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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****3/38(Rev.1)-E** |
|  | **9 June 2023** |
|  | **Original:** **English** |
| Australia and Papua New Guinea | |
| Information requested: Financial and logistical requirements of  a Generation Connect Global Youth Summit | |
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| **Summary:**  This Contribution seeks to request International Telecommunication Union’s (ITU) Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) to provide information on the relevant financial and resourcing requirements necessary to host a Generation Connect Global Youth Summit. This would allow members and potential host to undertake the necessary considerations regarding the Summit, informed by a detailed understanding of financial and logistical requirements.  **Action required:**  TDAG is invited to consider this document and provide guidance as deemed appropriate.  **References:**  WTDC Resolution 198 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) – Empowerment of youth through telecommunication/information and communication technology  WTDC Resolution 76 (Rev. Kigali, 2022) – Promoting information and communication technologies among young women and men for social and economic empowerment | |

1. **Introduction**

In 2020, ITU announced its [Youth Strategy: Roadmap to 2021 and beyond](https://www.itu.int/generationconnect/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/ITU_Youth_Strategy.pdf), aiming to promote youth engagement and a youth perspective in the work of ITU, and encourage ICT youth-related policies among ITU Member States.

As part of this vision, the first [Generation Connect](https://www.itu.int/generationconnect/) Global Youth Summit (the Youth Summit) was successfully hosted in Kigali, Rwanda in June 2022, ahead of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC)-2022. The three-day Youth Summit brought together more than 1,500 young people from over 115 countries to participate in-person, and over 5,000 youths to participate virtually.

The Youth Summit was successful in promoting the work of ITU among youths, fostering intergenerational dialogues on ICT issues of importance to young people, and providing networking opportunities for young entrepreneurs. This engagement with youth is crucial if we are to support the development of telecommunication/ICT solutions and innovations, empower young people to pursue telecommunication/ICT professions, and promote the role that multilateral forums play in the telecommunication/ICT space.

In light of these outcomes, we believe there is benefit to hosting the second Youth Summit.

1. **Generation Connect Global Youth Summit and Asia-Pacific region**

Globally, there are around [1.8 billion young people between the ages of 10 and 24, with close to 90 per cent of them living in developing countries](https://www.itu.int/generationconnect/generation-connect/). According to the International Labour Organization, the Asia-Pacific region is home to [more than 600 million youths between the ages of 15 and 24](https://www.ilo.org/asia/areas/youth-employment/lang--en/index.htm#:~:text=The%20Asia%20and%20the%20Pacific,region%27s%20productivity%20and%20inclusive%20development.).

We note that there is currently an active community of Generation Connect participants in the Asia-Pacific thanks to the efforts of the BDT, ITU General Secretariat and ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific. We believe that further Youth Summits would attract a significant number of young people from LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDs in the Asia‑Pacific region.

Australia has previously supported youths from the Pacific to attend the first Youth Summit and WTDC-22, as well as several Generation Connect – Asia and the Pacific Youth Envoys to attend the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2022. Australia stands ready to provide this kind of support for a future Youth Summit to ensure young people, in particular from LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDs in the Asia‑Pacific region, can take part in in telecommunications/ICT opportunities through ITU.

The holding of a second Youth Summit would also support the delivery of instructions under WTDC Resolution 76 and PP Resolution 198 regarding mainstreaming youth engagement and participation in the work of ITU, empowering youth through ICTs, improving digital inclusion, and supporting the continued implementation of the ITU Youth Strategy and associated initiatives such as Generation Connect.

1. **Request to BDT**

Noting the above, we request that the BDT:

* Provide information on the financial and resourcing requirements necessary to host a Youth Summit via circular following TDAG 2023. This would allow members and potential host to undertake the necessary considerations regarding the Summit, informed by a detailed understanding of associated financial and logistical requirements.

If deemed appropriate by this meeting of TDAG, we also request that the BDT explore resourcing and partnership opportunities to support the hosting and funding of a Youth Summit, and report to TDAG 2024 with progress made.

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