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| **Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG)**  **31st Meeting, Geneva, Switzerland, 20-23 May 2024** | A close up of a sign  Description automatically generated |
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|  | **Document** **TDAG-2****4/3-E** |
|  | **19 March 2024** |
|  | **Original:** **English** |
| Director, Telecommunication Development Bureau | |
| Report on the work of the Expert Group on International Telecommunication Regulations (EG-ITRs) to TDAG | |
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| **Summary:**  This progress report presents the main results of the first and second meetings of the EG-ITRs, held on 16 October 2023 and 29-30 January 2024 respectively, in line with PP Resolution 146 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) and Council Resolutions 1379 (Mod. 2023).  **Action required:**  Pursuant to Resolution 146 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) which “*instructs the Directors of the Bureaux each within their field of competence, with advice from the relevant advisory group, to contribute to the activities of EG-ITR, recognizing that the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector has most of the work relevant to the ITRs*.”  TDAG is invited to take note of this document at its 31st meeting to be held from 20-23 May 2024.  **References:**  [Resolution 146 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022)](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts-2023/RES-146-E.pdf): Periodic Review of the International Telecommunication Regulations.  [Council Resolution 1379 (Mod. 2023)](https://www.itu.int/md/S23-CL-C-0121/en): Expert Group on the International Telecommunication Regulations (EG-ITRs) | |

1. **Background**

The objective of this document is to present the situation of the work of the Expert Group on the International Telecommunication Regulations (EG-ITRs)[[1]](#footnote-1), as mandated by the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference (Bucharest, 26 September to 14 October 2022) following the approval of Resolution 146 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) on Periodic review of the ITRs. This report focuses on the main results of the first and second meetings of the EG-ITRs, held on 16 October 2023 and 29-30 January 2024 respectively.

1. **Periodic review of the ITRs**

Resolution 146 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) instructs the Secretary-General to reconvene an EG‑ITR, open to the ITU Member States and Sector Members, with terms of reference and working methods established by the ITU Council and to submit the report of EG‑ITR on the outcome of the review to the Council for consideration, publication and subsequent submission to the 2026 plenipotentiary conference.

It is important to highlight that this resolution “*instructs the Directors of the Bureaux 1) each within their field of competence, with advice from the relevant advisory group, to contribute to the activities of EG-ITR, recognizing that the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector has most of the work relevant to the ITRs; 2) to submit the results of their work to EG‑ITR; 3) to consider providing fellowships, where resources are available, for developing[[2]](#footnote-2) and least developed countries according to the list established by the United Nations, in order to widen their participation in the expert group*”.

The terms of reference for the EG-ITRs, specified in Council Resolution 1379 (Mod. 2023), are to continue to review the ITRs. Taking into consideration the work of the previous two Expert Groups, the review may consider, among others:

* new trends in telecommunications/ICT and emerging issues in international telecommunications/ICT environment which may impact the ITRs,
* empirical data on the current use of the ITRs by operating agencies and/or administrations and the proportion of global telecommunication services which now rely on the ITRs, and
* the relevance of the ITRs which “consist of high-level guiding principles” in the current telecommunication/ICT environment.

The EG-ITRs held its first and second meetings at the ITU Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, on 16 October 2023 and 29-30 January 2024, respectively. The Reports of the [first](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-EGITRS2-C-0020/en) and [second](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-EGITRS2-C-0021/en) meeting of EG-ITRs were approved by the Group.

In the first meeting of the EG-ITRs, the Group deliberated on the contributions received, with the discussion focusing on the work plan proposals. No consensus was reached on the work plan.

In the second meeting of the EG-ITRs, a work plan was approved (see annex) by the meeting with the understanding that it provides guidance for the work of the Group and does not limit any members to submit contributions in line with Resolution 146 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) and Council Resolution 1379 (Amended 2023). A statement from the Russian Federation in this respect is attached as Annex 2 to the Second Meeting Report.

Regarding empirical data on the current use of the ITRs by operating agencies and/or administrations and the proportion of global telecommunication services which now rely on the ITRs, during the last meeting the EG-ITRs decided that a survey for collection of empirical data would not be issued, and that Member States can carry out their own surveys, and bring the results to the Group in future meetings.

Considering the working agenda and received contributions for these EG-ITRs meetings, there was no specific issue requiring BDT intervention.

**Next steps:**

* The next meeting will be held during the next session of Council working group.
* In keeping with past practice, the meeting agreed that the first and second meeting reports of the Group will be presented and hyperlinked in a short document by the Chair and submitted as a Progress Report to be presented to Council 2024.

**Annex 1**

Work Plan

| **Meeting** | **Objective** | **Possible Activities** | **Required outcome** |
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| EG-ITRs 3rd, 4th and 5th sessions | The agenda for each of these sessions is to continue to review the ITRs, taking into consideration the work of the previous two Expert Groups, based on the Terms of Reference set out in Council Resolution 1379 (Mod. 2023) which include, among others, as indicated below  a)       new trends in telecommunications/ICT and emerging issues in international telecommunications/ICT environment which may impact the ITRs, b)       empirical data on the current use of the ITRs by operating agencies and/or administrations and the proportion of global telecommunication services which now rely on the ITRs, and c)        the relevance of the ITRs which “consist of high-level guiding principles" in the current telecommunication/ICT environment. | * Discuss contributions received * Consider the meeting reports | 3rd meeting - Meeting Report  4th meeting – Meeting Report  5th meeting – Meeting Report and begin drafting the Final Report |
| 6th session | Discuss the draft Final Report to Council 2026 | * Discuss contributions received * Completion of work on the Final Report to the Council | Final Report to Council 2026 |

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1. <https://www.itu.int/en/council/Pages/eg-itrs.aspx> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)