

RESOLUTION 24 (Rev. Baku, 2025)

Authorization for the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group to act between world telecommunication development conferences

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Baku, 2025),

recalling

- a)* Resolution 1 (Rev. Baku, 2025) of this conference, on rules of procedure of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D);
- b)* Resolution 40 (Rev. Baku, 2025) of this conference, on the group on capacity-building initiatives;
- c)* Resolution 59 (Rev. Baku, 2025) of this conference, on strengthening coordination and cooperation among the three ITU Sectors on matters of mutual interest,

considering

- a)* that, under the provisions of Article 17A of the ITU Convention, the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG) is to continue to provide guidelines for the work of study groups, review progress in the implementation of priorities, programmes and operations and recommend measures to foster coordination and cooperation with other relevant development and financial institutions;
- b)* that there is a need to evaluate the activities of study groups;
- c)* that Resolution 154 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference instructs the Sector advisory groups to review annually the use of all official languages of the Union on an equal footing in ITU publications and on ITU websites;
- d)* that the rapid pace of change in the telecommunication environment and in industry groups dealing with telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICTs) still demands that ITU-D make evidence-based decisions on issues such as work priorities, study group structure and meeting schedules in shorter periods of time, between world telecommunication development conferences (WTDCs);

- e) that TDAG has demonstrated its capability to make proposals for enhancing the operational efficiency of ITU-D, for improving the quality of ITU-D Recommendations and for methods of coordination and cooperation;
- f) that TDAG can help improve coordination of the study processes and provide improved decision-making processes for the important areas of ITU-D activities;
- g) that flexible administrative procedures, including those related to budgetary considerations, are needed in order to adapt to rapid changes in the telecommunication/ICT environment;
- h) that TDAG plays an important role in ensuring proper coordination among study groups on telecommunication development issues, including, where necessary, avoiding duplication of work, and in identifying linkages and dependencies between related work items;
- i) that there is a need to continue improving coordination and cooperation with other relevant bodies within ITU-D and with the ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R), the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) and the General Secretariat on telecommunication/ICT development issues, as well as with other organizations outside ITU and relevant entities;
- j) that it is necessary that TDAG continue to act in the four years between WTDCs in order to respond to the needs of the members in a timely manner, and be able to address unexpected issues requiring urgent action between conferences;
- k) that the use of appropriate key performance indicators (KPIs) will enable TDAG to effectively review progress in the implementation of priorities, programmes and operations outlined in the ITU-D action plan and the ITU-D operational plan, in line with Article 17A of the Convention,

recognizing

- a) that the duties of WTDC are specified in the Convention;
- b) that the current four-year cycle for WTDCs effectively precludes the possibility of addressing unforeseen issues requiring urgent action in the intervening period between two conferences;
- c) that TDAG, which meets at least on a yearly basis, is capable of addressing these issues as they arise;

- d) that, in accordance with No. 213A of the Convention, a WTDC may assign specific matters within its competence to TDAG, indicating the recommended action on those matters;
- e) that TDAG has already demonstrated the capability to act effectively on matters referred to it by the previous WTDC,

noting

- a) that there is still an ongoing need to identify an appropriate mechanism or mechanisms to address new and emerging problems for developing countries¹ that ITU-D may not yet have been able to consider;
- b) that effective coordination can be achieved by means of joint coordination activities, joint rapporteur group meetings, liaison statements between study groups, and other means to meet emerging development challenges and the needs of the membership,

resolves

1 to continue to assign to TDAG the following specific matters, between two consecutive WTDCs, acting through reports from the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) and study group chairs, as appropriate:

- i) continue to maintain efficient and flexible working guidelines, and update them as necessary, including to provide opportunities for cross-regional sharing of experiences on the implementation of regional actions, initiatives and projects;
- ii) review, on an ongoing basis, the relationship between the ITU-D objectives outlined in the strategic plan for the Union and the budgetary appropriations available for activities, particularly programmes and regional initiatives, with a view to recommending any measures necessary to ensure the efficient and effective delivery of the principal products and services (outputs) of the Sector;
- iii) review, on an ongoing basis and in accordance with No. 223A of the Convention, the implementation of the rolling four-year operational plan for ITU-D and provide guidance to BDT on the elaboration of the draft ITU-D operational plan to be approved by the following ITU Council session;

¹ These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

- iv) evaluate, and update as necessary, working methods and guidelines to ensure the most efficient and flexible implementation of the key elements of the ITU-D action plan;
- v) evaluate periodically the working methods and functioning of the ITU-D study groups, to identify options for maximizing programme delivery and to approve appropriate changes thereto following an assessment of their work programme, including strengthening of the synergy between study Questions, programmes and regional initiatives;
- vi) conduct the assessment pursuant to *resolves 1 v)* above, taking into account the following actions in relation to the current work programme of the study groups, if needed:
 - redefinition of the terms of reference of study Questions in order to provide focus and eliminate overlap;
 - deletion or merging of study Questions as appropriate; and
 - evaluation of criteria to measure the effectiveness of study Questions, both in qualitative and quantitative terms, including a periodical review based on the ITU-D action plan with a view to further exploring performance measures in order to more effectively implement actions referred to in *resolves 1 v)* above;
- vii) restructure ITU-D study groups, if required, and, as a result of a restructuring or creation of ITU-D study groups, appoint chairs and vice-chairs to act until the next WTDC in response to the needs and concerns of the Member States, within the agreed budgetary limits;
- viii) issue advice on study group schedules that meet development priorities;
- ix) cooperate and coordinate with ITU-R and ITU-T, considering Resolution 59 (Rev. Baku, 2025) of this conference;
- x) advise the Director of BDT on relevant financial and other matters;
- xi) approve the programme of work arising from the review of existing and new study Questions and determine the priority, urgency, estimated financial implications and time-scale for the completion of their study;

- xii) review progress in the implementation of the ITU-D work programme and the activities of the ITU-D study groups in general, including the level of attendance of chairs and vice-chairs, in accordance with Resolution 208 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference and Resolution 1 (Rev. Baku, 2025) of this conference;
- xiii) in order to promote flexibility in responding rapidly to high-priority matters, if required, create, terminate or maintain other groups, appoint their chairs and vice-chairs, and establish their terms of reference with a defined duration, in accordance with Nos. 209A and 209B of the Convention and taking into account the leading role of the study groups in carrying out the studies on such matters; such other groups shall not adopt study Questions or Recommendations;
- xiv) consult the Director of BDT on the development and implementation of an action plan on electronic working methods and, going forward, procedures and rules for electronic meetings, including legal aspects, taking into account the needs and the means of developing countries and in particular the least developed countries;
- xv) review annually the use of all official languages of the Union on an equal footing in ITU-D publications and on ITU-D websites;

2 that, when dealing with restructuring of the study groups and the creation of new study groups, the decisions taken in TDAG meetings shall be unopposed by any Member State present at the meeting;

3 that TDAG examine implementation of WTDC resolutions, actions and achievement of the goals set out in the annual ITU-D operational plan and in the ITU-D action plan, based on, *inter alia*, an assessment of appropriate KPIs agreed by TDAG, for the purpose of identifying possible difficulties in and strategies for implementing key elements, and recommend solutions in that regard to the Director of BDT;

4 that TDAG, in carrying out its work, collaborate with the advisory groups of the other Sectors with the aim of coordinating efforts and eliminating duplication, consulting where appropriate with the Director of BDT;

5 that TDAG shall promptly consider at its meetings aspects of the decisions of the Plenipotentiary Conference and other conferences and assemblies of the Union that relate to the work of ITU-D,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

- 1 to take into consideration the advice and guidance of TDAG in order to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of ITU-D;
- 2 to report to each TDAG meeting on:
 - i) the implementation of WTDC resolutions and actions to be undertaken pursuant to their operative paragraphs, using, *inter alia*, appropriate KPIs agreed by TDAG;
 - ii) progress made in implementing the ITU-D annual operational plan and the ITU-D action plan, using, *inter alia*, appropriate KPIs agreed by TDAG, identifying any difficulties that hinder progress and providing possible solutions;
- 3 to publish draft reports no later than 30 calendar days before the start of a TDAG meeting in order to ensure their careful consideration by members,

instructs the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group

to take appropriate action for the implementation of this resolution and report the results to the next WTDC.