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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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| 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 2023.  **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  Resolution 17 (Rev. Kigali, 2022)  WTDC-22 Declaration | |

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 2023**

In 2023, thanks to the combined efforts of ITU membership, partners and BDT staff (both in the field and at headquarters), the BDT signed 87 agreements, out of which 52 had financial contributions amounting to around USD 23.9 million, distributed as follows:

The list of agreements signed by BDT is provided in Document [TDAG24/INF/1](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG31-INF-0001/).

Amongst BDT partners having signed partnership agreement(s) with or without financial contributions in 2023, 50% were Member States, 27% ITU-D Sector Members, 15% Academia and 8% Regional and other International Organizations, according to the ITU Membership categories[[1]](#footnote-2).

The partners with whom BDT signed financial contributions were of different types, distributed according to the chart below:

BDT top ten donors in terms of financial contributions in 2023 are listed in the table below. For the full list of donors, please refer to Document [TDAG24/INF/1](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG31-INF-0001/)):

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| **Partner** | **Signed financial contributions**  (in USD as per date of signature) |
| European Commission | USD 12.74 million |
| Huawei Technologies Co., Ltd. | USD 1.52 million |
| Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH | USD 1.43 million |
| Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts, Australia | USD 0.92 million |
| Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation | USD 0.92 million |
| Communications, Space and Technology Commission, Saudi Arabia | USD 0.77 million |
| Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, Japan | USD 0.73 million |
| Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, United Kingdom | USD 0.54 million |
| Qualcomm | USD 0.30 million |
| United Nations Children's Fund | USD 0.30 million |
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The distribution by region and ITU-D priorities of the agreements signed by BDT with partners in 2023 is provided below:

The charts below present a comparison in terms of number of agreements and financial contributions signed in 2022 and 2023:

1. **Key Actions and Outcomes**

The impact of BDT work financed jointly with partners is being reported through Impact stories available here: <https://www.itu.int/itu-d/sites/digital-impact-unlocked/all-stories/2024-edition/>

The following are some of the measures taken to strengthen partnership and resource mobilization:

* **Cultivating/strengthening the relationship with existing partners:** BDT partners are of different types (governmental entities, financial institutions (including regional development banks), international and regional organizations, private sector entities, UN organizations, academia, etc.) from both developing and developed countries that share experience and expertise and contribute financially for the implementation of programmes, activities and initiatives for sustainable development[[2]](#footnote-3). Considering that a relationship of quality, anchored on trust, confidence, and respect is crucial for successful partnership and resource mobilization and that building such relationship happens over time, BDT pays particular attention at cultivating its relationship with its longstanding partners, including those indicated under Document [TDAG‑24/INF/1](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG31-INF-0001/).
* **Outreach to new potential partners**: While particular attention is paid by BDT 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 and well-targeted communication campaigns towards potential new partners. To do so and to ensure a strategic approach, BDT mapped, profiled and reached out to several prospects to raise ITU/BDT profile, identify synergies, and discuss potential partnerships opportunities.
* **Enhancing collaboration with UN agencies**: BDT continues to work in close 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. Working closely with UN sister agencies provides BDT with opportunities to access to funding for joint projects’ implementation at national, regional and global levels towards the 2030 Agenda.

Implementation of the above contributed to increase significantly the financial contributions signed by BDT in 2023 to support the implementation of development projects, programmes and initiatives at global, regional and national levels.

1. **Way forward**

BDT acknowledges and appreciates its longstanding partners as well as new partners that is making it possible to support the implementation of projects, programmes and initiatives at the global, regional and national levels. BDT will continue to cultivate and nurture partnerships with diverse stakeholders ranging from Member States, United Nations Agencies, Development Banks, Private Sector and Industry.

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1. <https://www.itu.int/itu-d/sites/partnerships/> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/MembersPartners/Pages/Partners/List-of-Partners.aspx> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)