Telecommunication Development
Advisory Group (TDAG)

30th Meeting, Geneva, Switzerland, 19-23 June 2023

Director, Telecommunication Development Bureau

TDAG-23 Briefing for new delegates
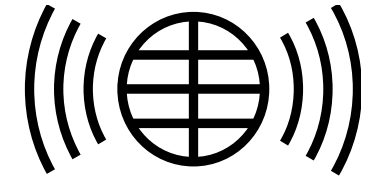
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TDAG

TDAG-23 Briefing for new delegates
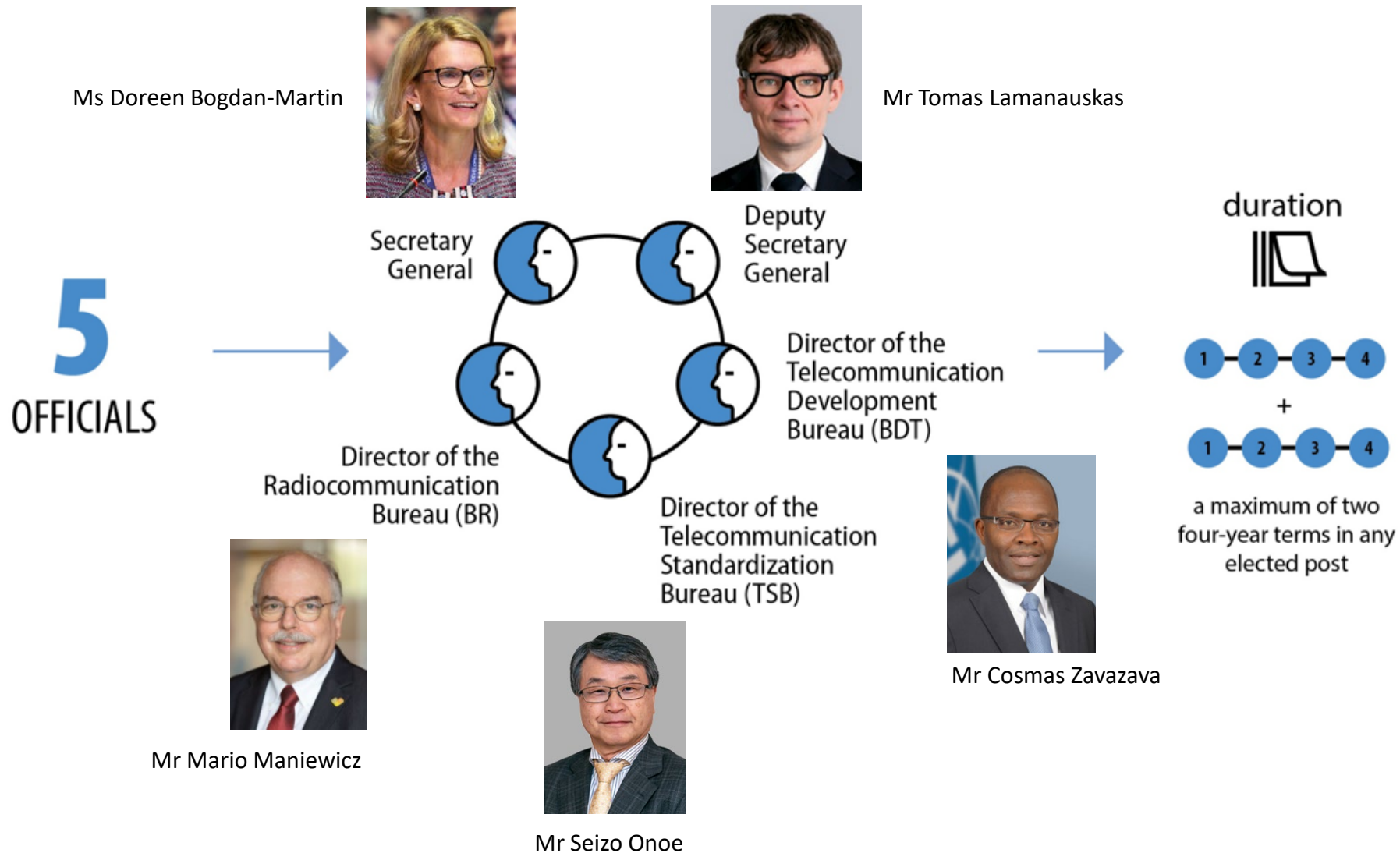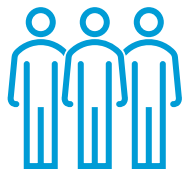
Geneva, 19 June 2023

Who we are

ITU is the United Nations **specialized agency for information and communication technologies** (ICTs)

Enabling a **connected world**

Who we are

Ms Doreen Bogdan-Martin

Mr Tomas Lamanauskas

5 OFFICIALS

Secretary General

Deputy Secretary General

Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau (BR)

Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau (TSB)

Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT)

Mr Cosmas Zavazava

Mr Mario Maniewicz

Mr Seizo Onoe

duration

1 — 2 — 3 — 4
+
1 — 2 — 3 — 4

a maximum of two four-year terms in any elected post

Our staff

100

NATIONALITIES

6

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

Where we are
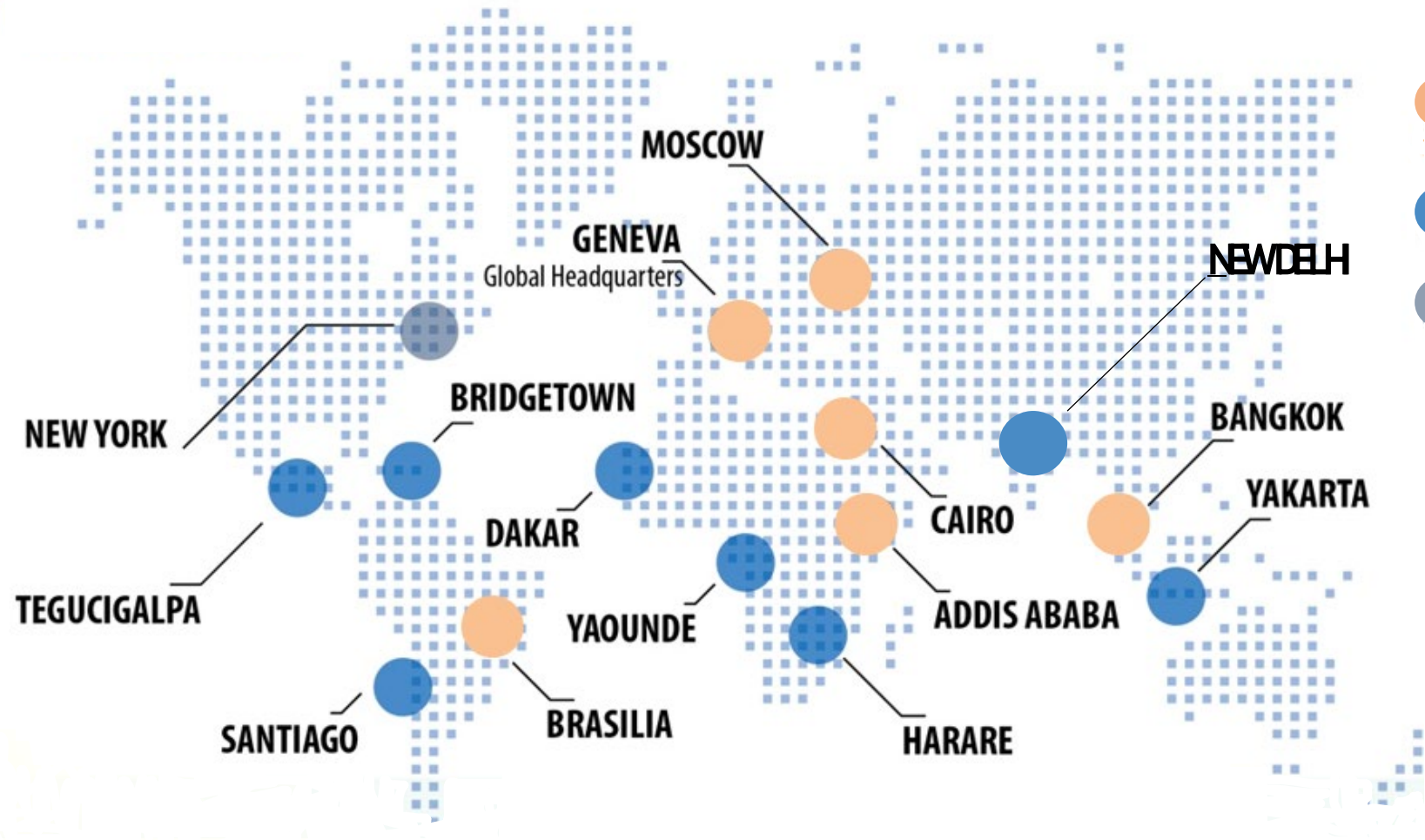
6 regional offices
8 area offices
1 UN office

MOSCOW

GENEVA
Global Headquarters

NEW DELHI

BANGKOK

YAKARTA

NEW YORK

BRIDGETOWN

DAKAR

CAIRO

TEGUCIGALPA

YAOUNDE

ADDIS ABABA

SANTIAGO

BRASILIA

HARARE

What we do

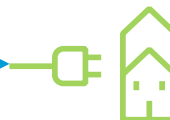'Committed to Connecting the World'

3
Sectors
&
General Secretariat
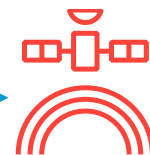
ITU Radiocommunication
Coordinating radio-frequency spectrum and **assigning** orbital slots for satellites

ITU Standardization
Establishing global standards

ITU Development
Bridging the digital divide

General Secretariat

General Secretariat
Supporting and **coordinating** ITU activities

Each sector has separate mandate, but all work cohesively towards connecting the world

ITU-D members

ITU-D has four types of members:

ITU Member States: Administrations of all ITU Member States are members of right of ITU-D.

Sector Members include any recognized operating agency, scientific or industrial organization, financial or development institution or other entity dealing with telecommunication matters approved by the Member State concerned. Regional or other international telecommunication organizations.

Associates are only entitled to participate in the work of a single selected study group and its subordinate groups.

Academia includes colleges, institutes, universities and their associated research establishments concerned with the development of telecommunications/ICTs that wish to participate in TDAG meetings, ITU-D study groups, seminars, workshops and working groups.
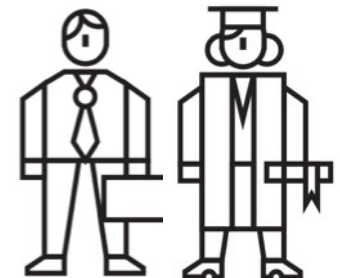
193
MEMBER STATES

~900
COMPANIES, UNIVERSITIES, AND INTERNATIONAL & REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

What is ITU-D?

The core mission of ITU-D is to foster international cooperation and solidarity in the delivery of technical assistance and in the creation, development and improvement of telecommunication/ICT equipment and networks in developing countries.

The ITU-D core mandate is to discharge, within its specific sphere of competence, the Union's dual responsibility as a United Nations specialized agency and executing agency for implementing projects under the United Nations development system or other funding arrangements, so as to facilitate and enhance telecommunication/ICT development by offering, organizing and coordinating technical cooperation and assistance activities.

ITU-D works through:
- world and regional telecommunication development conferences (WTDC);
- the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG);
- the Telecommunication Development Study Groups; and
- the Telecommunication Development Bureau headed by the elected Director.

What is WTDC?

Held **every four years**, the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC) is a **high-level platform** for **Member States** to develop **priorities, strategies** and **action plans** to guide the work of ITU-D over a four-year period.

WTDC is a direct service to members providing them the pre-eminent, high-level forum for discussion, information sharing and consensus building on technical and policy issues relating to telecommunication/information and communication technology (ICT) development.

Before each WTDC, BDT organizes one **regional preparatory meeting** (RPM) for each of the six regions.

RPMs are direct services to members and are organized to achieve greater regional coordination and engage members early on in the WTDC preparatory process.

The last World Telecommunication Development Conference ([WTDC-22](#)) was held in Kigali, Rwanda, in June 2022. Convened under the theme 'Connecting the unconnected to achieve sustainable development', this conference attracted 2 152 participants from 150 Member States, 96 ITU-D Sector Members, 37 Academia, several observer entities and the United Nations and its specialized agencies.

Texts adopted by WTDC-22

The **Kigali Declaration** highlights the main conclusions and priorities established by the conference and reinforces the political support for the ITU development mission and strategic goals.

The **Kigali Action Plan** is a comprehensive package that will promote the equitable and sustainable development of telecommunication/ICT networks and services. Alongside the action plan are:

- **Regional initiatives** for each of the six regions that are intended to identify principal telecommunication/ICT priority areas of concern to a region, which are then addressed through partnerships and resource mobilization to implement projects that are part of the ITU-D action plan;
- New and revised **resolutions**;
- New and revised ITU-D **study Questions** to be covered during the period 2022-2025.

The Kigali Action Plan

The **Kigali Action Plan:**

- describes the ITU-D priorities and scope of activities and associated outcomes and outputs for the period 2023-2027 and includes KPIs;
- may be updated or modified by TDAG to reflect the ITU strategic plan, changes in the telecommunication/ICT environment and/or as a result of the performance evaluation to be conducted each year;
- is the basis for the annual ITU-D rolling operational plan and serves as an implementation framework as it provides a description on how to achieve the priorities and objectives of ITU-D, as identified by its membership at WTDC;
- are based on ITU-D's core competencies and expertise and are closely linked to and aligned with the priorities and objectives identified by the larger development plans/initiatives of the United Nations SDGs, the ITU strategic plan and the WSIS Plan of Action.

ITU-D priorities

- Affordable connectivity;

- Digital transformation;

- Enabling policy and regulatory environment;

- Resource mobilization and international cooperation;

- Inclusive and secure telecommunications/ICTs for sustainable development.

Regional initiatives - Africa

- AFR1: Supporting digital transformation to usher in a rapid transition to a digital economy while accelerating innovation in Africa;
- AFR2: Implementation and expansion of broadband infrastructures, connectivity and emerging technologies;
- AFR3: Building trust, safety and security in the use of telecommunications/information and communication technologies and protection of personal data;
- AFR4: Fostering emerging technologies and innovation ecosystems.

Regional initiatives – Americas

- AMS1: Deployment of modern, resilient, secure and sustainable telecommunication/information and communication technology infrastructure;
- AMS2: Enhancement and expansion of digital-literacy, digital-skills and digital-inclusion programmes, especially among vulnerable populations;
- AMS3: Effective support for digital transformation and innovation ecosystems through scalable, funded and sustainable connectivity projects;
- AMS4: Development of enabling policy and regulatory environments to connect the unconnected through accessible and affordable telecommunications/information and communication technologies that support achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and progress towards the digital economy.

Regional initiatives – Arab States
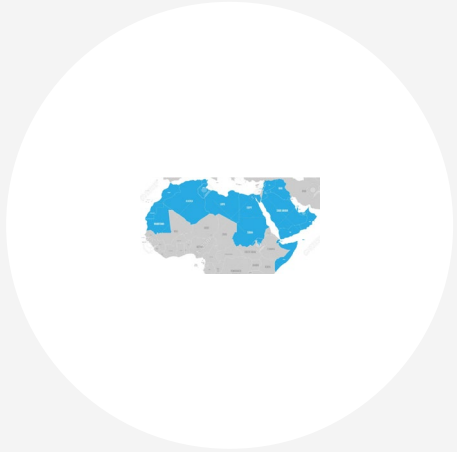
- ARB1: Sustainable digital economy through digital transformation;
- ARB2: Enhancing confidence, security and privacy in the use of telecommunications/information and communication technologies in the era of new and emerging digital technologies;
- ARB3: Developing digital infrastructure for smart sustainable cities and communities;
- ARB4: Building capacities and encouraging digital innovation, entrepreneurship and future foresight;
- ARB5: Developing means of digital regulation.

Regional initiatives – Asia-Pacific

- ASP1: Addressing special needs of least developed countries, small island developing states, including Pacific island countries, and landlocked developing countries;
- ASP2: Harnessing information and communication technologies to support the digital economy and inclusive digital societies;
- ASP3: Fostering development of infrastructure to enhance digital connectivity and connecting the unconnected;
- ASP4: Enabling policy and regulatory environments to accelerate digital transformation;
- ASP5: Contributing to a secure and resilient information and communication technology environment.

Regional initiatives – CIS

- CIS1: Developing infrastructure to promote innovation and partnerships in the introduction of new technologies – the Internet of Things, including the industrial Internet, smart cities and communities, 5G/IMT-2020 and next-generation NET-2030 communication networks, quantum technologies, artificial intelligence, digital health, digital skills and environmental protection;
- CIS2: Cybersecurity and personal data protection;
- CIS3: Creating an enabling legal and regulatory environment to accelerate digital transformation;
- CIS4: Digital skills and information and communication technology accessibility for the public, in particular for persons with disabilities;
- CIS5: Development of smart cities and communities.

Regional initiatives – Europe

- EUR1: Digital infrastructure development;
- EUR2: Digital transformation for resilience;
- EUR3: Digital inclusion and skills development;
- EUR4: Trust and confidence in the use of telecommunications/information and communication technologies;
- EUR5: Digital innovation ecosystems.

Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG) (1/2)

Mandate

The [Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG)](#), reviews priorities, strategies and financial matters of ITU-D. It meets at least once every year to advise the Director of BDT on the implementation of whatever WTDC Action Plan is in force, including issues relating to the budget and the operational plan of ITU-D. In addition, TDAG provides guidelines for the work of study groups and recommends measures to foster cooperation and coordination with ITU-R, ITU-T and the General Secretariat, as well as with other relevant development and financial institutions.

Participation in meetings

TDAG is open to representatives of administrations of Member States, representatives of ITU-D Sector Members, and to chairmen and vice-chairmen of study groups and other groups. Academia may participate in accordance with Resolution 169 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference. The Director of BDT can also invite representatives of bilateral cooperation and development aid agencies and multilateral development institutions to participate in TDAG's meetings.

Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG) (2/2)

Access to documentation

All documents for TDAG are available to those eligible to participate in its meetings and can be accessed on-line. Some documents are publicly available, while others require a user account with TIES access.

In order to request TIES access for your user account, go to http://www.itu.int/TIES, log in and select the option from the menu.

TDAG Bureau

The TDAG Bureau is comprised of 15 members, including the TDAG Chairman, the ITU-D Study Groups 1 and 2 Chairmen, as well as 12 other vice-chairmen (two per region).

ITU-D Study Groups

What are the ITU-D study groups?

ITU-D study groups enable all Member States, Sector Members, Associates and Academia to share experiences, present ideas, exchange views, and achieve consensus on strategies to address ICT priorities. The study groups conduct their work primarily in the form of study Questions. WTDC-17 approved 14 Questions for the period 2022-2025.

Aims and goals

ITU-D study groups offer a neutral and worldwide platform to support countries in achieving their development goals through experience sharing, reports and recommendations to the ITU membership.
Study Group 1: Enabling environment for meaningful connectivity.
Study Group 2: Digital transformation.

Final Reports for the 2018-2022 study period

Available on-line

Along with WTDC-22

- The first-ever Generation Connect Global Youth Summit took place at the Kigali Intare Conference Arena from 2 to 4 June 2022, bringing together young people aged between 15 and 29 from around the world to discuss a wide-ranging technology-for-development agenda ahead of WTDC-22. This three-day summit was organized by ITU with the host country Rwanda and attracted more than 1 500 delegates from over 115 countries, with over 5 000 online participants. Delegates were young leaders, entrepreneurs, social change-makers, engineers, policy specialists and students, together with today's regional and global business leaders, decision-makers and community advocates.

- Partner2Connect (P2C) Digital Development Roundtable: Launched a coalition to advance global digital development, structured around several focus areas and securing concrete commitments from new partners. These commitments would define how existing and new ITU partners intend to support LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS to access and use digital connectivity to transform lives, communities and society.

Flagship events (1/4)

The [Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR)](#) is held annually, and brings together heads of national telecommunication and ICT regulatory authorities from around the world. Launched in 2000, GSR has grown into the world's most important and influential meeting of the global ICT regulatory community. It has earned a reputation as the global annual venue for regulators to share their views and experiences on the most pressing matters of the time.

Flagship events (2/4)
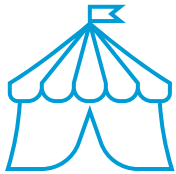
[The World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Symposium (WTIS)](#) is held annually. WTIS has evolved to become the main global forum for telecommunication and information society measurements. It brings together delegates from all over the world, ranging from government ministers and business leaders to regulators, national statisticians, lead academics and ICT data producers and analysts.

Flagship events (3/4)
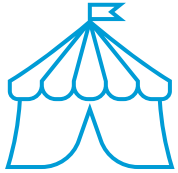
The Global Forum on Emergency Telecommunications (GET) highlights the role of information and communication technology (ICT) networks and services in disaster risk reduction and management, and saving lives. The GET brings together ICT ministries, national ICT regulatory authorities, the ICT industry, United Nations organizations, and participants and representatives from non- governmental organizations, humanitarian agencies, development banks, regional disaster management organizations, academia and media. It serves as the main international forum to discuss opportunities and challenges, to share experiences, discuss policies, and showcase the use of digital tools and services for disaster risk reduction and management.

Flagship events (4/4)
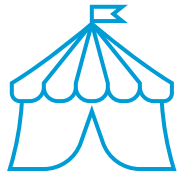
The Global ICT Capacity Building Symposium (CBS) has evolved into the **Digital Skills Global Forum**. It is the core global event for the ITU membership and other stakeholders to discuss the most pressing needs that have to be addressed in order to ensure that (i) universal digital skills can be achieved and (ii) the global digital skills gap linked to digital transformation can be closed. The Forum brings together policy makers and regulators in charge of digital skills policies and programmes, private companies supporting digital skills development, representatives from academic and other training institutions, as well as other partners collaborating with ITU in the field of digital capacity and skills development. The Forum features a mix of high-level panels, keynotes and roundtable discussions with practitioners in the field of digital skills development. The Forum directly contributes towards enhanced awareness of policy makers concerning the importance of implementing national digital skills policies and programmes and improved knowledge and understanding of the core issues related to the digital skills gap, digital skills needs related to digital transformation and opportunities for digital skills improvement. The Forum also aims to identify a set of guidelines and common proposals on how to strengthen digital skills at national and global level and launch new partnerships on digital skills.

Find everything on-line

- **ITU-D website** – Access all the events, products and publications: www.itu.int/itu-d.
- **Obtain TIES access for your user account** – Log on and select the option from the menu: www.itu.int/TIES.
- **ITU events page** – Find out about upcoming events and which meeting room your event is taking place in: www.itu.int/events.
- **Wi-Fi**: Connect to the ITU wireless network for delegates 'ITUwifi' and enter the username and password indicated on your event badge.

Access to ITU premises

Access points to ITU premises
The ITU headquarters comprise three interlinked buildings: The Tower Building, the Varembé Building and the Montbrillant Building.

- Delegates shall **ENTER the premises via the Montbrillant Building access point ONLY.** However, they can EXIT the premises at any of the three access points (Tower, Varembé, and Montbrillant).
- Long-term delegates, who hold accreditation for one-year validity or more, will be issued the new biometric smartcard, which will allow them to ENTER or EXIT at the Tower, Varembé and Montbrillant access points. The issuance of smartcards to long-term delegates is expected to start in April 2018.

ITU-D Delegate Guide
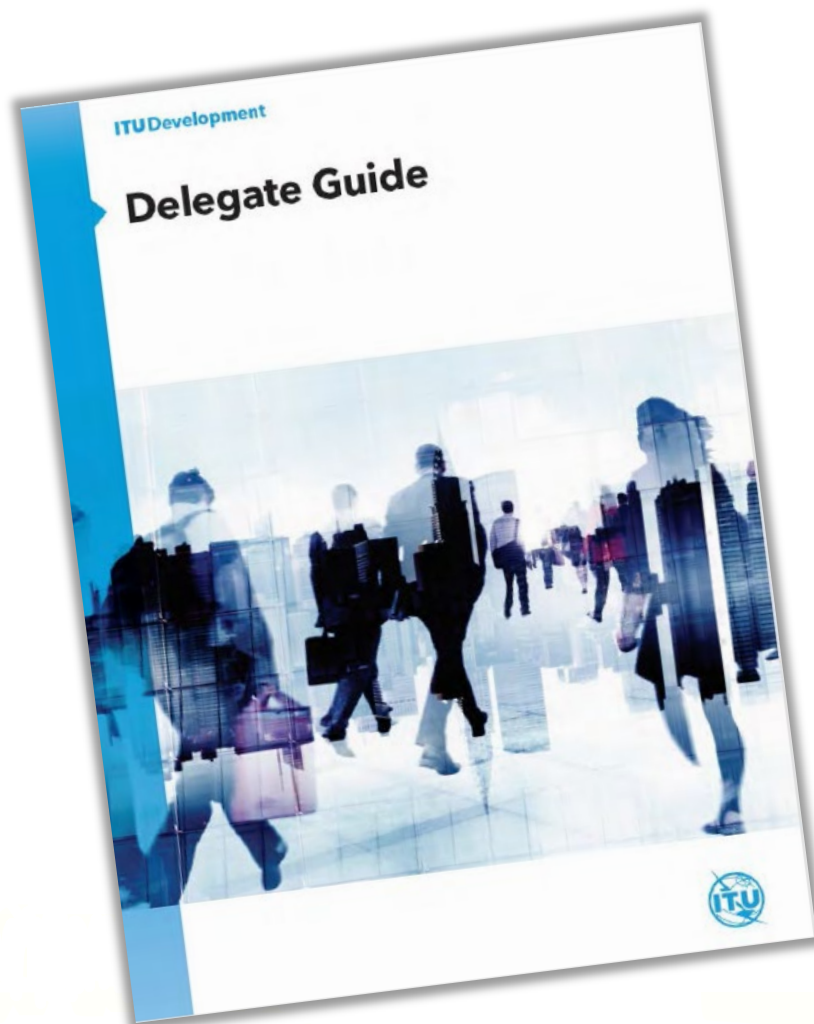
The Delegate Guide features more details on the history and inner workings of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector.
The Guide is available on the following link: ITU-D Delegate Guide.

Thank you!

We are available for any question/clarification: tdag-secretariat@itu.int.