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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****4/10-E** |
|  | **9 March 2024** |
|  | **Original:** **English** |
| Chair, Group on Capacity Building Initiatives (GCBI) | |
| Report on the work of the Group on Capacity Building Initiatives (GCBI) to TDAG | |
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| **Summary:**  This document covers the work undertaken by the Group on Capacity Building Initiatives (GCBI). The group was established pursuant to Resolution 40 which was adopted by the World Telecommunication Development Conference 2010 (WTDC-10), and revised at WTDC-22, to advise the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) on matters related to capacity building.  **Action required:**  TDAG is invited to note this document and provide guidance as deemed appropriate.  **References:**  WTDC Resolution 40 (Rev. Kigali, 2022), on the Group on Capacity Building Initiatives  WTDC Resolution 73 (Rev. Kigali, 2022), on ITU Academy Training Centres | |

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**Updates on membership of the GCBI**

According to the GCBI terms of reference, and in line with WTDC cycles, GCBI members shall serve for one term (one four-year period) and can serve for another term, after which they may no longer be eligible for appointment.

The current four-year cycle ended in 2022. Therefore, the ITU secretariat launched a call for nominations for GCBI membership in early 2023. Regional telecommunication organisations were invited to coordinate the selection of candidates from their region and propose two names to the Director, BDT, as stipulated in Resolution 40.

The final list of GCBI members for the cycle 2023-2026 is provided in Annex 1. Mr Mustapha Benjillali from the Arab region was appointed as the Chair of the group for this cycle and Ms Tessie P Leva from the Asia-Pacific region was appointed as the Vice Chair.

**Report on the GCBI cycle kick-off meeting (29 November 2023)**

The GCBI held its first kick-off meeting of the new cycle - virtually - on 29 November 2023. Eleven (out of twelve) GCBI members attended the meeting.

The group discussed the work of GCBI and reviewed the main ITU-D capacity development activities implemented since its last meeting. GCBI members were briefed about the progress made in harmonizing capacity development work across the ITU. Members were also briefed about the growth of the ITU Academy, which has now reached over 40,000 users. In relation to the implementation of Resolution 73, the group was briefed about the launch of the ITU Academy Training Centres (ATC) programme, with 13 Centres selected across the world to deliver training under this programme and having commenced training delivery in 2023. An update was also provided on the work of the Digital Transformation Centres (DTC) initiative, which continued to achieve notable results since its establishment in 2019 with over 250,000 individuals trained and equipped with basic and intermediate digital skills.

The Group discussed a proposal document outlining the possible work of the group during this cycle and making reference to the Kigali Action Plan (KAP). The document proposed two directions for the work of the group: focusing on the effectiveness of the ongoing ITU capacity development initiatives and programmes; and mobilization of resources and partnerships to support capacity development initiatives and programmes.

The Group adopted the following key outcomes of the meeting:

1. Collective effort is necessary to achieve the goals of the ITU Kigali Action Plan related to capacity and skills development. Structures like the GCBI, where representatives from different regions meet, provide a framework under which this collective effort can be realized.
2. The strategic direction of the GCBI for this cycle should focus on two main directions:

* Enhancing the effectiveness of existing capacity development initiatives under the BDT through supporting the work of the bureau as it optimises processes, workflows, and resource utilization as well as provide regional perspectives and advise on needs assessment, identification of beneficiaries, evaluation of capacity development and impact measurement.
* Scaling successful initiatives, programmes and partnerships through targeting and strengthening cross-sectoral collaborations and partnerships from various sectors and amplifying the impact of initiatives.

1. The needs of target beneficiaries should always be prioritized in decision making and the Group should look into whether the proposed objectives of the Group are measurable and can be implemented within the current capacity. The Group should also plan how the objectives will be monitored and measured.
2. Good capacity development solutions should be crowd sourced and strategies to leverage these and scale them should be put in place by countries.
3. On work modalities, the meeting agreed to operate on the above-mentioned strategic direction together and not in subgroups as originally proposed. The focus will be on the subjects “effectiveness of ongoing initiatives” and “partnerships and resource mobilisation.”
4. There is a need to share the activities of the GCBI with stakeholders at regional events and the GCBI should be informed of ITU regional initiatives and how GCBI members can be involved in the work of regional activities of the ITU.
5. The full report of the meeting is available [here](https://academy.itu.int/sites/default/files/media2/file/GCBI%20Virtual%20Meeting%20Report_2023.pdf).

**Report on the GCBI meeting held on 16-18 April 2024**

The GCBI held its annual meeting on 16-18 April 2024. The meeting was held in Geneva, Switzerland.

**Annex 1**

**List of GCBI members, 2023- 2026**

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| **Region** | **Name** | **Functional title** | **Affiliation** | **Country** |
| **AFR** | Ms Anne Chantal Ngondji | Head of Research and Cooperation Division | Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Postes, des Télécommunications et des TIC (SUP’PTIC) | Cameroon |
| Mr Mohamadou Arabani Saibou | Senior ICT Capacity building, Training, Research and Consulting Expert / Founder and Managing Director | SMA Consulting Group | Senegal |
| **AMS** | Ms Elisa Daigele Bizarria | Specialist | ANATEL | Brazil |
| Ms Agustina Brizio | Undersecretary of Information Technologies, Secretariat of Public Innovation | Oficina Nactional de Tecnologías de información (ONTI) | Argentina |
| **ARB** | Dr Mustapha Ben Jillali | Full Professor  Senior Member | Institut National des Postes et des Télécommunications (INPT) Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) | Morocco |
| Mr Majid Mohamed Alsuwaidi | Senior Manager, Digital Capabilities & Awareness | Telecommunications & Digital Government Regulatory Authority | UAE |
| **ASP** | Ms Tessie P Leva | Manager, Strategic Partnership | Department of Information Communication and Technology | Papua New Guinea |
| Mr Tao Zhiyong | Professor, Director of the Graduate School | Wuhan Research Institute of Posts and Telecommunications | China |
| **EUR** | Dr Toni Janevski | Full Professor | Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Information Technologies (FEEIT), Ss. Cyril and Methodius University | Republic of North Macedonia |
| Dr Lidia Stepinska-Ustasiak | Area Leader, International collaboration and partnerships | Institute of Organisation and Management in Industry “Orgmasz” | Poland |
| **CIS** | Ms Kristine Gyonjyan | Director | Union of Operators of Armenia | Republic of Armenia |
| Mr Anton Alekseev | Director | JSC "Giprosvjaz" | Republic of Belarus |

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