

RESOLUTION 5 (Rev. Baku, 2025)

Enhanced participation by developing countries in the activities of the Union

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Baku, 2025),

considering

- a)* Resolutions 25 and 123 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on strengthening the ITU regional presence and on bridging the standardization gap between developing¹ and developed countries, respectively;
- b)* Resolution 30 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on special measures for the least developed countries (LDCs), small island developing states (SIDS), landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) and countries with economies in transition;
- c)* Resolutions 167, 169 and 170 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, which encourage and facilitate the participation of developing countries and their Sector Members and Academia in the activities of the Union;
- d)* Resolution 135 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on ITU's role in the durable and sustainable development of telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICTs), in providing technical assistance and advice to developing countries and in implementing relevant national, regional and interregional projects;
- e)* Resolution 198 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on empowerment of youth through telecommunications/ICTs;
- f)* Resolution ITU-R 75 (Dubai, 2023) of the Radiocommunication Assembly, on strengthening coordination and cooperation among the three ITU Sectors on matters of mutual interest;

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

g) Resolutions 54 and 74 (Rev. New Delhi, 2024) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly, addressing the need to enhance participation of developing countries and their Sector Members in the work of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T);

h) the advancements in digital collaboration tools, artificial intelligence (AI)-powered language translation and accessibility solutions, which can, as of 2025, enhance virtual participation and inclusion in ITU activities,

recognizing

a) the multifarious difficulties encountered by developing countries, in particular LDCs, SIDS, LLDCs and countries with economies in transition, as well as countries under stringent budgetary restrictions, in ensuring their effective and efficient participation in the work of ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) and its study groups;

b) that harmonious and balanced development of the worldwide telecommunication network is of mutual advantage to developed and developing countries;

c) the need to identify mechanisms, including hybrid and AI-supported virtual platforms, for developing countries to participate in, and contribute to, the work of the ITU-D study groups;

d) the importance of enhancing the accessibility of the work of the ITU-D study groups for developing countries, through remote participation, especially in those cases where it is not possible to establish a physical presence;

e) that limited resources, digital literacy and access to new and emerging telecommunications/ICTs in developing countries remain a challenge for enhancing their effective participation in ITU activities;

f) the encouraging results attained through online/virtual meetings held during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) period, when physical meetings were not possible, including the sixth World Telecommunication/ICT Policy Forum,

noting

that structured approaches, including virtual mentorship and peer-learning platforms, can play a key role in addressing the ITU membership participation gap, in particular for youth, women and first-time participants,

convinced

a) of the need to enhance the effective participation and attendance of developing countries in the work of ITU through physical and/or virtual platforms;

b) of the integrating role the ITU regional and area offices may take on in this task,

resolves to instruct the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to ensure that ITU-D study group meetings and forums/seminars/workshops are held, to the extent practicable, and within the available financial limits, outside Geneva, limiting their deliberations to subjects stipulated in their agendas and reflecting the actual needs and priorities of developing countries;

2 to encourage virtual meetings and physical meetings with remote participation whenever possible, consistent with the General Rules of conferences, assemblies and meetings of the Union;

3 to ensure that ITU-D, including the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group, at both the headquarters and regional level, participates in the preparation and implementation of world telecommunication policy forums, and invites the study groups to participate therein;

4 to encourage the elaboration of specific studies on the adoption of new and emerging telecommunication/ICT services and technologies by developing countries, taking into account the context of each region;

5 to develop and implement a wide range of capacity-building programmes, including for development of digital skills, utilization of new and emerging telecommunications/ICTs, such as relevant AI tools, and leadership skills for meetings to strengthen the participation of developing countries in ITU activities,

further instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

- 1 in close collaboration with the Directors of the Radiocommunication Bureau (BR) and Telecommunication Standardization Bureau (TSB), to consider and implement the best ways and means to assist developing countries in preparing for and participating actively in the work of the three Sectors, and notably in the Sector advisory groups, assemblies and conferences and in the study groups of relevance to developing countries, particularly in relation to the work of the ITU-T study groups, in line with the resolutions mentioned under *considering* above;
- 2 in support of the above, to consider how regional capacity-building programmes and AI-supported virtual platforms may assist developing countries to participate in the activities of the Union;
- 3 to continue conducting studies on how to increase the participation of developing countries and of Sector Members and other telecommunication players from developing countries not only in the work of ITU-D, but also in the work of ITU-T and the ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R);
- 4 to extend, within the financial limitations and taking into account other possible sources of financing, the granting of fellowships to participants from developing countries attending study group meetings, the advisory groups of all three Sectors and other important meetings and interregional meetings, including conference preparatory meetings, combining, wherever applicable, attendance at more than one successive event;
- 5 to assist developing countries in the preparation of and participation in ITU meetings and conferences as well as those of regional organizations, through training programmes on the preparatory process, meeting leadership skills, meeting structures, formalities and how to improve participation and contribute to the meetings;
- 6 to continue promoting virtual meetings and physical meetings with remote participation and electronic working methods so as to encourage and facilitate the full participation of developing countries in the work of ITU-D;

7 to provide the necessary assistance to developing countries in offering remote participation facilities in case they host ITU-D study group meetings and forums/seminars/workshops;

8 to further promote the activities and publications of ITU-D using electronic means;

9 to provide reports related to the participation of Sector Members from developing countries in the work of ITU-D;

10 to consider, whenever possible, holding forums/seminars/workshops concurrently with the meetings of ITU-T regional groups in developing countries;

11 in collaboration with the Directors of BR and TSB, to establish a virtual mentorship and peer-learning platform that leverages and shares widely available resources and connects experienced ITU members with first-time participants from developing countries, in particular youth and women, in order to build familiarity with ITU processes, study group dynamics and the development of proposals, in preparation for their active participation in ITU-D and cross-Sector activities,

invites the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau and the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau

to encourage meetings to be held outside Geneva where this will facilitate greater participation of local experts from countries and regions distant from Geneva,

invites Member States, Sector Members and Associates

1 to participate or increase their participation in the activities of the Union based on procedures approved under Resolutions 169 and 170 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022);

2 subject to the relevant provisions of the ITU Constitution and Convention, to consider the appointment of candidates to chairships and vice-chairships of the Sector advisory groups, study groups and other groups, based on equitable distribution;

3 to support developing countries with limited representation in ITU meetings by facilitating the exchange of experience and transfer of knowledge, as well as capacity building;

4 to host ITU-D study group meetings and forums/seminars/workshops, in particular in developing countries;

5 to strengthen their cooperation with the ITU regional offices in relation to implementation of this resolution,

requests the Secretary-General

to report to the Plenipotentiary Conference on the expected financial implications of the implementation of this resolution, proposing also other possible sources of financing and identifying shared funding mechanisms, such as public-private partnerships, in order to support and enhance participation,

invites the Plenipotentiary Conference

1 to give the necessary attention to implementation of this resolution when establishing the basis for the budget and related financial limits;

2 when adopting the financial plan of the Union, to provide the necessary funds to the Telecommunication Development Bureau in order to facilitate the wider attendance and participation of developing countries in the activities of ITU-D,

invites the ITU Council

to consider the exemption from payment of the first year of membership fees for new Academia from developing countries in order to encourage their involvement in ITU activities.