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|  | **Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG)**  **32nd Meeting, Geneva, Switzerland, 12-16 May 2025** | | A close up of a sign  Description automatically generated |
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|  | | **Document** **TDAG-25/****9-E** | |
|  | | **25 March 2025** | |
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| Director, Telecommunication Development Bureau | | | |
| ITU-D partnerships and resource mobilization | | | |
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| **Summary:**  The importance of partnerships and resource mobilization was highlighted by the World Telecommunication Development Conference 2022 (WTDC-22), in particular in the Kigali Declaration, in the Kigali Action Plan (sections 3.1 and 3.3) and Resolution 17 (Rev. Kigali, 2022) – Implementation of and cooperation on approved regional initiatives at the national, regional, interregional and global levels. This document reports on partnerships and resource mobilization activities undertaken in 2024.  **Action required:**  TDAG is invited to note this document and provide guidance as deemed appropriate.  **References:**  Sections 3.1 and 3.3 of the Kigali Action Plan  Resolution 17 (Rev. Kigali, 2022), Implementation of and cooperation on approved regional initiatives at the national, regional interregional and global levels  WTDC-22 Declaration | | | |

1. **Background**

The World Telecommunication Development Conference 2022 (WTDC-22) recognized the importance of Resource Mobilization and International Cooperation as a new ITU-D Priority and Enabler of the Kigali Action Plan: “The focus of this Priority is on mobilizing and attracting resources and fostering international cooperation on telecommunication/ICT development issues. This Priority is also cross cutting by providing resources and fostering international cooperation to deliver relevant global outcomes. In doing so, the needs of developing countries, least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries, and countries with economies in transition as well as underserved and vulnerable populations should be prioritized and given due attention.” (Kigali Action Plan).

Resolution 17 (Rev. Kigali, 2022) on “Implementation of and cooperation on approved regional initiatives at the national, regional interregional and global levels” instructs the BDT Director “to ensure that BDT facilitates the active involvement of regional and subregional telecommunication organizations in the different phases of project management established by ITU, as well as in forging partnerships and resource mobilization, with a view to effectively advancing the implementation of regional initiatives.”

1. **ITU-D partnerships and resource mobilization strategic objective**

In line with the outcomes of the WTDC-22, the goal is to foster, develop and strengthen partnership and international collaboration with a broad range of partners from both developed and developing countries.

This aims to enhance coordination, share expertise, and mobilize resources for the implementation of programmes, activities, and initiatives for sustainable development.

1. **Partnerships and results of resource mobilization in 2024**

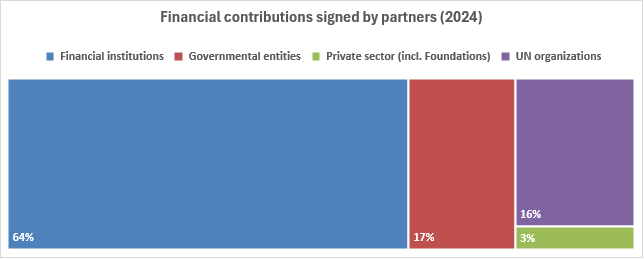
In 2024, through the collaborative efforts of ITU memberships, partners and BDT staff (both in the regions and at headquarters), the ITU/BDT signed 89 partnership agreements[[1]](#footnote-2) out of which 53 included financial contributions totalling approximately USD 33.8 million, with 92% contributed by BDT partners and 8% by ITU.

These partnership agreements were signed with 73 partners of different type, distributed as follow:

\*

These partners included 19 Member States, 7 ITU-D Sector Members, 3 Academia, and 2 Regional and other International Organizations, based on ITU Membership categories[[2]](#footnote-3).

Out of the 73 BDT partners, 33 signed financial contribution(s) for a total amount of about USD 31.1 million distributed as detailed below:



For 2024, BDT’s top 10 financial partners[[3]](#footnote-4) were:

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| **Partner** | **Signed financial contributions**  (in USD as per date of signature) |
| European Union represented by the European Commission | USD 19.82 million |
| United Nations Children's Fund | USD 1.82 million |
| United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction | USD 1.75 million |
| Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH | USD 1.09 million |
| World Meteorological Organization | USD 0.96 million |
| Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts, Australia | USD 0.65 million |
| Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, United Kingdom | USD 0.56 million |
| Ministerio de Tecnologías de la Información y las Comunicaciones, Colombia | USD 0.43 million |
| EYGS LPP | USD 0.41 million |
| Ministry of Science and ICT, Korea Rep. | USD 0.37 million |

The regions and ITU-D priorities benefitting in 2024 of the partnership agreements signed in terms of number (with and without financial contributions) and of financial contributions are presented in the charts below:

The number of agreements and financial contributions signed between 2020 and 2024 are presented in the chart below, highlighting the significant resource mobilization achieved in the past year to support the implementation of development projects, regional and global initiatives, and activities at national, regional, and global levels.

1. **Key Actions and Outcomes**

The impact of BDT's work in collaboration with its partners is showcased through Impact Stories, available at: <https://www.itu.int/itu-d/sites/digital-impact-unlocked/all-stories/list/>.

Partnership and resource mobilization outcomes illustrated above have been made possible through strategic actions, that included:

* **Cultivating/strengthening relationships with existing partners:** BDT collaborates with a diverse range of partners[[4]](#footnote-5), including governmental entities, financial institutions, international and regional organizations and associations, private sector entities (including foundations), UN organizations, and academia, from both developed and developing countries. These partners share their expertise and support financially the implementation of programs, regional and global initiatives, and activities aimed at sustainable development. Recognizing that successful partnerships are built on trust, respect, and confidence, BDT pays particular attention at cultivating strong relationships with its long-standing partners, including those listed in Document TDAG25/INF/1.
* **Enhancing collaboration with UN agencies**: BDT continues to strengthen its collaboration with other UN agencies, enhancing its visibility and emphasizing ITU’s unique role as leading organization in the telecommunication/ICT sector. Collaboration with UN agencies fosters synergies and knowledge-sharing, and generates new and increased funding by leveraging multilateral convening power. By working closely with UN sister agencies, BDT gains access to new funding opportunities (including UN pooled funds) for joint projects’ implementation at national, regional, and global levels towards the 2030 Agenda.
* **Outreach to new potential partners**: While BDT places a strong emphasis on fostering its relationship with its existing partners and engaging them in a lasting relationship, BDT also recognizes the importance of widening and diversifying its pool of partners. To do so, BDT actively engages with prospects through a strategic approach to raise the ITU/BDT profile, identify synergies, and explore opportunities for future collaboration.

1. **Way forward**

BDT acknowledges and values both its longstanding partners and new partners, whose collaboration makes it possible to support the implementation of projects, programmes, and initiatives at the global, regional and national levels. Moving forward, BDT will continue to cultivate and strengthen its partnerships with a wide range of stakeholders including Governmental entities, financial institutions, the private sector, United Nations agencies and Academia.

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1. For the full list of agreements, please refer to Document TDAG25/INF/1. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. <https://www.itu.int/hub/membership/our-members/> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. For the full list of financial partners, please refer to Document TDAG25/INF/1. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/MembersPartners/Pages/Partners/List-of-Partners.aspx> [↑](#footnote-ref-5)