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| Director, Telecommunication Development Bureau | | | |
| Realignment of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) | | | |
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| **Summary:**  The realignment of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) represents a strategic shift in how the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) delivers on its development mandate. This transformation, contained in ITU Secretary-General’s Decision No. 18424, is designed to improve the Bureau’s structure and operations, making it more agile, efficient, and responsive to the evolving needs of ITU Member States.  In a rapidly changing digital landscape, the ability to adapt and respond to emerging challenges is crucial. The new organizational model strengthens BDT’s capacity to deliver high-impact results, facilitates stronger collaboration with partners, and supports Member States in achieving their digital development goals. It brings together critical functions such as operational coordination, strengthening of regional presence, partnerships, digital skills, infrastructure, environment, regulatory policy, and innovation—under a coherent and mission-driven structure.  This document provides a comprehensive overview of the BDT’s revised structure, its strategic objectives, and the enhanced mechanisms for delivering development support through its Headquarters and Regional Offices in a seamless way. It reflects ITU´s commitment to ensuring that no one is left behind in the digital transformation.  **Action required:**  TDAG is invitated to note this document.  **References:**  N/A | | | |

1. **Introduction: Enhancing Service to ITU Members**

The realignment of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) marks a significant step in reinforcing ITU's commitment to better serve its Membership. This strategic transformation is designed to increase responsiveness, efficiency, and synergy across all functional areas. By refining the internal structure, BDT aims to deliver more targeted technical cooperation, enhance partnership development, and drive more impactful digital development initiatives globally. The reorganization reflects the evolving digital landscape and the needs of Member States, enabling BDT to be more agile, focused, and supportive of national priorities in an inclusive and sustainable manner.

1. **Background and Legal Basis**

In accordance with Decision No. 18424, dated 16 July 2024, signed by the Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union, and pursuant to her authority under Article 5 of the ITU Convention, the BDT has been reorganized. This decision reflects ITU’s ongoing efforts to modernize its internal structure and operational approach, ensuring the Bureau is fully equipped to meet present and future development challenges in telecommunications and ICTs leveraging its regional presence (closeness to the membership ensures effective project execution and delivering direct assistance).

1. **The BDT Mandate**

The BDT is responsible for the organization and coordination of the work within the Telecommunication Development Sector of the Union. Its primary focus includes development policies, programming, project implementation, and technical cooperation. The overarching goal is to foster universal access to affordable, high-quality, and secure telecommunications/ICTs, while promoting equitable and inclusive digital development to empower societies and achieve sustainable development outcomes.

To achieve these goals effectively, BDT is now structured into four strategic Departments:

1. **New Organizational Structure**
   1. **Operations Coordination Department (Office of the Deputy to the Director)**

The Operations Coordination Department, under the leadership of the Deputy to the Director, plays a central role in ensuring the Bureau's operational effectiveness across Headquarters and Regional Offices. It provides strategic and logistical support for the implementation of programs and projects, operational planning, internal coordination, and reporting. This Department is responsible for key support functions such as meetings management, fellowships, IT services, editorial oversight, and documentation control. It also ensures close monitoring of the implementation of decisions stemming from the ITU and BDT governing bodies, including TDAG, Council, and relevant Conferences and Assemblies. Furthermore, the Department coordinates the Bureau’s interface with other ITU Sectors and the General Secretariat.

A new feature is a new division to focus on the needs of Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs), and Small Island Developing States (SIDS), ensuring targeted support and priority attention across all areas of BDT's work.

**Projects Programme Implementation Division (PPI)**

To further strengthen the effectiveness and impact of development initiatives, the Projects Programme Implementation Division (PPI) has been established within the Operations Coordination Department. Reporting directly to the Deputy to the Director, this Division is dedicated to enhancing the quality, coherence, and delivery of global and regional development projects. The Division's primary goal is to increase both the quantity and quality of projects implemented across all regions, while ensuring greater satisfaction among Donors and Member States. To achieve this, PPI will reinforce project implementation processes, monitor performance, and help streamline project execution frameworks to ensure timely delivery and measurable results.

* 1. **Projects, Partnerships & Digital Skills (PPS)**

This Department integrates partnership development, resource mobilization, and project design. It engages with donors, foundations, and the private sector to align efforts with Member States’ needs. PPS also facilitates Study Groups and contributes to ICT capacity-building and digital skills development, a cornerstone in bridging the global Digital Divide. It supports initiatives under the WTDC Plan of Action and strengthens Member engagement and collaboration.

* 1. **Digital Networks & Environment (DNE)**

The DNE Department assists Member States—especially in the G77—in critical areas such as broadband network evolution, spectrum management, universal connectivity, and cybersecurity. It also provides expertise in emergency telecommunications and addresses the pressing challenges of environmental sustainability and climate change, ensuring BDT’s development strategies remain resilient and forward-looking.

* 1. **Digital Knowledge Society (DKS)**

DKS promotes policy and regulatory best practices and fosters innovation at national and international levels. It manages the global ICT statistics program, providing the data foundation for evidence-based policymaking. This Department promotes youth engagement, digital inclusion, gender equity, and accessibility. As the innovation hub of the Bureau, DKS encourages initiatives that stimulate creative solutions to development challenges.

1. **Role of the Regional Offices**

Regional Offices are essential in delivering tailored assistance to ITU Member States and in ensuring the practical implementation of programs and projects at the national and regional levels. Working under the direct authority of the BDT Director, Regional Directors maintain close collaboration with Headquarters and the four functional Departments. This structure ensures timely and context-specific support aligned with the ITU Strategic Plan and BDT Action Plan.

1. **Conclusion**

The realignment of BDT represents a bold and necessary evolution in how the ITU delivers on its development mandate. This strategic restructuring enhances cross-functional collaboration, simplifies internal processes, and sharpens the Bureau’s focus on results. Above all, it is a Member-centric transformation—designed to deliver greater value, responsiveness, and impact for ITU's diverse and dynamic global community.

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