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| **Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG)**  **30th Meeting, Geneva, Switzerland, 19-23 June 2023** | C:\Users\comas\AppData\Local\Temp\Rar$DRa0.735\jpg\ITU official logo_blue_RGB.jpg | |
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| Association for Progressive Communications (APC) | |
| Implementation of Resolution 11: Capacity Development of Indigenous and Rural Communities in Africa | |
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| **Summary:**  This submission seeks to support the operalisation of Resolution 11 (Rev.Kigali, 2022) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC) on Telecommunication/information and communication technology services in rural, isolated and poorly served areas. Specifically, on the implementation of capacity-building programmes to support the expansion and maintenance of telecommunication networks in these areas. APC proposes, based on the experience developed by ITU in Latin America, the creation of a training programme that will build the capacity to create, maintain, and sustain locally-managed communication and telecommunications projects in indigenous and rural communities in Africa.  **Action required:**  Action  **References:**  N/A | |
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| **Lessons learned and suggested best-practices (if appropriate):**  APC with partner organisations have built extensive experience in the development of training programmes whose curricula structure and pedagogical design are anchored on community communications needs and ways of life. These initiatives have been developed based in the use of a Participatory Action Research (PAR) methodology for the design and implementation in Mexico of the Techio Comunitario Training Programme between 2016 and 2019 [1]; which later became the Programme for the Training of ICT Network Managers in Indigenous and Rural Communities in Latin America referred to in this document.  In addition, this PAR methodology [2] has been the basis for the National Schools of Community Networks (NSCNs) that have been implemented since April 2020 in Brazil, Indonesia, Kenya, Nigeria and South Africa [3]. This initiative is part of the Local Access Networks initiative, coordinated by the Association for Progressive Communications (APC) and Rhizomatica Communications and supported by the UK's Digital Access Programme (DAP) and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency.  Some of the lessons learnt [4] include:  Local technological projects in which the rural and indigenous communities themselves deploy, manage and maintain their networks have proven to be sustainable solutions over time.  The training programmes needs to be developed according to the local contexts and ways of learning of the target communities.  Communities need to be engaged in all stages of the capacity-building programme, not only as beneficiaries but also as designers and implementers.  [1] <https://techiocomunitario.org/en/>  [2] <https://www.apc.org/sites/default/files/FINAL_Technological_autonomy_as_a_constellation_of_experiences_18-03.pdf>  [3] <https://www.apc.org/en/blog/meet-national-schools-empowering-grassroots-communities-bridge-digital-divide>  [4] <https://techiocomunitario.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Capacity-development-for-Indigenous-communities-of-the-Americas-re> | |

The Association for Progressive Communications (APC) thanks the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG) for the opportunity to participate in the submissions for the first meeting since the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-22). APC recognizes TDAG's role in providing advice and guidance to the ITU-D Sector on strategies, policies, and other matters related to telecommunications development as well as its efforts to promote knowledge sharing and capacity building contributing to the empowerment of individuals and communities to take advantage of the opportunities offered by the digital economy. As an international network of civil society organizations founded in 1990, APC is dedicated to helping to build a world in which all people have easy, equal, and affordable access to the creative potential of ICTs to improve their lives and create more democratic and egalitarian societies.

The ITU Telecommunication Development Sector, through its Digital Inclusion programme and in collaboration with the Regional Office for the Americas, has implemented tailored capacity-building programmes towards strengthening the ICT capacities of indigenous peoples since 2005. These were based on the Resolution 46 of the 2017 World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC) held in Buenos Aires. This Resolution recognizes: "the necessity of continuing to foster the training of indigenous technicians on the basis of their cultural practices and technological innovation solutions, while at the same time ensuring the availability of resources and spectrum to support the development and sustainability of telecommunication/information and telecommunication (ICT) networks operated by indigenous peoples"

The Latin American programme, promoted by the Americas Office and the Digital Inclusion Office of BDT of the ITU, in collaboration with civil society organizations in that region, has been successful because it focuses on the training needs and ways of learning of the communities. Likewise, those who participate in the programme are communicators and leaders in their territories, which means that not only individuals but also organizations are trained and that the direct impact is generated towards the communities where these local access and community media solutions are operated.

The three editions since 2019 of this comprehensive blended Programme have developed a solid network of more than 100 community communication project managers in 15 countries, who directly benefit their communities through the projects they develop and who are capable of training new communicators in their regions. It should be noted that 45% of the graduates are women and the ages of the participants range from 18 to 72 years old.

The replication of the model of five online modules and a face-to-face bootcamp in Africa will:

Strengthen technical, organizational, economic and social capacities of people from indigenous and rural communities in Africa for the development of local telecommunication and communication projects.

* Develop a network of champions in the communities and various stakeholders that can work at the national level to establish connectivity strategies that have direct results in the daily lives of people who are not yet connected.
* Create communities of practice among individuals, organizations and communities that accompany the development of their local communication and telecommunication projects.
* Conform a regional advisory committee of experts that, in addition to advising this training programme, can generate collective actions to respond to the training and implementation needs of local telecommunication and communication projects in rural and marginalised communities.
* Consolidate enabling environments through the strengthening of relationships among different stakeholders for the solution of communication needs in rural and indigenous communities at national and regional level.

This programme will join the series of actions that are being developed in remote or low-income areas in the region, both by the ITU and civil society organizations and regulators. We propose that the program is promoted by the Africa Office and the Digital Inclusion Office of BDT of the ITU, in collaboration with governments and civil society organizations in the region.

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