

**Telecommunication Development
Advisory Group (TDAG)**

33rd Meeting, Geneva, Switzerland, 7-10 April 2026



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7 April 2026
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Director, Telecommunication Development Bureau

**TDAG Newcomers Information Session: Understanding the Role,
Scope and Working Methods of TDAG (TDAG-26)**

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7 April 2026

<https://www.itu.int/es/ITU-D>



Purpose and Structure of the TDAG Newcomers Briefing

TDAG's Role and Purpose

TDAG translates WTDC decisions into actionable guidance for ITU-D, supporting telecommunication development worldwide.

Briefing Structure

The briefing moves from ITU global context to TDAG mandates, working methods, and practical participation guidance.

Importance of TDAG-26

TDAG-26, following WTDC-25, sets the direction for operationalizing the Baku Action Plan for 2026–2029.

Newcomer Engagement

The session equips newcomers to navigate meetings, understand decisions, and contribute effectively to digital inclusion.

ITU's Role as the United Nations Specialized Agency for ICTs

ITU's Core Mission

ITU connects the world by coordinating ICT policy, standards, and digital infrastructure development globally.

Three Main Sectors

ITU consists of Radiocommunication, Standardization, and Development sectors, each with distinct but coordinated roles.

Role of TDAG

TDAG promotes coordination and strategic alignment between ITU sectors to support the global digital development agenda.

ITU's work spans **three areas**, or *Sectors*:



Radiocommunication

ITU-R

Radiocommunication Bureau
(BR)



Standardization

ITU-T

Telecommunication
Standardization Bureau (TSB)



Development

ITU-D

Telecommunication
Development Bureau (BDT)



Dr Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava
Director
ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau

<https://www.itu.int/es/ITU-D/bdt-director/>

"It is an honour to serve as Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) at a time of great challenges and opportunities.

Today, the world is grappling with climate change, hunger, natural hazards, and epidemics, among others. Yet, more people are getting connected. Just as the world recently welcomed its 8 billionth inhabitant, 5.4 billion people are already online. For the remaining 2.6 billion people that are still offline, we will double our efforts to get them online in the shortest time possible.

We must not forget that behind this data are people who are not able to access the Internet and enjoy the life-changing benefits that it can bring in the era of digital transformation.

These numbers highlight the importance of measuring and tracking data so that we know where to focus our efforts to meaningfully connect everyone to the Internet by 2030. With these developments, we must also focus on building digital skills for all to equip users with the necessary skills that may help unlock value and have a rewarding safe experience online

I know that we will get there."



ITU-D

Telecommunication Development Bureau

Mission and Focus

ITU-D promotes inclusive, affordable, and sustainable ICT access, focusing on developing and vulnerable countries.

Role of BDT

BDT executes ITU-D priorities, providing capacity development, policy support, and emergency telecom assistance.

Organizational Structure

ITU-D functions through WTDC, TDAG, Study Groups, and BDT to ensure coordinated telecom development efforts.

TDAG's Role

TDAG bridges strategic decision-making and daily BDT implementation, ensuring ITU-D responsiveness and coherence.



| ITU-D Memberships & International Cooperation

ITU-D Membership

194

Member
States

369

ITU-D Sector
Members/Associates

181

Academia

Minimum annual fee

Sector Member

CHF 7,950

for entities in developed countries

CHF 3,975

for entities in developing countries

Associate*

CHF 3,975

for entities in developed countries

CHF 1,987.50

for entities in developing countries

Academia

CHF 3,975

for entities in developed countries

CHF 1,987.50

for entities in developing countries

Sector Members



Networking and exploring partnerships with governments, regulators and other entities on digital policies, strategies and technologies.



Joining and sharing expertise in members-only global, regional and national events to contribute to digital development.



Advocating for the future of digital development at the Industry Advisory Group on development and regulatory issues.



Contributing to all ITU-D study groups by sharing knowledge, experiences and innovative ideas.

Associates



Contributing to one single ITU-D study group by sharing knowledge, experiences and innovative ideas.



Networking with public and private sector members within the study group community on digital policies and strategies.

Academia



Contributing to products and services in the Radiocommunication, Standardization and Development Sectors.



Publishing in ITU's open access scientific journal focusing on future-driven academic research.



Participating in ITU's capacity building activities within the ITU Academy, working parties and seminars.



Shaping recommendations and the work of ITU's study groups in all ITU Sectors.

ITU-D Projects: overview

419 projects
since 2007

160
beneficiary countries

CHF 230 M
resources mobilized

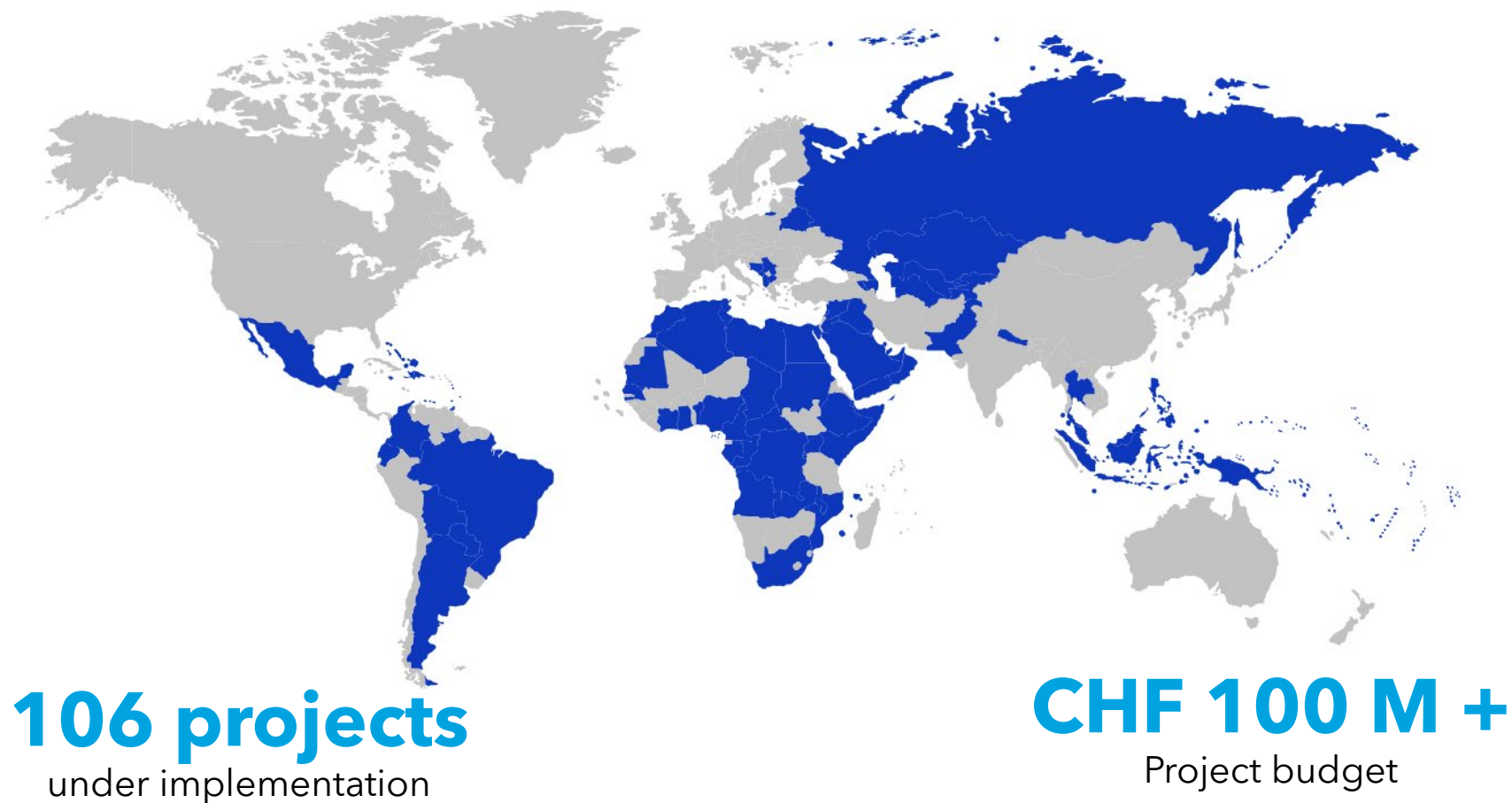
Global, regional and national

[@ ITU-D Projects](#)



The designations employed and the presentation of material on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of ITU and of the Secretariat of the ITU concerning the legal status of the country, territory, city or area or its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries

ITU-D Projects: current portfolio



<https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Projects>

ITU Regional Presence

[@ ITU Regional Presence](#)

Regional offices

- . Brasilia
- . Addis Ababa
- . Cairo
- . Geneva
- . Moscow
- . Bangkok

Area offices

- . Panama
- . Santiago
- . Bridgetown
- . Dakar
- . Yaounde
- . Harare
- . Jakarta
- . New Delhi

UN office

- . New York



Why TDAG-26 matters in the post-WTDC-25

Transition from WTDC to TDAG

TDAG-26 marks the shift from WTDC-25 conference decisions to actionable implementation and oversight by BDT.

Review of WTDC-25 Outcomes

TDAG reviews the Baku Action Plan, Declaration, and study questions to align strategies and budgets effectively.

Setting Expectations for Coordination

TDAG-26 defines working methods, reporting, and coordination for the 2026–2029 study period to ensure smooth operations.

Importance of Active Participation

Active and informed participation at TDAG-26 is crucial for impactful advice and recommendations post-WTDC.

WTDC-25 participants

About

2000

participants



including

165 VIPs

153 Member States and the State
of Palestine under Resolution 99



WTDC-25 outcomes



Outcomes of WTDC-25 for the period of 2026-2029:

- Baku Action Plan
- Baku Declaration
- Resolutions
- Regional Initiatives
- ITU-D Study Group Questions

WTDC-25 outcomes



Appointment of the TDAG Chair and Vice-Chairs



World Telecommunication Development Conference 2025

Baku Action Plan

1. Affordable connectivity
2. Digital transformation
3. Enabling policy and regulatory environment
4. Resource mobilization and international cooperation
5. Inclusive, safe and secure telecommunications/ICTs for sustainable development



The Baku Action Plan as ITU-D's Operational Framework

Central Operational Framework

The Baku Action Plan guides ITU-D activities from 2026 to 2029 by translating development goals into structured priorities and actions.

Dynamic Review and Adaptation

The plan allows periodic review and adjustments to address technological change, emerging needs, and performance assessments.

Role of TDAG

TDAG reviews implementation, aligns actions with strategic plans, and advises on necessary modifications for effectiveness.

Link to Budgeting and Reporting

The Action Plan underpins operational and annual work plans, linking strategy with budgeting, resource allocation, and performance reporting.

From Global Decisions to Advisory Review

Global Decision-Making Cycle

WTDC sets priorities and action plans every four years, establishing the global strategic framework.

Continuous Advisory Oversight

TDAG provides ongoing review, identifies challenges, and offers guidance between WTDC conferences.

Responsive Governance

This governance model ensures ITU-D adapts swiftly to emerging technologies, economic shifts, and crises.

Connecting Strategy and Practice

TDAG links long-term strategic commitments with practical and timely decision-making processes.

TDAG Mandate, Scope and Responsibilities

What is TDAG?

Mandate and Core Functions

Core Mandate Overview

TDAG reviews priorities, programmes, operations, financial matters, and strategies in the Telecommunication Development Sector.

Advisory Role and Implementation

TDAG advises the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau on measures for effective ITU-D work implementation.

Non-binding Recommendations

TDAG issues influential recommendations but does not adopt binding resolutions like decision-making conferences.

Forum for Dialogue and Strategy

TDAG serves as a forum for informed dialogue, consensus-building, and strategic advice to guide ITU-D progress.

Participation in TDAG and Openness of the Process

Inclusive Stakeholder Participation

TDAG includes representatives from Member States, ITU-D Sector Members, and Study Group leaders, ensuring broad inclusivity.

Role of Academia and Development Agencies

Academia and development aid agencies contribute research and development perspectives enhancing digital discussions.

Collaboration and Mutual Respect

TDAG emphasizes collaboration and respect to achieve shared digital development goals beyond sector-specific interests.



TDAG's mandate between WTDCs: Strategic and Operational Review



Guidance and Coordination

TDAG ensures continuity by maintaining and updating guidelines between WTDCs for coherent ITU-D operations.

Operational Plan Review

TDAG reviews the implementation of the four-year operational plan to align strategy with practical execution.

Evaluation of Working Methods

TDAG evaluates working methods and Study Groups to maximize delivery efficiency and avoid duplication.

Stewardship Role

TDAG acts as a steward ensuring WTDC commitments translate into effective results on the ground.

TDAG's mandate between WTDCs: Study Groups, Intersectoral Coordination and others



Study Groups Oversight

TDAG reviews and enhances ITU-D Study Groups by evaluating Study Questions and restructuring groups when necessary.

Intersectoral Coordination

TDAG promotes cooperation between ITU sectors and the General Secretariat for unified ICT development strategies.

Special Responsibilities

TDAG advises on electronic working methods, language use, and considers decisions from other ITU conferences.

ITU-D Study Group questions

Study Questions

ITU-D Study Group 1

Universal meaningful connectivity for bridging the digital divide
2026-2029

Q 1/1

Enabling policies and strategies for universal connectivity with a focus on underserved, remote and rural areas

Q 2/1

Enabling policies and regulations for adopting digital telecommunication/ICT services and technologies for distribution and broadcasting

Q 3/1

The use of telecommunications/ICTs for disaster risk reduction and management

Q 4/1

Economic aspects of national telecommunications/ICTs

Q 5/1

Consumer protection and empowerment, and meaningful accessibility for all, especially for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs

Learn more at
www.itu.int/itu-d/sites/studygroups/



Study Questions

ITU-D Study Group 2

Digital transformation
2026-2029

Q 1/2

Enabling telecommunications/ICTs for digital transformation and smart sustainable cities and communities

Q 2/2

ICTs for the environment, and assessment of human exposure to electromagnetic fields

Q 3/2

Securing information and communication networks: Best practices for developing a culture of cybersecurity

Q 4/2

Availability and affordability of user devices, and telecommunication/ICT equipment issues, including conformance and interoperability

Q 5/2

Adoption and utilization of new and emerging telecommunication/ICT services and technologies, and development of digital skills

Learn more at
www.itu.int/itu-d/sites/studygroups/



Working Methods, Meetings and Outputs

TDAG Meetings and Scheduling Principles

Regular and Coordinated Meetings

TDAG holds physical meetings at least once a year, supplemented by electronic coordination to maintain continuous progress.

Strategic Scheduling

Meeting times are planned to review draft plans before ITU Council adoption, ensuring TDAG guidance is considered.

Conflict Avoidance and Coordination

Efforts are made to avoid overlapping TDAG and ITU-D Study Group meetings and facilitate consecutive meetings with RAG and TSAG.

Importance of Preparation

Understanding meeting rhythms and preparation is key as TDAG meetings address complex, interlinked issues within tight timeframes.

Rules of Procedure and Preparation of Meetings

Application of Procedure Rules

TDAG meetings follow ITU-D Study Group rules including submission, documentation, and discussion conduct to ensure order.

Meeting Preparation Process

The Chair and Director collaborate to prepare meetings by identifying key issues and organizing agenda items efficiently.

Coordination and Communication

TDAG Bureau maintains contact electronically and meets yearly to organize meetings and approve time management plans.

Efficiency and Newcomer Guidance

Additional procedures enhance efficiency; newcomers learn documentation, intervention, and decision-making expectations.

TDAG Outputs and Reporting

Summary of Meeting Conclusions

After each TDAG meeting, a concise summary of proposals and conclusions is prepared to enhance transparency and accountability.

Detailed Activity Reports

Detailed reports on TDAG activities are prepared within three weeks post-meeting in all official ITU-D languages.

Reports for BDT Director

TDAG prepares reports covering working procedures, sector cooperation, study group guidelines, and work programme progress.

WTDC Comprehensive Report

Before WTDC, TDAG submits a comprehensive report summarizing past activities for delegation consideration and translation.

Impartiality, Participation and Regional Engagement

Emphasis on Impartiality

TDAG members perform duties impartially to ensure balanced and accountable decision-making processes.

Encouraging Active Participation

Non-attendance is addressed to promote full engagement and accountability among bureau members.

Regional Engagement Importance

Vice-Chairs coordinate with regional offices to reflect diverse perspectives and priorities in TDAG discussions.

Strengthening Guidance through Consultation

Regional consultation enhances TDAG's ability to provide relevant and actionable advice to ITU-D members.

Practical Information for the Delegates

Find everything on-line



- ITU-D website – Access all the events, products and publications: www.itu.int/itu-d
- Obtain TIES access for your user account – Log on and select the option from the menu: www.itu.int/TIES
- ITU events page - Find out about upcoming events and which meeting room your event is taking place in: www.itu.int/events
- Wi-Fi: Connect to the ITU wireless network for delegates 'ITUwifi' and enter the username and password indicated on your event badge.

ITU-D Events App

ITU-D Events Mobile App

The ITU-D Events mobile app, WTDC-25 edition, allows users to access on their smart-phones and tablets to all relevant information for the World Telecommunication Development Conference.



Availability

Available for Android on Google Play Store, Apple Appstore, Huawei AppGallery and a Mobile web only version.

Search for **ITU-D Events** on device's store or download by clicking on the QRCode link with your Phone camera.



GET IT ON
Google Play



Download on the
App Store



EXPLORE IT ON
AppGallery



Web Mobile

Access to ITU premises



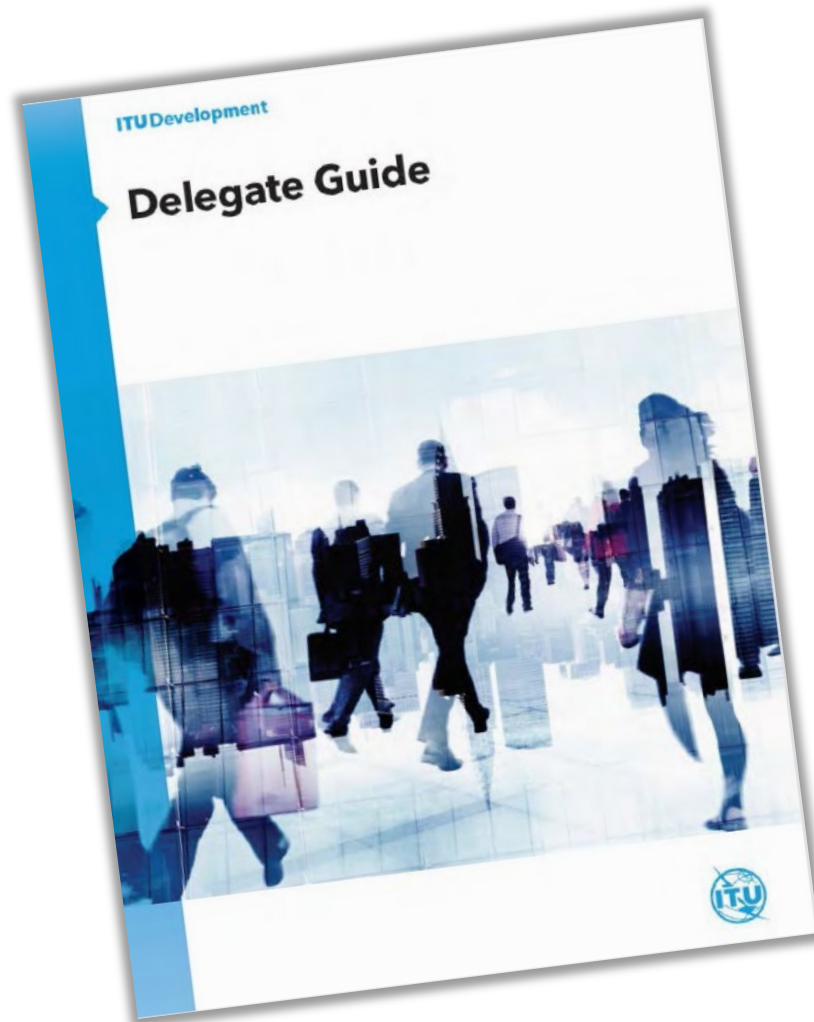
Access points to ITU premises

The ITU headquarters comprise three interlinked buildings: The Tower Building, the Varembe Building and the Montbrillant Building.

- Delegates shall **ENTER the premises via the Montbrillant Building access point ONLY**. However, they can EXIT the premises at any of the three access points (Tower, Varembe, and Montbrillant).
- Long-term delegates, who hold accreditation for one-year validity or more, will be issued the new biometric smartcard, which will allow them to ENTER or EXIT at the Tower, Varembe and Montbrillant access points. The issuance of smartcards to long-term delegates is expected to start in April 2018.



ITU-D Delegate Guide



The Delegate Guide features more details on the history and inner workings of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector. The Guide is available on the following link: [ITU-D Delegate Guide](#).

THANK YOU
<https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D>

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