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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(Rev.1)-E** |
|  | **1 May 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:**  Resolution 40 (Rev. Kigali, 2022) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference, on the Group on Capacity Building Initiatives  Resolution 73 (Rev. Kigali, 2022), of the World Telecommunication Development Conference, on ITU Academy Training Centres | |

**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.

The group discussed the outcomes of the 2023 virtual meeting, focusing on how the GCBI can implement the two directions identified. The group also noted presentations made by the BDT on capacity development activities, including work on cybersecurity, projects, innovation, and AI for good. They also received an update on progress made in harmonizing capacity development work across the ITU. Members were briefed about the growth of the ITU Academy, which has now reached over 45,000 users, with its main delivery partners, the ITU Academy Training Centres, having trained 740 participants between January and March 2024, from 139 countries. An update was also provided on the work of the DTC initiative, which continued to achieve notable results since its establishment in 2019 with over 300,000 individuals trained and equipped with basic and intermediate digital skills.

In their discussions, the group noted the work done by BDT, progress made in the implementation of the main capacity development activities and the continued growth of the importance of capacity development. The group encouraged the BDT to continue their focus on capacity development of ICT professionals as well as citizens.

The group also noted the development of an ITU capacity development manual by the intersectoral Task Force on Capacity Development. This manual was considered a key document in ensuring a harmonised approach to capacity development across the organization. The group also commended the planned review of the Digital Skills Toolkit as an important document which will assist ITU members with development and implementation of their skills policies.

The following outcomes were noted and agreed on by the group.

1. The work of the group should focus on:
   1. Building a common understanding of ITU capacity development work amongst members as the basis for providing fruitful advice.
   2. Identify a few key strategic interventions that have the potential to have a big impact on the work of the BDT in the area of capacity development.
2. BDT should continue to deliver training at different levels of digital skills (basic, intermediate, advanced) cutting across different themes, and prioritize digital literacy and awareness, cybersecurity, big data, governance, artificial intelligence, Internet of Things, future networks and services and associated soft skills.
3. The Digital Skills Toolkit should be revised, shortened and its content streamlined to improve usability, focusing on answering “how to” questions. The toolkit should also have an interactive format and relevant use cases. The importance of the toolkit was stressed, considering the practical challenges in conducting assessments and developing strategies. Toolkit dissemination and training were identified as crucial for its success.
4. When discussing avenues for engagement, the group stressed ITU's role as a pivotal UN agency for the telecom/ICT sector with a global impact. BDT should identify global partners and run a campaign focused on skilling for achieving the SDGs, which could in turn attract further interest from other partners.
5. Regarding the participation of ICT professionals, a few successful capacity development interventions should be identified and intensively promoted to reach more participants. On the side of citizens and participants targeted for digital literacy and basic level digital skills training, community leaders and the use of already existing groups and community-level associations should be engaged.
6. Donor engagement should be a priority for the BDT and can be enhanced by increasing the visibility of successful partnerships, deepening relationships through regular impactful updates, and with the GCBI strategically advising on donor relations, including recognizing varying levels of donor commitments and defining return on investment.
7. The group emphasized the need for BDT to focus on building a strong understanding of AI, its opportunities and risks, which will help identify the skills needs and gaps. This can be done through organising more regional and global discussions on the topic.
8. BDT should consider offering simplified courses on AI, designed with layman's language to lower the complexity of AI to the general population and decision-makers. This will enable them to understand the type of AI they could already be engaging with and a better appreciation of the potential and threats of AI.
9. The full report of this meeting can be found [https://academy.itu.int/itu-d/projects-activities/gcbi/meetings/2024-meeting-group-capacity-building-initiativeshere](https://academy.itu.int/itu-d/projects-activities/gcbi/meetings/2024-meeting-group-capacity-building-initiatives)

**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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