

RESOLUTION 92 (Baku, 2025)

Strengthening the role of ITU regional offices in accelerating digital transformation and leveraging partnerships

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Baku, 2025),

recalling

- a)* Resolution 17 (Rev. Baku, 2025) of this conference, on resource mobilization, implementation and cooperation for approved regional initiatives;
- b)* Resolution 21 (Rev. Baku, 2025) of this conference, on strengthening coordination and collaboration with regional and subregional organizations;
- c)* Resolution 89 (Rev. Baku, 2025) of this conference, on digital transformation for sustainable development;
- d)* Resolution 90 (Rev. Baku, 2025) of this conference, on fostering telecommunication/information and communication technology (ICT)-centric entrepreneurship and digital innovation ecosystems for sustainable digital development;
- e)* Resolution 25 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on strengthening the ITU regional presence;
- f)* Resolution 123 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on bridging the standardization gap between developing¹ and developed countries;
- g)* Resolution 198 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on empowerment of youth through telecommunication/ICT;
- h)* Resolution 205 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on ITU's role in fostering telecommunication/ICT-centric innovation to support the digital economy and society,

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

recognizing

- a) that the increasing complexity of the development landscape necessitates that the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) evolve into a more systemic and impact-oriented development actor, building on its programmatic strengths with new mechanisms and platforms;
- b) that innovation is fostered through partnerships, and that stakeholders require access to appropriate resources and capacities to advance digital transformation;
- c) that the establishment of effective partnership ecosystems necessitates structured and systemic mechanisms to engage, mobilize and support developing countries;
- d) that bottom-up, stakeholder-driven approaches are more effective and sustainable for achieving regional and national goals;
- e) that institutional capacity building and innovation remain a priority concern for Member States, and that rethinking delivery mechanisms can enhance the effectiveness of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) and its responsiveness to national and regional needs;
- f) that considering financial sustainability and broad reach, including through the essential role of the ITU regional offices, is critical to achieving inclusive digital transformation and leaving no one behind,

considering

- a) ITU's ongoing efforts to enhance the regional presence and the need to strengthen the role of the regional offices and call for innovative and systemic solutions, including the piloting of new models that enhance operational capacity and bring ITU's programmatic expertise closer to its membership;
- b) that the establishment of a multi-stakeholder support network can increase ITU's regional effectiveness by leveraging partnership and capitalizing on global and local expertise, financial resources and infrastructure;

c) that strengthening South-South and triangular cooperation presents important modalities for knowledge sharing, capacity development and technology transfer on voluntary and mutually agreed terms among developing countries, and that enhancing such cooperation is consistent with the principles of solidarity, mutual benefit and shared development priorities;

d) that many United Nations entities and international organizations accelerate project implementation and service delivery by building partnership ecosystems that the regional offices can leverage to support scalability and maximize development impact within the regions,

noting

a) the launch by the Director of BDT of the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Alliance for Digital Development (IEADD), which provides a multi-stakeholder platform to bring institutional innovation and capacity closer to regions;

b) that IEADD operates through three key mechanisms: the network of ITU acceleration centres, the Digital Transformation Lab and the Digital Innovation Board;

c) that the network of acceleration centres enhances global, regional and national innovation capabilities to leverage technology, policy and flagship initiative development, while also strengthening local innovation and entrepreneurship to accelerate digital transformation;

d) that each acceleration centre is nationally owned and aligned with national priorities, while seeking to contribute to the expansion of ITU's operational reach and capabilities through a coordinated network approach;

e) that the Digital Transformation Lab serves as a virtual facility for building innovation knowledge programmes that support the network of acceleration centres in setting policy and developing ecosystem initiatives;

f) that the Digital Innovation Board guides the strategic direction of IEADD, to align with the four-year ITU-D action plan, and facilitates high-level advocacy and progress monitoring across key ITU-D priorities and work streams;

g) that the IEADD expert network will continue to provide a global collaborative platform to strengthen the innovation ecosystem;

h) that ITU has continued to set up effective mechanisms to accelerate the implementation of regional initiatives and innovative consultation processes with the membership, including through the Regional Initiative Accelerator and Innovation Cafés, aimed at strengthening technical assistance and the development of viable projects,

resolves to instruct the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to establish a Regional Initiative Accelerator framework within the regional offices, in collaboration with Member States and partners, to support the co-design of viable projects aligned with the priorities of ITU-D and the regions, within available resources;

2 to leverage the capabilities of the Digital Transformation Lab to support the regional offices in fostering innovation in the development and delivering of BDT products and services;

3 to develop a partnership ecosystems framework with relevant stakeholders to enhance and scale service delivery, accelerate digital development and ensure universal and meaningful connectivity;

4 to report annually to the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group on progress made in the implementation of this resolution and its impact,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau, in collaboration with the Directors of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau and the Radiocommunication Bureau

1 to leverage the network of acceleration centres, the regional and area offices, the regional telecommunication organizations and the partnership ecosystem framework to coordinate delivery of programmatic knowledge and expertise to Member States;

2 to leverage the capabilities of the Digital Transformation Lab to support fostering innovation in the development and delivering of ITU products and services at both regional and global levels,

invites Member States and Sector Members

- 1 to continue collaborating with ITU, including through their respective regional offices, in establishing and sustaining national, regional and global centres aligned with the objectives of the ITU-D action plan and regional initiatives;
- 2 to actively contribute knowledge and any other resource required to support the enhancement of ITU delivery mechanisms, including the network of acceleration centres;
- 3 to support activities under this resolution for social and economic development, if possible, with extrabudgetary funds;
- 4 to support ITU in identifying and developing strategic partnerships that strengthen regional delivery and enhance its impact on development;
- 5 to consider expanding the network of acceleration centres, as appropriate, to serve as delivery channels for capacity development, innovation, knowledge sharing and the monitoring of programmes and projects related to the implementation of regional initiatives, in line with their respective capabilities.