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| Director, Telecommunication Development Bureau | | | |
| Reporting on the implementation of the Kigali Action Plan (KAP) | | | |
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| **Summary:**  This document provides a report on the implementation of the Kigali Action Plan (KAP) from **May 2024 to April 2025,** highlighting key achievements across regions, in line with KAP objectives. Implementation of the Kigali Action Plan from June 2023 to April 2024 can be found in [Document TDAG-24/2](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG31-C-0002/).  **Action required:**  TDAG is requested to review this report and to provide guidance as deemed appropriate.  **References:**  WTDC-22 Kigali Action Plan  Document [TDAG-24/2](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG31-C-0002/) | | | |

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**Progress Report May 2024 - April 2025**

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| **ITU-D Priority 1: Affordable connectivity**  ***Fostering the development of secure, modern and affordable infrastructure and services through telecommunications/ICTs*** | | |
| **Emergency Telecommunication**  ***Outcome:*** *Strengthened capacity of Member States to use telecommunications/ICTs for disaster risk reduction and management, to ensure availability of emergency telecommunications, and support cooperation in this area* | | |
| **Outputs** | | **Highlights** |
| From May 2024 to April 2025, BDT built Member States’ capacity to use ICTs for disaster risk reduction and management and ensure availability of emergency telecommunications.  BDT strengthened the membership’s ability to use ICTs for disaster management by delivering policy frameworks and knowledge products, in particular the National Emergency Telecommunication Plans (NETPs), providing technical assistance, trainings and guidance on early warning systems. BDT delivered emergency response equipment and training to support countries affected by disasters. This included the deployment of products and services, including satellite equipment and delivery of simulation exercises to provide assistance to Member States to enhance confidence and security in the use of telecommunications/ICTs. BDT further led and supported a number of initiatives, including participation in several events to build national capacities, strengthen global emergency telecommunications capabilities and improve disaster preparedness and response.  Through the UN Secretary-General’s Early Warnings for All (EW4All) initiative, BDT provided support to Member States in their efforts to strengthen the capacity to use ICTs to build effective early warning systems and save lives. In particular, BDT continued to advance the work on the implementation of the EW4All initiative through facilitation of technical, economic, and regulatory assessments for the implementation of Early Warning Systems (EWS). Mobile early warning systems and the implementation of cell-broadcast, continue to be a key technology to take advantage of digital networks, services and mobile phone ownership to save lives.   1. **Early Warnings for All (EW4All) initiative**   The EW4All initiative is supported by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC) of Japan, the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark, the Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems (CREWS) Fund, and supplemented by ITU ICT-DF.  Under the framework of the EW4All initiative, ITU, as the lead on Pillar 3 on ‘Warning Dissemination and Communication’ collaborated with the other pillar leads, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).  Through the initiative, ITU, together with UNDRR, WMO, and IFRC, delivered a number of national and regional workshops across regions to assess gaps and create roadmaps to scale up early warning systems (EWS) and promote the use of multi-channel technologies to disseminate disaster alerts through the Common Alerting Protocol. BDT raised Members States’ awareness and provided technical assistance to equip Member States with the tools and knowledge necessary to implement effective EWS.  To highlight and promote the work of EW4All and build national and regional capacity, BDT participated in a number of global events, including the G20 Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group virtual side event hosted by Brazil, discussing the integration of Cell Broadcast technology for more effective early warning dissemination. BDT also joined the 4th International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS4) in Antigua and Barbuda, convening a high-level thematic dialogue on universal and meaningful connectivity in SIDS and co-convening a series of partner events on key issues in digital transformation [as part of the official programme of the conference](https://www.itu.int/itu-d/sites/ldcs/2024/02/20/itu-at-sids4/) to identify actionable pathways to address the urgent development needs of SIDS.  At the UN Climate Change Conference (COP29) in Baku, Azerbaijan in November, ITU organized/co-organized five EW4All events and participated in 3 other partner lead events: 1) EW4All Events: Advanced technologies, innovation and digital transformations for Earth observation; 2) High level event convened by the UN Secretary-General on Delivering Early Warnings for All and Addressing Extreme Heat; 3) Presentations of the Tonga and Jamaica Smart Weather App; 4) EW4All Progress and Cross-Learning Event; 5) Scaling-up climate finance for ambitious action on early warning systems for adaptation with a focus on the most vulnerable; 6) EW4All 4th Advisory Panel Meeting; 7) High-level event on Strengthening Climate Information and Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems for Increased Resilience; and 8) AI in UN EW4All  ITU further joined the Mobile World Congress (MWC)’s EW4All Ministerial Roundtable where mobile network operators were encouraged to pledge their support to mobile-based EWS.   * **Regional and National Consultation Workshops**   **Africa:** BDT supported national consultation workshops to build national roadmaps for the implementation of the EW4All initiative, in particular for Pillar 3 on Warning Dissemination and Communication, in Ghana, Liberia, Madagascar, Mozambique, Niger, Sudan, Uganda, Seychelles, São Tomé and Príncipe, Rwanda, Tanzania, The Gambia, and Kenya. The BDT’s EW4All Pillar 3 workshop, built Madagascar’s capacity to help it introduced cell-broadcast as a means of communication for emergency alerts.  Technical assistance for the implementation of the national roadmap and early warning systems were provided by BDT to Mozambique, Liberia, and Tanzania. Malawi, Seychelles, Zambia and Botswana benefited from technical assistance for the implementation of Cell Broadcast including a technical, economic and regulatory assessment for each country.  In collaboration with the African Telecommunications Union (ATU), BDT delivered a webinar on the Early Warning for All initiative (EW4ALL) which raised awareness on the EW4All initiative, provided an in-depth understanding of Pillar 3 of the initiative led by ITU and equipped participants with the knowledge and tools necessary to implement effective early warning systems.  **Americas:** National consultation workshops were held in several countries in the Americas, namely: Guyana, Haiti, Barbados, Antigua Barbuda, Guatemala, Ecuador.  In Haiti, BDT, in collaboration with the national telecommunication operator and two mobile network operators, delivered a national workshop with a view to validate the roadmap for EW4All and to test the mobile-based disaster warning system in Cap Haitien.  Together with GSMA, BDT organized a session at the CANTO Connect Annual General Meeting in Curaçao, where they provided an overview of the EW4All initiative, focusing on advancements in cell-broadcast systems and AI integration to improve early warning capabilities. The session emphasized the importance of mobile network operators and public-private cooperation to enhance the life-saving potential of mobile-based early warning systems in the region.  **Arab States:** National consultation workshops, including NETPs and CAP trainings, were held in several countries in the region, namely:, Comoros, Djibouti, Somalia, Mauritania and Sudan.  **Asia and the Pacific:** National consultation workshops were delivered in Malaysia, Bangladesh, Maldives, Nepal, Lao (People’s Democratic Republic), Cambodia, Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Fiji, Tonga; while in India, , and Maldives technical support was provided through a Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) and cell-broadcasting (CB) workshop.  With the support of BDT, LAO PDR was able to finalize and publish its EW4All roadmap and Kiribati is in the process of developing its roadmap. In Nepal, a technical working group was created and is working on developing its own EW4All roadmap. In Tonga, the national workshop identified gaps and led to the production of a draft framework for EW4All that was presented to the government’s cabinet, aligned with the national MHEWS policy.  In Bangladesh, ITU, together with IFRC carried out a simulation exercises for community evacuation where ITU tested the early warning dissemination and communication component of the exercise.  Fiji and Cambodia were assisted in the preparation of proposals under the Green Climate Fund (GCF) to secure funding to implement activities that enhance inclusive warning dissemination and communication for disaster risk reduction.  BDT, in collaboration with the Pacific Islands Telecommunications Association (PITA), GSMA, and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) are working on a feasibility assessment on a regional cell-broadcast solution for the Pacific Island countries.  During the 12th Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) in Bangkok, ITU co-organized a side event, "Leaving No One Behind: Advancing Inclusive Early Warnings and Broader Development Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific Region”. The event held in collaboration with UNDP, IFRC, the Embassy of Japan in Thailand, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), ESCAP, WMO, and UNDRR, emphasized the importance of inclusive disaster risk reduction (DRR) and strengthened cooperation.  During the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (APMCDRR24) in Manila, BDT organized a regional Multistakeholder Forum on Leveraging Digital Advancements for Early Warning Dissemination and Communication. The session, delivered in collaboration with GSMA, engaged multi sectoral focal points and partners and strengthened capacity to implement EW4A pillar 3 in the region.  **CIS:** In CIS, BDT supported Tajikistan to become the first country in the region to conduct a national consultation workshop to assess gaps and create a roadmap for early warning systems in the country.  **Europe:** In the Western Balkans, a regional initiative accelerator workshop on strengthening emergency preparedness in the region built the sub-region’s capacity and laid the groundwork for streamlined actions towards shaping a subregional initiative, covering Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia. This enabled the effective roll out of cell broadcast and initiated assistance to North Macedonia and Montenegro.  In Moldova, ITU build the country’s capacity by developing a feasibility study on the deployment and implementation of cell-broadcast solution to send alert messages. With the endorsement of this study, the country has been able to secure additional funding to implement the solution at the national level.   * **AI for Early Warnings for All**   The [AI for Early Warnings for All Sub-group](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Emergency-Telecommunications/Pages/AI-Sub-Group-EW4All-.aspx) coordinated and led by ITU aims to explore, implement, and scale AI applications that support the EW4All initiative. Key partners and organizations involved include UNDRR, WMO, IFRC, Google, Microsoft AI for Good Lab, Planet, IHME, GSMA, DISHA, and the Group on Earth Observations (GEO). The sub-group is driving the launch of AI pilot initiatives across various countries to demonstrate the practical benefits of AI in enhancing early warning systems. It has been collaborating with a range of partners, including NASA, UCL, Google, GSMA, Everbridge, Pelmorex, and several universities. To ensure successful implementation, the sub-group is forming dedicated working groups for each pilot, bringing together technical specialists, local stakeholders, and relevant collaborators.  One of the pilots of this group is the development of a tool to help countries monitor and map the number of people who are not covered by digital networks. Produced in collaboration with ITU, Microsoft, Planet and the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation, the technology uses AI to analyze satellite imagery and produce high-resolution population density maps to visualize connectivity based on the [ITU Disaster Connectivity Map](https://dcm.itu.int/). The first results are available for Vanuatu, Fiji, Dominican Republic, Mozambique, Somalia, South Sudan, Haiti, Tonga and its concept is showcased in the Global Map of the Unconnected.  BDT also organized a workshop on “Forecasting the Future: AI in Early Warning Systems” at ITU’s AI for Good Global Summit in May 2024. During the Summit of the Future in New York, in September 2024, ITU organized an event on Coalitions for Leveraging AI for Humanitarian Disaster Preparedness and Response, in collaboration with the UN Global Pulse and the Secretary-General’s Innovation Lab.  In preparation for the 2025 AI for Good Global Summit, ITU is leading the AI for EW4All Innovation Challenge, a global hackathon challenge designed to harness the power of Artificial Intelligence (AI) for EWS. Launched in April 2025, this initiative aims to align innovative AI-driven solutions with the four pillars of the EW4All initiative. Participants will develop AI solutions that address specific gaps that have been identified across these four pillars, leveraging the capabilities of AI to enhance disaster risk management, forecasting, communication, and response. This challenge is part of the AI Sub-Group of EW4All.  As part of the AI group, ITU is developing an AI Solutions Catalogue which is an online repository of AI tools, models, and applications pertinent to early warning systems. The catalogue aims to classify solutions based on maturity, type of hazard, and the EW4All framework. Before the solutions are featured in the catalogue, they will go through peer evaluation and validation by the sub-group.   1. **National Emergency Telecommunication Plans (NETPs)**   A National Emergency Telecommunication Plan (NETP) is an overall document that includes the regulatory framework for disaster risk management and identifies specific actions required to take advantage of ICTs for each phase of the disaster management cycle. BDT continues to support Member States with the development and implementation of NETPs in all regions through tailored assistance, workshops and bringing together all key stakeholders to foster communications and coordination before, during and after emergencies.  BDT organized a series of **National Multistakeholder Workshops on National Emergency Telecommunication Plan (NETP) Development** that collectively represented crucial steps toward enabling reliable communications during disaster mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery phases, particularly in climate change, natural hazards, and pandemics. BDT provided support for the development of NETPs for forty-one countries across five regions:   * **Arab States:** BDT provided support in the development of NETPs in Djibouti, Comoros, and Mauritania. * **Asia and the Pacific:** BDT provided support in the development of NETPs in Tuvalu. In Bangladesh, ITU initiated a direct country assistance program to establish the NETP together with other related activities under EW4All.   In Fiji, BDT supported the organization of a national emergency telecommunication cluster meeting, which reviewed a draft National Emergency Telecom Plan and presented twenty-three action points for consideration. In Pakistan, BDT collaborated with GSMA and UNICEF to organize a workshop on “the role of telecommunications in disaster preparedness, response and recovery”, which explored ways to enhance mobile-enabled disaster resilience in the country, to update the NETP, and to evaluate the effectiveness of national strategies and plans for using ICTs in disaster risk reduction through a tabletop simulation exercise  To strengthen support in NETP development, ITU signed a Cooperation Agreement with the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre.) This will strengthen capacity building on emergency telecommunications, particularly on developing NETPs, training to develop tabletop simulation exercises and the use of new technologies for disaster response.   * **Americas:** BDT, in collaboration with the Emergency Telecommunications Cluster, delivered a workshop in the Caribbean which strengthened collaboration among stakeholders to operationalize the NETPs, enhanced capacity to implement EWS and increased knowledge on the use of ITU’s satellite equipment. * **Africa:** BDT provided support in the development of NETPs, Guinea Bissau, The Gambia, Namibia, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Cabo Verde, Botswana, Seychelles, and Zambia. This included a number of capacity building workshops on NETP situational analysis for West African countries, aimed at sharing good practices.   On a regional level, ITU organized capacity building sessions on NETP situational analysis for West African countries, which aimed to share best practices among participants in elaborating NETPs.  The region also benefitted from the development of two regional NETP frameworks: one for the Southern African Development Community (SADC) , covering 16 countries (Angola, Botswana, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe), and another for English-speaking African countries, including 11 countries (The Gambia, Ghana, Nigeria, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Kenya, Angola, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea, Sao Tome, Cabo Verde)  Following the regional NETP workshop, ITU and the SADC Secretariat convened the SADC Model NETP Implementation and EW4All Awareness workshop in Malawi. Attended by the SADC Member States, the workshop served as a platform for countries to assess their readiness in operationalizing and implementing the SADC Model NETP.   * **Europe:** The government of Georgia received BDT support with the development of recommendations for a National Emergency Telecommunication Plan. As part of this effort, a document detailing the cell-broadcast solution for sending alert messages was added to the existing set of deliverables, enhancing national preparedness frameworks.  1. **Disaster Response**  * **Deployment of telecommunications equipment**   In the aftermath of disasters, BDT continued its work **on disaster response** and contributed to strengthening the capacity of Member States to swiftly deploy satellite telecommunication terminals and coordinate national response post-disasters. This support was delivered through BDT’s strategic pre-positioning of emergency telecommunication satellite equipment in various geographical locations to reduce response times in the aftermath of disasters.  BDT has finalized the pre-positioning of satellite equipment in the following regions:   * In Dubai, to cover Arab States, Africa and Asias and the Pacific regions. * In Zimbabwe to serve the SADC member states * In Barbados, to serve the Americas and the Caribbean region.   From May 2024 to April 2025 satellite equipment were deployed to:   * **Jamaica, Grenada, St. Vincent and the Grenadines**, as a support to hurricane response efforts. * **Mozambique**, to support the Government while working on restoring its terrestrial infrastructure which was damaged by cyclone Chido.   BDT also forms partnerships to ensure the capacities of Member States in disaster preparedness and response are strengthened. BDT collaborated with GSMA to organize a workshop on “the role of telecommunications in disaster preparedness, response and recovery”, as part of their Humanitarian Connectivity Charter programme. The workshop explored ways to enhance mobile-enabled disaster resilience in the country, updating the NETP, and evaluating the effectiveness of national strategies and plans for using ICTs in disaster risk reduction through a tabletop simulation exercise.  As part of its recent efforts on disaster response, BDT and Intelsat announced a cooperation agreement that aims at enhancing disaster preparedness and response through satellite telecommunications. Under this agreement, Intelsat donated deployable VSAT equipment to ITU and committed to providing services in times of disasters. Intelsat also provided training on the use of the equipment.   * **Disaster Connectivity Map (DCM)**   In times of emergencies, BDT provides support for monitoring connectivity gaps and outages. Launched by ITU, in collaboration with the Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) and the GSMA, in 2020, the DCM is a live map that provides information on the type, level, and quality of connectivity available on the ground during times of disasters. ITU hosts this tool, which monitors connectivity gaps to inform first responders and support their policy decisions. It also shows areas that need support in restoring telecommunications links, which are vital for the efficient coordination of the response activities at the ground level.  In 2024 and 2025 the DCM was activated to provide near real time connectivity data in:   * Mozambique: 3 – 24 Mar 2024 (Tropical Cylon Chido) * Madagascar: 26 Mar – 9 Apr 2024 (Cyclone Gamane) * Grenada and Saint Vincent and The Grenadines: June 2024 (Hurricane Beryl) * Kenya and Tanzania: 1 May – 3 June (Tropical cyclone Hidaya and Idaly) * Myanmar and Thailand: 28 March 2025 (7.7 magnitude earthquake in Myanmar) | | **NETPs**   * + **Arab States:** Libya, Mauritania, Comoros and Djibouti   + **Asia Pacific:** Tuvalu   + **Europe:** Western Balkan countries   + Africa: SADC and West Africa Countries   **EW4ALL:**   * + **Africa:** Liberia, Seychelles, Mozambique, Tanzania, Uganda.   + **Americas:**   + **Asia-Pacific:** Bangladesh, Cambodia, Fiji, Lao P.D.R., Maldives, Nepal, Tuvalu   + **Arab States:** Somalia   + **CIS:** Tajikistan   **Equipment deployment:**   * + **Africa:** Zimbabwe (Hub for SADC countries).   + **Americas:** Barbados (to assist the Caribbean region), Grenada   + **Arab States:** Dubai (to assist Arab States, Africa, Asia and the Pacific).   **LDCs/LLDCs & SIDS engaged / assisted – Affordable Connectivity**  **46 LDCs LLDCs and SIDs, of which** 27 received technical assistance,   * + 26 policy frameworks and knowledge products developed and   6 countries were provided assistance with data and statistics efforts**.4 projects under the thematic area of Affordable Connectivity are ongoing** |
| **Network & Digital Infrastructure**  ***Outcome:*** *Improved telecommunication/ICT infrastructure and service, in particular broadband coverage* | | |
| **Outputs** | | **Highlights** |
| Through infrastructure mapping and analysis, BDT made significant contributions in all regions, which has resulted in increased awareness of ICT infrastructure gaps i**n more than 25 countries from all regions**, **enabling better decision making on broadband coverage and resilience**. Data research, collection, and processing of ICT infrastructure data was conducted across Africa, Americas, Arab States, Asia and the Pacific, and the CIS regions.  Connectivity and infrastructure analysis were presented to Member States, with tailored infrastructure maps, such as those addressing [school connectivity](http://www.itu.int/go/schoolconnectivity) needs, for selected countries involved in BDT projects, thereby **enhancing global broadband mapping efforts.**  From May 2024 to March 2025, with the support of the Ministry of Science and ICT of the Republic of Korea (MSIT), BDT conducted workshops and hands-on training sessions on ICT infrastructure mapping, analysis, and planning for Uruguay, Algeria, Indonesia, Malaysia, Dominican Republic and Tajikistan. The workshops **improved both the theoretical knowledge and practical skills** of participants in applying GIS tools for connectivity analysis and planning. The workshop in Uruguay and the Dominican Republic **strengthened the Member States’ capacity to develop of ICT infrastructure mapping frameworks and included country infrastructure analysis**. Additionally, initial assistance in school infrastructure analysis was provided to São Tomé and Príncipe, which subsequently developed into a separate project.  In **Africa**, under the BDT Project Giga School Connectivity Project – Sao Tome and Principe, a feasibility of different connectivity solutions conducted by BDT assessed and analyzed connectivity costs and pricing, including a complete budget on the cost to connect all schools to the Internet. Under the same project, a training on digital infrastructure mapping was delivered in São Tomé and Príncipe which **raised awareness of the importance of and knowledge-transfer on the use of telecommunication/ICT data to boost investment in universal and meaningful connectivity** in the country. The event, attended by key stakeholders from the regulator AGER, Government, education, and telecommunication sectors highlighted the importance of organizing and using telecommunication/ICT geospatial data, and facilitated the review and validation of existing information available in collaboration with AGER and national operators in the country.  BDT has been instrumental in promoting the use of Geographical information Systems (GIS) tools to solve complex problems in getting connectivity to the most challenging places. An ICT Infrastructure map toolkit is available at <https://bbmaps.itu.int/toolkit>  On emerging technologies for the effective adoption by developing countries to the benefit of society front, with the support of MSIT/Korea Project, BDT is driving a [new programme](https://www.itu.int/go/emergingtech) that focuses on AI training development and the promotion of AI use cases for network development. This Programme supported the [Transformative Tech: A Deep Dive into AI for connectivity](https://www.itu.int/itu-d/meetings/global-youth-summit-25/programme/schedule/session-details/?sessionid=13) session during the ITU Global Youth Summit 2025 (GYS-25), Varadero, Cuba. The panellists provided useful insights, each offering a different angle on how AI is reshaping the world.  BDT is preparing the first technical course on Artificial Intelligence, aiming at providing to members of the Union an introduction to this technology applied to ICT infrastructure development to be delivered the second quarter of 2025.  On **infrastructure and spectrum** related capacity building, BDT has made available through the ITU Academy several online self-paced courses, free-of-charge, including:   * '[Introduction to Broadband Mapping](https://bbmaps.itu.int/training-introduction): This training brings together information on how to get started with Geographical Information Systems (GIS) applied to ICT network gap analysis and planning, among other introductory concepts and share of practices. * [Advanced Broadband Mapping training - Self-paced](https://bbmaps.itu.int/training-advanced): This training adds advanced topics and follow-ups the existing "Introduction to Broadband Mapping" training. Adding topics on: 1. geospatial data management; 2. Advanced geospatial tools for infrastructure analysis; 3. Open Fibre Data framework. * [Business planning for ICT infrastructure development](https://bbmaps.itu.int/bp-training): This course offers regulators, policymakers, and stakeholders a practical approach for the accurate economic evaluation of broadband infrastructure installation and deployment plans, based on the ITU ICT infrastructure business planning toolkit - 5G networks. * [Global satellite regulation essentials: key principles, institutional landscape and the role of ITU | ITU Academy.](https://academy.itu.int/training-courses/full-catalogue/global-satellite-regulation-essentials-key-principles-institutional-landscape-and-role-itu): This course introduces the key principles of the regulations governing satellite projects that governs the use and management of radio frequency spectrum and associated orbits. Practical scenarios and case studies illustrate the application of these regulations in real-world situations. * [Introduction to spectrum management](https://academy.itu.int/training-courses/full-catalogue/introduction-spectrum-management-1) : This training gives and introduction on managing the radio spectrum resource and foundation for all the mobile applications, 2024. * Presentation on Infrastructure mapping to the ITU Academy on "Digital regulation for the Africa region": <https://academycourses.itu.int/course/view.php?id=1832&section=2>   Further, BDT delivered capacity-building interventions, including ICT mapping workshops anda self-paced training on [Infrastructure mapping and planning](https://academy.itu.int/training-courses/full-catalogue/introduction-broadband-mapping) as part of the ITU-Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) project, resulting in **enhanced capacity of Member States to expand connectivity to rural and underserved areas.**  Further, through the ITU-FCDO project, a self-paced training on [Infrastructure mapping and planning](https://academy.itu.int/training-courses/full-catalogue/introduction-broadband-mapping) was launched through the ITU Academy, **enhancing knowledge of 440 ICT professionals**.  BDT continues to assist Member States in the implementation of decisions of ITU world and regional conferences, including spectrum planning, coordination of activities among ITU members, knowledge-sharing as well the maintenance of software tools and undertaking spectrum management (SM) responsibilities by Administrations of developing countries more effectively.  In preparation of WTDC-25, through Study Groups and Working Parties meetings, BDT regularly collects pertinent information and prepares documents and other relevant contributions/outputs for WTDC, meetings of ITU SGs and WPs that are responsive to the specific needs of developing countries in spectrum management. The submission of proposals to WTDC-25 is a way of guaranteeing that current spectrum management needs of developing countries are taken into due account.  Through the **Direct Assistance to Member States on Spectrum Management Issues** BDT has **raised awareness of national policymakers** on the ways to **ensure effective spectrum management for economic and social development**.  In 2024 country assistance to the Gambia on spectrum strategy and regulation was successfully undertaken. The project of DAB frequency planning in 174 - 230 MHz in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia has been launched, technical working group of BDT and three concerned countries is under establishment. The project on improvement of spectrum management regulatory environment primarily aimed on development of NFATs has been initiated in aid of ASEAN and isle countries of Pacific Region (Nauru, Vanuatu and Palau).  Regarding **Computerized Frequency Management and Monitoring Systems,** BDT continues to improve the Spectrum Management System for Developing Countries (SMS4DC) software, necessary assistance and training in the implementation of the software. BDT also provides expert advice to developing countries on their participation in regional or international radio monitoring activities, encouragement and assistance to administrations in setting up regional radio monitoring systems. In 2024 and the beginning of 2025 the update of the SMS4DC software tool based on the results of WRC-23 was completed. The requirements and conditions on migration of SMS4DC Oracle database to SQL platform are under assessment.  BDT continues to provide support for the development of Harmonized Calculation Method for Africa (HCM4A) software tool. The first series of software modules was delivered and training for the engaged Administrations from Africa conducted in March 2025. The major objectives of the HCM4A is to conduct specialized ITU seminars, in order to help frequency managers gain a thorough knowledge of modern regulatory trends in spectrum management as well as to share knowledge related to emerging technologies and approaches in using spectrum which are intended to improve spectrum efficiency and cost-effectiveness, through training, seminars and national experiences.  In collaboration with the ITU Academy and centres of excellence, BDT has launched the comprehensive Spectrum Management Training Program (SMTP). The project on modification of “**The Guidelines for National Spectrum Management System (NSMS)** for developing countries” was initiated in September 2024, through which BDT significantly contributed to delivery of knowledge and sharing experience on establishment and maintenance of National Tables of Frequency Allocation by means of three Regional ITU Workshops.  On space and satellite connectivity, BDT delivered an online training course on **Global satellite regulation essentials: key principles, institutional landscape and the role of ITU.**  BDT also organized space and satellite connectivity workshops in collaboration with the Radio sector in Saint George Grenada, Mongolia and Participated to space related events in Saudi Arabia.   * **Africa** the Africa Broadband Mapping Systems project, supported by the European Commission, was launched. It aims to assist countries in establishing and enhancing their infrastructure mapping systems to encourage investment and digital transformation across Africa. The project will initially benefit 11 countries: Benin, Botswana, Burundi, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. A Kick off meeting for the implementation of the project activities was held on the 26-27 March 2025, where the infrastructure mapping posture of each beneficiary country was presented and next steps for each country determined.   In view of enhancing collaboration with regional regulatory associations on common areas of interest, ITU and the West African Telecommunications Regulators Assembly (WATRA) signed a joint letter to support concrete collaboration and joint advocacy on the gathering and management of infrastructure data and mapping for decision-making towards affordable connectivity for all. The collaboration will continue to explore the sharing of information on available resources to build capacity on infrastructure and broadband mapping and conduct as needed joint training to member states. A joint technical workshop was held during the WATRA Infrastructure Development Working Group meeting in the Gambia in June 2024.   * **In the Arab States,** the ITU Regional Workshop Towards Universal and Meaningful Connectivity for the Arab Region was organized by the ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT), in collaboration with Algérie Télécom, under the high patronage of the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications in Algiers. The workshop brought together 278 participants (24% female), including high-level representatives, from a wide array of stakeholders, including policymakers, regulators, private sector leaders, academia, and regional and international organizations to address infrastructure development and the pressing challenges and opportunities in achieving universal and meaningful connectivity across the Arab region. The event fostered knowledge sharing, explored collaborative solutions, highlighted innovative approaches, **promoted broadband mapping and multistakeholder collaboration to foster digital transformation through evidence-based data and multistakeholder engagement**. The workshop set the stage for impactful partnerships and actionable strategies to advance and promote sustainable universal and meaningful connectivity across the region. * **In the Asia-Pacific,** with support from MSIT RoK, national trainings on Broadband Infrastructure Planning, Mapping and Analysis were conducted in Indonesia (17-18 Feb 2025) and Malaysia (20-21 Feb 2025). Using a hands-on approach with open-source tools, participants from various government departments were equipped with skills on collection, analysis and visualization of ICT infrastructure data, and how to plan and optimize broadband networks. Training upgraded skills of participants to identify connectivity gaps, plan infrastructure projects, and make data-driven decisions to extend broadband access to un/under-connected areas.   With support from the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts (DIRDCA) of Australia, a Masterclass on inclusive and resilient Broadcasting development was organized by RO-ASP during 19th Asia Media Summit 2024. The event was hosted by AIBD. The event encouraged adoption of new technologies and strategies in production, distribution and other broadcasting departments for sustainable development.  ITU Workshop on National Tables of Frequency Allocation (NTFA) for region 3 (RR), 28-31 May 2024, Shanghai, People's Republic of China. The workshop gathered 70 participants from 10 countries to discuss regional frequency allocation challenges. The key outcome was a commitment to harmonize national frequency allocation tables, which will enhance cross-border connectivity in region 3, benefiting over 500 million users by 2030. RO-ASP Ensured that the work of BDT on NATIONAL spectrum Management is well represented by highlighting the SMS4DC as key national SM automation tool, sharing the key activities of RO-ASP and direct country assistances on national spectrum management and RF monitoring issues.  Spectrum Management System Training for Developing Countries (SMS4DC), 29 April - 2 May 2024, Vanuatu. ITU organized a training on SMS4DC during the 28th PITA Annual General Meeting in Vanuatu. Participants from 10 Pacific Small Island Developing States (SIDS) received training on automating spectrum management processes. Positive feedback was received, and participants enhanced their technical capacity to manage spectrum efficiently using SMS4DC.  Syniverse APAC Users' Group Meeting, 8-9 May 2024, Bangkok, Thailand. ITU presented at the Syniverse APAC Users' Group Meeting, discussing the key enablers for 5G rollout in Asia and the Pacific, with data analysis and experience shared from the region. The event was organized by Syniverse Technologies (China) Limited, a new ITU-D sector member. ITU highlighted the importance of using statistical data to guide 5G adoption and regulatory decisions.  Asia-Pacific ICT Summit, 14 August 2024, Bangkok, Thailand. ITU presented key findings from the 5G Enabler Report, discussing critical factors influencing 5G development in the Asia-Pacific region. The session strengthened collaboration between ITU and Huawei in supporting digital transformation across the region  AIBD Strategic Team Meeting, 14 March 2024, Virtual. ITU participated as an advisor in the AIBD Strategic Team Meeting, which brought together broadcasters and partners from Asia-Pacific. Discussions focused on reviewing activities and projects executed by AIBD and setting future initiatives. ITU’s involvement emphasized collaboration in the broadcasting sector to enhance digital transformation and policymaking across the region.  From 1-2 October 2024, building on the impactful collaboration of 2023, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries (ITTLLDC) co-organized the seminar in Ulaanbaatar Mongolia, with support from Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts (DIRDCA) of Australia, to highlight and discuss how satellite and space services can support affordable, resilient and universal connectivity. The event included 10 country case studies and sessions related to national satellite regulations and space policies. Around 50 Participants from over 15 countries joined the event physically. The session also featured a P2C segment where, for the first time, new pledges from Mongolian entities were presented. Connectivity and satellite-related pledges were also highlighted for delegates and countries to express interest, to help facilitate potential matchmaking among the speakers and attendees.  At the invitation of the Malaysian Communications & Multimedia Commission, the BDT joined the Digital Outlook Series 2024 themed “Orbiting Innovations: Unveiling the Future of Satellite Communications” in October 2024. BDT presented the international regulatory mechanisms for satellite communication that included the WRC-23 decisions and Agenda items for WRC-27 related to satellite communication including NGSO, NTN and HIBS. The key outcomes of the ITU-ITTLLDC 2024 event related to National space policy and regulations were also shared as part of the session outcomes.  In October 202, BDT participated in the concluding workshop of the ASEAN project on Advanced Spectrum Monitoring Guidance on Mobile Broadband Technology for ASEAN Member States (Mon MBT), initiated by Indonesia in 2022. BDT presented the latest trends in RF monitoring including the use of AI, deep learning-based analytics, cloud and crowd-based monitoring amongst others. ITU also presented on ITU recommendations related to developing regional agreements to mitigate cross border RF interference issues. The outcomes of the workshop and project will be presented to TELMIN for developing the ASEAN 2025 ICT development framework.  In support of ASP Regional Initiative 3 and especially the expected result 6, BDT supported BR in organizing [Regional Radio Seminar for Asia and the Pacific in Sep 2024 in Samoa](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-R/seminars/rrs/rrs-24-asia%26pacific/Pages/default.aspx). In addition to support in organization, BDT shared best practices based on the assistances provided by on Analog to Digital transition and discussed the services provided under national spectrum management including automation through SMS4DC.   * **In the CIS**, **the capacity of Member States to manage spectrum was enhanced** through the first global ITU/WMO Regional Seminar "Earth observations for Sustainable Development Goals: technologies, spectrum, applications, impacts". The seminar was attended by over 100 specialists and was organized back-to-back with the meeting of the working groups of ITU-R Study Group 7 in Almaty, Kazakhstan.   **A roundtable on VoLTE (Voice over LTE) was organized in Tashkent, Uzbekistan**. During the roundtable, operators provided updates on the status of VoLTE services and discussed the introduction of new Voice over Wi-Fi (VoWiFi) services to the market. The meeting also addressed technical aspects and implementation strategies for roaming models in VoLTE, focusing on S8 Home Routing (S8HR) and Local Breakout (LBO).  Following the requests from Member-States ITU has started development of a **capacity building programme titled “Future of Connectivity”.** 2024included in-depth consultations with stakeholders in the region and preparation of training materials. Country trainings are planned to be deployed in 2025, with the first workshop held in March 2025 for policy and regulatory authorities and industry players of Armenia.  During the annual Digital Almaty Conference, BDT supported Intersputnik to organize a workshop "Space activities in modern realities”. The event offered a unique opportunity to share best practices in creating or improving national legislation for space activities while addressing the challenges surrounding national market access policies for satellite systems. The event was well attended by the satellite communications community and was highly appreciated by the Membership.  In March 2025, an ICT infrastructure workshop and training was organized in Tajikistan. The event was conducted to support the Republic of Tajikistan in delivering full and sustainable connectivity. This workshop was specifically designed to focus on ICT infrastructure mapping, analysis, and planning work. It improved theoretical and practical skills of participants in collecting ICT infrastructure data, identifying underserved areas, applying GIS tools, and using connectivity models to test and compare selected connectivity scenarios. Participants received a wealth of knowledge about how to explore feasible connectivity solutions and to make informed decisions based on available data.  A 5G deployment workshop was organized for educators and professors at Kyrgyz State Technical University in April 2025, which enhanced the participants’ knowledge of the technical specifications and deployment of 5G technologies, as well as the capacity to upgrade their learning material.  **In the Americas,** as part of the Giga school connectivity programme, enhanced schooling mapping were explored in Trinidad and Tobago, Belize, Suriname and members of the OECS. A national training workshop on ITU broadband maps and geographic information systems was held in Uruguay.  In this context a series of online workshops were held followed by the ITU-EC TAIEX workshop on 5G implementation  **In Europe**, assistance to Montenegro was provided through the production of a National Plan for the Development of Networks for Broadband Internet Access. The Plan was officially presented to the Ministry of Economic Development last September, outlining the strategic vision, the objectives and the expected outcomes. Developed based on research and stakeholder consultations, the National Plan focuses on the objective of expanding high-capacity broadband internet access across the country from 2025 to 2029, while considering infrastructure modernization, regulatory alignment, investment facilitation, as well as the necessity to connect rural and underserved areas. | | **Broadband Maps:**   * + **Americas:** Uruguay   + **Arab States:** Algeria   + **Asia Pacific:** Indonesia, Malaysia   + **Europe:** Albania, Moldova, France, Italy, Portugal, Romania, Cyprus, Croatia, Slovenia, Lithuania   + **CIS:** Azerbaijan, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan |
| **Contributing to SDG Targets** | SDGs 1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 16, 17 | |
| **WSIS Action** | C1, C2, C3, C4, C5, C6, C7, C11 | |
| **Resolutions:** | PP 136; WTDC 34, 43, 66; WRC 646, 647; SGQ 1/1, 3/1, 5/1, 4/2 | |

## ITU-D Priority 2: Digital Transformation

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| **ITU-D Priority 2: Digital Transformation**  ***Accelerating digital transformation through ICT entrepreneurship and increased ICT innovation in the ICT ecosystem*** | | |
| **Digital innovation ecosystem**  ***Outcome:*** Strengthened capacity of the ITU membership to integrate telecommunication/ICT innovation and digitalization in their national development agendas and to develop strategies to promote innovation initiatives, including through public, private and public-private partnerships | | |
| **Output** | | **Highlights** |
| BDT continued to support Member States to **accelerate digital transformation** endeavours, providing innovation and ecosystem development policy framework tools, capacity development interventions, technical assistance, and implementing projects to foster innovation. BDT completed the development of 7 playbooks, which are comprehensive frameworks and tools for developing ecosystems and fostering innovation and entrepreneurship, including for Strategic foresight, policy experimentation, ecosystem initiative development, startup and SME growth, open technology innovation, strategic communication, partnership and resource mobilization.  **In the Arab States,** the Digital Innovation Profile for Bahrain was finalized, in which a full assessment of the ecosystem was developed, and key recommendations to take the ecosystem to the next level were presented. Moreover, Digital Innovation Profiles for Qatar and Jordan have currently being developed and expected to be completed in Q1 and Q2 of 2025 respectively. Digital Innovation Profile development has also started for Palestine.   * **In CIS**, expert assistance on digital innovation and startup ecosystem creation is being provided to Kyrgyzstan. The Kyrgyz Service on Intellectual Property and Innovation, as a responsible government authority, with the support of ITU experts, is assessing the overall status of innovation and startup ecosystem in the country and developing a dedicated training program for managers of startup accelerators, who will be tasked to produce and launch acceleration programs. The outcomes of this program were presented in the Regional Development Forum for CIS Region 2025. * **In Europe,** to best support Albania in the advancement of digital innovation, a report on the implementation of the Digital Innovation Profile is also being finalized with a particular focus on practical suggestions for the alignment of the Digital Innovation Profile with the Smart Specialization Strategy of the country and the country’s Reform Agenda 2024-2027. * To support Malta’s innovation ecosystem a report titled *Malta’s Innovation Landscape: Best Practices and Future Directions,* prepared in conjunction with the Global Innovation Forum 2024*,* is being finalized.The report focuses on the Malta Economic Vision 2031, detailing its alignment with national and regional priorities and its focus on innovation, economic growth, sustainability, and agility. The report also delves into best practices within Malta’s innovation ecosystem, analysing contributions from six critical stakeholder groups: the public sector, private sector, financial institutions, academia, entrepreneurial support networks, and entrepreneurs. Finally, the report provides insights into Malta’s future direction, offering inspiration for other nations to craft competitive and resilient ecosystems capable of achieving global influence. * **In Africa,** ITU organized a Co-Creation and Validation Workshop on Zimbabwe’s Innovation Ecosystem as a well a stakeholder's engagement in September 2024. Digital profiles assessment work was started for Mozambique and Zambia. In March 2025 under the Laying the foundation for VaMoz Digital! project a National Digital Innovation Profile Technical Workshop was held in Maputo to finalize the Mozambique Digital Innovation Profile. * BDT has launched a new series of strategic foresight reports, starting with the first report focused on shaping the future of education. There are plans for additional reports, including two for the G20 and one for the Communication, Sciences, and Technologies Commission of Saudi Arabia. These reports showcase enhanced capabilities in trend research, which can assist countries in navigating a changing environment. | |  |
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| **Innovation Ecosystem Development strategies, policies and roadmap and Digital Innovation Profiles:**   * **Africa:** Zambia, Mozambique * **Arab States: Bahrain,** Qatar, Jordan, Palestine   **LDCs/LLDCs & SIDS engaged / assisted – Digital Transformation:**   * 37 LDCs LLDCs and SIDs supported. * 17 received technical assistance. * 22 had policy frameworks and knowledge products developed and * awareness raising sessions conducted in 6 countries. * 8 projects are ongoing. |
| BDT continued to operationalize the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Alliance for Digital Development. Through the ITU Acceleration Centre, a training on Design, Validation and Ecosystem Initiatives Development Service for Cross-cutting Digital Transformation in Malawi was delivered. The blueprint for the Centre has been discussed in collaborating with ecosystem stakeholders to establish its vision, mission, service delivery model, business strategy, human resources, partnerships, resource mobilization, and governance frameworks. Design and validation of ITU Acceleration Centre were also conducted in Tanzania, Zambia, Kenya, China, the Dominican Republic and Argentina. Also, in collaboration with BDT, Gabon officially launched its ITU Acceleration Centre in September 2024. Work is ongoing to finalize and launch all centres with services in 2025.  Following new requests from countries and further validation, BDT has accepted two new centres into the Alliance: one from the Department of Communications and Digital Technologies in South Africa and the other from the Communications, Space and Technology Commission of Saudi Arabia. BDT's new approach to accepting candidates for new centres will be on a rolling basis and based on the capacity and support available to deploy them.  The full report on the Alliance's work can be found in the [TDAG report](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG32-C-0010/).  The Regional Initiative Accelerator, funded through the ITU-MIIT China collaboration fund, was launched in Chongqing, China, during the ITU-MIIT annual conference. This pilot initiative aims to demonstrate new capabilities for enhancing the implementation of regional priorities by kickstarting the ideation and definition of Regional Initiatives (RIs) and project concepts. The first cohort was conducted from February 3 to 5, 2025, in Podgorica, Montenegro, focusing on RI-EUR2, and included over 45 participants from five Western Balkan countries. The project resulted in the development of five project concepts worth a total of $20 million. The next cohort is scheduled for the Asian Pacific region on April 27, and the BDT plans to run additional cohorts with developing countries.  BDT is also providing support to South Africa government for the South African G20 President in their priority of digital innovation ecosystem and engaged in the development of two foresight report on shaping the future of SMEs and Shaping an African VC ecosystem for equitable funding.  ITU in partnership with UNFPA Benin were successfully co-designed and formalized the implementation roadmap and next steps for the project “Develop and nurture sustainable digital innovation ecosystems that accelerate youth resilience and empowerment in Benin with a robust gender approach.” The standard operating procedures toolkit has been approved. | | **Digital Innovation Acceleration projects and initiatives** |
| **Digital innovation ecosystem**  ***Outcome:*** *Enhanced human and institutional capacity of the ITU membership in telecommunications/ICTs to foster digital transformation* | | |
| BDT continues to build members states and human and institutional capacity to innovate and support digital transformation.  A special focus is directed towards human capacity of youth through cooperative activities with the support of Academia members and other interested stakeholders.  **In the CIS** in May 2024 ITU organized an **Ideathon focused on startup creation for students and young professionals in Khujand, Tajikistan.** Over two days, participants received intensive training on idea generation, building business models, crafting compelling pitches, engaging with investors, and connecting with their target audiences. Experts from Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan shared insights into the startup ecosystems in their respective countries, highlighting opportunities for new ventures at various stages, from ideation to having a minimum viable product (MVP) and initial users. On the second day, participants presented their ideas during a pitching session. Six teams showcased their business concepts to a panel of judges and fellow attendees. In total, more than 30 young innovators from Tajikistan took part in the event.  **A hackathon focused on creating smart city startups was held for students from technical universities in Belarus in October – November 2024. Part of a two-months program, t**he hackathon featured training sessions with expert speakers, personalized consultations with mentors, and culminated in a pitching event where participants presented their startup ideas. A total of 107 students from six Belarusian universities and one Russian university participated.  In 2025 similar programs were organized jointly with ITU Academia members:   * Over 60 young people from Kostanay Engineering and Economics University engaged in AI-Challenge, in which 26 reached the final, pitching and showcasing their own AI-based solutions; * Kyrgyz State Technical University jointly with Batken regional authorities and Batken State University, engaged over 100 participants in Hackaton "Batken 4.0 - Digital Solutions for Batken region".   **In Africa,** BDT supported the 4th edition of the African Telecommunication Union Innovation Challenge, an annual competition aimed at identifying and supporting young African innovators and institutions. The goal is to develop solutions and create an enabling environment to address critical challenges across the continent. This year's edition specifically sought innovators with groundbreaking AI solutions.  **In the Asia Pacific,** BDT hosted a consultation meeting with member states (India, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Maldives) and other stakeholders to discuss its work and future activities. The meeting facilitated discussions on cooperation opportunities in innovation, with takeaways utilized for planning upcoming activities of the Innovation Centre in India. ITU and its partners explored new ways to enhance digital innovation across the region. | | **Startup ecosystem support** |
| The Global Innovation Forum (GIF) 2024 was held in Valletta, Malta from 23 to 30 October. The theme of the Forum was “Shaping our Digital Futures for Prosperity and Well-Being for All” and it allowed knowledge sharing, networking and promotion of innovation. The Forum provided an important platform to bridge the digital innovation gap by various means, among which knowledge sharing on policy acceleration and stakeholders’ empowerment. The Forum was opened by the President of Malta and hosted participants from multiple organisations and countries, including high-level representatives of numerous governments.  BDT continued developing its curriculum on innovation ecosystem development with the addition of two new advanced courses in strategic foresight and ecosystem initiative development.  BDT delivered an I-codi regional training using the playbooks for strategic foresight of the Alliance and allowed an experimental model where regional priorities can be better scoped from the exercise. This process was presented at the Regional Development Forum for ARB with a contribution from the UAE.  BDT supported the launch of innovation café products and services in Fiji, with the regional office leading the co-creation efforts alongside member states. The ITU Innovation Café is a dynamic platform designed to foster co-creation, knowledge exchange, and collaborative problem-solving among various stakeholders in the digital innovation ecosystem. As part of ITU's commitment to innovation, the Café provides a structured and participatory environment where policymakers, industry leaders, academia, and entrepreneurs can engage in co-design and adopt human-centered approaches. | | **Global Innovation Forum and Innovation Capacity Development**  **Europe:** Malta  ASP: Fiji  ARB- Dubai |
| **Digital services and applications**  ***Outcome:*** *Enhanced capacity of the ITU membership to accelerate digital transformation and sustainable economic and social development by leveraging and using new and emerging telecommunications/ICTs and services* | | |
| BDT continued to support Member States in developing and promoting digitally enabled solutions to address sustainable development needs:   * **In the Arab States,** a national forum on 5G and Beyond: Enabling Smart Sustainable Cities and Communities, held from 10-11 December 2024 at Smart Village, Egypt, aims to drive actionable outcomes by convening global experts, policymakers, industry leaders, and stakeholders. The forum focused on harnessing the transformative potential of 5G and emerging technologies to advance smart and sustainable urban development, fostering collaboration and innovation for a connected future.   In Jordan, an assessment study for the enabling environment for immersive technologies was developed in partnership with the Ministry of Digital Economy and Entrepreneurship and UNESCWA. The study aimed to identify the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats for the ecosystem with the objective of creating new jobs in this up-and-coming sector and present recommendations in that regard.   * **In Africa**, BDT engaged in strategic consultations with several countries in West Africa, including Guinea-Bissau, The Gambia, Guinea, Senegal, and Nigeria. These discussions are supported by World Bank-funded projects aimed at adopting the GovStack approach and the Public Administration Ecosystem Reference Architecture (PAERA) to facilitate the coordinated and efficient digitalization of public and government services. The consultations covered several important aspects, including the development of interoperability frameworks, the implementation of enterprise architecture, the technical specifications for service bus/data exchange platforms, and comprehensive capacity-building programs. to the focus of these conversations was the GovStack vision of accelerating digital transformation through reusable and interoperable digital building blocks. This approach is expected to reduce costs, simplify solution architectures, and shorten the time required to implement digitalization programs. The initiative emphasizes sustainable adoption through targeted change management at both governmental and public administration levels.   In Kenya, BDT has initiated a strategic effort to build national open-source capacity through the launch of the Open-Source Ecosystem Enabler (OSEE) project. This marks the beginning of the establishment of a national Open-Source Programme Office (OSPO), aimed at empowering Kenya’s digital ecosystem and accelerating the development of digital public goods and infrastructures. The Kenyan OSPO will deliver a comprehensive series of training programs, from foundational to expert-level, designed to build local expertise and catalyze large-scale, open source-driven digital public services. Through this initiative, Kenya is well-positioned to become a regional leader in open, inclusive, and sustainable digital transformation. In parallel, and in close collaboration with GIZ, BDT is also supporting the Government of Kenya in the development of its national Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) roadmap, further reinforcing the country's strategic digital ambitions. BDT is also collaborating with UNDP to support the G20 on Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) safeguards and is contributing to the upcoming DPI Summit, which will take place later this year in Cape Town, South Africa   * In recognition of the growing convergence of telecommunications and financial services under the ‘Digital Financial Services,’(DFS) initiative, ITU continues to support National Regulatory Authorities (NRAs) to facilitate interaction and collaboration with financial regulators to ensure the integrity, security, stability and protection of participants and end users relating to the provision of these services.   Other African countries have continued to explore Digital Public Infrastructure in their context with the GovStack resources and lesson learned as a guide.   * **In the Americas,** under a UN Joint Programme – Innovative Finance for Unserved Groups, BDT in collaboration with the governments of Antigua and Barbuda and St. Lucia developed is bolstering the digital financial services (DFS) ecosystem through a comprehensive approach encompassing policy, regulatory, and cybersecurity aspects. Over 65 people from the DFS community in these countries were exposed to the DFS mobile security toolkit and recommendations, and more than 15 people are trained in the clinic to conduct mobile security - including audits of the mobile payments' apps and infrastructure. * **In the Asia-Pacific**, the Smart Islands and Smart Villages initiatives, along with the EU STREIT programme, have trained over 2000 community members across the Pacific in essential digital skills, transforming lives and communities in 2024. Over 1623 participants from the Pacific gained critical skills, unlocking new opportunities in education, agriculture, and the economy as part of SVSI. Additionally, the EU STREIT PNG project empowered over 450 people in Papua New Guinea with digital tools to enhance livelihoods in agriculture and fisheries. These accomplishments in 2024 were made possible through collaboration with the Smart Islands communities, Pacific governments, national stakeholders, UN agencies, the Joint SDG Fund, the European Union, the Asian Development Bank, academia, and civil society partners, demonstrating the power of collective action to bring digital transformation to rural and remote Pacific communities. Smart Village Pakistan continued to be rolled out beyond Gokina to Sambriyal and Swabi villages through digital services and skills. In 2024, 65 number of participants raised their skills.   In 2024, more than 800 participants enhanced their awareness and skills in adopting whole-of-government approach using GovStack through online and offline trainings and workshops (Dedicated assistances were provided to Bangladesh, Cambodia, Laos, and Papua New Guinea on developing their capacity to implement GovStack including online and physical missions. ITU collaborated (ongoing) with ASEAN Secretariat towards development of an ASEAN-wide technical framework for whole-of- government.  Through the South Asia and Innovation Centre Delhi, BDT provided number of targeted trainings in partnership with several stakeholders across India from May-July as part of Girls in ICT Day India celebration. The event was attended by more than 1000 participants. It aimed at increasing the involvement of Indian women in ICT, harnessing the role of ICTs to advance gender equality, and empowering women to actively participate in building an inclusive and sustainable digital future. In partnership with Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT), training workshops empowered students across India with coding skills in Python and Java, culminating in a national coding challenge.  A Govstack workshop on Whole of Government Digital Transformation Leveraging Govstack was delivered in Bangladesh on 26-27 June. The workshop brought together relevant stakeholders from Bangladesh and explored latest discussions on digital governance, global trends and local innovations for secure interoperable digital infrastructure.   * **In CIS** to further support Member-States in the advancement of digital services, a Framework Cooperation Agreement and Project “Digital Government Cooperation in the Central Asia and Caucasus Countries” was signed between ITU and the National Information Technology JSC of the Republic of Kazakhstan. The project benefits of the support of Eurasian Development Bank. This two-year project started in January 2025 and is in line with CIS Regional Initiative 3 on Creating an enabling legal and regulatory environment to accelerate digital transformation. * **In Europe**, the adoption of the building block approach was facilitated though strategic partnerships with UN agencies under the three projects of the Digital Window of Joint SDG Fund targeting Albania, Montenegro and Serbia.   The project kick-off event, held on 8 November 2024 in Albania, brought together key partners essential for achieving the desired impact. Furthermore, project partners were successfully embarked upon the GovStack Architects Program, ensuring alignment with the core values and principles that will guide the project's implementation phases.  In Serbia, the **"Digital Service Design Hub – Clicking Together with Citizens"** project was kicked off jointly with partners in October 2024. As a knowledge partner, ITU provided all the necessary information and tools for enhancing public services through user-centric design and is leveraging the country's expertise to drive technological transformation. In this sense, partners benefitted from the GovStack introductory workshop and the toolbox with resources', playbooks, list of events, etc. for Building Block approach rollout.  The **“Digital Transformation of Local Self-Governments in Montenegro”** project was kicked off in December 2024 and aims to support local government digitalization and establishing local eGovernance, laying the foundation for the Smart Sustainable Cities framework. ITU is responsible for the capacity building of six local administrations to develop cost-efficient and user-friendly services using the GovStack approach. This will be achieved through a series of online and onsite activities, resulting in the development of 3 service prototypes.  The Global Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) Summit, held from 1–3 October 2024 in Cairo, Egypt, convened representatives from over 100 countries, along with stakeholders from the public sector, private industry, and civil society, to discuss the transformative impact of DPI on public infrastructure and foster strategic partnerships for sustainable development.  BDT has actively engaged in numerous Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) events to promote inclusive and secure digital ecosystems. In May 2024, ITU co-organized the WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event in Geneva, featuring a special track on DPI that integrated diverse perspectives on its potential for national agendas. ([itu.int](https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2024/Agenda/SpecialTrack/36?utm_source=chatgpt.com))  BDT also contributed to the Digital Public Goods Alliance (DPGA) Annual Members Meeting 13-15 November 2024, in Singapore, hosting various sessions on Digital Public Goods (DPGs) and open source, thanks to local representation of GovStack and OSEE projects.  In October 2024, during the Global DPI Summit in Cairo, BDT sessions highlighted initiatives like the African DPI Blueprint and open standards for interoperability. ([itu.int](https://www.itu.int/hub/2024/10/defining-and-building-digital-public-infrastructure-for-all/?utm_source=chatgpt.com))  Additionally, BDT launched the Digital Infrastructure Investment Initiative in collaboration with international finance communities and the G20 Brazil Presidency to bridge digital divides. ([[itu.int](https://www.itu.int/hub/publication/s-dii-diii-whitepaper-2025/?utm_source=chatgpt.com)](https://www.itu.int/hub/publication/s-dii-diii-whitepaper-2025/?utm_source=chatgpt.com))  In January 2025, ITU co-hosted the "Citizen Stack 2025" conference in Geneva, focusing on citizen-centric digital transformations and India's DPI experiences. ([[itu.int](https://www.itu.int/hub/2025/02/citizen-centric-services-digital-public-infrastructure/?utm_source=chatgpt.com)](https://www.itu.int/hub/2025/02/citizen-centric-services-digital-public-infrastructure/?utm_source=chatgpt.com))  Furthermore, ITU has been instrumental in developing policies and frameworks for DPI in smart sustainable cities through the United for Smart Sustainable Cities (U4SSC) initiative. ([[u4ssc.itu.int](https://u4ssc.itu.int/digital-public-infrastructure/?utm_source=chatgpt.com)](https://u4ssc.itu.int/digital-public-infrastructure/?utm_source=chatgpt.com)) | |  |
| **Contributing to SDG Targets** | SDGs 1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 16, 17 | |
| **WSIS Action** | C1, C2, C3, C4, C5, C6, C7, C11 | |
| **Resolutions:** | PP 205; WTDC 16, 30, 37, 85, 90; SGQ 2/1, 4/1, 1/2, 2/2 | |

## ITU-D Priority 3: Enabling Policy and Regulatory Environment

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| **ITU-D Priority 3: Enabling Policy and Regulatory Environment**  ***Promoting an enabling policy and regulatory environment conducive to sustainable telecommunication/ICT*** | | |
| **Capacity Development**  ***Outcome:*** *Improved human and institutional capacity of the ITU membership in telecommunications/ICTs to tap into the full potential of the digital economy and society* | | |
| **Output** | | **Highlights** |
| Through its commitment to enhancing both human and institutional capacity within its membership, ITU continued to deliver high-quality training programmes. The training courses were conducted through the [**ITU Academy**](https://academy.itu.int/) and the [**ITU Academy Training Centres**](https://academy.itu.int/itu-d/projects-activities/itu-academy-training-centres)**(ATCs),** with the aim of making a meaningful impact for ITU membership. From May 2024 to April 2025, the [ITU Academy](https://academy.itu.int/) registered 15,200**additional users, bringing the total number of learners to over 63,000, from all Member States**, with more than 70 per cent coming from developing countries. During this period, over 160 courses were delivered via the platform to over 22,000 registered course participants, of which over 6,200 had completed their courses by March 2025. Over 4,000 participants also completed course evaluation surveys and 95 per cent reported that they were satisfied or very satisfied with their experience.  During the second year of implementation, for the same period (May 2024 – April 2025) the **ATCs delivered 64 courses attracting over 3,000 registrations**, with over 1,200 course completions by April 2025. In 2024 and 2025, BDT organized several training sessions on how to conduct engaging online training, aimed at the instructors of the 14 ATCs. The goal of the initiative was to impact the quality of the training courses, by improving facilitation, virtual delivery skills and by allowing for exchanges of best practices among the participating institutions. During the [second global annual meeting of the ATCs](https://academy.itu.int/itu-d/projects-activities/itu-academy-training-centres/events/atc-annual-meeting-2024), representatives from all 14 ATCs convened to build on lessons learned and share best practices on training course management and scale-up, further align on optimal approaches regarding training quality, delivery methodology and impact measurement as well as consolidate collaborations with the programme’s participating institutions.  At the beginning of 2024, ITU, in collaboration with UNDP, started implementation of a **new project on “Capacity Development for Digital Transformation”.** The project is funded by the Global Gateway initiative of the European Commission over a period of 4 years. The project supports the delivery of training to policy makers and government officials through the ITU Academy platform. Since the beginning of the project, 27 courses in both face-to-face (F2F), online instructor-led and self-paced modality were completed. 1390 participants, coming from 160 (mostly developing) countries, were trained, with a 97 per cent participants’ satisfaction rate.  In collaboration with **Cisco**, the [**Digital Transformation Centres (DTC) initiative**](https://academy.itu.int/itu-d/projects-activities/digital-transformation-centres-initiative) is continuing to expand activities with ongoing support to DTCs. Since the start of the DTC initiative, the total number of course participants trained in basic and intermediate digital skills is 435,760, of which 54 per cent were female. Over the reporting period, 80,699 participants (56 per cent female) were reached through DTC activities.  Through the project “Boosting Digital Skills through Digital Transformation Centres”, BDT and **the Norwegian Government** supported the DTC activities, in Ghana, providing training to over 22,000 citizens of which 68 per cent are women throughout the three-year project. The DTC in Ghana exceeded almost every target set for the project and impacted the lives of citizens across all 16 regions in the country. This project closed in September 2024. ITU received new funding from the Norwegian Government at the start of this year to support the DTC Initiative. This project will support DTC training activities and the DTC Initiative at the global level until the end of December 2025.  ITU and DTCI partners supported five DTCs in Côte d’Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Pakistan, the Philippines and Senegalin **building their institutional capacities through train-the-trainer interventions,** reaching 144 trainers (47 female). The DTC in Pakistan was supported to train visually impaired trainers along with sighted trainers on the **''Introduction to Computer Basics for Visually Impaired Persons (ICBVI)**'', bringing the total number of DTCs who have completed the training to four (4) DTCs. The DTC in Uganda is set to start implementing the ICBVI programme, with a first train-the-trainer activity planned for April-May 2025. The DTC in Uganda, the Uganda Institute of Information and Communications Technology (UICT), also benefitted from training-of-trainer courses organized with the support from the ITU-Government of Uganda and Global Development and South-South Cooperation Fund joint ‘Technical Assistance and Training to Uganda on National ICT Development Strategy’ project in 2024 and 2025. The DTCs in Senegal and Zambia conducted community outreach activities to create greater awareness on the importance of digital skills, including for persons with visual impairments. DTCs in the following seven (7) countries, Côte d'Ivoire, the Dominican Republic, Morocco, Pakistan, the Philippines, Senegal and Zambia received support to train underserved communities on basic and intermediate digital skills.  The [**ITU Digital Skills Forum**](https://www.itu.int/itu-d/meetings/digital-skills-forum/)**,** which took place in Bahrain in September 2024 under the theme “**Developing skills for digital transformation**”, brought together over 700 participants from 66 countries representing different stakeholder groups. The Forum addressed key issues related to the digital skills gap and how to address it, ranging from bridging the digital skills divide, digital skills for jobs and the impact of AI, to cybersecurity and online safety skills. The key outcomes of the Forum, along with recommendations on how to tackle the emerging skills gap, are included in the Chair’s summary report.  The [**ITU Digital Skills Toolkit 2024**](https://academy.itu.int/itu-d/projects-activities/research-publications/digital-skills-toolkit)**,** which was launched in September, offers a comprehensive, **step-by-step guide to support the ITU membership to create effective national digital skills strategies** and policies. It is a thorough update of the previous 2018 version and include three parts: Part 1 focuses on understanding digital skills, covering digital skills frameworks and concepts, Part 2 provides a detailed roadmap for creating a national digital skills strategy and Part 3 offers numerous examples of digital skills strategies and programmes from around the world.   * **In Africa**: ITU implemented a series of digital skills training programs through the Digital Transformation Centers (DTC) in the African region to empower youth, bridge the gender digital divide and digital skills gap, and foster local digital skills development ecosystems in rural and hard to reach communities. 270 beneficiaries were trained in Democratic Republic of Congo, Zambia, and Cote d'Ivoire. Within the framework of AGCCI, ITU in an effort to scale up the initiative has updated the self-paced course available in the ITU Academy, with six modules and sub-modules on both technical skills and soft skills in English, French and Portuguese for increased outreach. Guided by the ITU Digital Skills Assessment Guidebook, the new Toolkit and related resources, national digital skills assessment was completed in Uganda, Kenya and South Sudan.   BDT supported the development of digital skills through **Digital Transformation Centre in Sierra Leone**. The program successfully provided basic and intermediate digital skills training to **480 young boys and girls from marginalized communities** by partnering with an NGO that operates a network of well-equipped training centres in both countries. Key achievements include a significant increase in digital literacy among youth participants, with at least 80% demonstrating proficiency in basic to intermediate digital skills. These skills included computer usage, internet navigation, and standard software applications. The program's success was enhanced by two key components: awareness campaigns aimed at the community and local administration, as well as a Training of Trainers (ToT) approach. The ToT methodology was particularly effective in ensuring long-term sustainability by building local capacity for ongoing knowledge transfer.  National digital skills assessments using the refined ITU Digital Skills Toolkit 2024 and complementary frameworks were undertaken in 2024 in Uganda in the context of the ‘Technical Assistance and Training to Uganda on National ICT Development Strategy’[9UGA21008] project and in 2025 in South Sudan. A national digital skills assessment was also undertaken in Kenya in 2024 with financial support of the ITU-UK FCDO Digital Access project.   * **In the** **Americas:** BDT enhanced knowledge of small entrepreneurs through the delivery of Workshop on Digital Transformation within the framework of Digital KIT Initiative for Entrepreneurs, Micro and Small business, which benefited 206 small entrepreneurs from Latin America from **Cuba, Honduras, Paraguay and Uruguay**. These activities are part of the [Digital KIT Initiative](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/Americas/Pages/ACTVTS/DTK/DTK-AMS.aspx) for digital transformation and is currently implemented under the **ITU-Huawei project** in support of the Regional Initiatives for the Americas.   BDT also enhanced **project management skills of indigenous people and rural communities** through a five-module online training in ITU Academy, including a bootcamp on community network held in Guatemala, and **improved knowledge in the field of ICT Accessibility** through the executive training delivered during the Accessible Americas 2024: ICT for ALL (Mexico City, 12-14 November 2024).  The ITU is finalizing with the Telecommunication Authority of Trinidad and Tobago and the Ministry of Digital Transformation in Trinidad and Tobago a digital skills project to start in 2025. This is to support the Ministry’s efforts to strengthen the capacity of both the horizontal and vertical impacts of digital transformation and equip individuals with the basic, intermediate and advanced digital skills necessary to fulfil the current and future trends in the digital economy. The project is expected to train 40 mentors and benefit 10,000 individuals (50% male and 50% female).  **In the Arab States:** In addition, in Tunisia, the collaborative project, in partnership with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), that aimed to expedite the digital transformation in Tunisia was completed. The overarching objective was to bolster government initiatives in two strategic domains: digital capacity development and infrastructure enhancement. Through close collaboration with all project stakeholders, ITU successfully achieved the project goal by training 217 public sector employees in ITU Academy courses.   * **In Asia-Pacific:** ITU and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) collaborated to conduct a comprehensive digital skills assessment for refugees in India, focusing on identifying digital literacy gaps to enhance their inclusion and engagement through the Digital Gateway platform. This initiative addresses the needs of over 47,000 refugees and asylum seekers registered by UNHCR in India. This two-phase study involved methodology development tailored to the unique context of refugees, ensuring alignment with global best practices and ethical standards. The assessment aims to bridge digital divides and support refugee empowerment through improved access to digital tools and skills. This collaboration reflects ITU's commitment to inclusive digital transformation and advancing the Sustainable Development Goals. * **In CIS:** the Azerbaijan Digital Skills Assessment was finalized, finding and outcomes were presented to Azerbaijan partners in May 2024 at a special session held during M360 Conference in Baku. The final Report, released in November 2024, serves as a valuable resource to inform data-driven and targeted interventions needed to enhance digital literacy in Azerbaijan. The publication can also serve as a model for a more regular assessment of digital literacy in Azerbaijan. Furthermore, the recommendations serve as a basis for designing and planning relevant interventions, policies and strategies, including industry-specific activities, awareness-raising campaigns and advocacy. * **In Europe:** The negotiations with UN partners resulted in the Digital Literacy Assessment of the Adult Population to be jointly conducted with ILO in Moldova. The UN-to-UN agreement is currently on the final stage of preparation, setting the framework for join action with ILO Moldova under their project “Inclusive and productive employment in Moldova” currently ongoing in the country. The project aims to assess digital literacy levels among adults aged 45+ from rural areas, with a particular focus on women and disadvantaged groups, identifying skill gaps that affect employment. The goal is to improve employability by addressing these gaps and providing insights into necessary technological skills. | | **Capacity development:** |
| **ITU Academy:**   * 15,200 new users. * 160 courses delivered. * 14 ATCs delivering high-quality courses in all regions. * All ITU Member States benefited from training courses. * High-level of satisfaction from participants.   **ATCs:**   * 14 entities from all regions. * 3,099 participants in 64 training courses enhancing digital skills in the following topics: * policy and regulation. * network and infrastructure. * spectrum management. * cybersecurity. * digital inclusion. * digital services.   **DTCs:**   * 352 courses delivered within 14 DTCs from all regions. * 80,699 (56 per cent female) participants in DTC courses benefiting learners from rural and remote communities.   **Digital skills development impacting**   * ICT professionals. * Indigenous people and remote communities. * Women and girls. * Youth. * Persons with disabilities. * Small entrepreneurs   **LDCs/LLDCs & SIDS engaged / assisted – Enabling Policies and Regulatory Environment:** A total number of 47 LDCs LLDCs and SIDSs.   * 32 received technical assistance * 14 had policy frameworks and knowledge products developed, * awareness raising sessions were conducted in 6 countries and * a convening platform was undertaken in 1 country. * 2 projects ongoing. |
| ***Outcome:*** *Strengthened capacity of Member States to enhance their telecommunication/ICT policy, legal and regulatory frameworks conducive to sustainable development and digital transformation.* | | |
| **Policy and regulation**  **Enhanced capacity of the ITU membership to improve policy, legal and regulatory frameworks through increased awareness and access to tools to help membership understand the fast-moving landscape and address new challenges in the digital ecosystem, incentivize investment, and enable stronger market growth. Awareness and access to regulatory and economic data and analysis was also increased to support evidence-based decision-making.**  **Improved provision of regulatory and economic research and analysis:**  As part of global activities, the following products were delivered during the period:   * Two new studies of the [series of collaborative digital regulation country reviews](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regulatory-Market/Pages/collaborative-regulation-country-reviews/default.aspx) were underway in collaboration with the ICT regulatory authorities of Qatar and Oman. Through the ITU-FCDO (Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office of the United Kingdom) project, a [study on South Africa](https://www.itu.int/hub/publication/d-pref-them-34-2024/) was published. All country reviews follow a standard methodology and put forward a set of actionable recommendations on developing a better understanding of the role and impact of collaboration and collaborative governance, and the use of new tools for regulating ICT and digital markets. * GSR-24 Best Practice Guidelines were adopted and shared on “Charting the course of transformative technologies for positive impact”. * The existing spectrum management articles were updated and a new article was posted on 6G of mobile network technology in 2025 and two papers and articles were published in May 2024, on the Digital Regulation Platform aimed at improving the human and institutional capacity of the ITU membership. These cover navigating data governance, transformative technologies (AI) challenges and principles of regulation, and one was finalized, and will be posted shortly, focusing on a guide for incorporating Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) into policy making and regulation for compliance. * Two new modules were launched on the [Digital Regulation Platform](https://digitalregulation.org/) on evidence-based decision-making and collaborative digital governance to support regulators and decision-makers in navigating digital transformation challenges and opportunities. The review of the access for all module is being finalized, as part of the ITU-European Union (EU) funded project in Central Africa supported by the EU Delegation in the Democratic Republic of Congo (COFED). * Following BDT’s engagement in SIDS 4, a [10-step plan for accelerating digital transformation in SIDS](https://www.itu.int/net/epub/BDT/2024-ITUs-contribution-to-the-implementation-of-the-Antigua-and-Barbuda-Agenda-for-SIDS/index.html#p=1) was prepared outlining the key action areas in which ITU can support SIDS in accelerating the implementation of the Antiqua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS. * **In Africa**, under the ITU-EU project ‘ICT Benchmarking in Central Africa’ through the Program for the Governance of Regional and National Infrastructures (PAGIRN), ITU is implementing the Benchmarking of ICT in Central Africa project to enhance ICT governance in the Central Africa region and promote evidence-based policy making. The assessment of ICT policy and regulatory frameworks across the 11 ECCAS countries (Economic Community of Central African States) was completed. It aimed to evaluate their effectiveness, identify gaps, and highlight areas for improvement. The focus was on understanding how these frameworks support digital transformation, collaborative regulation, and universal access to services, as well as their alignment with international best practices. Key findings were presented to stakeholders online in early October 2024, followed by an in-person workshop in Equatorial Guinea in November 2024 to discuss recommendations and roadmaps. and will be handed over to beneficiary countries by June 2025. Technical assistance was provided to Lesotho and South Sudan in developing their national digital transformation strategies and to CRASA in reviewing and updating the SADC Toolkit on Universal Access Funding, under the ITU-FCDO project. * **In the Americas,** technical assistance was provided to the Government of Honduras within the framework of the ICT legal framework modernization project, being implemented in the first year of the project signed with CONATEL, the telecommunications regulatory authority. On the other hand, an initial diagnosis of the legal and regulatory framework for telecommunications was delivered to the Government of Panama, as a basis for the modernization of the sectoral law in the country.   In St Kitts and Nevis and Dominica, assessment was done on the Development of the Electronic Identification (E-ID) Policy and Legislation Framework strengthened skills of policy and regulation development. This will contribute to more people having access and greater confidence in the use of online application and using digital services.   * **In the Arab States,** BDT provided technical assistance to Syria and finalized the reports for the second phase of the ICTs market review and analysis, as well as developed a pricing regulatory framework for SyTPRA. This phase was aimed to support the Ministry and the Syrian regulator in the consultation process for finalizing the outcomes of the market review and analysis, and in developing a recommendation report for the ICT services pricing regulatory framework. * **In the Asia-Pacific**, strengthened engagement with ASEAN was pursued through the Priority Cooperation Areas (PCA) Framework, which involved developing a reference framework for engagement with ASEAN membership, covering key BDT products and services. BDT also provided **technical assistance for developing universal service policy and infrastructure sharing policy**, with activities in progress for Tonga and Vanuatu, aiming to enhance connectivity in rural and remote areas. To further support Member States, a policy and regulation repository is being developed in the Asia-Pacific, enabling Member States to easily refer to policy practices of countries in the region.   **Improved provision of regulatory and economic data and statistics:**   * Regulatory and Tariff Policies surveys were distributed to members in 2024. Data collected is being analyzed, integrated and published into the [ITU DataHub](https://datahub.itu.int/). * The 2024 edition of the ICT Regulatory Tracker was released online. As one of the most comprehensive benchmarks for assessing the maturity of ICT regulation and regulatory capacity since 2007, the Tracker is widely used by regulators, UN organizations and researchers. It is hosted on the G5 Accelerator platform where all ITU regulatory benchmarks are available, enabling customized analysis and in-depth exploration of data across more than 100 indicators by region or country.   **BDT also provides convening platforms, tools and services as well as technical assistance for strengthened capacity of individuals and entities through knowledge exchange and capacity to address the challenges and opportunities of digital transformation.**   * **In Africa**, the **digital regulation training for the Africa region** was organized in collaboration with Communications, Space & Technology Commission (CST) Saudi Arabia, the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), and the ITU FCDO project. The training was delivered in two phases, online (12 and 14 November) and in-person (18-20 November), in Abuja, Nigeria, hosted by NCC, Nigeria). Focusing on digital transformation strategies, regulatory governance, evidence-based decision-making, regulatory sandboxes, competition and economics (market analysis), infrastructure sharing, and universal access and service financing efficiency, the two-phase training attracted 44 participants, 32% women from 16 countries, among which 39 received a certificate. * In **Asia** and the Pacific, the IMDA Executive Training for small nations (Digital FOSS) on pioneering digital futures, held in Singapore in November 2024, highlighted the commitment to digital transformation in small States, aligning with the **Partner2Connect Digital Coalition (P2C)** initiative and benefiting members globally. The training built the capacity of policymakers and regulators from small states in digital regulation and included 25 participants, each from a different country. * **In the Americas**, BDT provided technical assistance to Nicaragua on Regulatory Innovation and Regulatory Sandboxes, in addition delivered a technical document and regulation proposal. In Haiti, a **network resilience assessment**, supported by C2R, strengthened the skills of the trained participants to develop new policies and regulations and make better decisions on disaster risk management and better use of digital services. * **In the Arab States**, in 2024, ITU, in collaboration with Oman's Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) and Qatar's Communications Regulatory Authority (CRA), organized national workshops on Collaborative Digital Regulation on 21 Feb and 24 July 2024 respectively. The workshops aim to build the capacity of staff by equipping them with the tools necessary for effective collaborative regulation. Furthermore, on October 28 and November 26, 2024, ITU organized virtual national multi-stakeholder workshops on ICTs market review, analysis and price regulation, which were attended by all MNOs and ISPs operating in Syria, as well as representatives from the Ministry and SyTPRA. * **In** **Europe**, aligned with the aspiration of bridging the digital regulatory gap, the **ITU-EMERG-EaPeReg Digital Transformation Regulation Training** held between 10 April to 30 May 2024, deepened the understanding of professionals in the field of digital regulation strategies, evidence-based decision-making, and the latest regulatory developments. The online instruction was open to European and global participation and attracted 139 participants from 57 countries. 98 participants received a certificate.   **Provision of technical assistance:**   * **In Africa**, technical assistance was provided for a range of technical priorities identified by the Government of Uganda, spanning from the development of policy guidance on last-mile connectivity, infrastructure sharing, big data application and use, AI landscape assessment to developing a strategy for 5G roll out and green data centres, in Uganda under the digital transformation project jointly carried out by the Government of Uganda and ITU, and financially supported by China’s Global Development and South-South Cooperation Fund. Four test pilots to support the implementation of associated recommendations were also undertaken, notably to map mobile internet coverage in rural areas with Bod Boda drivers, to develop an open education data portal and to empower technopreneurs with digital and business skills to scale their digital businesses. Technical assistance has provided to Namibia on the development of a national ICT policy and to Lesotho on the development of a digital transformation strategy. Technical assistance was further provided to CRASA on the update of their Universal service toolkit under the ITU-FCDO project. * Under the Policy and Regulation Initiative for Digital Africa (PRIDA) project, ITU in collaboration with National Communications of Authority (NCA) of Somalia has assisted in the development of the Spectrum Pricing Methodology Framework to provide a structured, transparent, and adaptable approach to spectrum pricing in Somalia. The framework aims to establish a fair, consistent, and economically sustainable spectrum pricing model that balances the needs of commercial operators, public interest, and consumers, and will assist the country to ensure that radio frequency spectrum resources are managed efficiently, fostering economic growth, technological innovation, and digital inclusion. In addition, technical assistance to Equatorial Guinea on Valuation of Digital Dividend was completed in February 2025. * Besides, the harmonized calculation method for Africa (HCM4A) software was developed and from 3 to 7 March 2025, technical training on HCM4A was conducted in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The training on the HCM4A software operations and maintenance (on the coordination of frequencies between 29.7 MHz and 43.5 GHz) for the fixed service and the land mobile service was attended by representatives from 45 member states, where 41 member states were represented by 55 participants physically and 4 member states participated online; in this hybrid training a total of 70 participants were enrolled. * The Workshop on Competition and Market Regulation in Telecommunications, Digital markets and IP transit was held in Gaborone, Botswana from 4 to 8 November 2024 for CRASA members. It focused on the assessment of market features, bottlenecks and barriers to entry that may hinder competition including network effects, capital cost, market and costs policies and regulations that may impact competition (restrictions, incentives, etc.) among others in digital markets. It also discussed the regulatory approaches for wholesale, interconnection transit and end user pricing of digital services and explored a benchmark of practices at national and regional levels to guide the review of the wholesale pricing guidelines for CRASA members.   **Convening platforms**   * The 2024 edition of the [**Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR-24)**](https://www.itu.int/itu-d/meetings/gsr-24/) was organized by the ITU in collaboration with the government of Uganda. The event which took place from 1 to 4 July 2024, under the theme Regulation for Impact, attracted over 600 participants from over 75 countries including government ministers, heads of regulatory authorities, and chief executives from industry. GSR-24 featured topical thematic sessions bringing together regulators, policy makers and digital stakeholders from around the world and providing a global platform for knowledge exchange. Two special events were held on Tools for sustainable space and AI and robotics in action respectively, fostering knowledge sharing and dialogue on emerging issues. GSR-24 pre-events included the Regional Regulatory Associations (RA) and Digital Regulation Network (DRN) meeting and the Heads of Regulators' Executive Roundtable, the IAGDI-CRO and a session of Network of Women (NoW) in BDT. * As part of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)+20 Forum High-Level Event 2024, this year’s **interactive session of Action Line C6 (Enabling Environment)** focused on the theme of “Collaboration for Impact”. The session aimed to facilitate a discussion with Regional Regulatory Associations (RAs) and their members to address critical questions that ICT stakeholders face in adopting transformative technologies for greater impact. * The [Digital Regulation Network (DRN)](https://www.itu.int/itu-d/sites/ra-network/)initiative was launched by Dr Cosmas Zavazava, BDT Director, in June 2023 during the Regional Regulatory Associations Meeting at GSR-23. The DRN is enabled by Regulatory Associations (RAs) at the regional, inter-regional and global level by leveraging South-South, North-South and triangular cooperation. The work of the DRN focus on three main building blocks: thought leadership, capacity development, and regulatory experimentation and innovation. The aim of the Network is to accelerate sustainable digital transformation through common approaches to collaborative digital policy, regulation and governance across economic sectors and across borders. A specific session with Regional Regulatory Association focused on maximizing the digital opportunities in the Americas Region - the role of governments, regulators and Regional Regulatory Associations for coherent approaches to complex challenges. These sessions focused on the main activities that RAs are implementing and how the Digital Regulation Network (DRN) initiative could support them. * **In the Americas**, the[ITU Policy and Economics Colloquium (IPEC-24)](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/Americas/Pages/EVENTS/2024/IPEC-2024.aspx) was held in Peru from 2-6 September 2024 on financing gaps to secure investments and achieve inclusive and sustainable digital development in the Americas region and attracted over 150 delegates from 21 countries. The **Regional Economic Dialogue (RED-AMS)** discussed best practices in economic policies and regulation and included an assessment of ICT infrastructure and services requirements and financing mechanisms and investment in the Americas. A specific session was held on the ways to advance the best practices in the region in terms of regulatory costing and pricing strategies. * **In Europe**, the International Regulatory Conference (IRC) 2024 was held in North Macedonia in May 2024. The event titled “Bridging the Gap – Enter the New Era”, provided a platform to discuss about electronic communications, bridging the gap with the technology, and connecting societies and economies. The event hosted three panels dedicated to Spectrum Management and Monitoring, Cyber security and Regulatory and Broadband issues.   The ITU-EKIP Regional Regulatory Forum was held in September in Budva, Montenegro, offering a platform for over 150 regulatory experts from over 20 countries to learn the newest global and regional trends and exchange national experiences. Themes discussed by the 35 presenters at the Forum included regulatory strategies for emerging telecom technologies, trends and developments in digital infrastructure, quality and rights in telecom services, cybersecurity and privacy, sustainability and disaster response.  The 5G Techritory Conference was co-organized by the ITU and took place in Riga, Latvia on 30-31 October. The Conference represents an important platform of discussion for the region, hosting speakers from governments, international organizations, academia, and the private sector. The 2024 edition witnessed more than 1000 participants over the two days from over 40 different countries. Among the themes discussed at the 26 panels, there were also priorities of European connectivity, cybersecurity, maritime connectivity and digital inclusion.  The workshop on the Future of Television for Europe, in cooperation with BR and TSB, took place in November to discuss the topic with the relevant stakeholders, covering regulatory and policy frameworks, emerging and convergent ICT Infrastructures and services, as well as user interfaces and human factors issues. Among the items discussed there were user experience, regulations and policies, and resilient and sustainable broadcasting. The workshop was organised in collaboration with ITU-D Study Group 1 Question 2/1.  The above resulted in strengthened partnerships, engagement, and collaboration of regulators, regulatory associations, the private sector, and policymakers from across different sectors, enriching conversations and showcasing collaboration across sectors to accelerate digital transformation. | | **Improving national policy and regulations:**   * GSR Best Practice Guidelines. * Articles published on the Digital Regulation Platform on topical matters.   **Africa:**   * ICT Benchmarking in Central Africa project. * Technical Assistance and Training to Uganda on National ICT Development Strategy project.   **Americas:**   * Regulatory improvement support to and Honduras.   **Arab States:**   * Oman, Qatar and Syria   **Europe**:   * Ukraine * Latvia |
| **Statistics**  ***Outcome:*** *Strengthened capacity of Member States to produce and collect high quality, internationally comparable statistics which reflect developments and trends in telecommunications/ICTs, empowered by new and emerging technologies and services, based on agreed standards and methodologies.* | | |
| **Measuring digital development series**  New insight products contributed to raising awareness among Member States about universal and meaningful connectivity (UMC) as a policy imperative, and to enhancing the ability of Member States to assess the state of digital development and make sense of digital transformation.   * Two special editions of *Facts and Figures* focusing, respectively, on [Small Island Developing States](https://www.itu.int/itu-d/reports/statistics/facts-figures-for-sids/) (SIDS) and on the [Landlocked Developing Countries](https://www.itu.int/itu-d/reports/statistics/facts-figures-for-lldc/) (LLDCs) were released in 2024, ahead of the global conferences dedicated to these countries. Based on the estimates for 2023, the publications assessed the state of connectivity in the SIDS and LLDCs, highlighting their diversity, their common challenges, and strengths on which to build. * The [Policy Brief on the Affordability of ICT Services 2023](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Pages/ICTprices/default.aspx) distilled the key insights from the [2023 ICT prices dataset](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Dashboards/Pages/IPB.aspx). * The [ICT Development Index 2024](https://www.itu.int/itu-d/reports/statistics/idi2024/), the second edition based on the new [IDI methodology](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Pages/IDI/default.aspx), and a new [IDI Dashboard](https://datahub.itu.int/dashboards/idi/) embedded in the ITU DataHub were released in June. * The [2024 edition](https://www.itu.int/itu-d/reports/statistics/facts-figures-2024/) of the global *Facts and Figures* was released in November and featured estimates for core ICT indicators for the world, ITU regions, income groups, and UN special groups. * A series of [six publications on the state of digital development and trends](https://www.itu.int/itu-d/reports/statistics/sddt/), each focusing on an ITU region, was released at the respective Regional Development Forums.   **Digital presence and productivity tools**  Improved online presence contributed to enhancing the ability of Member States to submit quality data, and to enhancing access to ICT statistics and regulatory information.   * The World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Questionnaire is now available in the six official languages. * New features and tools were added to the [ITU DataHub](https://datahub.itu.int/), including an [advanced data query](https://datahub.itu.int/query/) tool and a [choropleth map](https://datahub.itu.int/data/?i=178&u=per+100+people) to visualise the performance of countries at once on a selected indicator. The last edition of the subscription-based WTI database was released in January 2024 and subsequently discontinued, as all its data is now freely available on the ITU DataHub. * Between December 2023 and November 2024, traffic on the DataHub increased by 170 per cent.   **Data collection and production of statistics**  Data collection efforts contributed to enhancing the ability of Member States to assess the level of connectivity and progress towards UMC and to design effective interventions.   * During the Spring 2024 data collection campaign, the proportion of countries submitting data to ITU saw a small increase compared to the Fall 2023 campaign. Notably, performance has improved on three of the five TDAG KPIs related to data submissions by Member States, despite only six months having passed since the previous reporting cycle. Additionally, the number of data points available on the DataHub rose to 613,000, representing a 6% increase from 2023. * ITU maintains the largest and most comprehensive [dataset on ICT prices](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Pages/ICTprices/default.aspx). In 2024, data was collected for a record 218 economies and eight price baskets. [Median prices](https://www.itu.int/itu-d/reports/statistics/2024/11/10/ff24-affordability-of-ict-services/) of the entry-level mobile data basket and the fixed broadband basket for the world, ITU Regions, income groups, and UN special groups, were presented in *Facts and Figures 2024*. The full country-level dataset of [ICT prices 2024](https://datahub.itu.int/dashboards/?id=1) was released in early 2025. The ICT price 2025 data collection took place in February. * A [consolidated schedule for all BDT data questionnaires](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Documents/datacollection/ITU_BDT_QuestionnaireSchedule_2025.pdf) planned was published in December 2024 for the first time, reflecting feedback received from ITU Member States, particularly during TDAG-24. The schedule for 2025 aims to minimize overlaps and redundancies, aiming to support Member States’ planning and facilitate timely data submissions. It outlines the timelines for each questionnaire and includes contact email addresses for any questions or clarifications regarding specific surveys. The 2025 data collection cycle includes the following questionnaires: the ICT Price Basket Questionnaire, the Questionnaire on ICT Access and Use by Households and Individuals, the World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Questionnaire, and the Telecommunication/ICT Tariff Policies Information Questionnaire.   **Data science for official statistics**  Advocacy activities contributed to raising awareness about the potential of data science for official ICT Statistics. Technical assistance and tools contributed to enhancing the ability of Member States to using data science for ICT statistics.   * Within the [UN Committee of Experts on Big Data and Data Science for Official Statistics](https://unstats.un.org/bigdata/), ITU chairs the [Task Team on Mobile Phone Data](https://unstats.un.org/bigdata/task-teams/mobile-phone/index.cshtml) and leads its sub-group on Synthetic data. * The ITU-World Bank [project](https://www.worldbank.org/en/programs/global-data-facility/brief/putting-mobile-phone-data-to-work-for-policy) “Putting mobile phone big data to work for policy” is now in full motion. A kick-off [workshop](https://www.worldbank.org/en/events/2024/09/25/global-data-facility-mobile-phone-data-program-for-policy-cohort-1-launch-workshop) was held in October 2024 with representatives from national statistics offices, telecom regulators, and telecom operators from 18 countries selected for the first cohort. The first cohort was officially announced at the UN World Data Forum 2024 in Medellín, Colombia. * New ITU Jupiter notebooks to calculate the Internet user indicator using mobile phone data (MPD) were developed. The Notebooks were presented in the International Conference on Big Data in Bilbao, Spain and at WTIS-24, and has attracted great interest among Member States with more than 20 countries requesting to use the codes. * Country assistance was provided to Uganda for preparing a strategy on the use of big data in government agencies, as well as Tunisia, Liberia, and Malaysia for leveraging MPD for information society indicators and other applications in statistics. Presentations to about MPD were made to Argentina, Uruguay, Costa Rica and Mongolia. * BDT expanded technical work to estimate Internet use at sub-national level using open big data sources. * Big data sources were integrated into ITU's core statistical processes and developed a data lake to streamline data collection, processing, and sharing. * BDT organized sessions on big data for ICT statistics at the World Data Forum 2024 and the International Conference on Big Data, and several webinars hosted by the UN-CEBD Regional Hubs on the use of mobile phone data for information society indicators.   **Capacity development and statistical standards (EGTI and EGH)**  The work of the Expert Group on ICT Household Indicators (EGH) and the Expert Group on Telecommunication/ICT Indicators (EGTI), capacity development activities, and technical assistance contributed to enhancing the quality and relevance of ITU indicators, and to strengthening the capacity of Member States to produce and collect high-quality ICT statistics.   * The 2024 annual meetings of the [Expert Groups on ICT indicators](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Pages/expertgroups.aspx) were held jointly on 25-26 September, in Geneva, attracting 263 participants.   + The [12th meeting of the Expert Group on ICT Household Indicators](https://www.itu.int/itu-d/meetings/egh2024/) included sessions on the measurement of ICT skills, on the [work](https://www.itu.int/itu-d/meetings/egh2024/wp-content/uploads/sites/28/2024/09/EGTIEGH2024_IDIReport.pdf) of the joint EGTI/EGH subgroup on the ICT Development Index methodology (joint session with EGH), on questionnaire design, on measuring individuals’ use of Artificial Intelligence (AI).   + The [15th meeting of the Expert Group on Telecommunication/ICT Indicators](https://www.itu.int/itu-d/meetings/egti2024/) included sessions on the conclusions of the subgroup on ICT Price Baskets, on the measurement of quality of service and quality of experience, on the measurement of the environmental footprint of the ICT sector, and featured numerous country experiences, including on good practices for collecting ICT market data. * Building on the conclusions of EGH and EGTI, ITU updated [key sections](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Documents/publications/manual/ITU_HHManual_ICTskills_rev2025.pdf) of its *Manual for Measuring ICT Access and Use by Households and Individuals*, introducing new recommendations for measuring ICT skills. These were also integrated into the [metadata](https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/) for UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) indicator 4.4.1, offering countries a globally standardized approach to measuring ICT skill levels of individuals. In addition, ITU updated the metadata for UN SDG indicator 9.c.1. The indicator now distinguishes populations covered by 5G networks, providing a more relevant and insightful view of global connectivity. * BDT has been organising a series of nine regional seminars on promoting and measuring universal and meaningful connectivity, intended for policymakers in charge of national policies and strategies for digital connectivity, and statisticians responsible for the measurement of telecom/ICT development from ministries, national statistics offices, regulators, telecom operators, research institutions, and other relevant organizations. They are organised in cooperation with ITU’s regional offices. They benefit from the financial support of a host organization and/or the European Union as part of the implementation of the Project “Promoting and measuring universal and meaningful connectivity”. The three-days workshops cover three objectives: 1) meeting the UMC imperative; 2) enhancing statistician-policymaker collaboration; and 3) overcoming measurement challenges. The following workshops were held:   + [Caribbean](https://www.itu.int/itu-d/sites/projectumc/2024/03/14/umc_ws_car/), in Nassau, in collaboration with URCA Bahamas (June 2024)   + [Arab States](https://www.itu.int/itu-d/sites/projectumc/2024/03/12/umc_ws_arb/), in Doha, in collaboration with CRA Qatar (October)   + [Asia](https://www.itu.int/itu-d/sites/projectumc/2024/10/28/umc_ws_asia/), in Bangkok, in collaboration with NBTC Thailand (December)   + [Latin America](https://www.itu.int/itu-d/sites/projectumc/2025/01/27/umc_ws_latam/?lang=en), in Santo Domingo, in collaboration with ONE and INDOTEL (April 2025) * **In the CIS**, a regional ITU Training on Monitoring universal and meaningful connectivity (UMC) with ICT statistics was held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, and provided an occasion to examine the concept of UMC and how to streamline it in national digital policies, how to improve the statistical capacity of countries in the region to produce and disseminate relevant statistical data, and how to use the data to identify good practices and policy recommendations. This training had more than 80 attendees - policymakers in charge of national policies and strategies for digital connectivity, executives and experts responsible for the measurement of telecom/ICT development from ministries, national statistics offices, regulators, telecom operators, research institutions, and other relevant organizations from the CIS countries. As a result, the participants were introduced to the concept of the UMC and the new policy imperative; trained on statistical standards for ICT statistic; and discussed the situation of ICT statistics in CIS countries at country and regional level. * More tailored expert assistance was provided to some countries in the CIS Region. Namely, in April 2024 a national workshop "Data-driven digital development: exchange of experience on telecommunication/ICT data collection, analysis, and dissemination" was held in Kyrgyzstan, providing in-depth knowledge to over 30 representatives of the Ministry of Digital Development and the National Statistical Committee. In March 2025, a national workshop "Tools to support the formation of industry policy and regulation: ICT statistics and assessment of the quality-of-service provision" was held in Armenia for representatives from policy, regulatory and statistical authorities. During these trainings, national representatives, with the assistance of ITU experts discussed the country approaches to collection of data and existing methodologies, discussed gaps and challenges, and worked through recommendations on household and administrative data. * The three ITU Academy courses on the collection of ICT data for, respectively, [Telecommunication/ICT Indicators](https://academy.itu.int/training-courses/full-catalogue/measuring-digital-development-telecommunicationict-indicators-2), [ICT access and use by households](https://academy.itu.int/training-courses/full-catalogue/measuring-digital-development-ict-access-and-use-households-and-individuals-2), [Mobile phone data](https://academy.itu.int/training-courses/full-catalogue/mobile-phone-data) feature new and updated content. * A new [ICT Price Basket Manual 2025](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Documents/ICT_Prices/ITU_IPBQManual_2025.pdf)​ was released in February 2025, complemented by a [visual guide to ICT price collection](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Documents/datacollection/IPB_Rules_VisualGuide_2025.pdf), reflecting the new methodology adopted by EGTI.   Between February and April, a [series of four technical webinars](https://ituint.sharepoint.com/sites/TDAG/Shared%20Documents/TDAG-25%20(12-16%20May%202025)/02_Document%202%20-%20KAP%20Implementation/series%20of%20four%20technical%20webinars) (‘clinics’) on the ICT Price Basket Questionnaire, the Questionnaire on ICT Access and Use by Households and Individuals (two webinars), and the World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Questionnaire were organised for statistical focal points ahead of the data collection campaigns, featuring concrete examples on how to complete questionnaires, changes to indicators, and Q&A.  **Partnerships and international cooperation**  Events and advocacy activities contributed to enhancing the awareness of Member States and stakeholders about the importance of UMC and its measurement, and to advancing the ICT statistics agenda and improving its measurement.   * Under the theme “From metrics to action: Bridging data gaps for universal and meaningful connectivity”, the 2024 edition of the [World Telecommunication/Indicators Symposium](https://www.itu.int/itu-d/meetings/wtis24/) (WTIS-24) was held on 23 and 24 September, in Geneva. The Symposium featured eight sessions and 32 speakers, attracting 276 participants from 85 countries. Forty-three percent of the participants were women. * During the 2024 [G20 Presidency](https://www.g20.org/pt-br) of Brazil, ITU was a Knowledge Partner for the Digital Economy Working Group (DEWG). Specifically, ITU was tasked with supporting the development of guidelines for indicators for universal and meaningful connectivity. The Presidency’s emphasis on the measurement of UMC highlighted the growing interest for UMC, a concept introduced by ITU in 2021, and underscored the importance of data and evidence-based decision making.   + ITU contributed to DEWG discussions, G20 side events, and several deliverables. ITU contributed to the [document](https://www.gov.br/mcom/pt-br/acesso-a-informacao/governanca/governanca-de-tic-1/documentos-g20/p1-g20-dewg-brasil-2024-umc.pdf) “Universal and meaningful connectivity: A framework for indicators and metrics”, which advocates for UMC, proposes relevant indicators, assesses the statistical capacity of G20 economies, introduces new measurement approaches, and offers recommendations.   + A summary of the document is annexed to the [DEWG ministerial declaration](https://g7g20-documents.org/database/document/2024-g20-brazil-sherpa-track-digital-economy-ministers-ministers-language-g20-dewg-maceio-ministerial-declaration), adopted by the G20 Ministers responsible for the Digital Economy. The declaration highlights the importance of, and affirms commitment to UMC, and acknowledges the contribution of ITU. * Events were organised to mark the 20th anniversary of the [Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Pages/intlcoop/partnership/default.aspx), including a session at WSIS Forum 2024 in Geneva, a session during the Workshop on Survey Methodology hosted by NIC.br and CETIC in Sao Paolo, where the Partnership was announced in 2004, and a session at WTIS-24. A stocktaking exercise was conducted to assess progress and identify priorities. * BDT provided inputs on ICT statistics to international documents, including for the UN Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA), the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF), and the UN Statistical Commission. * As the custodian of [six UN SDG indicators](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Pages/SDGs-ITU-ICT-indicators.aspx), ITU played a key role in shaping global progress by providing updated data for inclusion in the [UN SDG Indicators Database](https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/). It also supplied complementary data on these indicators requested by the UN’s Regional Commissions and actively responded to data inquiries, ensuring accessibility and clarity for stakeholders worldwide. * The implementation of the project “Promoting and measuring universal and meaningful connectivity funded by the European Union is ongoing. The project is supporting core activities including capacity development activities and tools, research, digital presence. | |  |
| **Contributing to SDG Targets** | SDGs 1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 16, 17 | |
| **WSIS Action** | C1, C2, C3, C4, C5, C6, C7, C11 | |
| **Resolutions:** | PP 2, 8, 10, 18, 21, 22, 131, 135, 138, 139, 174, 191, 195, 196, 201  WTDC 8, 16, 17, 22, 23, 25, 30, 37, 48, 64, 71, 77, 78, 79, 80, 84, 85 | |
| **Study Group** | All Questions of Study Group 1 on Enabling environment for Meaningful Connectivity  Question 5/2, 6/2, 7/2 of Study Group 2 on Digital Transformation. | |

## ITU-D Priority 4: Inclusive and secure telecommunications/ICTs for sustainable development

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| **ITU-D Priority 4: Inclusive and secure telecommunications/ICTs for sustainable development**  ***Fostering national cybersecurity strategies and strengthened digital skills*** | | |
| ***Outcome:*** *Support to Member States in developing national cybersecurity strategies and CIRTs. Increased secured online services, including child online protection, and mobilization of resources for marginalized groups and persons with specific needs.* | | |
| **Outputs** | | **Highlights** |
| **Cybersecurity**  **Capacity development:**   * **In the Africa region,** BDT, in collaboration with INTERPOL, delivered a regional CyberDrill for Africa in Accra, Ghana, hosted by the Ghana Cyber Security Authority. The event improved the capacity of participants to communicate and manage incident response, and to foster collaboration to tackle cyber threats. Over 210 attendees from 29 African countries engaged in a one-day session focused on sharing best practices and experiences.   Four ITU-D Private Sector Members - BitSight, CTM360, ImmuniWeb, and NRD - offered free tools, services, and trainings to 19 African LDCs in a bid to bridge the cyber capacity gap between developed, developing and least developed countries (LCDs), under the **Cyber for Good project.** In collaboration with TSB a series of Digital Financial Services (DFS) Security Clinics were held for The Gambia, South Sudan, Ghana, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Lesotho, Ethiopia, Eswatini, Sierra Leone, Burkina Faso and Gabon. The DFS clinics are attended by ICT and Financial regulators, telecom operators and financial service provides; the main objective of the DFS clinic is to provide technical assistance to countries on security issues related to digital financial services and to assist member states to adopt the ITU DFS security recommendations and develop their own DFS Security Labs to validate that the DFS applications in compliance with the ITU DFS recommendations.  ITU implemented in collaboration with GIZ and UNODC, the Her CyberTracks program with the ITU Academy, with participants from 19 countries in Africa. The five-month curriculum included online trainings and a face-to-face training in Ghana, in collaboration with the Ghana Cyber Security Authority.   * **In the Americas Region,** ITU, UNICEF and Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) cooperated and collaborated in areas of common interest, including school connectivity and of the Giga initiative in the Eastern Caribbean region, through the development of the child online protection policy and strategic framework, a pilot study in rural communities in Barbados (including the provision of IT equipment and training) and presented all Giga broadband upgrade support to OECS Member States. * In Barbados, there was an upgrade in broadband in 27 pilot schools and over 18,057 students and 1,382 teachers across the country benefitted. As part of ITU's global programming on child online protection, a training of trainers’ programme was delivered to educators in Suriname and Costa Rica in March 2024, in Ecuador in August 2024, and in the Bahamas in February 2025. In addition, the Child online protection Guidelines were translated into Aymara, Dutch and Quechua. Haiti was onboarded for the ITU Cyber for Good project in March 2025, gaining access to tools, services, and trainings from ITU Sector Members.   The regional seminar on Cybersecurity and Cyber Diplomacy, organized by ITU, COMTELCA, and ASEP Panama, will be held in April 2025 in Panama City. Part of the ITU Women in Cyber Programme, it aims to empower women policymakers and strengthen cybersecurity governance and diplomacy in the Americas through expert discussions and practical exercises.   * **In the Arab States,** through the **skills development for women in cyber** initiative, a training for women policymakers in the Arab region was delivered on national cybersecurity governance and cyber diplomacy, in collaboration with the General Women Union and the UAE’s Cybersecurity Council, enhancing participants’ capability to engage in the cybersecurity policymaking at national and international levels.   Under the umbrella of the Cyber for Good project, Somalia has been benefiting from the free access to CTM360 platforms and ImmuniWeb. As part of ITU's global programming on child online protection, localised awareness resources for children and caretakers were developed in Morocco.   * **In the Asia-Pacific Region,** under the **Cyber for Good** project, BDT has been collaborating with Least Developed Countries to enhance their capacity to tackle cybersecurity issues. Both Lao PDR and Cambodia have benefited from free access to tools provided by ITU-Private Sector Members, including CTM360 and ImmuniWeb. Through its Incident Response Programme, BDT provided technical assistance to the Maldives through trainings and a capacity-building gap assessment report.   BDT, in collaboration with Cyber Security Brunei (CSB) and the Ministry of Transport and Infocommunications (MTIC) of Brunei Darussalam, delivered the ITU Regional Asia-Pacific CyberDrill in November 2024, in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam. The CyberDrill gathered over 130 attendees at the regional conference. Additionally, 80 attendees hailing from 19 member states also joined the training sessions and scenario-based exercise, in which participants strengthened their capacity to manage incident response through.  Additionally, ITU in collaboration with the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications Cambodia (MPTC) and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), delivered a workshop on Strengthening Critical Information Infrastructure Resilience. Attended by thirty participants from critical information infrastructure stakeholders in Cambodia, including the Cambodia Computer Emergency Response Team (CamCERT), the workshop enhanced participants’ knowledge on technical incident response, national cybersecurity strategy, and crisis management.  On 3-5 February 2025, BDT delivered an executive training on cybersecurity in Bangkok for government officials from Bhutan. Implemented in partnership with JICA Bhutan, this training convened 11 executives from seven government agencies to undergo high-level cybersecurity simulations, trainings, and study visits. On 17-20 February 2025, BDT delivered a training on Strengthening Critical Information Infrastructure Resilience through National Computer Incident Response Team services for the Philippines. This training was organized in partnership with JICA and DICT Philippines.  **In the CIS Region,** **the first National CyberDrill** was held in Armenia, co-organized by the Information Systems Agency of Armenia (ISAA). This CyberDrill strengthened capacity of government stakeholders on cybersecurity technical response and management skills and helped to establish a baseline for the Armenian developing cybersecurity sector.  As part of ITU's global program on child online protection, ITU has supported a two-day training "CyberSafe for Family" training, held in April 2025 in Kazakhstan, organized by TechnoWomen, with the support of the National Commission for Women Affairs, Family and Demographic Policy under the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Ministry of Digital Development, Innovations, and Aerospace Industry of the Republic of Kazakhstan. The training targeted women from law enforcement and other relevant organizations to train them about digital trends, cybersecurity, and digital hygiene, as well as in methods for dealing with online risks and protection issues and covered, among others, topics such as cyberbullying prevention, online stalking, online payment security, and parental control mechanisms.   * **In Europe Region,** ITU Cybersecurity Forum and CyberDrill for Europe and Mediterranean, held from 26 to 29 November 2024 in Sofia, Bulgaria, brought together representatives from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Germany, Greece, Italy, Moldova, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Spain, Switzerland, North Macedonia, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Egypt, Tunisia, Lebanon, Jordan, as well as experts from FIRST, Europol, World Bank and ENISA.   The Child Online Protection (COP) Guidelines were translated into Maltese, accompanied by the development of quote cards summarizing the key recommendations. Capacity-building activities were also rolled out, raising national awareness and enhancing the skills of Maltese representatives. These efforts have strengthened Malta's ability to address child online protection challenges, fostering a safer and more secure digital environment for children.  The development of the Child Online Protection (COP) National Assessment, alongside a national stakeholder consultation event held on 2-3 December 2024, has enhanced Andorra’s strategic approach to safeguarding children in the online environment. By fostering multi-stakeholder collaboration, identifying gaps, and prioritizing actions, these efforts pave the way for establishing a comprehensive and inclusive COP framework tailored to the nation’s specific needs.  ITU implemented in collaboration with GIZ and UNODC the Her CyberTracks program with the ITU Academy, with participants from 8 countries in Europe. The five-month curriculum included online trainings and a face-to-face training in Albania, in collaboration with the Albanian National Cybersecurity Agency  **Provision of technical assistance:**   * **In the Africa region**, BDT conducted a national readiness assessment for the Seychelles' Computer Incident Response Team (CIRT). Further, a tabletop exercise was facilitated for Lesotho's cybersecurity ecosystem. This session enhanced strategic thinking on cybersecurity governance among key national stakeholders, thereby advancing the objectives of Lesotho's National Cybersecurity Strategy. The Ministry of Communications Science & Technology of the Kingdom of Lesotho was also supported in drafting a national cyber risk assessment as key enabler of enhancing trust in ICT in the Kingdom.   In addition, BDT conducted capacity-building sessions for the cybersecurity ecosystem in Bissau which strengthened the national stakeholders’ capacity to develop strategic approaches to CIRT implementation and to enhance cybersecurity ecosystem in Bissau.  As part of ITU's global program on child online protection, a national child task force was established in Malawi to contribute to the implementation of the national child online protection strategy, previously developed with ITU’s support.   * **In the Americas Region,** BDT hosted three CyberDrills. The 13th Event of Cyber Capacity Building in America – Andino took place in Caracas, Venezuela, 14-17 May 2024 at the invitation of the Ministry of Popular Power for Science and Technology of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in co-organization with the National Commission of Information Technologies (CONATI) and the Superintendency of Electronic Certification Services (SUSCERTE). The 14th Americas Regional CyberDrill took place in Lima, Peru 23-27 September 2024 at the invitation and co-organization of INICTEL-UNI, with the co-organization of the Ministry of Transportation and Communications, and the General Secretariat of the Andean Community. The ITU Caribbean CyberDrill - Nassau, Bahamas took place from 15 to 17 January 2025 and hosted by the Government of The Bahamas. These three events offered opportunities for incident response teams to improve their skills, share best practices, and improve connections between actors   As part of ITU's global programming on child online protection draft national frameworks were delivered to Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Suriname and the Bahamas.   * **In the Arab Region,** ITU delivered two regional CyberDrills in the Arab Region, including the Regional Cybersecurity Week and Arab Regional and OIC-CERT CyberDrill in Musat, Oman, 28-30 October 2024 and ITU Regional Cybersecurity Readiness Exercise​ in Marrakech, Morocco 29-31 May 2024. The Regional Cybersecurity Readiness Exercise took place at invitation of Directorate General for Information Systems Security (DGSSI). These sessions not only brought together incident response teams from across the region to enhance their skills but also facilitated consolidation and sharing of knowledge.   104 countries participated in the ITU Global CyberDrill, hosted by the United Arab Emirates from 23-25 April 2024. The Cyber Security Council of the UAE made available fellowships including travel and accommodation for participants from 104 selected countries.  In line with ITU's global programming on child online protection, a national child taskforce was established and consulted in Lebanon to contribute to the implementation of the national child online protection efforts.  **In Asia and the Pacific Region**, ITU has advanced efforts in cybersecurity, child online protection, and capacity-building initiatives. In terms of cybersecurity technical assistance, ITU finalized a CIRT Maturity Assessment in Timor-Leste, providing recommendations for the Timor-Leste computer security incident response team (TLCSIRT) in collaboration with the Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações (ANC) to ensure TLCSIRT can enhance its cybersecurity maturity level.  Additionally, ITU provided a closed-door high-level policy briefing and Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI) analysis for the Maldives, to strengthen cybersecurity policy knowledge in the country.  Through its Incident Response programme, ITU conducted a national Computer Incident Response Team (CIRT) readiness assessment for Palau in January 2025. BDT is planning to conduct this CIRT readiness assessment in Nauru in April 2025.  In line with ITU's global programming on child online protection, a national child taskforce was established and consulted in Indonesia to contribute to the implementation of the national child online protection efforts, | | **Global Cybersecurity Index 2024 Launched in September**  **Incident Response Programme:**   * 160 countries benefited by **CyberDrills** across all regions.   **LDCs/LLDCs & SIDS engaged / assisted – Inclusive and Secure Telecommunications/ ICT for Sustainable development**  A total number of 40 LDCs, LLDCs and SIDSs were assisted.   * 11 of which were provided with technical assistance, * 28 policy frameworks and knowledge products developed,   awareness raising sessions were conducted in 5 countries and convening platforms were established in 2 countries. 6 projects in LDCs LLDCs and SIDs under the Thematic area of Inclusive and secure telecommunications/ICTs for sustainable development are ongoing. |
| **Contributing to SDG Targets** | SDGs 1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 16, 17 | |
| **WSIS Action** | C1, C2, C3, C4, C5, C6, C7, C11 | |
| **Resolutions:** | PP 130, 174, 179; WTDC 45, 69; WTSA 52, 58 | |
| **Study Groups** | Question 3/2 Securing information and communication networks: Best practices for developing a culture of cybersecurity | |

## ITU-D Priority 5 & ITU-D Enabler 6 and 7: Resource mobilization, partnerships and international cooperation

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| **ITU-D Priority 5 & ITU-D Enabler 6 and 7: Resource mobilization, partnerships and international cooperation**  ***Strengthening resource-mobilization strategy through international cooperation.*** | | |
| ***Outcome:*** *Strengthened cooperation and coordination with the United Nations and its agencies, other international organizations, regional telecommunication organizations and regional and global development institutions in the implementation of ITU-D priorities.* | | |
| **Outputs** | | **Highlights** |
| **Resource mobilization and partnership**  **New partnership agreements signed:** from May 2024 to April 2025, ITU signed 73 agreements with a wide range of partners. Further details are posted on the [ITU-D Partnership webpage](https://www.itu.int/itu-d/sites/partnerships/home/partnerships/).  **New projects signed:** from May 2024 and April 2025, ITU signed a total of 35 new projects and addenda valued at CHF 26.7 million. These figures confirm the positive trend experienced in the last years in the increase of funds mobilized by BDT in support of projects, showcasing **enhanced confidence in ITU as a leading partner in implementing ICT initiatives**, both in projects to provide technical assistance to ITU Member States, as well as in projects funded by third party donors.Further details on project implementation by BDT are included in Document [TDAG/24/7](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG31-C-0007/en), as well as in the [ITU-D projects porta](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Projects/Pages/Portfolio.aspx)l, which includes an interactive dashboard for TDAG members with further information about BDT project portfolio.  Existing projects, partnerships, and cooperation activities have also been gaining momentum: During 2024, BDT implemented activities through 91 projects, valued at CHF 88.5 million. These projects are multi-regional, regional, and national in nature. Most of these projects (93%) were funded through the extrabudgetary funds mobilized by from third parties, while the remaining 7 per cent were funded through the allocation of seed funding from ITU, the ICT Development Fund (ICT-DF), as well as funds allocated by ITU Council in support of the ITU-D regional initiatives.  More information on BDT resource mobilization efforts and partnerships is available in TDAG-25 documents 4 and 7. | | * **From May 2024 to April 2025:** 71 new agreements; 35 project agreements for a value of USD 26.7 million. * 36 LDCs LLDCs and SIDs supported * Awareness raising sessions were conducted in 34 countries * Convening platforms were undertaken in 2 countries. |
| **Contributing to SDG Targets** | SDGs 1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 16, 17 | |
| **WSIS Action** | C1, C2, C3, C4, C5, C6, C7, C11 | |
| **Resolutions:** | WTDC 1, 2, 24, 25, 52, 58 | |

### ITU-D Enabler 1: Membership-driven

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| **ITU-D Enabler 1: Membership-driven**  ***Strengthening the implementation of WTDC decisions and the dialogue among the ITU membership.*** | | |
| ***Outcome:*** *Strengthened implementation of WTDC resolutions. Enhanced knowledge-sharing, research and development, dialogue and partnership among the ITU membership on telecommunication/ICT issues.* | | |
| **Outputs** | | **Highlights** |
| **Membership**  From May 2024 to April 2025, ITU-D welcomed a substantial number of new members from private sector, regional and international organizations, and Academia, achieved through strengthened, concerted, and targeted outreach strategy covering various segments of the ICT ecosystem.   * **Thirty-seven (40) new members, including Academia** have joined ITU-D since May 2024 up to March 2025, sustaining the ITU-D membership growth. * Overall **net growth of membership until April 2025** (the difference between new members and denounced members) was 50% **higher than in 2023.** * In 2024, two meetings of theIndustry Advisory Group on Development Issues and Private Sector Chief Regulatory Officers **(IAGDI-CRO)** were organized (one virtual and one physical in Kampala, Uganda) which led to higher level of contributions to GSR-24 Regulatory and Best Practices Guidelines, increased awareness of areas to engage with ITU-D**.** * Furthermore, a record number of physical attendances with more than 200 **participants** to the IAGDI-CRO meeting held during the GSR-24 in Kampala, Uganda. The Outcome Statement can be found [here](https://www.itu.int/itu-d/sites/membership/wp-content/uploads/sites/50/2024/07/IAGDICRO-2024-Outcome-Statement_2-July_2024.pdf). * Following IAGDI-CRO’s Liaison Statements to ITU-D Study Groups 1 and 2 to organize Tech Talks to inspire relevant and future looking topics that could inspire the future work of ITU-D and potential new Study Group questions to be agreed at WTDC-25, **two TECH TALKS** were organized in February 2025 with themes on *Enabling Environment for Meaningful Connectivity* and *Digital Transformation*. Both TECH TALKS brought more than 200 participants who highlighted industry perspectives on current and future complexities in the evolving technological landscape. * BDT continued to increase awareness of ITU-D products and services with over **180** briefing sessions held with the membership through physical and virtual meetings and high-level visits showing a sustained growth of new members and 2025 and higher levels of retention of existing members.   **ITU Academia**   * ITU attracted 19 academia members and lost 11 since May in 2024 up to April 2025. Concerted efforts continue to be made by the three ITU Sectors to attract and retain Academia * Areas of particular interest and engagement with ITU-D are ITU Academy, Capacity Development, Digital Inclusion and Digital Innovation for which collaborations are being explored, in addition to contribution to research and the ITU-D Study Groups.   **ITU-D Study Groups (SGs)**  The [third annual meeting of ITU-D Study Group 1 (SG1- Enabling environment for meaningful connectivity)](https://www.itu.int/net4/ITU-D/CDS/sg/blkmeetings.asp?lg=1&sp=2022&blk=28245), was held from 4 to 8 November 2024, with 240 participants (38% women delegates, 53% online) from 65 Member States. Fifteen fellowships were granted to delegates to facilitate their physical presence.  185 contributions, including the seven pre-final draft output reports for the study period, were discussed at the ITU-D SG1 meeting 2024, culminating in: (1) the issue of 9 outgoing liaison statements to our external collaborators; (2) the appointment of two vice-rapporteurs; and (3) the approval of three ITU-D SG1 interim deliverables namely on (i) [Challenges and Opportunities of the Use of USF for Bridging the Digital Divide (joint work of Quest ion 4/1 & Question 5/1)](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-SG01-C-0333/en) (ii) [Transformative Connectivity: Trends in Satellite innovation (joint work of Question 1/1,Question 3/1 & Question 5/1)](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-SG01-C-0387/en) (iii)[Consumer Awareness in the Digital Transformation Age (work of Question 6/1)](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-SG01-C-0394/en). The latter interim deliverable is mainly a result of the Consumer Awareness workshop hosted in Brasilia by the ITU regional office for the Americas and Anatel in June 2024.  ITU-D Study Group 1 has a total of ninety-three leadership positions (Chairs, Vice-chairs and (co-)Rapporteurs, Vice-Rapporteurs), of which 37 positions (40%) are held by women.  To continue innovating and at the request of members, two information sessions were held on “[Fostering youth and women’s participation in the Study Group’s activities](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Study-Groups/2022-2025/Pages/meetings/session-gender-youth-nov24.aspx)” and on “[Terrestrial Wireless Broadband Technologies and Use Cases](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Study-Groups/2022-2025/Pages/meetings/session-terrestrial-nov24.aspx)”, respectively. The [SG1 management team members](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Study-Groups/2022-2025/Pages/reference/Management.aspx) prepared this third annual meeting and advanced work on output reports of Questions and on interim deliverables through Question-level e-meetings regularly held since the end of the April 2024 rapporteur group meetings  The [third annual meeting of ITU-D Study Group 2 (SG2)](https://www.itu.int/net4/ITU-D/CDS/sg/blkmeetings.asp?lg=1&stg=&sp=2022&blk=28817) was held from 11 to 15 November 2024, with 186 participants from 54 Member States. Twelve fellowships were granted to delegates to facilitate their physical presence. The [SG2 management team members](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Study-Groups/2022-2025/Pages/reference/Management.aspx), prepared this meeting and advanced work on output reports of Questions and on interim deliverables through Question level e-meetings regularly held since the end of the April-May 2024 rapporteur group meetings.    At the ITU-D SG2 meeting in 2024, 125 documents were discussed to advance the work, culminating in: (1) the issue of three outgoing  liaison statements to our external collaborators; (2) the appointment of one vice-chair, one co-rapporteur, and six vice-rapporteurs; (3) the approval of the second ITU-D SG2 interim deliverable related to the work of ITU-D SG2 Question 3/2 on “*5G* *cybersecurity*” (4) review of seven pre-final draft output reports for the study period.  At both Study Group meetings, proposals for collaboration were explored, including engagement on youth and women, statistics and related indicators, synergies with ITU development projects, other ITU Sectors and WSIS.  **WSIS implementation and follow-up**  Following the outcomes of WTDC-22, Resolution 30, all BDT activities contribute to the implementation of the WSIS outcomes and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This includes the implementation of regular activities under the **operational plan, projects, regional initiatives, special initiatives, as well as ITU-D study groups.**  BDT continue to play the role of the lead facilitator for WSIS Action Lines C2 (ICT Infrastructure), C6 (Enabling Environment), and C4 (Capacity Building), while significantly contributing to WSIS Action Line C5 (Confidence in Use of ICTs). A series of facilitation meetings were organized on the occasion of the WSIS+20 Forum, held from 27 to 31 May 2024, in Geneva, Switzerland. BDT also continues to co-facilitate the WSIS Action Lines C1, C3, C7, C9, C11, ensuring regular contribution to relevant meetings and reporting.  Moreover, ITU continued to be an active member of the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development and of its Steering Committee, along with UNCTAD and UNDESA. The membership of the Partnership has expanded to include 14 organizations. It has been monitoring ICT development globally, tracking progress towards the WSIS targets, and raising awareness about the importance of ICTs for development. The Partnership is actively engaged in monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with several SDG targets referring to ICTs and technology. In the global SDG indicators framework, out of 231 indicators, seven ICT indicators are included, covering six targets under Goals 4, 5, 9, and 17. ITU is the custodian of five of the seven indicators. (For more reporting on the ITU contribution to the Partnership, please see section on Measurement).  The Regional Development Forum across regions have and continue to attract representatives of the UN system, including UN regional commissions, providing the follow-up function on WSIS implementation at the regional level. In 2025, between February and April, another series of six RDFs were organized back-to-back with the ITU Regional Preparatory Meetings for WTDC-25. With the aim of facilitating regional discussions, BDT prepared six reports on State of digital development and trends: Challenges and opportunities in ITU regions. An information document on WSIS+20, 2030 Agenda and Pact of the Future, offered an opportunity for an additional call for engagement.  Moreover, ITU Regional Offices proactively contribute to the series of UN Regional Forums on Sustainable Development, led by the UN Economic Commissions. ITU regularly participates in regional reviews of SDGs, while continuing its advocacy for an enabling role of digital for sustainable development and highlighting the linkages between WSIS Action Lines and SDGs. In addition, as the member of the UN Development System, ITU Regional Offices continue to lead regional Issues Based Coalitions focusing on digital, therefore providing platforms for coordination of actions, building synergies and in many cases resulting in the multi-agency projects.  **Partner 2 Connect Coalition**  P2C was launched in 2021 by ITU in close cooperation with the Office of the Secretary-General’s Envoy on Technology and the UN Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Islands Developing States (UNOHRLLS).   * As of 22November 2024, P2C has received **950 pledges worth more than USD 53.97billion, made by 465 entities** including governments, private sector companies, UN agencies and other international or regional organizations (including multilateral development banks), civil society, academia, and youth groups. The pledge-makers are from **147 countries**. At Mobile World Congress USD 9 billion in infrastructure pledges were announced with a focus on groups of countries:   + LDCs group of countries (298 pledges received with an estimated value USD 19.07 bn from 160 entities and from 76 countries of pledge makers)   + SIDSs group of countries (142 Pledges received with an estimated value of USD 25.54 bn from 93 entities and from 48 countries of pledge makers)   + LLDCs group of countries: 248 pledges received with an estimated value of 19.54 bn from 161 entities and from 75 countries of pledge makers) * A number of national P2C Matchmaking round table were also organised e.g. National Roundtable for Cambodia, Mongolia, 2 October 2024 in Ulaanbaatar, P2C China Roundtable held on 8 November 2024 * On 6th December 2024, the ITU in collaboration with the CTU will host a Partner2Connect (P2C) virtual Matchmaking Accelerator event for Caribbean CTU Members. More than 15 CTU member states representatives and 18 potential operators, investors and other pledgers will meet for the first time focused on advancing digital transformation initiatives across Caribbean countries. * On 30 January 2025, the P2C 2024 Annual meeting was organised in ITU Headquarters, Geneva, Switzerland. The P2C Annual –2024 was also presented and is available at: [P2C 2024 Annual Report](https://s46824.pcdn.co/partner2connect/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/P2C-2024-Annual-Report.pdf) * Mobile World Congress 2025 (MWC25) in Barcelona, from 3 to 6 March 2025, the P2C Digital coalition attended MWC-2025. It was a pivotal moment for announcing new P2C infrastructure pledges to achieve universal and meaningful connectivity. A key milestone of USD 73 billion pledges was committed. * Each RPM was preceded by a [Regional Development Forum (RDF)](https://www.itu.int/itu-d/meetings/rdf/) and BDT is organizing P2C Matchmaking Roundtables as follows: * Arab States (RDF/ P2C Matchmaking round table) took place on **3 February 2025 in Amman, Jordan**. * Europe (RDF/ P2C Matchmaking Roundtable on Fostering Partnerships for Development) was held on **24 February 2025** **in Budapest, Hungary.** * Asia and the Pacific (RDF/ P2C Matchmaking round table) on **19 March 2025 in Bangkok, Thailand** * Americas (RDF/ P2C Matchmaking round table) on **31 March 2025 in Asunción, Paraguay** * Africa (RDF/ P2C Matchmaking round table) on **7 April 2025 in Nairobi, Kenya** * Commonwealth of Independent States – CIS (RDF/ P2C Matchmaking round table) on **23 April 2025 in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan** | | * From May 2024 to April 2025: 40 new members have joined, including Academia.   **Study Groups:**   * 3 interim deliverables (approved at the ITU-D SG1 meeting. * 185 documents discussed at the ITU-D SG1 meeting. * 1 interim deliverable approved at the ITU-D SG2 meeting. * 125 documents discussed at ITU-D SG2 meeting. |
| **Contributing to SDG Targets** | SDGs 1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 16, 17  Contributing to SDG targets and WSIS action lines: see [mapping here](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Study-Groups/2022-2025/Pages/reference/Questions-under-study.aspx) | |
| **WSIS Action** | C1, C2, C3, C4, C5, C6, C7, C11 | |
| **Resolutions:** | WTDC Res. 1 and 2 mainly PP Res 208, 21, 70, 71, 77, 102, 123, 130, 131, 136, 139, 154, 167, 175, 177, 179, 180, 182, 188, 196, 197, 203, 204, 205, 209. | |
| **Study Groups** | Question 1/1 Strategies and policies for the deployment of broadband in developing countries  Question 5/1 Telecommunications/ICTs for rural and remote areas | |

### ITU-D Enabler 2: Regional presence

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| **ITU-D Enabler 2: Regional presence**  ***Strengthening of ITU overall global effectiveness and impact*** | | |
| ***Outcome:*** *Strengthened joint regional collaboration and cooperation and with the United Nations and its agencies, regional telecommunication organizations and financial and development institutions for achieving the 2030 SDGs related to digital economy development matters* | | |
| **Outputs** | | **Highlights** |
| BDT in collaboration and close coordination with BR, TSB and the General Secretariat has been actively working to strengthen regional presence, aiming to improve service delivery to Members States, including projects implementation and other operational plan activities in a timely, effective, and impactful manner. Well-planned and implemented interventions have attracted extrabudgetary funding from donors for the implementation of projects including regional initiatives. The regional offices continue to play a crucial role in this context, serving as the frontline for ITU’s engagement with local stakeholders and governments. A detailed report on the implementation of Regional Initiatives can be found in [TDAG-25/ Document 3](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG32-C-0003/) which includes an annex on the mapping of projects to Regional Initiatives. | | * Close collaboration with BR, TSB and the General Secretariat. * Effective & efficient implementation of OP actions and ITU-Projects |
| **Contributing to SDG Targets** | SDGs 1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 16, 17 | |
| **WSIS Action** | C1, C2, C3, C4, C5, C6, C7, C11 | |
| **Resolutions:** | WTDC 16 | |
| **Study Groups:** | All Questions of SG1 on Enabling Environment for Meaningful Connectivity and of SG2 on Digital Transformation | |

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### ITU-D Enabler 3: Diversity and Inclusion

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| **ITU-D Enabler 3: Diversity and Inclusion**  ***Developing strategies and solutions on digital inclusion*** | | |
| ***Outcome:*** *Strengthened capacity of the ITU membership to develop strategies, policies and practices for digital inclusion and equity, in particular for the empowerment of women and girls, persons with disabilities, persons with specific needs and low-income households.* | | |
| **Outputs** | | **Highlights** |
| The Diversity and Inclusion Enabler has made substantial progress in equipping stakeholders across regions with the tools, knowledge, and networks necessary to promote inclusive digital development. These efforts have delivered tangible impact in policy development, capacity building, and grassroots empowerment, ensuring that no one is left behind in the digital age.  BDT worked to enhance the capacity of Member States, policymakers, and various target groups, including women and girls, youth, older persons, persons with disabilities, and indigenous or remote communities. Efforts were made through expert advice, training sessions, and targeted initiatives across all six ITU regions.  **Global Highlights and Cross-Regional Impact**  **Training and Capacity Development**: Enhanced capacity on ICT accessibility to mainstream digital inclusion for all people to over 800 policy- and decision-makers in formulating and implementing digital inclusion policies and strategies and enabling broader participation of all their citizens in the digital society, and economy. These capacity development activities were conducted in the context of 11 global platforms, across 6 online and 5 in person sessions. More than 1,000 participants from 144 countries enrolled in online courses increasing knowledge of ICT accessibility, older persons and indigenous peoples delivered through ITU Academy (42% women, 74% from developing countries).  **Expert Advice Resource Development:** BDT promoted digital inclusion by contributing content and expertise on topics such as ICT accessibility, digital inclusion of older persons, gender equality, and youth digital empowerment. These contributions supported ITU Study Groups and enriched thematic regional and global meetings and events. Additionally, BDT actively participated in inter-agency collaboration, providing inputs to reports and joint initiatives across the United Nations system through inter-sectoral work.  Six new knowledge tools were created, including the ITU-WHO Toolkit for accessible telehealth. The digital inclusion repository now includes over 75 tools to support Member States.  **Youth Engagement**: BDT significantly advanced youth engagement in the digital development agenda by empowering 184 Generation Connect Youth Envoys (GCYE) from 64 countries and amplifying global youth voices through major platforms such as the ITU Global Youth Summit 2025. GCYEs were strategically involved in ITU-led activities, events, decision-making processes, tailored mentoring and learning on ITU’s key thematic areas, including the work of ITU and its three sectors, the Kigali Action Plan, digital inclusion, ICT and web accessibility, youth and cybersecurity, equitable access to ICTs for marginalized groups—especially in rural and remote communities—and digital communication in emergencies. This holistic capacity-building approach equipped youth to drive inclusive digital transformation within their communities.  Further, as part of the preparatory process for the ITU Global Youth Summit 2025, ITU facilitated consultations with GCYE representatives, capturing their valuable perspectives on ICT challenges and opportunities, ensuring youth priorities shaped regional strategies and global decision-making processes.  A flagship milestone in ITU’s youth engagement was the Global Youth Summit 2025 (GYS-25), held in Varadero, Cuba under the theme “Youth voices amplified for the creation of a more inclusive and interconnected digital world.” The summit convened over 400 participants from 31 countries and all six global regions. Across 12 dynamic sessions over three days, youth showcased initiatives, exchanged best practices, engaged in intergenerational dialogue, and built networks for future collaboration. Youth identified their digital development priorities and proposed actionable solutions, reinforcing their role in shaping global ICT strategies.  *Key outcomes of GYS-25* *include*: Elevating youth voices in policymaking for affordable and inclusive access to ICTs; strengthening digital skills to empower youth to safely and effectively participate in the digital economy; reinforcing ITU’s role as a platform for youth-driven digital education and employment opportunities and promoting youth-led innovation and entrepreneurship as catalysts for social and economic development.  *Generation Connect Youth Leadership Program (GCYLP)*: The first global cohort of 30 GCYLP fellows, selected from 5000 applicants, strengthen their leadership, innovation, and project management skills through the GCYLP Development Week. Each fellow received a 5,000 USD grant to implement digital projects in their communities and continues to benefit from monthly virtual mentoring and reporting sessions and exercises. Five fellows secured additional funding totalling 750,000 USD from other organisations, enhancing project sustainability. Thanks to the project support, they have expanded their influence and networks by participating as speakers at major global events in 2024, including ITU Digital Skills Forum in Bahrain, ITU Global Innovation Forum in Malta, the ITU-D Study Groups 1 meeting, COP29 in Azerbaijan and the World Internet Conference [WIC] in China. The launch for applications for the second cohort of GCYLP fellows took place at the Mobile World Congress [MWC] in Barcelona, Spain.  **Advancing Gender Equality in the Digital World**: BDT advanced its global efforts to bridge the digital gender divide through impactful initiatives and partnerships.  The Network of Women in ITU-D remained active, hosting gender-focused exchanges at key events during TDAG-24 and GSR-24. A mentorship programme under the “Building a Network of Women Leaders” project, supported by Saudi Arabia, was launched with +160 participants to boost women’s leadership in ICT ahead of WTDC-25.  Gender policy reports for the Dominican Republic and Libya were drafted backed by the U.S. State Department.  Girls in ICT Day 2024 celebrations expanded globally with 193 events in over 84 countries, reaching more than 40,000 girls and young women. Preparations for the 2025 International Day, co-hosted by the CIS and Arab States regions, are already underway.  Through the EQUALS HerDigitalSkills initiative delivered in partnership with Qualcomm, Verizon, and Ernst & Young, 1,448 girls and young women across 14 countries increased their knowledge and confidence to use digital skills. Additionally, 13 training courses were launched via the ITU Academy, further supporting inclusive digital skills development worldwide.  In 2024, BDT continued to drive progress on diversity and inclusion as a key enabler of digital development, with coordinated efforts across all ITU regions and closely supported by headquarters.  **Regional key activities undertaken**:   * **In the Africa region**, a first draft of the National Strategy for Digital Inclusion in Burundi was developed. This strategic initiative enhanced stakeholders' awareness and support in formulation from a holistic and intersectional approach of the national strategy to ensure that all users can equally and equitably can have access to, use and knowledge of technology and be able to actively participate in the digital society and economy in Burundi.   AnICT Training programme for Indigenous in Africawas delivered**.** This programme was tailored for rural communities, adapted from a successful model in Latin America to the African context. The programme aims to provide African Indigenous groups with foundational ICT knowledge and practical digital skills. The programme covers a holistic digital knowledge including development, deployment and maintenance of equipment as well as the use of digital platforms. It proves effective inclusion of rural, remote and Indigenous communities, increasing digital literacy, opportunities to education and socio-economic participation.  Youth inclusion remained central to BDT’s work in Africa. The African Regional Office facilitated a symbolic handover ceremony in which Generation Connect Youth Envoy (GCYE) alumni mentored incoming youth envoys, sharing practical insights and reinforcing a culture of leadership continuity. This mentorship-driven event energized the new cohort and underscored their vital role in shaping digital development on the continent. Throughout 2024, African youth envoys engaged in research and consultations, generating comprehensive recommendations on youth-centred digital development, further anchoring their voices in regional digital policymaking processes.   * **In the Americas region**, +130 delegates from Member States enhanced their knowledge and awareness of ICT accessibility, prompting commitments to adopt inclusive digital policies at the national level during Accessible Americas 2024 in Mexico. The event also facilitated the exchange of good practices in digital inclusion across the region. Preparations for Accessible Americas 2025 are already underway, building on this momentum.   A hands-on training session on project management and ICT network maintenance for indigenous and remote communities empowered 133 participants from 11 countries with practical skills to strengthen local digital infrastructure.  Girls in ICT workshops reached 1,448 girls and young women across 14 countries in the region, contributing to the global movement that inspired over 40,000 participants in 84 countries. These initiatives continue to build momentum, with regional preparations already in progress for the 2025 celebrations in Brazil and Chile.  Generation Connect Youth Envoys actively contributed to discussions on national digital strategies, reinforcing their role in shaping an inclusive digital future, during their engagement in various events such as the Sub-regional Seminar “Priorities for Youth in the Digital World: Jobs and Education”, held in Chile where member states joined forces with telecom industry leaders to explore this year’s theme, “Digital Innovation for Sustainable Development.”   * **In the Arab States region** preparation for the 2025 edition of the Accessible Arab- ICT for ALL is in progress. The event will be held in Jordan from 29 to 30 April.   Girls in ICT 2024 celebrations were held in Lebanon, Egypt, and Palestine. Events inspired hundreds of girls, promoted digital citizenship, and launched national campaigns to equip girls and young women with the skills and confidence to thrive in the digital economy.  GC Youth Envoys were engaged participated in regional fora and platforms enabling mentorship opportunities and knowledge exchange such as the Arab Region Passing the Torch Event, facilitating knowledge transfer and mentorship between the outgoing GC ARAB Youth Alumni and the new cohort of GC ARAB Youth Envoys.   * **In Asia-Pacific**, BDT advanced digital inclusion by enhancing awareness and understanding of digital literacy needs among older persons, especially older women. BDT’s participation in regional forums co-hosted with partners such as UN ESCAP and CPDRC facilitated the development of gender-sensitive training tools, enhancing capacity for stakeholders, and strengthening policy frameworks, fostering greater social inclusion and access to essential digital services.   Girls in ICT celebrations were held across 11 countries—including India, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Vanuatu—with over 3,000 participants engaged in coding sessions, digital literacy trainings, and leadership programmes. These activities, delivered in collaboration with governments, UN agencies, the private sector, and civil society, not only strengthened community networks but also empowered girls and young women to become active advocates for gender inclusion in the digital space, boosting their confidence and digital skills for a more inclusive digital future.  Targeted efforts to empower youth in 2024 resulted in the recruitment of 21 new Youth Envoys from seven countries, significantly expanding the programme’s reach and impact. Active participation in major international forums—such as WTSA-24 in India, the Global Innovation Forum in Malta, and the ITU-MIIT Seminar in China— and specialized training programs -Seeds for the Future in China and Passing the Torch ceremony of GC Youth Envoys-, provided youth participants with valuable platforms to contribute meaningfully to global digital dialogues and gain hands-on exposure to advanced technologies including AI, 5G, and green tech.   * **In the Europe Region**, 2024 saw increased empowerment of young women and girls in the digital sphere, with targeted initiatives fostering leadership, inclusion, and intergenerational collaboration. The Girls in ICT Day Europe 2024 event, held virtually under the theme “Leadership,” inspired girls across the region to pursue STEM careers by connecting them with role models and practical tools for success. Developed in consultation with youth, the event amplified the voices of the Generation Connect Europe Youth Group and showcased how young women are shaping digital transformation, while addressing the barriers they continue to face.   Efforts to strengthen gender balance in regional decision-making were further advanced through the “Empowering Gender Balance in ITU-D” event, held alongside the Com-ITU plenary. It mobilized national administrations to boost women’s participation in ITU processes and digital policymaking, emphasizing inclusive leadership as a driver for digital development.  To deepen youth engagement, the Generation Connect Europe Intergenerational Dialogue reinforced collaboration between national administrations and youth envoys, encouraging youth involvement in local digital initiatives. This momentum was further strengthened through a Generation Connect Europe Youth Group side event, hosted by the ITU Europe Office during the Com-ITU plenary of CEPT. The session introduced the newly appointed Youth Envoy cohort to European country representatives, enhancing recognition of youth voices and facilitating sustained dialogue on regional digital priorities. A notable example of this collaboration was the DART project in Albania, where Youth Envoys played a key role in shaping the country’s Digital Agriculture Strategy, ensuring youth perspectives are embedded in national digital transformation efforts.   * **In the CIS region**, BDT advanced digital inclusion by promoting accessible technologies and gender-responsive digital skills development, among other efforts. A key milestone was the regional ITU workshop “Advanced Technologies to Support Sustainable, Inclusive, and Accessible Societies”, held in November 2024 in Minsk, Belarus that enhanced stakeholder capacity on inclusive ICT policy and showcased successful educational programmes for persons with disabilities and special needs, reinforcing efforts to ensure digital access for all.   In celebration of International Girls in ICT 2025, the Central Asian TechnoWomen Forum—held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan—brought together women leaders from government, business, civil society, and academia to tackle barriers to women’s digital participation. With a strong focus on building practical skills in online safety, digital entrepreneurship, social media, and public relations, the forum empowered women through hands-on masterclasses, mentoring sessions, and networking opportunities. The event strengthened regional collaboration and created pathways for women and girls to become confident digital leaders, contributing to a more inclusive digital economy in Central Asia and beyond. | | * Vulnerable groups and marginalized communities and empowered. * Strengthened capacity of policymakers and end-users. * Access to digital inclusion tools and resources increased. * Partnerships for digital inclusion strengthened. * Girls in ICT initiative expanded across regions. * **Africa:** Burundi, Cameroon, Cote D’Ivoire, Cuba, Ethiopia, Kenya. * **Asia-Pacific:** China, India, Malaysia, Marshall Islands and Vanuatu. * **Americas:** Dominican Republic, Mexico, Paraguay. * **Arab States:** Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Palestine. * **Europe:** Malta. * **CIS:** Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Russian Federation, Uzbekistan,   **LDCs/LLDCs & SIDS engaged / assisted- Diversity and Inclusion:**   * 12 LDCs LLDCs and SIDs. * 3 received technical assistance, * 2 countries had policy frameworks and knowledge products developed, * awareness raising sessions were conducted in 7 countries and * convening platforms were undertaken in 3 countries. |
| **Contributing to SDG Targets** | SDGs 1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 16, 17 | |
| **WSIS Action** | C1, C2, C3, C4, C5, C6, C7, C11 | |
| **Resolutions:** | PP 70, 175, 179, 184, 198; WTDC 46, 55, 58, 67, 76 | |
| **Study Group** | Question 7/1 Telecommunication/ICT accessibility to enable inclusive communication, especially for persons with disabilities | |

### ITU-D Enabler 4: Commitment to environmental sustainability

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| **ITU-D Enabler 4: Commitment to environmental sustainability**  ***Developing strategies and solutions on climate-change adaptation.*** | | |
| ***Outcome:*** *Enhanced capacity of the ITU membership to develop telecommunication/ICT strategies and solutions on climate-change adaptation and mitigation and the use of green/renewable energy.* | | |
| **Outputs** | | **Highlights** |
| **ITU-D continue to make available products and services to support Member States in developing strategies and solutions on climate-change adaptation.**  BDT has put together a national roadmap for the post-consumer management system for e-waste (used and old electronic devices) in Indonesia. The roadmap has been developed through a series of consultations with government stakeholders which took place in November 2024 and in February 2025, all supported through the ongoing ITU and Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office of the United Kingdom partnership. The consultation process has increased capacity building for the government in building a long-lasting e-waste management system that is legally sound and financially sustainable. A study into the cost of e-waste management has been conducted in Zambia. The study provides a detailed breakdown into the costs of collecting, storing, transporting and treating used and old discarded electronics. The financing study was delivered as part of the project between ITU and the Communications, Space & Technology (CST) Commission of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia which aims to strengthen the legal framework in Zambia for e-waste management and to capacitate stakeholders around their roles and responsibilities in the national system for the post-consumer management of electronic devices.  Under the ITU – CST global e-waste project, technical assistance is being provided by BDT to stakeholders in Rwanda on developing and implementing the national extended producer responsibility (EPR) scheme covering electronics. The objective under the project is to collect champions from the electronics producers (importers, distributors and suppliers) to be part of the establishment of a compliance scheme led by the Rwandan Private Sector Federation, to manage responsibilities of the producers when it comes to collecting and recycling e-waste. The project has currently gathered 30 champion companies through a series of engagement sessions. A tool has been developed for the future compliance scheme that will allow the calculation of membership fees for the scheme, based on how many electronic devices are sold in Rwanda by each company. To provide the legal justification for this system, the first of two important regulations has been validated in March 2025 and the second is under revision.  In addition, BDT continues to provide support to Paraguay in the preparation of a national Decree and national Resolution to eventually regulate e-waste management in the country, with workshops having taken place in October 2024. BDT is also providing support to the Thailand and Mongolia on similar regulatory issues in e-waste management, through the collaboration with the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications of Australia with consultation workshops having taken place in Thailand in November and December 2024.  BDT submitted a revision to the national e-waste management policy and its implementation plan to the Government of Uganda in October 2024 following a series of stakeholder consultations, made possible through the joint Government of Uganda-ITU-Global Development and South-South Cooperation Assistance Fund project.  BDT delivered a capacity building training on the Fundamentals of E-waste Policy and the Role of Producers in Bangkok in November 2024, which included 26 participants from almost 20 countries. The training covered foundational topics related to policy and regulation, extended producer responsibility and circular economy principles among others.  Under the Advancing Green Digital Action Towards a Net-Zero Digital Sector, BDT continued to advance the monitoring of ICT industry emissions and energy use. This was achieved through the publication of the ITU and World Benchmarking Alliance ['Greening Digital Companies 2024: Monitoring Emissions and Climate Commitments'](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Environment/Pages/Publications/GDC-24.aspx) report which analyses GHG emissions and energy usage of 200 digital companies globally. It not only assesses their climate data and targets but also serves as a valuable resource for companies to learn from best practices and enhance their emissions reduction performance. The report sheds light on the operational emissions and electricity consumption of the ICT sector, with particular focus on reporting across all 15 Scope 3 emissions and the growing carbon footprint from artificial intelligence (AI). The report was launched on 30 September with a [press release](https://www.itu.int/en/mediacentre/Pages/PR-2024-09-30-Greening-Digital-Companies-report.aspx), [two webinar events](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Environment/Pages/Events/2024/GDC.aspx) and an [ITU blog.](https://www.itu.int/hub/2024/11/the-digital-sectors-environmental-dilemma/) Preparations for the 2025 edition of the Greening Digital Companies report with the World Benchmarking Alliance is underway, with a planned launch date for World Environment Day on 5th June 2025. The report analyses GHG emissions and energy use of 200 digital companies. The accompanying *Greening Digital Dashboard*, introduced at COP29, enables tracking of the ICT sector’s climate impact and supports global climate goals and is also being updated with new data from the Greening Digital Companies report. and an [ITU blog.](https://www.itu.int/hub/2024/11/the-digital-sectors-environmental-dilemma/) Preparations for the 2025 edition of the Greening Digital Companies report with the World Benchmarking Alliance is underway, with a planned launch date for World Environment Day on 5th June 2025. The report analyses GHG emissions and energy use of 200 digital companies. The accompanying *Greening Digital Dashboard*, introduced at COP29, enables tracking of the ICT sector’s climate impact and supports global climate goals and is also being updated with new data from the Greening Digital Companies report.  BDT launched the ['Greening Digital Dashboard'](https://greeningdigital.itu.int/) at COP29 in November that enables ITU and partners to track the ICT sector’s climate impact and set science-backed targets. It lays the groundwork for a future ITU-led ICT GHG emissions database, supporting global climate goals.  BDT administered a survey to World Telecommunication Indicator focal points which served to further guide BDT's work on monitoring ICT sector GHG emissions and energy use, and to support with the evaluation of priorities and needs in the regulatory community in undertaking ICT sector climate monitoring. Results were received from 77 Member States. At the Meeting of the Expert Group on Telecommunication/ICT Indicators (EGTI) held in September, environmental indicators as part of EGTI's forward-looking work for 2025 were discussed. Following this presentation, BDT has received support from more than 10 experts to create a new sub-group on environmental indicators for the ICT sector, specifically concerning GHG emissions and energy use that will begin in early 2025.  ITU continues to advance its programme of work to support countries and ICT regulators to monitor their national ICT Sector climate impact through the collection of data. A new Expert Group on Telecommunication/ICT Indicators (EGTI) Sub-group on National Greenhouse Gas Emission Monitoring Indicators has been formed, chaired by Arcep, France. The sub-group is developing a document that outlines a set of harmonized indicators to measure the environmental impact of the ICT sector, including, Scope 1, 2, and 3 GHG emissions, total energy consumption, renewable energy usage, and climate-related targets. In collaboration with the World Bank and Arcep, a best practice case study on ICT sector emissions monitoring in France was developed to guide global regulators. The ITU organized a webinar on 12 March 2025 to mark the official launch of the joint best practice case study on ‘Measuring National ICT Sector Environmental Impact: Arcep Case Study - France’ by ITU and the World Bank. This study delves into Arcep's data collection and regulatory journey, detailing how it implemented legislative changes to expand its data collection authority and engaged industry stakeholders to foster transparency and shared responsibility. The webinar, titled 'Measuring the Environmental Impact of the ICT Sector: Lessons and Insights from France, Brazil, South Africa, and Zambia,' was attended by over 130 participants.  Additionally, BDT has partnered with the Ministry of Science and ICT (MSIT), Republic of Korea, to advance green digital transformation towards a net-zero digital sector in the Philippines and Tanzania. The new two-year project which started in January 2025 aims to enhance ICT regulators and stakeholders’ skills in data collection, regulation, and target setting. A *Story Map* summarizing BDT's Advancing Green Digital Transformation for a Net-Zero ICT Sector initiatives was published. ITU, GIZ, and the World Bank are updating the Green Data Centre e-learning course to feature interviews and be more interactive, the course is expected to be launched in Q3 of 2025. Through comprehensive research, regulatory support, capacity-building initiatives, and global partnerships, ITU and its collaborators continue to drive progress towards a net-zero digital sector, ensuring the ICT industry aligns with global climate objectives.  BDT organised or co-organised a number of awareness raising events on Green Digital Action Towards a Net-Zero ICT Sector, including at the Global Symposium of Regulators on 3 July in Kampala, Uganda, Climate Week New York in September, World Telecommunication Indicator Symposium in September and at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP29) in November. At COP29 in Baku Azerbaijan, the BDT team organised, co-organised and/or spoke at 5 events, including: 1) High-level opening of Green Digital Action @ COP29 track, 14 November; 2) Expanding Access to Green Data Infrastructure, 14 November – co-organised with the World Bank; 3) Climate Action: Transition plans to reduce the ICT Sector's own GHG emissions, 16 November – co-organised with TSB and SPM; 4) Advancing Green Digital Action Towards a Net-Zero ICT Sector, 16 November – organising and speaking; and 5) Road to Digital Carbon Neutrality (co-organised the with the Government of the Republic of Korea to highlight the new BDT-MSIT project), 16 November. In addition, the BDT team were invited to speak at several events, including at the TSB 15th Symposium on ICT, Environment, Climate Change and Circular Economy on 9 May 2024 and delivered a presentation on 'Harnessing Data for Sustainable Digital Transformation' and the ITU Green Digital Action webinar on 3 June 2024 'From Data to Action: Standardized methodologies for measuring ICT sector progress'. | | o Increased electronics producer engagement in regulation-setting.  o Strengthened policies and regulations  o Strengthened partnership and collaboration, and promotion of BDT products and services.   * Strengthened GHG emission and energy data collection and regulator's capacity to collect data. * Improved monitoring of the ICT sector's climate footprint.   o Africa: Rwanda, Zambia, Tanzania, Uganda, Seychelles  o Americas: Paraguay.  o Asia and the Pacific: Indonesia, Mongolia, Thailand, Philippines.  **LDCs/LLDCs & SIDS engaged / assisted- Commitment to environmental sustainability:**   * A total number of 7 countries were assisted with the development of policy frameworks and knowledge products.   3 projects are ongoing. |
| **Contributing to SDG Targets** | SDGs 1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 16, 17 | |
| **WSIS Action** | C1, C2, C3, C4, C5, C6, C7, C11 | |
| **Resolutions:** | WTDC 66 | |
| **Study Groups** | Question 6/2 ICT for the Environment | |

### ITU-D Enabler 5: Excellence in human resources and organizational innovation

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| **ITU-D Enabler 5: Excellence in human resources and organizational innovation** | |
| **Outputs** | **Highlights** |
| The Director of BDT continue to launch initiatives aimed at achieving organizational excellence and enhancing internal capacity to support BDT delivery, including:   * **Regular senior management meetings** to finetune to preparatory process for the upcoming WTDC-25 as well as the ongoing RDFs and RPMs across regions. * Strengthening key support functions such as IT services to enhance internal IT systems, and training development to support **BDT staff’s life-long learning**. * Encouraging the adoption of **work-life balance** through regular messages to staff and encourages staff to participate in various training and stress management initiatives. * **Regular** **staff engagement meetings** continue to be held and open to all staff. These meetings provide safe space for expression and ideation on challenges and opportunities in BDT’s mission to deliver with impact. * BDT is continuously reminded of the importance of upholding **transparency and accountability** in managing and delivering to the Membership. * Various actions are continually undertaken internally to **enhance the effectiveness and efficient delivery of ITU-D products and services** through the operational plan, ITU-D projects and other funding mechanisms. Reports are sent out regularly to ITU partners and donors to ensure that they are aware of BDT’s outputs and more importantly the impact being made on the ground. | * Senior Management Retreats. * Work-life balance. * Staff engagement meetings. |

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1. Including ITU-D Enabler 6 and 7 - Partnerships and international cooperation & Resource mobilization [↑](#footnote-ref-2)