possible range of partners from both developed and developing countries with the goal of enhancing coordination, expertise sharing and resource mobilization for the implementation of programmes, activities and initiatives for sustainable development.

1. **Partnerships and results of resource mobilization in 2022**

In 2022, BDT signed 71 agreements with a wide range of partners, out of which 50 had financial contributions amounting to around USD 9.7 million. The list of these agreements can be found in Document TDAG‑23/INF/1.

Concluding all these partnerships has been possible thanks to the combined efforts of ITU membership and partners as well as of the BDT staff, both in the field and at headquarters.

The total financial contributions signed by BDT and its partners in 2022 were distributed as follows:



In 2022, the BDT signed agreements with 57 different partners that included Governmental entities (42%), Private sector entities (32%), Academia (7%), UN organizations (7%), Others (5%), International and Regional Organizations and Associations (4%), Financial institutions (2%) and Foundations (2%).

The signed financial contributions of these partners were distributed as per the chart below:

Amongst these partners, 19% were ITU ADMIN, 8% ITU ADMIN RELATED, 12% ITU-D Sector Members (7% SIO and 5% ROA), 4% ITU REGINTORG, 2% ITU UNIVER/RSRCH and 2% ITU OTHER ENTITIES, as per ITU Membership categories[[1]](#footnote-1).

The three funding partners with the largest financial contributions in 2022 were:

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| **Partner** | **Signed financial contribution** |
| Federal Department of Foreign Affairs acting through the State Secretariat, United Nations Division, Switzerland | CHF 2.4 million |
| UN/UNDP Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office | USD 1.6 million |
| Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australia | AUD 1.5 million |

The chart below showcases the geographical distribution of the partnership agreements signed in 2022 (in terms of number and funds signed):

The thematic priorities (as per Buenos Aires Action Plan) which benefitted from the agreements signed in 2022 (in terms of number and funds signed) were:

1. **Partnerships and results of resource mobilization between 1 January and 30 April 2023**

From 1 January to 30 April 2023, BDT signed 30 agreements with a wide range of partners, out of which 12 had financial contributions amounting to around USD 5.4 million. The list of these agreements can be found in Document TDAG‑23/INF/1.

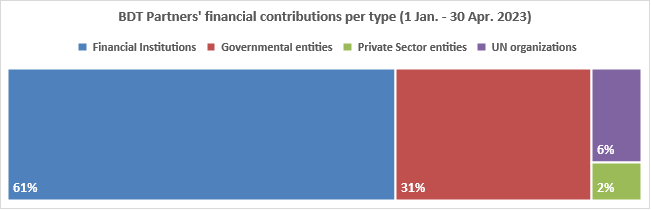
The total financial contributions signed by BDT and its partners in 2022 were distributed as follows:

The three funding partners with the largest financial contributions between January and end of April 2023:

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| **Partner** | **Signed financial contribution** |
| European Commission | EUR 3 million |
| Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit | EUR 0.9 million |
| Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications | USD 0.6 million |

During the period between 1 January and 30 April 2023, BDT signed agreements with 26 different partners, out of which Academia (35%), Governmental entities (31%), UN organizations (15%), Private sector entities (8%), International and Regional Organizations and Associations (8%) and Financial institutions (4%).

The signed financial contributions of these partners were distributed as per the chart below:



Amongst these partners, 15% were ITU ADMIN, 12% ITU UNIVER/RSRCH, 8% ITU-D Sector Members (SIO) and, 4% ITU REGINTORG, as per ITU Membership categories.

The chart below showcases the geographical distribution of the partnership agreements signed between 1 January and 30 April 2023 (in terms of number and funds signed):

In term of ITU-D priorities (as per Kigali Action Plan), the agreements signed between beginning of January 2023 and end of April 2023 (in terms of number and funds signed) were distributed as follows:

The charts below present a comparison in terms of number of agreements and funds signed for the period 1 January – 30 April in both 2022 and 2023:

The outcomes of the Partner2Connect Digital Coalition, which registered 617 pledges valued at USD 30 billion as of 30 April 2023, give BDT the expectations that new agreements will be signed. A special segment of the Regional Development Forums will be dedicated to the Partner2Connect Digital Coalition match-making that provides an opportunity for stakeholders to express their commitments which could be based on the pledges that they have already made or new pledges aimed at addressing country needs with the aim of advancing digital development in the various regions. For more information on the Partner2Connect Digital Coalition, please refer to TDAG-23/14 (ITU-Special Initiatives).

1. **Key Actions and Outcomes**

BDT has been conducting a series of strategic actions, including the development and enhancement of its internal products and external services to enhance partnerships and resource mobilization, which included:

* **Cultivating/strengthening the relationship with existing partners:** Successful partnership and resource mobilization rely on the quality of the relationship with the partners. They are primarily relationship‑building activities, anchored on trust, confidence, and respect. Nurturing and developing the relationship is fundamental to maintaining and sustaining them on a long-term basis. Partnership and resource mobilization are not one-time activities that ends once the support is received. Therefore, BDT pays particular attention at cultivating its relationship with its longstanding partners, including those indicated under TDAG-23/INF/1.
* **Outreach to new potential partners**: While BDT pays particular attention to nurturing the relationship with its existing partners and engaging them in a lasting relationship, BDT also recognizes the importance of widening and diversifying its pool of partners through outreaching activities towards potential new partners. To do so and to ensure the strategic approach, BDT has mapped, profiled and reached out to several prospects, in particular private sector entities, including foundations, in order to raise ITU/BDT profile, identify synergies, and discuss potential partnerships opportunities.
* **Enhancing collaboration with UN agencies**: BDT continues to strengthen its collaboration with other UN agencies enhancing its visibility, including ITU’s unique role as leading organization in the telecommunication/ICT landscape, increasing synergies and knowledge-sharing, and generating new and increased funding, leveraging multilateral convening power. These collaborations provide increasing opportunities for BDT to work closely with UN sister agencies and to access to funding for joint projects implementation at national, regional and global levels towards the 2030 Agenda.

1. **Way forward**

BDT acknowledges and appreciates its longstanding partners as well as new partners with whom it was made possible for BDT to implement projects and initiative across the globe. Taking this and the above into consideration and as required by the Kigali Action plan, the BDT will continue strengthening its collaboration and coordination with the UN agencies and other international organizations regional telecommunications organizations, regional and global development institutions, as well as strengthening the resource mobilization strategy and operational framework for building partnerships with all stakeholders for the implementation of the Kigali Action Plan, including ITU-D priorities in achieving the 2030 sustainable development goals related to telecommunications/ICT development matters.

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1. ADMIN: Administrations, REGINTORG: Regional and other International Organizations, ROA: Recognized Operating Agencies, SIO: Scientific Industrial Organizations, UNIVERS/RSRCH: Universities, research institutes [↑](#footnote-ref-1)