|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| A logo with a black background  AI-generated content may be incorrect. | **Telecommunication DevelopmentAdvisory Group (TDAG)****32nd Meeting, Geneva, Switzerland, 12-16 May 2025** | A close up of a sign  Description automatically generated |
|  |  |
|  | **Document** **TDAG-2****5/8-E** |
|  | **31 March 2025** |
|  | **Original:** **English** |
| Director, Telecommunication Development Bureau |
| ITU-D Sector Members, Associates and Academia |
|  |
| **Summary:**This document provides an overview of the ITU-D membership evolution in 2024, and projection by mid-2025. It also recommends actions aimed at continued strengthening of efforts to recruit and retain more members in accordance with the outcomes of the World Telecommunication Development Conference of 2022 (WTDC-22) and the Plenipotentiary Conference of 2022 (PP-22). ITU-D membership includes Sector Members, Associates and Academia[[1]](#footnote-2).**Action required:**TDAG is invited to note the document and the Liaison Statement (Annex 1) from the Council Working Group on Financial and Human Resources (CWG-FHR) and provide guidance as deemed appropriate.**References:**WTDC Resolution 71 (Rev. Kigali, 2022), Strengthening cooperation between Member States, Sector Members, Associates and Academia of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector and the evolving role of the private sector in the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector. Resolutions 169, 205 and 209 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-22). |

1. **Background**

The World Telecommunication Development Conference in 2022 (WTDC-22) revised and adopted Resolution 71 (Rev. Kigali, 2022[[2]](#footnote-3)) to promote active involvement of ITU-D Sector Members, Associates, and Academia in ITU-D activities, including participation in the work of ITU-D Study Groups and to attract new members from the public, private and academic sectors.

Resolution 71 brought more focus to the strengthening of cooperation between Member States, Sector Members, Associates and Academia of ITU-D, with its instruction to BDT to work closely with ITU-D Sector Members, Associates, and Academia for their participation in the successful implementation of the Kigali Action Plan, and to continue to organize meetings for high-level industry executives e.g. the Industry Advisory Group for Development Issues and Private Sector Chief Regulatory Officers’ (IAGDI-CRO) meeting.

1. **ITU-D membership evolution**

**Chart 1** below illustrates the ITU-D membership evolution (Sector Members, Associates and Academia). The chart shows the absolute number of ITU-D Sector Members, Associates and Academia by December 2023, December 2024, and by June 2025 (projection).

* 1. **ITU-D Sector Members and Associates**



\*2025

2022

2023

2024

**Chart 2** details ITU-D Sector Members and Associates sustained growth since 2023, reflecting the gains and losses in Sector Members and Associates. By December 2024, ITU-D attracted a total of **twenty-eight new Members*.*** In 2024, the ITU-D reached the highest total number of Sector Members and Associates in the last ten years. It saw the highest **net positive income change** across the ITU in 2024 with **CHF 111’300** in net income gains. Furthermore in 2024, the total of denunciations and exclusions was further **reduced** **to eight members** compared to **fourteen** in 2023.

The BDT Region with the highest number of new members in ITU-D was Europe with nine new members in 2024, followed by Asia and the Pacific with six new members, Africa with five new members, Arab States region with four new members, Americas with three new members, and one member joining as regional or international organization (REGINTORG).

Chart 2 also shows the projected numbers with gains and losses by June 2025 based on accounts to be activated. By June 2025, ITU-D is expecting to have **fourteen** new members. In 2025, **seven denunciations** are expected to take effect by June 2025 due to mergers, review of business strategy, or undisclosed reasons.

The sustained growth of ITU-D membership stems from strengthening outreach efforts through several streams of actions such as: inviting guests/observers to experience ITU-D members-only events; internal capacity building efforts with BDT Staff on introducing the ITU-D membership benefits with external stakeholders; outreach missions to global external events; leveraging the partnership value proposition into a membership and partnership single benefit package.

Finally, intensified use of data-driven tools and dashboards enabled targeted actions towards membership accounts at risk, their re-engagement resulting in increased retention of members and net membership growth.

The lists of membership movement in 2024 (new members and losses) and expected projection by June 2025 can be found in Document [TDAG-25/INF/1](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG32-INF-0001/)**.**

* 1. **Exemption of fees requests**

BDT continued to review requests for exemption of fees in accordance with No. 476 of the Convention and as per ITU Council criteria which can be found [here](https://www.itu.int/hub/membership/our-members/exempted-entities/exemption-criteria/). ITU Council, at its 2024 June Session approved **four** organizations to join ITU-D as exempted members:

* African Technology Innovation Hubs Institute (Afrilabs)
* Environmental Coalition on Standards (ECOS)
* International Think Tank for LLDCs (ITTLLDC)
* Regroupement des Organisations des Professionnelles des TIC de l’UEMOA (ROPTIC)
	1. **Pending Approvals – ITU-D Sector Members and Associates**

By March 2025, **thirteen** **entities** were **pending clearance** from their respective administrations. We would like to thank the Administrations of the private sector entities who we understand are paying due attention and reviewing ITU-D membership requests.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Account** | **Country** | **Membership type** |
| TELECOMUNICACIONES GRAN CARIBE, S.A. | Venezuela | SECTOR MEMBER ITU-D |
| Motion Technology | Iraq | ASSOCIATE ITU-D SG2 |
| RenaCorp Technologies (PTY) Ltd | South Africa | SECTOR MEMBER ITU-D |
| Organisation des Jeunes pour le Monde d'Avenir (OJMA) | Dem. Rep. of the Congo | ASSOCIATE ITU-D SG2 |
| Windup Software, LLC | Uzbekistan | ASSOCIATE ITU-D SG2 |
| UNACU Professional Organisation Limited | Uganda | SECTOR MEMBER ITU-D |
| Accenture S.p.A. | Italy | SECTOR MEMBER ITU-D |
| IAIDL LLC | United States | ASSOCIATE ITU-D SG1 |
| Yemen Mobile | Yemen | SECTOR MEMBER ITU-D |
| VeryPay | Uganda | SECTOR MEMBER ITU-D |
| Telecommunications Authority of Fiji | Fiji | ASSOCIATE ITU-D SG2 |
| Beteseb Enterprises | Ethiopia | ASSOCIATE ITU-D |
| Cyberlite Books Pte. Ltd. | Singapore | SECTOR MEMBER ITU-D |

* 1. **Academia membership[[3]](#footnote-4)**

Total

Growth

Loss

****

2023

2024

\*2025

**Chart 3** details the gains and losses of Academia members in 2024 and by June 2025. In 2024, Academia saw fifteen new members and thirteen losses, with a net positive income change of CHF 3’975.

Academia can participate in the work of the three Sectors with one single fee, being able to contribute to Study Groups in all the Sectors. Some have reported difficulty to sustain membership for an extended period due to budgetary limitations.

Strong outreach efforts are continuously being made, including by organizing visits and briefings with Academia prospects and those ITU Members States interested in promoting and supporting academia membership. More details on opportunities and current engagement for replication with ITU Academia members and non-Academia members can be found in [TDAG-25/INF/2](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG32-INF-0002/).

1. **Engagement, retention, recognition, and outreach**
* BDT carried out several actions aimed at reinforcing **outreach and engagement efforts** through promotional campaigns using social media tools and targeted outreach to prospect audiences in global tech exhibitions. BDT also focused on converting existing platforms within the ITU-D products and services portfolio into effective membership outreach channels. An increased number of briefing sessions were held between thematic experts and ITU-D Membership (physically and virtually) throughout 2024, bringing higher awareness on areas for engagement.
* The **Industry Advisory Group on Development Issues and the Private Sector Chief Regulatory Officers (IAGDI-CRO)** continued to engage an increasing number of ITU-D Sector Members. In particular, two meetings were organized in 2024:
	+ IAGDI-CRO virtual spring consultation which encouraged a higher number of contributions from ITU-D Sector Members to the Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR-24) Best Practices Guidelines consultation process and gathered insights on defining the themes for the IAGDI-CRO main meeting during GSR-24. The Chair’s Report can be found [here](https://www.itu.int/itu-d/sites/membership/wp-content/uploads/sites/50/2024/06/20240606Chairmans-Report-IAGDI-CRO-2024_FINAL.pdf).
	+ IAGDI-CRO meeting during the Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR-24) in Kampala, Uganda. The interest and commitment of ITU-D Sector Members was shown by their contributions and a record number of participants. The meeting’s [Outcome Statement](https://www.itu.int/itu-d/sites/membership/wp-content/uploads/sites/50/2024/07/IAGDICRO-2024-Outcome-Statement_2-July_2024.pdf) and the Chair’s Report can be found [here](https://www.itu.int/itu-d/sites/membership/wp-content/uploads/sites/50/2024/07/Chairman-Report_IAGDI-CRO.pdf). The next IAGDI-CRO meeting will take place on **2 September 2025,** in Riyadh, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia during GSR-25.
* Additionally, for the 1st time, the **IAGDI-CRO** organised **two Tech Talks in February 2025,** each aligned with the **themes of ITU-D Study Groups 1 and 2**, respectively**.** It fostered stronger collaboration between ITU-D Sector Members and ITU-D Study Group management and ITU-D membership and inspired forward-thinking discussions on cutting-edge digital trends and technologies that could shape future ITU-D work, including the development of new Study Group Questions to be adopted at WTDC-25.
	+ The reports of the **TECH TALK on Enabling Environment for Meaningful Connectivity** and the **TECH TALK on Digital Transformation** were presented to the TDAG-WG-future SG Questions and noted with appreciation. The reports of each TECH TALKS can be found [here](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/MembersPartners/Pages/tech-talks.aspx).
* BDT continued to recognize ITU-D membership through a **special session during TDAG-24** meeting which acknowledged and celebrated the significant contributions of ITU-D members and partners in the work of the ITU-D. Additionally, BDT continues to promote **new members** on social media,including video **testimonials** serving both as recognition to our members and attracting new prospects.
* In 2024, BDT continued to organize **virtual briefings** and **ITU HQ visits** with several ITU-D Sector Members, Associates, Academia, and prospects, to introduce the membership benefits and opportunities for engagement with ITU-D.
* Furthermore and in line with the resource mobilization strategy endorsed by Council 2024 (Doc. [C24/70](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CL-C-0070/en)), the Council Working Group on Financial and Human Resources (CWG-FHR), during its Twentieth meeting (17-19 February 2025) agreed on a Liaison Statement [CWG-FHR-20/20(Rev.1)](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CWGFHR20-C-0020/en), which was sent to each Sector Advisory Group, inviting the Sectors to consult membership within each Sector on ways to strengthen engagement and revenues of Sector memberships, and to report their findings back to the CWG-FHR in September 2025. The Liaison Statement is attached as **Annex 1** to this document.
1. **Internal coordination and processes enhancements in 2024**

BDT is continuously coordinating internally with the other Sectors and the General Secretariat (SPM) for enhancements of effective processes to improve the membership experience through:

* Increasing efforts on a more effective onboarding experience for new members and engaging the expert teams in securing engagement with the ITU-D’s products and services.
* Revamping the membership website with refreshed content, a clearer presentation of benefits, and simplified application processes to encourage prospects to become members.
* Coordinating with other Sectors and General Secretariat on ways to strengthen Sector Memberships’ engagement and revenues, in line with the resource mobilization strategy endorsed by Council 2024.
1. **Conclusions**

BDT is committed to:

1. Continue to amplify ITU-D’s memberships’ meaningful engagement in the implementation of the Kigali Action Plan through briefing sessions, official missions, TECH TALKS sessions, and by demonstrating value and forging partnerships to unlock resources for impactful projects and initiatives.
2. Promote greater involvement and engagement from non-active members in ITU-D’s products and services, including events and platforms such as ITU-D Study Groups, the Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR), ITU Academy, Regional Development Forums (RDFs), Regional Preparatory Meeting (RPMs), and the World Telecommunication Development Conference 2025 (WTDC-25).
3. Gather insights andfeedback from ITU-D members on refining tools, processes, and other services.
4. **Call for Support**

ITU-D memberships are invited to engage and promote the benefits of joining the work of ITU-D, and advocate participations and engagements of public and private sectors, industry, and universities in the WTDC-25. They are also encouraged to complete due diligence of new applications in a timely manner so that applying entities can remain motivated to complete the affiliation process for the digital transformation together at various ITU-D platforms.

ANNEX 1 to Document TDAG-25/8

**Liaison statement on strengthening Sector Member engagement and revenues** -
[CWG-FHR-20/20(Rev.1)](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CWGFHR20-C-0020/en)

**Abstract**

This liaison statement is a request from the Council Working Group on financial and human resources (CWG-FHR) to the Sector Advisory Bodies to add an agenda item to their upcoming meetings in 2025 to consult Member States and Sector Members (including Associates and Academia) on ways to strengthen Sector Membership engagement and revenues, in line with the resource mobilization strategy endorsed by Council 2024. These inputs from the Sector Advisory Groups would help inform potential recommendations for the Council.

**Keywords**

Sector Membership, rights and benefits, revenues

**For action to:** RAG, TSAG, TDAG, ISCG

**Strengthening Sector Member engagement and revenues**

The Plenipotentiary Conference instructed the Secretary-General in Decision 5 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) to develop an ITU-wide resource mobilization strategy to address the need for additional funding to meet organizational priorities and present it to the ITU Council for review and guidance on its implementation. Following a series of consultations through the CWG FHR, the Secretary-General presented a draft strategy to Council 2024 (Doc. [C24/70](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CL-C-0070/en)). This strategy was endorsed.

The resource mobilization strategy has three main pillars, including strengthening member engagement and revenues, leveraging events, products, and services, and increasing voluntary contributions. To strengthen Sector Membership engagement and revenues, the strategy calls for a review of Sector Membership rights and benefits in consultation with the Sector Advisory Groups. This includes considering benefits that would encourage existing Sector Members to have memberships across multiple Sectors and Associates to upgrade to full Sector membership. It also includes reviewing and modernizing key member services like Study Groups.

In line with the strategy endorsed by the Council, the CWG-FHR invites the Sector Advisory Groups to add an agenda item to their upcoming meetings in 2025 to consult Member States and Sector Members (including Associates and Academia) on ways to strengthen Sector Membership engagement and revenues and to report their findings back to the CWG-FHR by the end of 2025.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Refers to Resolution 169 (Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-10), which enabled the new category of Academia to participate in the work of ITU. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Resolution 71 (Rev. Kigali, 2022), “Strengthening cooperation between Member States, Sector Members, Associates and Academia of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector and the evolving role of the private sector in the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector”. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. Academia members participate in the work of all three ITU Sectors, including their advisory groups. They also participate in other global and regional conferences, workshops, and activities of the Union, apart from plenipotentiary conferences, world radiocommunication conferences, world conferences on international telecommunications and the ITU Council, in conformity with the rules of procedure of the respective Sectors. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)