

World Telecommunication Development Conference 2025 (WTDC-25)

Final Report



ITU WTDC
BAKU2025

17 – 28 November 2025
Baku, Azerbaijan





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World Telecommunication Development Conference 2025 (WTDC-25)

Final Report



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Conference overview and highlights

1 Background

The ninth World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-25) of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) was held from 17 to 28 November 2025 in Baku, Azerbaijan, and represented a pivotal moment in the worldwide push for global connectivity and digital progress.

Convened under the theme of **universal, meaningful and affordable connectivity for an inclusive and sustainable digital future**, WTDC-25 brought together a wide range of stakeholders to shape a shared vision for the future. The event attracted over 1 900 participants, including more than 150 VIPs at the ministerial level, heads of relevant agencies, regulators and industry leaders. Representatives from 160 Member States (with 152 countries represented in person and 8 remotely), 104 Sector Members of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D), 13 academic institutions, several observer organizations, and the United Nations and its specialized agencies participated in the conference.

One of the main goals of WTDC-25 was to set priorities for ITU-D for the next four years (2026–2029). The Conference adopted both the Baku Declaration and a detailed Baku Action Plan, which will guide the digital development initiatives of ITU. These efforts will focus on the world's most vulnerable areas, such as least developed countries (LDCs), small island developing states (SIDS) and landlocked developing countries (LLDCs).

The Baku Declaration highlights the main conclusions and priorities established by the conference and reinforces the political support for the development mission and strategic goals of ITU.

WTDC-25 adopted:

- New and revised resolutions.
- New and revised regional initiatives for the Africa, Americas, Arab States, Asia and the Pacific, Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and Europe regions. The regional initiatives are intended to address specific priority areas in telecommunications/information and communication technology (ICT), using partnerships and resource mobilization to implement projects that are part of the Baku Action Plan.
- New and revised study Questions for the ITU-D study groups.

WTDC-25 also featured a high-level segment.

2 Preparatory process for WTDC-25

2.1 Regional preparatory meetings

In accordance with WTDC Resolution [31 \(Rev. Kigali, 2022\)](#), six regional preparatory meetings (RPMs) were held as shown in Table 1 below. The RPMs aimed to engage the membership in preparations for WTDC-25 in order to achieve regional coordination before the conference itself. They also sought to identify issues at the regional level that needed to be addressed in order to foster the development of telecommunications/ICTs, taking into account the most pressing needs of Member States and Sector Members of the respective regions. RPM outcomes were consolidated at the interregional coordination meeting and discussed at the meeting of the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG) during 2025. The outcomes of the TDAG meeting were submitted to WTDC as draft documents for consideration.

The RPMs reviewed, *inter alia*, the implementation of the Kigali Action Plan, the state of digital development and trends across the regions, the outcomes of other ITU conferences related to ITU-D work areas, the progress of the TDAG Working Group on ITU-D priorities and the TDAG Working Group on the future of study group Questions, and the efforts to streamline resolutions and the WTDC declaration.

The meetings also discussed and took note of contributions from various countries regarding new regional initiatives, including enhancing cybersecurity, promoting gender equality, advancing youth inclusion, improving emergency telecommunications and fostering digital innovation ecosystems. The RPMs also developed draft regional initiatives for each region for the 2026–2029 period.

The RPM for the Arab States region (RPM-ARB) was held from 4 to 5 February 2025 in Amman, Jordan. It took note of contributions from the membership regarding new regional initiatives, including enhancing emergency telecommunications, improving connectivity and broadband infrastructure for LDCs, developing a legal and regulatory framework for non-terrestrial networks, strengthening regional and international cooperation, enhancing emergency telecommunications preparedness, and strengthening broadband mapping and visualization.

The RPM for the Europe region (RPM-EUR) was held from 25 to 26 February 2025 in Budapest, Hungary. It took note of contributions from the membership regarding new regional initiatives, including enhancing cybersecurity, promoting gender equality, advancing youth inclusion, improving emergency telecommunications and fostering digital innovation ecosystems.

The RPM for the Asia and the Pacific region (RPM-ASP) was held from 20 to 21 March in Bangkok, Thailand. Its proposals included innovative financing mechanisms for ICT infrastructure projects, capacity-building programmes for digital skills, and disaster management driven by artificial intelligence (AI). Other contributions proposed initiatives to support LDCs in the Asia and the Pacific region, focusing on meaningful connectivity, broadband infrastructure and enabling digital innovation ecosystems.

The RPM for the Americas region (RPM-AMS) was held from 1 to 2 April 2025 in Asuncion, Paraguay. It took note of contributions from the membership regarding new regional initiatives. Its proposals included modern, secure and sustainable broadband infrastructure; policies and regulatory frameworks that foster innovation, resilience and cybersecurity; and efforts to narrow digital divides — especially for underserved communities, women, youth and Indigenous Peoples, and LDCs, SIDS and LLDCs. Specific contributions called for boosting digital skills and human-capital development, championing Caribbean priorities, integrating satellite solutions with terrestrial networks and embedding youth voices in the work of ITU-D study groups.

The RPM for the Africa region (RPM-AFR) was held from 8 to 9 April in Nairobi, Kenya. It produced a range of proposals for WTDC-25 that collectively aimed to accelerate the digital transformation of Africa by strengthening cybersecurity capabilities, refining future study Questions to reflect AI and affordability concerns, and prioritizing meaningful connectivity for underserved communities. Key themes included expanding resilient broadband infrastructure, enhancing disaster management communications, fostering inclusive AI and data governance ecosystems, boosting capacity building and innovation and creating sustainable funding mechanisms.

The RPM for the CIS region (RPM-CIS) was held from 24 to 25 April in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. Its proposals included redesigning ITU-D study groups to tackle emerging technologies such as AI and metaverse and advancing a consolidated set of regional initiatives covering next-generation networks, inclusive education and skills, ICT security and digital transformation.

The dates and reports of each RPM can be found in the table below:

Dates and locations of RPMs held in 2025

RPM	Dates	City and host country	Final RPM report	Link to the video on implementation of Kigali Action Plan
RPM-ARB	4–5 February 2025	Amman, Jordan	Report	Video
RPM-EUR	25–26 February 2025	Budapest, Hungary	Report	Video
RPM-ASP	20–21 March 2025	Bangkok, Thailand	Report	Video
RPM-AMS	1–2 April 2025	Asuncion, Paraguay	Report	Video
RPM-AFR	8–9 April 2025	Nairobi, Kenya	Report	Video
RPM-CIS	24–25 April 2025	Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan	Report	Video

2.2 Telecommunication Development Advisory Group

TDAG held three annual meetings and one extra-ordinary meeting between WTDC-22 and WTDC-25, under the leadership of TDAG Chair Ms Roxanne McElvane Webber (United States). The complete summary of conclusions for these meetings can be found at: www.itu.int/ITU-D/tdag/.

At its meetings in June 2023 and in May 2024, TDAG established the following working groups:

- **TDAG Working Group on streamlining resolutions (TDAG-WG-SR)**

Chair: Ms Andrea Grippa (Brazil); Vice Chairs: Ms Blanca Gonzalez (Spain) and Ms Agustina Brizo (Argentina); BDT Focal Point: Ms Ramita Sharma - [webpage](#)

- **TDAG Working Group on the future of study group Questions (TDAG-WG-futureSGQ)**

Chair: Mr Ahmad Sharafat (Islamic Republic of Iran); Vice Chairs: Ms Regina Fleur Assoumou Bessou (Côte d'Ivoire) and Mr Fadel Digham (Egypt); BDT Focal Points: Mr Kyung-Tak Lee and Ms Rosheen Awotar-Mauree - [webpage](#)

- **TDAG Working Group on ITU-D priorities (TDAG-WG-ITUDP)**

Chairs: Ms Inga Rimkevičienė (Lithuania) 2025 and Mr Christopher Kemei (Kenya) 2024; Vice Chairs: Ms Blanca Gonzalez (Spain) and Mr Ahmad Sharafat (Islamic Republic of Iran); BDT Focal Points: Mr Marco Obiso and Ms Florence Tunzi - [webpage](#)

- **TDAG Working Group on the declaration (TDAG-WG-DEC)**

Chair: Mr Abdulkarim Oloyede (Nigeria); Vice Chairs: Mr Ahmed Gad (Egypt) and Ms Ke Wang (China); BDT Focal Point: Ms Sofie Maddens - [webpage](#)

- **TDAG Informal Coordination Group on the youth summit and the global celebration (TDAG-ICG-GYS)**

Coordinators: Ms Agustina Brizio (Argentina), Ms Ke Wang (China), Mr Abdulkarim Oloyede (Nigeria) and Ms Shahad Albalawi (Saudi Arabia); BDT Focal Point: Ms Roxana Widmer-Iliescu - [webpage](#)

The working groups worked principally by electronic means and through virtual meetings. Their reports were presented to TDAG and to each RPM, and are reflected in both the TDAG meeting and outcome reports (as summarized under § 2 above), and in the RPM reports for each region ([Africa](#), [Americas](#), [Arab States](#), [Asia and the Pacific](#), [CIS](#), [Europe](#)).

The TDAG working groups collectively held between 20 and 35 additional meetings during this period, most of which were virtual, with each group holding between four and seven meetings to complete their work.

3 Official opening of the conference

The opening ceremony of WTDC-25 began with a video that showcased the development of ICTs in Azerbaijan and was followed by the opening speeches.

H.E. Mr Rashad Nabiyev, Minister of Digital Development and Transport of Azerbaijan welcomed all WTDC-25 participants. In his remarks, he emphasized the historical importance of hosting the conference in Baku, as it was the first WTDC to take place in the CIS region. He highlighted the evolving role of Azerbaijan in promoting meaningful connectivity and sustainable digital transformation, expressing pride in his country's determination to help shape the future of global telecommunications and digital inclusion. Mr Nabiyev was confident that the conference's debates, decisions and new partnerships would contribute to a more inclusive, secure and sustainable digital landscape, affecting billions of lives worldwide.

The ITU Secretary-General, Ms Doreen Bogdan-Martin, underlined the urgency of bridging the digital divide, noting that for the 2.6 billion people still unconnected, digital development represented not just a technical hurdle but a measure of the global community's resolve to achieve a fairer, more inclusive digital future. She called upon participants to transform good intentions into concrete action and ensure that technology delivered benefits for everyone, everywhere.

The Director of the ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT), Mr Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava, delivered his opening remarks, calling for bold and human-centred initiatives and recommended investments in resilient infrastructure, innovation and inclusive practices. He stressed that WTDC-25 presented a pivotal opportunity to collectively chart the way forward, to bridge the various digital divides and make meaningful connectivity accessible to all. He outlined the vision for the Baku Declaration, built on four interconnected pillars: purposeful connectivity, including outreach to rural and remote areas and support for sectors such as digital health and online education; development of digital capabilities by advancing literacy, nurturing local talent and small and medium enterprises, and ensuring inclusivity for all demographic groupings; fostering trust and security to create a resilient digital ecosystem where everyone feels safe; and encouraging innovative partnerships across sectors to maximize impact.

4 Conference structure

WTDC-25 adopted the following conference structure at its first plenary meeting:

Meeting of heads of delegation

Terms of reference: In accordance with No. 49 of the General Rules of conferences, assemblies and meetings of the Union (General Rules), the inaugural meeting of the conference shall be preceded by a meeting of heads of delegation. At this meeting, the heads of delegation shall prepare the agenda for the first plenary meeting and make proposals for the organization, chairships and vice-chairships of the conference, its committees and, as appropriate, working group(s) of the Plenary.

During the conference, heads of delegation shall meet to consider the proposals concerning the work programme and the constitution of study groups, and to draw up proposals concerning the designation of chairs and vice-chairs of study groups, TDAG and any other groups established by WTDC-25.

Committee 1: Steering Committee

Terms of reference: To coordinate all matters connected with the smooth execution of work; and to plan the order and number of meetings, avoiding overlap wherever possible in view of the limited number of members of some delegations.

This committee is composed of the chair and the vice-chairs of the conference and the chairs and vice-chairs of the committees and working group(s) of the Plenary.

Committee 2: Budget Control Committee

Terms of reference: To determine the organization and facilities available to the delegates, to examine and approve the accounts for expenditure incurred throughout the duration of the conference and to present a report to the Plenary Meeting showing the estimated total expenses of the conference, the estimated financial needs of ITU-D up to the next WTDC, and the costs entailed by the execution of the decisions taken by the Conference.

Committee 3: Objectives

Terms of reference: To review and approve the agenda and make proposals for the organization of work; to review and approve the outputs and outcomes for the objectives; to review and agree on the related ITU-D study Questions and associated regional initiatives and establish appropriate guidelines for their implementation; to review and agree on relevant resolutions; and to ensure that the output is in accordance with a results-based management approach aiming to improve management effectiveness and accountability.

Committee 4: ITU-D Working Methods

Terms of reference: To review and approve the agenda and make proposals for the organization of work; to examine proposals and contributions relating to cooperation among members; to evaluate the working methods and functioning of the ITU-D study groups and TDAG; to assess and identify options for maximizing programme delivery and to approve appropriate changes thereto with a view to strengthening the synergies between study Questions, programmes and regional initiatives; and to submit reports to the Plenary Meeting, including proposals on ITU-D working methods for implementation of the ITU-D work programme, on the basis of TDAG and study group reports submitted to the conference and the proposals of ITU Member States, ITU-D Sector Members and Academia.

Committee 5: Editorial Committee

Terms of reference: To perfect the wording of texts arising from WTDC deliberations, such as resolutions, without altering the sense and substance, and align the texts in the official languages of the Union, with a view to their submission for approval to the plenary meetings.

Working Group of the Plenary: ITU-D contribution to the strategic plan for the Union for 2028–2031 and WTDC declaration

Terms of reference: To draw up a draft WTDC declaration and the input of ITU-D to the strategic plan for the Union to be adopted at the next plenipotentiary conference.

5 Presiding officers of WTDC-25

Following adoption of the conference structure at its first plenary meeting, WTDC-25 elected the following officers:

Chair of the conference:	Mr Samaddin Asadov (Azerbaijan)	
Vice-chairs of the conference:	Ms Regina Fleur Assoumou Bessou (Côte d'Ivoire)	
	Mr Saif bin Ghelaïta (United Arab Emirates)	
	Mr Avinash Agarwal (India)	
	Mr Francisco Casaccia (Paraguay)	
	Mr Altynbek Toktorbaev (Kyrgyzstan)	
	Ms Inga Rimkevičienė (Lithuania)	
Committee 1 (Steering Committee)	Composed of the chair and vice-chairs of the conference and of the chairs and vice-chairs of the committees	
Committee 2 (Budget Control Committee)	Chair:	Mr Szabolcs Szentlélek (Hungary)
	Vice-chairs:	Ms Seynabou Seck Cisse (Senegal) Mr Issa Jreisat (Jordan) Ms Xu Ming (China) Mr Marius Varlan (Canada) Mr Bakhtiyar Mammadov (Azerbaijan) Mr Dirk-Oliver von der Emden (Switzerland)
Committee 3 (Objectives)	Chair:	Mr Muath S. AlRumayh (Saudi Arabia)
	Vice-chairs:	Ms Nora Abdalla (Sudan) Mr Osama Abu Ezza (Libya) Ms Memiko Otsuki (Japan) Mr Rafael Cordero (Costa Rica) Ms Umida Musayeva (Uzbekistan) Mr Vilém Veselý (Czech Republic)
Committee 4 (ITU-D Working Methods)	Chair:	Ms Tupou Baravilala (Fiji)
	Vice-chairs:	Mr Amah Vinyo Capo (Togo) Ms Maitha Ahmed Al Jamri (United Arab Emirates) Ms Maria Myutel (Australia) Mr Roberto Hirayama (Brazil) Mr Javokhir Aripov (Uzbekistan) Mr Rafał Bartoszewski (Poland)
Committee 5 (Editorial Committee)	Chair:	Ms Maria José Franco (Uruguay)
	Vice-chairs:	Ms Mwanahamisi Suleiman (Tanzania) Mr Zuhair Alzuhair (Kuwait) Ms Fan Sichen (China) Mr Konstantin Trofimov (Russian Federation) Ms Léa Roubinet (France)
Working Group of the Plenary (Strategic plan and declaration)	Chair:	Ms Stella Erebor (Nigeria)
	Vice-chairs:	Ms Etta Mosore (Ghana) Mr Abdulrahman Nasser Alsuwaidi (Bahrain) Mr Saneh Saiwong (Thailand) Ms Vernita Harris (United States) Ms Sahiba Hasanova (Azerbaijan) Ms Carmen-Madalina Clapon (Romania)

6 High-level segment policy statements

During the first two days of WTDC-25, the conference had four plenary sessions dedicated to the high-level segment, which served as a unique platform where senior officials from ITU Member States came together to share their perspectives on emerging trends and strategic priorities for global telecommunication and ICT development.

The sessions brought together an impressive array of leaders: ministers, deputy ministers, ambassadors, heads of regulatory authorities, and senior executives from ITU-D member organizations. The presence of such high-ranking representatives underscored the global commitment to advancing digital development.

The discussions revolved around the conference theme: Universal, meaningful and affordable connectivity for an inclusive and sustainable digital future.

Speakers highlighted achievements from national policies and projects, while offering forward-looking recommendations for the future work of ITU-D. Throughout the segment, participants emphasized that the rapid spread of ICTs and global interconnectedness had created unprecedented opportunities to bridge the digital divide, foster innovation and build inclusive knowledge societies. Speakers reaffirmed the principle that no one should be left behind, and stressed that collaboration among governments, industry, civil society and development partners was essential to deliver on that vision.

Each speaker had three minutes to deliver their oral statement, and full written versions, as well as video versions, were published on the conference website immediately after delivery.

All speakers are listed here in the order in which they spoke and their statements can be found on the WTDC-25 website.

Monday, 17 November 2025

Plenary – High-level segment – Session 1

Speakers

H.E. Mr Pemmasani Chandra Sekhar

Minister of State, Ministry of Communications and Ministry of Rural Development, India

H.E. Mr William Gitau

Minister, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Information, Communications and the Digital Economy, Kenya

H.E. Ms Nthathi Moorosi

Minister, Ministry of Information, Communications, Science, Technology and Innovation, Lesotho

H.E. Mr Yunming Zhang

Deputy Minister, Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, China

H.E. Mr Takuo Imagawa

Vice-Minister for International Affairs, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, Japan

H.E. Mr Abdullah Al Mubadel

Deputy Governor, Telecommunication, Communications, Space and Technology Commission (CST), Saudi Arabia

Ms Huda Al-Wahidi

Deputy Minister, Ministry of Telecommunication and Digital Economy, State of Palestine

Mr Mohamed Shamroukh

Executive President, National Telecom Regulatory Authority (NTRA), Egypt

Ms Lara EL Khateeb

Chair of the Board and Chief Executive Officer, Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (TRC), Jordan

Mr Omar Abdullah Al-Qatabi

Vice President, Telecommunications Regulatory Authority, Oman

Mr Fernando Machuca Manevy

Board Member, National Telecommunication Commission (CONATEL), Paraguay

Ms Sandra Maximiano

Chairwoman of the Board of Directors, National Communications Authority (ANACOM), Portugal

H.E. Mr Ahmad Abdulla AlMuslemani

President, Communications Regulatory Authority, Qatar

H.E. Ms Emily Roper

Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations in Geneva, Australia

H.E. Mr Leon Williams

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to ITU, Bahamas

Plenary – High-level segment – Session 2***Speakers*****H.E. Mr Rashad Nabiyev**

Minister, Ministry of Digital Development and Transport, Azerbaijan

H.E. Mr Ioane Naivalurua

Minister, Ministry for Policing and Communications, Fiji

H.E. Mr Mark-Alexandre Doumba

Minister, Ministry of the Digital Economy, Digitalization and Innovation, Gabon

H.E. Ms Shaza Fatima Khawaja

Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication, Pakistan

H.E. Mr Agaseata Peto

Minister, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, Samoa

H.E. Mr Ahmed Al-Dirdiri Ghandour

Minister, Ministry of Communications and Digital Transformation, Sudan

H.E. Mr Dimitar Nedyalkov

Deputy Minister, Ministry of Transport and Communications, Bulgaria

H.E. Ms Ailyn Febles Estrada

Deputy Minister, Ministry of Communications, Cuba

H.E. Mr Jamol Maxsudov

Deputy Minister, Ministry of Digital Technologies, Uzbekistan

Mr Angelo Miguel Buta João

Secretary of State for Telecommunications and Information Technologies, Angola

Mr Philip Marnick

General Director, Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA), Bahrain

Mr Carlos Manuel Baigorri

President, National Telecommunication Agency (Anatel), Brazil

H.E. Mr Valeriu Zgonea

President, National Authority for Management and Regulation in Communications (ANCOM), Romania

Ms Olivia Trusty

Commissioner, Federal Communications Commission (FCC), United States

H.E. Mr Tamakolo Ouattara

Ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Iran, Côte d'Ivoire

Tuesday, 18 November 2025**Plenary – High-level segment – Session 3*****Speakers*****H.E. Mr Sid Ali Zerrouki**

Minister, Ministry of Post and Telecommunications, Algeria

H.E. Mr Ahmad Fahmi Mohamed Fadzil

Minister, Ministry of Communications, Malaysia

H.E. Mr Yves Iradukunda

Minister of State, Ministry of Information Communication Technology and Innovation, Rwanda

H.E. Ms Tatenda Annastacia Mavetera

Minister, Ministry of Information Communication Technology, Postal and Courier Services, Zimbabwe

H.E. Mr Doszhan Mussaliyev

Vice Minister, Ministry of Artificial Intelligence and Digital Development, Kazakhstan

H.E. Mr Dokyu Lee

Deputy Minister and Head of the Office of Information Communication Technology Policy, Ministry of Science and Information Communication Technology, Republic of Korea

H.E. Mr Grigoriy Borisenko

Deputy Minister, Ministry of Digital Development, Communications and Mass Media, Russian Federation

H.E. Mr Mondli Gungubele

Deputy Minister, Department of Communications and Digital Technologies, South Africa

Mr George Michaelides

Commissioner of Communications, Office of the Commissioner for Electronic Communications and Postal Regulation (OCECPR), Cyprus

Mr Lume Polume

Executive Director, National Information and Communication Technology Authority (NICTA), Papua New Guinea

Mr Sarana Boonbaichaiyapruk

Chairman, National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission (NBTC), Thailand

H.E. Mr Ole Toft

Ambassador to Azerbaijan (resident in Ankara), Denmark

H.E. Mr Iván Emilio de Jesús Ogando Lora

Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva, Dominican Republic

H.E. Ms Marijana Kujundžić

Ambassador to Azerbaijan, European Union

Mr Paweł Radomski

Ambassador to Azerbaijan, Poland

Plenary – High-level segment – Session 4**H.E. Mr Seyed Sattar Hashemi**

Minister, Ministry of Information and Communication Technology, Islamic Republic of Iran

H.E. Mr Américo Muchanga

Minister, Ministry of Communications and Digital Transformation, Mozambique

H.E. Mr Konris Maynard

Minister, Ministry of Public Infrastructure, Energy and Utilities, Domestic Transport, Information, Communication and Technology and Post, Saint Kitts and Nevis

H.E. Mr Godfrey Baluku Kabbyanga

Minister of State for National Guidance, Ministry of Information and Communications Technology and National Guidance, Uganda

H.E. Mr Isfandiyori Sadullo

Head of the Communications Service under the Government, Tajikistan

H.E. Mr Puthyvuth Sok

Secretary of State, Ministry of Post and Telecommunications, Cambodia

H.E. Ms Naama Henig

Under Secretary, Ministry of Communications, Israel

Ms Mavis A. Ampah

Board Chair, National Communications Authority, Ghana

H.E. Mr Khaled Mohammed Al-Zamel

Chairman of the Board of Directors, Communications and Information Technology Regulatory Authority (CITRA), Kuwait

Mr Slaviša Antić

State Secretary, Ministry of Information and Telecommunications, Serbia

H.E. Mr Majed Sultan Al Mesmar

Director General, Telecommunications and Digital Government Regulatory Authority (TDRA), United Arab Emirates

H.E. Mr Dušan Matulay

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary and Permanent Representative to the United Nations in Geneva, Slovakia

Mr Ömer Abdullah Karagözoğlu

President and Chairman, Information and Communication Technologies Authority (BTK), Türkiye

7 Network of Women in the Telecommunication Development Sector

During WTDC-25, the Network of Women (NoW) in ITU-D held a breakfast session under the theme: Advancing gender empowerment in the digital development agenda. At the event, the Director of BDT underscored the importance of women's full and meaningful participation in advancing the digital development sector. The ITU Secretary-General reaffirmed the Union's commitment to ensuring gender empowerment within ITU.

A video shared at the event highlighted the achievements of NoW in ITU-D since 2023 and other major BDT initiatives which aimed to bridge the digital gender divide. Some of the flagship activities included: the empowering women leaders mentorship programme, confidence booster training, and the super women webinar series. These efforts strengthened connections among women delegates, enhanced their leadership skills and aimed to support their engagement in WTDC-25 and beyond.

For the first time, men were invited to participate as mentees in the mentorship programme. Male participation constituted 30 per cent. This introduction of a more inclusive approach in the activities of NoW in ITU-D represented an important milestone for this cycle.

Testimonies from both women and men emphasized the value of working together to advance gender equality, demonstrating the growing impact of the success stories shared by NoW participants.

The event brought together ITU elected officials, women and men delegates at WTDC-25 and members of NoW in the ITU-D Advisory Board. The Director of BDT, in recognition of the dedication, leadership and commitment of the Advisory Board members, awarded them certificates of recognition. The event concluded with a unified call for a renewed and visible commitment to gender-responsive digital development from all delegations as ITU-D moved into the 2026–2029 cycle.

The NoW in ITU-D community reaffirmed its full support for advancing that agenda in the coming cycle.

8 Telecommunication Development Advisory Group bureau

WTDC-25 adopted the composition of the TDAG bureau and appointed the TDAG chair and vice-chairs, as follows:

Chair:	Ms Fleur Regina Assoumou Bessou (Côte d'Ivoire)
Vice-chairs:	Ms Caecilia Nyamutswa (Zimbabwe)
	Mr Fred Ongaro (Kenya)
	Mr Ahmed Abd El-Aziz Gad (Egypt)
	Ms Shahad Albalawi (Saudi Arabia)
	Ms Andrea Mamprim Grippa (Brazil)
	Mr Jordan Brewer (United States)
	Ms Ke Wang (China)
	Mr Ahmad Sharafat (Islamic Republic of Iran)
	Ms Mina Seonmin Jun (Republic of Korea)
	Mr Arseny Plossky (Russian Federation)
	Ms Aichurok Maralbek Kyzy (Kyrgyzstan)
	Ms Eva Minaříková (Czech Republic)
	Ms Inga Rimkevičienė (Lithuania)

9 List of chairs and vice-chairs of ITU-D Study Group 1 and Study Group 2 appointed by WTDC-25

Study Group 1

Chair:	Mr Roberto Mitsuke Hirayama (Brazil)
Vice-chairs:	Ms Hadiza Kachallah (Nigeria)
	Mr Malick Ndiaye (Senegal)
	Mr Francisco Antonio Casaccia Torres (Paraguay)
	Mr Abdelwaheb Galizra (Algeria)
	Mr Ali Rasheed Hamad Al-Hamad (Kuwait)
	Mr Wesam Sedik (Egypt)
	Ms Memiko Otsuki (Japan)
	Mr Dao Ngoc Tuyen (Viet Nam)
	Ms Sha Wei (China)
	Mr Sunil Kumar Singhal (India)
	Mr Ilgar Abdullayev (Azerbaijan)
	Ms Anastasia Konukhova (Russian Federation)
	Ms Umida Musayeva (Uzbekistan)
	Ms Cristina Aguiar (Portugal)
	Mr Mehmet Alper Tekin (Türkiye)
	Mr Teddy Woodhouse (United Kingdom)

Study Group 2

Chair:	Mr Fadel Digham (Egypt)
Vice-chairs:	Ms Imelda Salum Banali (Tanzania)
	Mr Mohamed Lamine Minthe (Guinea)
	Ms Fifatin Carrelle Lucrèce Toho (Benin)
	Mr Víctor Antonio Martínez Sánchez (Paraguay)
	Ms Aisha Al Marzooqi (United Arab Emirates)
	Ms Maha Ziad Yousef Mouasher (Jordan)
	Mr Hideo Imanaka (Japan)
	Mr Sandeep Kumar Gupta (India)
	Mr Tongning Wu (China)
	Mr Javokhir Aripov (Uzbekistan)
	Ms Uliana Stoliarova (Russian Federation)
	Ms Lidia Stepinska-Ustasiak (Poland)
	Ms Carmen-Madalina Clapon (Romania)

10 ITU-D celebratory dinner and exhibition

The ITU-D Celebratory Dinner: 30+ Years of Impact, hosted by the Director of BDT, was an uplifting evening that highlighted the achievements made by ITU-D over more than 30 years and the continued commitment to putting people at the heart of digital transformation.

Participants heard from the ITU Secretary-General, the Director of BDT and H.E. Mr Samaddin Asadov, Deputy Minister of Digital Development and Transport of Azerbaijan. Their speeches focused on the achievements of ITU-D and on driving digital development that is inclusive, innovative and measurable. The Gold sponsors — H.E. Mr Takuo Imagawa, Vice-Minister for International Affairs, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, Japan, and Ms Elizabeth Migwalla, Vice President, Government Affairs, Qualcomm International Incorporated, also made remarks at the event. Participants enjoyed musical performances from each ITU region. They also heard inspiring testimonies from people whose lives had been transformed thanks to the work of BDT.

Furthermore, the exhibition area showcased stands from Premium Plus sponsors — China Academy of Information and Communications Technology, GSM Association, and Welchman Keen — and Premium sponsors — Centre for Development of Telematics, China Branch of BRICS Institute of Future Networks, and Rohde & Schwarz GmbH & Co. KG.

At the ITU booth, the work done by BDT was highlighted through impact stories and video clips. Meet-and-greets were also held with individuals who had benefitted from the work of BDT and its members and partners, giving delegates the opportunity to hear their stories in person.

Elected officials visited the ITU booth and the stands to learn more about the work of the ITU membership and their contributions to driving digital development globally. The exhibition area also featured a dedicated photo space where participants captured moments from WTDC, with more than 500 photos taken during the conference.

Part I – Baku Declaration

BAKU DECLARATION

Universal, meaningful and affordable connectivity for an inclusive and sustainable digital future

We, the representatives of ITU Member States, endorse the present Declaration at the ninth World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-25), which took place in Baku, Azerbaijan, from 17 to 28 November 2025 under the theme: Universal, meaningful and affordable connectivity for an inclusive and sustainable digital future.

We reaffirm our unwavering commitment to the global development community and to promoting our shared objective of driving environmentally sustainable and equitable digital transformation and inclusive growth globally, building on the outcomes of WTDC-25 and recent United Nations processes and conferences.

We recognize the progress achieved in advancing information and communication technologies (ICTs) and digital development across all regions; however, persistent challenges and disparities continue to hinder universal, meaningful and affordable connectivity, within and across countries, in particular in developing countries, including least developed countries (LDCs), landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) and small island developing states (SIDS). We therefore reaffirm our determination to address these through enhanced international cooperation and continued engagement in the work of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D).

Mindful of the challenges and opportunities of digital transformation, we declare that:

- 1) **We are cognizant that telecommunications/ICTs, including new and emerging technologies, are drivers of socio-economic prosperity and sustainable development across national, regional and global telecommunication/ICT ecosystems.** Universal and meaningful connectivity is a critical priority towards the achievement of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Networks, platforms, tools, data, and digital innovation create opportunities for improving livelihoods, enhancing governance and supporting entrepreneurship.

- 2) **We are deeply concerned that approximately one-third of the global population** remains offline and those affected are disproportionately concentrated in developing countries, including LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS, where there is an urgent, pressing need for investment in connectivity infrastructure. Connectivity gaps persist across rural, remote and underserved areas. Among those that are covered by broadband networks, there is a vast "usage gap" in telecommunication/ICT services which is determined by barriers such as limited affordability and access to Internet-enabled end-user devices, lack of digital skills and relevant local content, and by challenges in attaining multilingualism on the Internet and other challenges for a reliable, safe and secure online experience, which continues to affect the vast majority of those who remain offline. The advancement of new and emerging technologies in telecommunications/ICTs, if not accompanied by investment, capacity building, and knowledge-sharing initiatives, risks further deepening digital divides.
- 3) **We acknowledge that against the backdrop of global challenges, rapid technology developments present unprecedented opportunities for building economic and ecological resilience.** Ecological disasters and natural hazards have adverse impacts that are disproportionately felt by developing countries, and addressing these challenges involves advancing policies and technologies that promote resilience and resource-efficient digitalization. Acknowledging the principles reaffirmed by some Member States at the 29th session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP29) and in the ITU Green Digital Action initiative, we also encourage the broader deployment of telecommunication/ICT solutions to enhance climate action, emergency monitoring, disaster response and early warning systems, and to drive improvements in energy efficiency through digital innovation.
- 4) Guided by the principles embodied in the ITU Constitution, **we urge for multistakeholder actions driven by collaboration** among public and private sectors, academia, civil society and the technical community, both regionally and globally, to multiply the impact of development partnerships and assistance and to achieve our shared objectives.

- 5) **We reaffirm the importance of leaving no one behind in digital transformation,** which will require urgent efforts to expand equal opportunities for all, including youth, women, persons with disabilities, older persons, Indigenous Peoples and rural populations, through holistic, innovative and adaptive policies and targeted initiatives.

Laying the foundation for concerted collective action during the period 2026-2029, we affirm that:

- a) **We support the advancement of universal and meaningful connectivity, which includes accessible, affordable, multilingual, high-quality, resilient, ubiquitous, interoperable, safe and secure telecommunication/ICT infrastructure, devices, services and applications.** Building extensive telecommunication/ICT infrastructure, such as for high-speed backbones and last-mile connectivity solutions using a mix of technologies and operators, is crucial to bridging development gaps, leveraging optical fibre networks, international mobile telecommunication (IMT) systems, including local access technologies for rural and underserved areas, satellite and terrestrial communications and submarine, where appropriate. Robust infrastructure promotes economies of scale, new opportunities and long-term development. Moreover, we underscore the need for innovative investment models to support the sustainable deployment of telecommunications/ICTs and digital infrastructure. In the light of persistent financial challenges in underserved areas, we encourage the development of policy and regulatory approaches that promote innovation and enable public-public and public-private partnerships, government-wide collaboration, and long-term digital growth for all.

We underscore the importance of investment in and funding for environmentally and economically sustainable telecommunications/ICTs, taking into account energy requirements for advancing digital transformation and development. Moreover, we believe that a well-integrated, multichannel approach to emergency communications – including early warning systems – is essential to ensuring that universal connectivity enables effective and timely outreach to all people at risk of natural hazards and crises.

We acknowledge the critical role of space radiocommunications in advancing connectivity. We highlight our shared responsibility to ensure the rational, efficient, economic and equitable use of orbital and spectrum resources through continued international cooperation, inclusive dialogue and capacity building in collaboration with other United Nations agencies to promote the long-term sustainability of space services.

- b) **We call upon all policy-makers and stakeholders, according to their roles and responsibilities, to adopt human-centric and risk-informed approaches to digital transformation and new and emerging telecommunications/ICTs,** and implement policies to promote affordability of telecommunication/ICT services and devices to support the closing of digital divides, while empowering consumers in decision-making processes. Digital transformation requires a level-playing field and increased investment flows, as well as responsible and sustainable development of emerging, terrestrial, space radiocommunication and submarine, where appropriate. An adequate policy response to rapid technological transformation requires strengthened institutional capabilities, whole-of-government approach, agile and **collaborative** governance, the mainstreaming of evidence-based decision-making and adoption of new and emerging telecommunications/ICTs.

To strengthen both national policy and regulatory frameworks and implementation capabilities, **we recognize the need to foster human and institutional capacity-building initiatives across all ITU-D priorities. Key areas of focus remain** upskilling governments, regulators and key **national** and regional stakeholders.

- c) **We recognize the need to fast-track investment in science, technology, innovation and digital transformation, acknowledging that digital innovation ecosystems are essential to re-energizing economies, supporting structural transformation and addressing critical sustainability challenges.** A strategic approach to creating enabling policy and business environments is necessary to scale digital innovation, entrepreneurship and the digitalization of economies. Strengthening digital and innovation capacities across sectors and government, especially supporting national governments to leverage science and technology for sustainable development, can improve productivity, economic diversification and competition, promoting equitable participation of all countries in the global digital economy.

We pledge to support digital skills and digital literacy development initiatives for all, including youth, women, persons with disabilities, older persons, Indigenous Peoples and rural populations, **to ensure that all people can engage effectively and safely in the digital ecosystem**, reducing inequalities. Such initiatives may include development centres and training, specialized capacity-building programmes and voluntary and mutually agreed knowledge exchange initiatives that assist everyone to engage with digital technologies and support value creation. National and regional innovation centres can be further leveraged as institutional capacity-building mechanisms for research, training, co-creation on specific problems and the incubation of agile solutions by governments and ecosystem stakeholders, while fostering international collaboration.

- d) **We will create synergies, strengthen collaboration and uphold existing commitments while building inclusive global and regional partnerships among public and private sectors, international funding agencies and other stakeholders** to pool resources, knowledge and good practices across stakeholder groups and regions to assist developing countries, in particular LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS, in promoting access to new and emerging telecommunications/ICTs. **We will further leverage regional, international, South-South and triangular cooperation** as a means of accelerating the speed and scale of action across the United Nations development system and partners along with nationally designed and led initiatives towards the achievement of the SDGs.

Together with regional telecommunication organizations, regulatory associations and other partners, we will endeavour to promote policy and regulatory environments in key areas, driving digital transformation to enable collaboration to enhance regional connectivity, economies of scale and sustainable digital transformation.

- e) **We acknowledge the potential of accelerating digital transformation and advancing progress towards sustainable development through, *inter alia*, artificial intelligence (AI) in relation to telecommunications/ICTs. We will strive to address the special challenges facing developing countries**, in particular LDCs, LLDCs, SIDS and countries with special needs, through capacity building, tailored technical assistance, exchange of best practices, resource mobilization, impactful projects, match-making initiatives and relevant know-how, in order to leverage new and emerging ICTs, including AI in relation to telecommunications/ICTs.

We welcome the steadfast efforts of ITU-D and its contribution towards building an inclusive and sustainable digital future for all.

Accordingly, we declare our commitment to amplify the impact of the work of ITU-D to accelerate global digital development and call upon Member States, development partners and the private sector to scale up relevant programmes and initiatives while prioritizing the needs of developing countries, in particular LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS, for the full and rapid implementation of the Baku Declaration, the Baku Action Plan, WTDC resolutions and the regional initiatives.

Part II - Baku Action Plan

Baku Action Plan

1 Introduction

The Baku Action Plan describes the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) priorities, scope of activities, associated outcomes and outputs for the period 2026-2029 and includes indicators (outcomes and outputs).

The ITU-D action plan may be updated or modified by the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG) to reflect the strategic plan for the Union, changes in the telecommunication/information and communication technology (ICT) environment and/or as a result of the performance evaluation to be conducted each year.

The action plan is also the basis for the annual ITU-D rolling operational plan and serves as an implementation framework as it provides a description on how to achieve the ITU-D priorities and objectives, as identified by its membership at the world telecommunication development conference (WTDC). These priorities are based on ITU-D's core competencies and expertise and are closely linked to and aligned with the priorities and objectives identified by the larger development plans/initiatives of the United Nations, the strategic plan for the Union, World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Plan of Action and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In particular, they all share a common vision of achieving sustainable development by leveraging the opportunities of digital tools and ICTs.

The ITU-D outputs (products and services) and corresponding indicators are further elaborated in the ITU-D operational plan, taking into account the experience gained in implementing the Kigali Action Plan, as well as the needs of the least developed countries (LDCs), landlocked developing countries (LLDCs), small island developing states (SIDS) and countries with economies in transition.

1.1 Alignment with the ITU strategic framework

The model followed in this Action Plan seeks to move towards greater alignment with the overall results-based management (RBM) structure and framework envisioned in the strategic plan for the Union for 2024-2027. This RBM model applies an increased client-driven approach to the thematic priorities defined in the strategic plan for the Union to enhance ITU-D's efficiency in focusing products, support and results along these strategic pathways towards longer-term goals.

This RBM model will serve as the framework for future planning and evaluation, enforcing a common structure between strategic and operational plans. This will include increased integration of ITU and United Nations statistics and indicators to enhance the evidence-driven approach to country needs analysis and planning. It will allow the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) to be more agile in adapting the technical support and service offering to evolving trends and changing needs of members, paying particular attention to the needs of LDCs, LLDCs, SIDS and countries with economies in transition.

To further guide coherent programmatic focus in delivery of the mandate at all levels and through ITU's regional presence, the ITU-D framework is designed for full regional level synchronization of RBM, thematic priorities, operational planning, sequenced technical support offerings and portfolio performance assessments. This will also help regions to strategically match BDT technical support according to each of the regional initiatives and specific local trends, while also maintaining alignment with the global vision and mission defined in the strategic plan for the Union.

In addressing the priorities of this Action Plan, ITU-D should give due consideration to the values and aspirations described and agreed in the Baku Declaration.

In the implementation and evaluation of this Action Plan, the process of assessing the implications for women and men of planned action, including policies or programmes, will be consistent with Resolution 70 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, ITU Council Decision 631 (C23) and WTDC Resolution 55 (Rev. Baku, 2025).

2 Terminology

Results-based management

RBM is a management strategy by which all actors, contributing directly or indirectly to achieving a set of results, ensure that their processes, products and services contribute to the achievement of desired results (outputs, outcomes and higher-level goals or impact). The actors in turn use information and evidence on actual results to inform decision-making on the design, resourcing and delivery of programmes and activities, as well as for accountability and reporting.

ITU-D priorities

ITU-D priorities are listed in this Action Plan to facilitate delivery of the ITU-D mandate and to give guidance to BDT for the next planning cycle on what ITU-D aims to achieve, in line with the overall RBM approach and the strategic goals and thematic priorities of the Union.

Enablers

The strategic plan for the Union for 2024-2027 defines "enablers" as ways of working that allow the Union to deliver on its goals and priorities more effectively and efficiently. They reflect the Union's values of efficiency, transparency and accountability, openness, universality and neutrality, and being people-centred, service-oriented and results-based. To achieve this, ITU leverages its key strengths and addresses its weaknesses so that it can support its membership.

Results

Results are changes in state or condition that derive from a cause-and-effect relationship. There are three types of such changes, i.e. outcomes, outputs and impact, which can be set in motion by a development intervention. The changes can be intended or unintended and positive and/or negative.

Outcomes

Outcomes represent changes in institutional and behavioural capacities that support development conditions and occur between the completion of outputs and the achievement of goals.

Outcomes relate to changes in institutional performance or in the behaviour of individuals or groups, and their achievement depends critically on the commitment and actions of stakeholders, as well as on results to be delivered by governments.

Outputs

Outputs are changes in skills or abilities and capacities of individuals or institutions, or the availability of new products and services, which result from the completion of activities within a development intervention within the control of the organization. They are achieved with the resources provided and within the period specified in the ITU-D operational plan.

The ITU-D action plan indicates that "outputs" are the specialized "products and services" offered within the mandate of ITU-D as defined by Article 21 of the ITU Constitution, including, *inter alia*, capacity building and dissemination of ITU expertise and knowledge. The ITU-D outputs are further elaborated in the ITU-D operational plan.

Impact

Impact implies changes in people's lives. This might include changes in knowledge, skills, behaviour, health or living conditions for children, adults, families or communities. Such changes are positive or negative long-term effects on identifiable population groups produced by a development intervention, directly or indirectly, intended or unintended. These effects can be economic, socio-cultural, institutional, environmental or technological or of other types.

Indicators

Indicators associated with this Action Plan and the ITU-D operational plan enable Member States to monitor the progress and impact of the implementation of the above-mentioned plans, including ITU-D priorities.

In addition to global indicators, monitoring and evaluation of implementation of this Action Plan should include disaggregation where important and where it enables a fuller understanding of a critical issue. For example, disaggregation by LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS, and by region within those categories, can reveal disparities that might be hidden within a singular global indicator. Disaggregation should consider sex, age, geographic location and any other disaggregated information relevant to bridging the digital divide.

Outcome indicators monitor the changes and impact at the country level to which BDT contributes, i.e. the ones generated by the deployment of products and services developed by BDT.

Output indicators measure achievements related to the development of products or services (outputs) elaborated by BDT, and as such are established at the level of the operational plan by BDT and monitored internally.

The relationship between output and outcome indicators is further expanded upon in Annex to this Action Plan, to be further elaborated by TDAG.

ITU-D operational plan

The ITU-D operational plan is prepared on a yearly basis by BDT in consultation with TDAG, in accordance with the ITU-D action plan and the strategic and financial plans for the Union. It includes the detailed plan of activities for the subsequent year and a forecast for the following three-year period for ITU-D. The Council reviews and approves the four-year rolling ITU-D operational plan.

Regional initiatives and other projects

Regional initiatives are intended to address specific telecommunication/ICT priority areas, through partnerships and resource mobilization to implement projects. Under each regional initiative, projects are proposed, developed and implemented to meet the region's needs. The products and services to be developed through regional initiatives, in order to achieve related objectives and outcomes under the ITU-D contribution to the strategic plan for the Union, will be identified in relevant project documents.

In fulfilling the Union's dual responsibility as a United Nations specialized agency and as executing agency for implementing projects under the United Nations development system or other funding arrangements with a view to facilitating and enhancing telecommunication/ICT development, ITU-D offers, organizes and coordinates technical cooperation assistance through regional initiatives and projects.

Partnerships

BDT will continue to develop partnerships with a wide range of stakeholders, including other United Nations agencies and regional telecommunication organizations, to mobilize resources from funding agencies, international financial institutions, ITU Member States and ITU-D Sector Members and other relevant partners. In executing projects, available local and regional expertise should be taken into account.

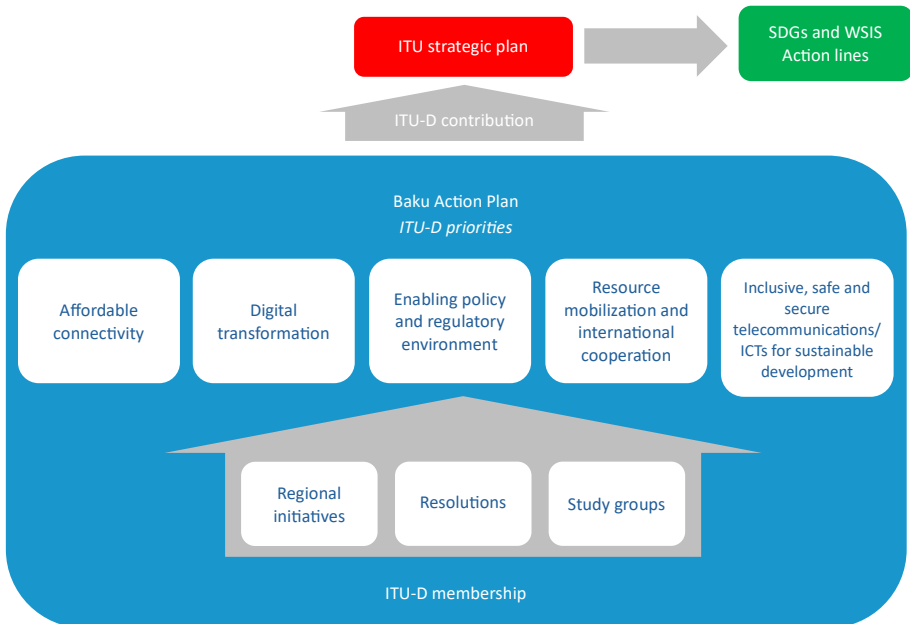
3 ITU-D priorities, outcomes, outputs and enablers

3.1 Structure of the Baku Action Plan

This Action Plan follows an RBM framework based on the ITU-D priorities identified as key work areas that will support achievement of the strategic plan for the Union for 2024-2027.

Figure 1 shows the structure of this Action Plan and ITU-D priorities contributing to the ITU strategic plan.

Figure 1: Structure of the Baku Action Plan and its contribution to the ITU strategic plan



3.2 ITU-D priorities

Affordable connectivity

This priority seeks to foster access to telecommunications/ICTs for all, including the Internet, digital communication services, space-based radiocommunication services, broadband, voice services and devices, at a cost that is reasonable and affordable for individuals or households, relative to their income, without causing financial hardship. Under this priority, BDT will continue providing assistance to Member States in the development of telecommunication/ICT infrastructure and services, expanding broadband access and coverage, and ensuring emergency telecommunications and disaster risk resilience. Particular focus shall be given to addressing barriers to rural connectivity in developing countries¹.

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

Outcomes and indicators

Outcomes	Indicators
Improved broadband connectivity in developing countries, including LDCs, SIDS, LLDCs, countries with economies in transition and countries with specific needs	Number of Member States with broadband plans
	Percentage of individuals using the Internet
Improved telecommunication/ICT infrastructure and services, in particular broadband coverage, quality of service and affordability of services and devices, and with regard to rural and underserved areas	Percentage reduction in broadband (fixed and mobile) costs relative to household income
	Percentage of individuals who own a mobile phone
	Percentage of individuals not using the Internet owing to high cost, as a share of national population
	Percentage of rural population in LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS covered by IMT-2000 (3G) networks or higher
	Percentage of Member States with available data where at least 90% of the population in rural areas is covered by IMT-Advanced (4G) networks or higher
	Percentage of Member States with entry-level mobile broadband data basket available at no more than 2% of GNI per capita
	Percentage of Member States with entry-level fixed broadband data basket available at no more than 2% of GNI per capita
Strengthened capacity of Member States to use telecommunications/ICTs for disaster risk reduction and management, to ensure availability of emergency telecommunications	Number of Member States with a national emergency telecommunications plan as part of their national disaster risk reduction strategies

Digital transformation

The focus of this priority is to foster the development and use of telecommunications/ICTs, as well as applications and services, to close the digital divide and empower people and societies for sustainable development.

The priority will identify new approaches that engage Member States and other stakeholders in digital transformation, including startups, small and medium enterprises, entrepreneurships, public-private partnerships and the public and private sectors, to support integration of ICT innovation and national development agendas while identifying needs and delivering initiatives at a national level to develop local telecommunication/ICT innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystems in developing countries.

Recognizing that telecommunications/ICTs come with risks, challenges and opportunities, ITU will continue to support the use of telecommunications/ICTs for monitoring, mitigating and adapting to climate change, facilitating digital solutions for energy efficiency and reduced carbon emissions and protecting human health and the environment from e-waste. The environmental lens addressing climate change and integrating environmental sustainability considerations is instrumental to promote sustainable digital transformation, also in line with the Strategy for Sustainability Management in the United Nations System 2020-2030.

Outcomes and indicators

Outcomes	Indicators
Enhanced capacity to accelerate digital transformation and sustainable development through the use of new and emerging telecommunications/ICTs and services	Number of Member States having adopted a digital sector strategy at the national level
Enhanced human and institutional capacity of the ITU membership in telecommunications/ICTs to foster digital transformation	Number of Member States with digital skills strategies at national level
Improved digital skills and capabilities for digital transformation	Percentage of individuals with basic digital skills
	Percentage of individuals not using the Internet due to not knowing how to use it, as a share of national population
	Percentage of men/women using Internet banking
	Percentage of men/women making calls using VoIP or messaging application
	Percentage of men/women getting information about goods or services on the Internet
Enhanced national capacity to develop and adopt local telecommunications/ICTs	Number of Member States having adopted innovation strategies and initiatives related to telecommunications/ICTs
Strengthened capacity to develop and integrate telecommunication/ICT innovation and digitalization in national development agendas	Number of Member States having adopted multisector policies at the national level on digital transformation/development

Outcomes	Indicators
Enhanced capacity to develop telecommunication/ICT strategies and solutions on environmental sustainability	Number of Member States having adopted an e-waste policy, legislation or regulation at national level
	Number of Member States that collect data on e-waste monitoring and generation
	Number of Member States having adopted telecommunication/ICT strategies and solutions on environmental sustainability

Enabling policy and regulatory environment

The focus of this priority is to foster an enabling policy and regulatory environment that responds to technological and market innovations and leverages broad collaboration and data-driven decision-making in order to encourage sustainable and viable investment in infrastructure and innovative economic models, promoting sustainable digital growth and increased adoption of telecommunications/ICTs, including support for spectrum management in line with WTDC Resolution 9 (Rev. Baku, 2025).

The resilience of this environment relies on agile, capable administrations and regulators, empowered in their autonomy to take evidence-based decisions that enable a variety of business models and to defend consumers' interest in the market and empower all consumers within it, taking into account their economic analysis of consumer choice in the telecommunication/ICT market. In addition, this work will support principles of transparency and accountability within policy and regulation that includes the perspectives of all stakeholders in their development and will explore models of collaborative regulation, where appropriate.

Outcomes and indicators

Outcomes	Indicators
Strengthened capacity of Member States to enhance their telecommunication/ICT policy, legal and regulatory frameworks conducive to sustainable development and digital transformation	Number of Member States advancing to the next generation of regulation (G1-G4) and/or to a higher level of preparedness for the digital transformation (G5)
Strengthened capacity of Member States to produce and collect high-quality, internationally comparable statistics which reflect developments and trends in telecommunications/ICTs, powered by new and emerging technologies and services, based on agreed standards and methodologies	Percentage of Member States that submitted valid data no older than two years for at least 80 per cent of the indicators of the ITU World Telecommunications Indicators short questionnaire
	Percentage of Member States submitting valid data no older than three years for at least 80 per cent of the indicators for the ITU's household questionnaire
	Percentage of Member States that submitted valid sex disaggregated data no older than three years for the indicator "share of individuals using the Internet"
	Percentage of Member States that submitted valid location disaggregated data (rural/urban) no older than three years for the indicator "share of individuals using the Internet"
	Percentage of Member States that submitted valid data no older than three years for at least five of the ICT skills listed in the questionnaire
Strengthened capacity of Member States to develop and update regulatory frameworks on space-based telecommunications/ICTs	Number of Member States that have established space-based telecommunications/ ICT regulatory frameworks

Resource mobilization and international cooperation

The focus of this priority is on mobilizing and attracting resources for developing countries in responding to their respective needs with localized solutions and fostering international cooperation on telecommunication/ICT development issues. In this process, the varying and specific needs of developing countries, as well as underserved areas, should be prioritized and given due attention.

Additionally, funding requirements do not always account for the specific economic realities and development priorities of these countries, limiting their ability to participate in/undertake critical digital development projects. Also, challenges such as limited access to technical expertise, insufficient local data for project assessments, and heavy reliance on external parties further complicate efforts to qualify for funding.

To address these gaps so that there is broad access and so that developing countries have equal opportunities to participate in/benefit from resource mobilization efforts, it is crucial to explore innovative partnerships, adopt practical and adaptable requirements, and ensure transparency regarding the factors considered by different funding mechanisms. Targeted capacity-building initiatives should also be pursued to strengthen the ability of these countries to identify, understand and meet funding requirements, effectively manage allocated resources, navigate funding processes, and independently maintain and scale up initiatives after initial implementation.

ITU also recognizes the importance of cultivating strategic partnerships with United Nations agencies and other organizations, including standardization bodies, to enhance cooperation for addressing challenges across the telecommunication/ICT sector towards the delivery of the WSIS action lines and achievement of the SDGs. These partnerships enable the sustainability of ITU's work and expands its potential impact by focusing on its mandate as the United Nations specialized agency for telecommunications/ICTs while respecting the work and competencies of other agencies. In addition, such partnerships assist in mobilizing resources and fostering cooperation for capacity building on space-based telecommunications/ICTs, underpinning sustainable space-based ICT services.

Outcomes and indicators

Outcomes	Indicators
Strengthened resource-mobilization through cooperation, including with international and regional financial and development institutions	Total project funds raised by BDT
	Ratio of internal/external sources for project funds
	Total number of contributing partners to ITU-D projects
Strengthened United Nations-wide joint planning, collaboration and cooperation at the international and regional levels	Number of ICT development agreements signed between ITU and partners to support implementation of the ITU-D action plan
	Number of impact evaluation reports produced by BDT
Increased support for LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS	Number of financially supported ITU-D projects in LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS
	Amount of project funding for LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS

Inclusive, safe and secure telecommunications/ICTs for sustainable development

The focus of this priority is on providing support for Member States to achieve secure telecommunications/ICTs for digital development, ensuring safe and meaningful telecommunications/ICTs access for all. Specifically, the priority tackles and addresses challenges related to building confidence and security in the use of ICTs, while fostering inclusion on its use, specifically in relation to women, youth, persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs, as well as providing tailored support to LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS.

Outcomes and indicators

Outcomes	Indicators
Increased literacy and awareness of cybersecurity issues	Number of Member States having adopted cybersecurity strategies in their national development agenda
Strengthened capacity to respond to cyber incidents and cyberattacks	Number of Member States with established and enhanced computer incident response teams (CIRTs)
	Percentage of Members States whose national CIRT (or equivalent) is a member or participant in relevant regional or global cooperation initiatives
Increased child online protection	Number of Member States with a child online protection policy/strategy
	Number of Member States with identified child online protection support systems (e.g. helplines, referral systems)
Strengthened capacity of the ITU membership to develop strategies, policies and practices for digital inclusion for all, in particular for women and girls and persons with disabilities	Number of Member States having developed a digital inclusion policy and strategy at national level
	Number of Member States that have implemented digital inclusion initiatives within the past two years

3.3 Outputs

As per the definition provided, outputs are mainly products and services developed by BDT, to be used to ensure the delivery of the ITU-D mandate at the national, regional and international levels.

Outputs are inherently cross-cutting, covering all priorities. Below is the proposed list of outputs:

- Model policies and strategies
- Toolkits
- Convening platforms
- Learning frameworks
- Statistics
- Technical interventions.

3.4 Enablers

Organizational excellence

Enhancing operational efficiency and effectiveness enables ITU to respond to changes in the telecommunication/ICT landscape and evolving membership needs, as well as enhanced understanding of local contexts and the ability to respond to countries' needs effectively. ITU, therefore, aims to improve internal processes including project management processes and implementation capabilities and accelerate decision-making by addressing operational inefficiencies and duplication, reflecting the values of transparency and accountability.

ITU also recognizes the need to build operational effectiveness, by increasing cross-functional synergies, encouraging internal innovation, providing consistent guidance on the organization's scope and developing a stronger performance and talent-management approach. To this end, the organization continues to implement a transformation plan for culture and skills based on four main tracks: strategic planning, innovation including information technology (IT) systems and support services and human resource management. Organizational excellence includes, *inter alia*:

- **Membership-driven**

ITU will continue to work as a membership-driven organization to effectively support and reflect the needs of its diverse members. ITU recognizes the needs of all countries, in particular developing countries, which should be prioritized and given due attention.

ITU will also work to deepen its engagement with representatives of the telecommunication/ICT and other industry sectors, to demonstrate ITU's value proposition in the context of the strategic goals to encourage increased engagement and new membership.

- **Regional presence**

As an extension of ITU as a whole, the regional presence plays a vital role in the achievement of ITU's mission, enhancing the Union's understanding of local contexts and its ability to respond to countries' needs effectively.

The regional presence will consolidate strategic planning at the level of each ITU regional or area office, implementing programmes and initiatives that are consistent with and based on the Union's strategic goals and thematic priorities.

The regional presence will strengthen ITU's position as a shaper/doer and enhance United Nations cooperation, to build enhanced regional opportunities and thereby reach more countries and define clearer, more impactful priorities for country-level engagements.

Efforts will also be made to strengthen capacity at the regional level to ensure the ability of the regional and area offices to implement the programmes and engagements determined based on the Union's strategic goals and thematic priorities. Regional implementation detailing an analysis of the progress, challenges and resource allocation shall be reported on an annual basis.

- **Project management**

In fulfilling ITU's dual responsibility as a United Nations specialized agency and executing agency for implementing telecommunication/ICT development projects under the United Nations development system or other funding arrangements, ITU-D offers, organizes and coordinates technical cooperation assistance through regional initiatives and projects. ITU-D also undertakes monitoring and reporting of these regional initiatives and projects.

Strengthened project management capacity and implementation will ensure alignment with broader strategic plans and development outcomes, while introducing improved methods, tools and practices to enhance the efficiency, effectiveness and accountability of project planning, execution, monitoring and completion.

- **Support services**

To ensure effective and efficient delivery of ITU-D's mandate and programmatic work, essential administrative and operational functions will be prioritized. These foundational services from BDT enable smooth operations, enabling programme teams to focus on delivering results. These services include among others:

- Communications (with members, promoting activities, etc.)
- Fellowships
- Event support
- Document processing
- Performance monitoring and reporting
- Human resources and budget support
- Overall coordination of ITU-D activities and coordination with the other ITU Sectors.

4 Regional initiatives

The text of the regional initiatives adopted by WTDC can be found [here](#).

5 Resolutions

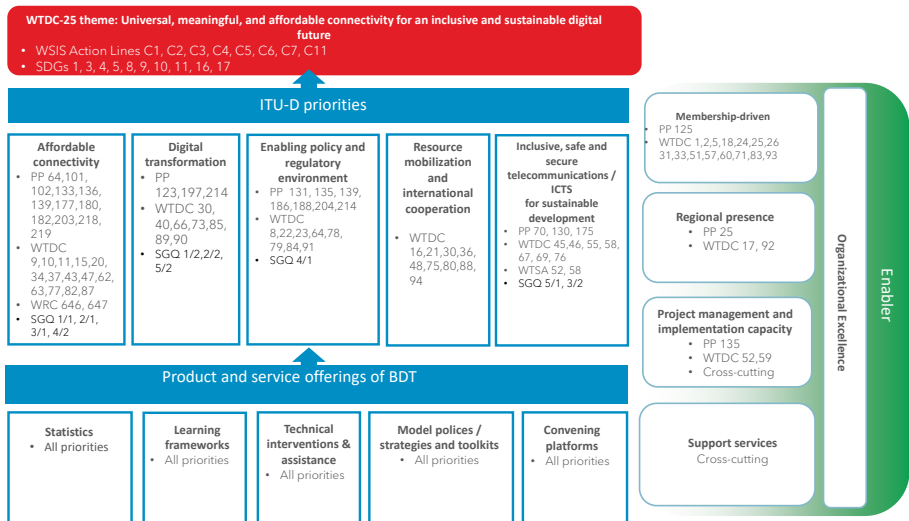
The text of the resolutions adopted by WTDC can be found [here](#).

6 ITU-D study Questions

The ITU-D study Questions and their terms of reference adopted by WTDC can be found [here](#).

7 Linkages and mapping

Figure 2: Linkages between ITU-D priorities, key offerings and enablers with ITU resolutions, WSIS action lines and SDGs



ANNEX

Template for performance evaluation

Outcomes	Outcome indicators	Outputs	Output indicators	Targets
<i>As agreed at WTDC-25.</i>		<i>To be developed by the Director of BDT and agreed at TDAG-26, with annual review.</i>		

An illustrative example:

Outcomes	Outputs/ Activities	Output/Activity indicators	Outcome indicators	Targets (outputs & outcomes)*
<i>What we want to see</i>	<i>What BDT will do to achieve it</i>	<i>How we will measure scale of BDT actions</i>	<i>How we will measure progress towards what we want to see</i>	<i>What goals we set for ourselves (Member States) (outcomes), what impact to achieve our goals we are seeking from BDT activities (outputs)</i>
<i>Improved broadband connectivity in developing countries, including LDCs, SIDS, LLDCs, countries with economies in transition and countries with specific needs</i>	<i>Workshops Reports Technical assistance</i>	<i>Attendance Readership Technical assistance missions</i>	<i>Number of countries with broadband plans Percentage of individuals using the Internet</i>	150+ countries with a broadband plan 70%+ of global population using the Internet 1 200+ attendees of broadband planning workshops 20 000+ downloads of related ITU-D publications 50+ countries supported

* Result chains on the connection between BDT activities made to achieve outcomes should be presented as a part of the report of the Director of BDT to TDAG.

ITU-D contribution to the strategic and financial plans for the Union for 2028–2031

ITU-D priorities

- **Affordable connectivity:** This priority seeks to foster access to telecommunications/ICTs for all, including the Internet, digital communication services, space-based radiocommunication services, broadband, voice services and devices, at a cost that is reasonable and affordable for individuals or households, relative to their income, without causing financial hardship. Under this priority, the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) will continue providing assistance to Member States in the development of telecommunication/ICT infrastructure and services, expanding broadband access and coverage, and ensuring emergency telecommunications and disaster risk resilience. Particular focus shall be given to addressing barriers to rural connectivity in developing countries².
- **Digital transformation:** The focus of this priority is to foster the development and use of telecommunications/ICTs, as well as applications and services, to close the digital divide and empower people and societies for sustainable development.

The priority will identify new approaches that engage Member States and other stakeholders in digital transformation, including startups, small and medium enterprises, entrepreneurship, public-private partnerships, and the public and private sectors, to support integration of ICT innovation and national development agendas while identifying needs and delivering initiatives at a national level to develop local telecommunication/ICT innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystems in developing countries.

² These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

Recognizing that telecommunications/ICTs come with risks, challenges and opportunities, ITU will continue to support the use of telecommunications/ICTs for monitoring, mitigating and adapting to climate change, facilitating digital solutions for energy efficiency and reduced carbon emissions and protecting human health and the environment from e-waste. The environmental lens addressing climate change and integrating environmental sustainability considerations is instrumental to promote sustainable digital transformation, also in line with the Strategy for Sustainability Management in the United Nations System 2020-2030.

- **Enabling policy and regulatory environments:** The focus of this priority is to foster an enabling policy and regulatory environment that responds to technological and market innovations and leverages broad collaboration and data-driven-decision making in order to encourage sustainable and viable investment in infrastructure and innovative economic models, promoting sustainable digital growth and increased adoption of telecommunications/ICTs, including support for spectrum management in line with Resolution 9 (Rev. Baku, 2025) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference.

The resilience of this environment relies on agile, capable administrations and regulators, empowered in their autonomy to take evidence-based decisions that enable a variety of business models and to defend consumers' interests in the market and empower all consumers within it, taking into account their economic analysis of consumer choice in the telecommunication/ICT market. In addition, this work will support principles of transparency and accountability within policy and regulation that includes the perspectives of all stakeholders in their development and will explore models of collaborative regulation, where appropriate.

- **Resource mobilization and international cooperation:** The focus of this priority is on mobilizing and attracting resources for developing countries in responding to their respective needs with localized solutions and fostering international cooperation on telecommunication/ICT development issues. In this process, the varying and specific needs of developing countries, as well as underserved areas, should be prioritized and given due attention.

Additionally, funding requirements do not always account for the specific economic realities and development priorities of these countries, limiting their ability to participate in/undertake critical digital development projects. Also, challenges such as limited access to technical expertise, insufficient local data for project assessments, and heavy reliance on external parties further complicate efforts to qualify for funding.

To address these gaps so that there is broad access and so that developing countries have equal opportunities to participate in/benefit from resource mobilization efforts, it is crucial to explore innovative partnerships, adopt practical and adaptable requirements, and ensure transparency regarding the factors considered by different funding mechanisms. Targeted capacity-building initiatives should also be pursued to strengthen the ability of these countries to identify, understand and meet funding requirements, effectively manage allocated resources, navigate funding processes, and independently maintain and scale up initiatives after initial implementation.

ITU also recognizes the importance of cultivating strategic partnerships with United Nations agencies and other organizations, including standardization bodies, to enhance cooperation for addressing challenges across the telecommunication/ICT sector towards the delivery of the WSIS action lines and achievement of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. These partnerships enable the sustainability of the ITU's work and expand its potential impact by focusing on its mandate as the United Nations specialized agency for telecommunications/ICTs while respecting the work and competencies of other agencies. In addition, such partnerships assist in mobilizing resources and fostering cooperation for capacity building on space-based telecommunications/ICTs, underpinning sustainable space-based ICT services.

- **Inclusive, safe and secure telecommunications/ICTs for sustainable development:** The focus of this priority is on providing support for Member States to achieve secure telecommunications/ICTs for digital development, ensuring safe and meaningful telecommunications/ICTs access for all. Specifically, the priority tackles and addresses challenges related to building confidence and security in the use of ICTs, while fostering inclusion on its use, specifically in relation to women, youth, persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs, as well as providing tailored support to least developed countries (LDCs), landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) and small island developing states (SIDS).

Priorities	Affordable connectivity	Digital transformation	Enabling policy and regulatory environment	Resource mobilization and international cooperation	Inclusive, safe and secure telecommunications/ICTs for sustainable development
Outcomes	- Improved broadband connectivity in developing countries, including LDCs, SIDS, LLDCs and countries with economies in transition, and countries with specific needs - Improved telecommunication/ICT infrastructure and services, in particular broadband coverage, quality of service and affordability of services and devices, and with regard to rural and underserved areas - Strengthened capacity of Member States to use telecommunications/ICTs for disaster risk reduction and management, to ensure availability of emergency telecommunications	- Enhanced capacity to accelerate digital transformation and sustainable development through the use of new and emerging telecommunications/ICTs and services - Enhanced human and institutional capacity of the ITU telecommunications/ICTs to foster digital transformation - Enhanced national capacity to develop and adopt local telecommunications/ICTs - Strengthened capacity to develop and integrate telecommunication/ICT innovation and digitalization in national development agendas - Enhanced capacity to develop telecommunication/ICT strategies and solutions on environmental sustainability - Improved digital skills and capabilities for digital transformation	- Strengthened capacity of Member States to enhance their telecommunication/ICT policy, legal and regulatory frameworks conducive to sustainable development and digital transformation - Strengthened capacity of Member States to produce and collect high-quality, internationally comparable statistics which reflect developments and trends in telecommunications/ICTs, powered by new and emerging technologies and services, based on agreed standards and methodologies - Strengthened capacity of Member States to develop and update regulatory frameworks on space-based telecommunications/ICTs	- Strengthened resource-mobilization through cooperation, including with international and regional financial and development institutions - Strengthened United Nations-wide joint planning, collaboration and cooperation at the international and regional levels - Increased support for LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS	- Increased literacy and awareness of cybersecurity issues - Strengthened capacity to respond to cyber incidents and cyberattacks - Increased child online protection - Strengthened capacity of the ITU membership to develop strategies, policies and practices for digital inclusion for all, in particular for women and girls and persons with disabilities

Part III – Regional initiatives

AFRICA REGIONAL INITIATIVES

AFR1: Resilient digital infrastructure and universal, meaningful and affordable connectivity for sustainable development

Objective: This initiative aims to support Member States in the region in reaping the full benefits of digital transformation. It also aims to enhance broadband infrastructure, particularly in rural and underserved areas, by strengthening policy frameworks, encouraging public-private partnerships and investing in resilient and sustainable connectivity solutions, including emergency telecommunications and multi-hazard early warning systems. It aspires to create an enabling digital ecosystem that empowers individuals and businesses. Furthermore, the initiative emphasizes gender inclusivity, youth empowerment and the responsible use of digital technologies to drive equitable and long-term development across the African continent.

Expected results

- 1) Support for Member States in developing innovative national digital transformation strategies that foster inclusive growth and sustainable digital development.
- 2) Support for Member States in developing action plans with digital key performance indicators, focusing on increasing Internet penetration, particularly in remote, underserved and rural areas.
- 3) Support for Member States in formulating strategies to drive greater affordability, including by reducing the price of Internet services, smartphones and computers, leading to more people participating in the digital world, reducing inequalities in access to information, online services and opportunities.
- 4) Support for Member States in enhancing the digital skills of its workforce effectively to contribute to the digital economy.
- 5) Support for Member States in developing more robust and harmonized regulatory frameworks that promote digital inclusion and investment.

- 6) Promotion of partnerships between governments, private sector players and civil society to drive long-term connectivity initiatives and ensure better conditions for providing services within the digital market competition.
- 7) Support in designing, facilitating and financing models and partnerships that would enable digital transformation of economies in Africa and innovative frameworks.
- 8) Support in adopting and implementing relevant standards that are targeted at addressing challenges of interoperability stemming from the disruptive and transformative spread of digital innovation.
- 9) Support in establishing centres of excellence and incubators to help nurture and develop innovative ideas and startups in Africa.
- 10) Support in facilitating collaboration between the telecommunication sector and other relevant sectors needed for digital transformation, such as transport and energy.
- 11) Support for Member States in establishing an efficient mechanism to utilize universal service funds effectively to expand broadband and mobile network access to rural, underserved, unserved and low-income communities, and to support digital literacy and affordability programmes that can help the least developed countries address significant digital divides, inadequate telecommunication infrastructure, high costs and socio-economic barriers.
- 12) Assistance in leveraging all available technologies, including satellites, for connectivity in view of the crucial role that they can perform in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly in remote and underserved regions.
- 13) Facilitation of access to submarine cables for landlocked countries, which is crucial for ensuring equitable digital connectivity and economic development through regional collaboration, policy coordination and public-private partnerships.
- 14) Ensuring of meaningful connectivity for people living in underserved and remote areas and people living in vulnerable conditions, including persons with disabilities, through the provision of inclusive policies, affordable technologies and community-driven solutions.

- 15) Support for Member States in the creation of a network of disaster management experts to strengthen knowledge-sharing and regional collaboration in disaster preparedness and response.
- 16) Support for Member States in the development of enhanced multihazard early warning systems to enable effective warnings and dissemination and communication of information for natural disasters, such as floods, earthquakes and storms, and promote data-driven decision-making for disaster risk reduction.
- 17) Sharing of best practices and guidance and conduct cross-border and cross-sectoral risk analysis at regional level, including resilient testing exercises.

AFR2: Developing an inclusive, trustworthy artificial intelligence ecosystem in Africa for socio-economic development

Objective: To harness the transformative power of artificial intelligence (AI) to address Africa's developmental challenges and accelerate the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the goals stipulated in the African Union Agenda 2063. To leverage the benefits of AI by adopting it in the various sectors of high economic value for Africa while providing safeguards for the ethical and responsible use of AI by all stakeholders.

Expected results

- 1) Support for Member States to develop national AI strategies aimed at contributing to SDG attainment.
- 2) Development of a mechanism to mitigate AI risks, such as developing national charters for an ethical and responsible use of AI technologies.
- 3) Development of a mechanism for supporting Member States to assess the potential risks associated with the adoption of AI in African economies.
- 4) Support for Member States to develop a comprehensive AI governance ecosystem, combined with expected results 1) and 3), taking into consideration differences in levels between countries.
- 5) Support for the development of data governance frameworks and the development of datasets that reflect the African context.
- 6) Support for Member States to conduct assessments on national data infrastructure requirements.
- 7) Development of a continent-wide programme to raise awareness among citizens on the potential of AI to positively impact their livelihoods and on the associated risks (combine with expected result 8)).
- 8) Setting of capacity-building and AI literacy programmes to raise the capacity of public servants regarding the positive impact of AI on their performance in public service delivery.

- 9) Support for the establishment of regional centres of excellence to conduct research on the adoption of AI in sectors of high economic value to Africa.
- 10) Establishment of a network of centres of excellence in Africa and promote a collaboration mechanism to encourage exchange of knowledge and expertise.
- 11) Support for the establishment of national incubators to assist the development and promotion of AI-oriented startups and small and medium enterprises.
- 12) Development of an AI-powered knowledge exchange platform to foster dialogue among regional Member States, facilitating the sharing of data, experiences and best practices. This platform may include online forums, knowledge repositories and collaborative projects to address common challenges.
- 13) Establishment of a regional mechanism to share best practices and expertise on the adoption of AI in the economy and to support Africa's engagement in international dialogues.

AFR3: Building trust, safety and security in the use of telecommunications/ information and communication technologies

Objective: To assist Member States in developing and implementing policies, strategies, standards and mechanisms, as well as human capacity building, to protect telecommunication/information and communication technology (ICT) infrastructure and networks from cyberthreats and attacks in order to protect data, people and privacy, including vulnerable groups such as children, and guarantee digital trust. To increase public awareness and educate people on safe online practices, cybersecurity and data protection. To enhance incident response and risk management mechanisms for cybersecurity incidents and data breaches to minimize damage and ensure continuity of services. To strengthen partnerships with global stakeholders to share best practices and collaborate on cross-border cybersecurity and data protection challenges.

Expected results

- 1) Support for Member States in developing and adopting a regulatory and legislative framework, at national and regional levels, addressing cybersecurity matters, data privacy, child online protection and the ethical use of emerging technologies, while aligning with global best practices.
- 2) Development of a global framework for collaboration and awareness-raising at regional and subregional levels with a view to nurturing a global culture of cybersecurity and helping citizens better understand and take necessary measures to protect against cyberrisks.
- 3) Assistance in developing content and training materials to educate citizens on their rights and responsibilities related to data protection while performing electronic and physical transactions, and also in conducting campaigns to raise awareness regarding cyberthreats, cybersecurity measures and quality of service in the use of ICTs.
- 4) Encouragement for the sharing of best practices and exchange of knowledge between Member States on mechanisms to combat cybercrimes and cyberthreats.

- 5) Support for Member States in the establishment, development and enhancement of national computer emergency/incident response teams (CERTs/CIRTs) by providing technical support and capacity-building programmes and making resources available to effectively detect, manage and mitigate cyberthreats, and also establishment of a mechanism for cooperation among such teams at regional and subregional levels.
- 6) Enhancing and strengthening of regional confidence and security in the use of ICTs through the adoption and harmonization of standards, with a special focus on standards supporting child online protection.
- 7) Support for Member States to strengthen cybersecurity resilience and governance.
- 8) Support for Member States to adopt a safe digital ecosystem by securing digital platforms that foster e-commerce, e-governance and financial inclusion and by protecting critical industries (e.g. banking, health care and education) from cyberthreats.
- 9) Setting of key standards and measures to protect children online, including legal and regulatory measures and technical protection standards on, *inter alia*, age verification systems, parental controls, and encryption and data security.
- 10) Assistance for Member States to enhance the protection of critical network infrastructures, such as utilities, including electricity and water supply, and telecommunications, which are frequent targets of cyberattacks and physical sabotage and are often affected by natural disasters, in order to strengthen national security, economic stability and public safety.
- 11) Support for Member States in establishing governance frameworks for personal data protection.

AFR4: Development of digital applications, micro, small and medium enterprises and digital innovation ecosystems

Objective: To foster an enabling digital innovation ecosystem that can navigate technological revolutions, and establish a sustainable, conducive environment for the utilization of emerging technologies and the development of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and startups.

Expected results

- 1) Assistance in undertaking a comprehensive assessment of the human and institutional capacity and regulatory environment related to digital innovation, emerging technologies and MSMEs at national and regional levels.
- 2) Support for Member States in developing the necessary legislative, regulatory and policy frameworks to encourage digital industries and innovation development and the establishment of MSMEs.
- 3) Design of a comprehensive human capacity-building framework to upskill and reskill the human factor on emerging technologies and digital innovation-related material.
- 4) Raising of awareness of the importance of the protection of intellectual property and the development of relevant regulatory frameworks.
- 5) Conducting of foresight studies to strengthen digital innovation ecosystems and help for countries in unlocking the potential of the digital economy, including by working with academic institutions, research centres and knowledge hubs.
- 6) Support for the development of ITU acceleration centres in countries and engagement of them in efforts to accelerate regional initiatives and achieve the initiatives' goals.
- 7) Facilitation of the creation of innovation hubs to drive research and development in cutting-edge cybersecurity and in the adoption of emerging technologies in various sectors of the economy.

- 8) Leveraging of regional initiative acceleration and Innovation Café frameworks developed by the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Alliance for Digital Development to support the achievement of regional initiatives.

AFR5: Sustainable funding mechanisms for Africa's digital transformation

Objective: To establish a sustainable financing mechanism to support the implementation of the African regional initiatives and to accelerate the digital transformation process in Africa through the mobilization of diverse funding sources and through attraction of long-term investment in digital infrastructure and emerging technologies.

Expected results

- 1) Development of a mechanism for collaboration with international development partners and financing banks to finance information and communication technology (ICT) for development projects on a subregional basis in Africa.
- 2) Establishment of a coordinated digital investment framework to serve as a structured mechanism to align funding strategies between governments, private sector investors, development banks and international organizations.
- 3) Facilitation of the establishment of a specialized fund to support cross-border digital projects and mutual investments, in collaboration with African regional organizations and investment banks.
- 4) Encouragement for governments to adopt innovative financing mechanisms to drive the growth of ICT infrastructure and services.
- 5) Implementation of a comprehensive monitoring, evaluation and assessment mechanism to track the progress of the implementation of regional digital initiatives.
- 6) Fostering of the expansion of local startups and technology hubs throughout Africa with enhanced access to funding and resources, with a view to creating innovative and scalable digital solutions to tackle critical challenges in areas such as health care, education, agriculture and finance.
- 7) Development of a specialized framework for delivering financial and technical support to the least developed countries (LDCs), promoting regional and international cooperation and encouraging partnerships among LDCs for the purpose of exchanging knowledge, expertise and innovative solutions for digital transformation.

AMERICAS REGIONAL INITIATIVES

AMS1: Facilitating resilient infrastructure to enable deployment of universal and meaningful connectivity

Objective: To facilitate delivery of reliable, affordable, universal and meaningful connectivity and digital services in the Americas region through deployment of modern, resilient, secure and sustainable telecommunication/information and communication technology (ICT) infrastructure.

Expected results

- 1) Assistance in the design, financing and implementation of national, regional and subregional plans for universal and resilient broadband infrastructure and networks for developing countries, including support for community networks and small operators, with a particular focus on vulnerable populations, indigenous communities, countries and regions impacted by natural disasters, and unserved or underserved areas (urban/rural/maritime), taking into account innovative connectivity solutions that can be deployed and managed locally, including access to spectrum and high-speed networks.
- 2) Assistance in the development, financing and implementation of sustainable digital technologies and the identification of critical telecommunication infrastructure and enabling facilities for disaster management, including national plans or strategies for emergency telecommunications, and effective and timely early warning systems, disaster support and recovery of telecommunications/ICTs in all developing countries in the region, with a special focus on the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing states.
- 3) Support for the development and effective use of sustainable telecommunications/ICTs that meet existing international greenhouse gas reduction and carbon footprint measurement targets, mitigate climate change and improve environmental sustainability.

- 4) Assistance in the design of effective spectrum management strategies and deployment of infrastructure to remote, rural, underserved and unserved areas using emerging technologies, among other technologies, with the aim of facilitating affordable and resilient access to telecommunication backbone infrastructure.
- 5) Assistance in mapping national and international broadband infrastructure and related facilities and services, and gathering demand information to identify network investment needs, coverage, quality, affordability and adoption gaps, in order to support policy-making, promote the development of Internet exchange points, interconnection and data centres and optimize the use of financing mechanisms.

AMS2: Digital inclusion and digital skills/competencies

Objective: To assist Member States in promoting inclusive, affordable and equitable adoption of effective, safe and secure digital services and solutions to drive sustainable social and economic development.

Expected results

- 1) Support for the development of human capacity through the identification and implementation of national, regional and subregional capacity-building programmes and platforms to enhance overall digital literacy and develop digital skills/competencies to close gaps in the use of information and communication technology (ICT) services, with a view to facilitating universal access to digital tools and devices with a focus on low-income, underserved and vulnerable communities, persons with specific needs, gender balance and youth, in order to contribute to the development of sustainable telecommunications/ICTs, foster digital transformation in sectors with limited economic capacity, small and medium enterprises, indigenous communities and rural activities and meet other inclusive objectives.
- 2) Assistance for Member States in conducting digital skills assessments and in integrating digital skills and emerging technologies into their educational curricula at all levels, in order to align curricula with the demands of the digital economy and enable upskilling in areas such as artificial intelligence (AI), cybersecurity, data analytics and e-commerce, in order to meet the challenges and take advantage of the opportunities of digital transformation.
- 3) Facilitation of the sharing of resources, best practices, technical experiences and knowledge at the national, subregional and regional levels, in collaboration with stakeholders and especially aimed at associations and organized communities, with a focus on community networks and small operators, in order to optimize the use of resources and enable greater participation in regional planning processes and access to concessionary financing and expertise for developing countries.
- 4) Promotion of the management of digital infrastructure to enable the production of digital public goods, including for indigenous communities.

AMS3: Support for innovative digital ecosystems and the adoption and use of emerging technologies

Objective: To promote digital capacity development, digital government systems, local e-services and innovation ecosystems necessary for sustainable and inclusive digital transformation, innovation and entrepreneurship.

Expected results

- 1) Facilitation of the foundation of digital public infrastructure and governance systems to support digital transformation and digital inclusion, including digital ID/e-identity/data exchange and digital payment systems.
- 2) Facilitation of initiatives to promote and support e-entrepreneurship and e-commerce and foster adoption of emerging technologies by micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in order to increase productivity in developing countries.
- 3) Increased training and international cooperation to facilitate and enhance innovation in telecommunications/information and communication technologies, in order to promote the ethical use, development and deployment of emerging technologies for the establishment of regional innovation hubs in support of sustainable digital transformation and smart cities, with a special focus on developing countries.
- 4) Support for the development of regional cloud infrastructure and open national data management systems to support business continuity, data sovereignty and access to open sector-specific data, in addition to open-source tools and resources to promote innovation.
- 5) Leveraging of active stakeholder participation, strategic alliances, ITU inter-Sectoral coordination and international cooperation in order to effectively drive innovation in the development of public policies, regulatory frameworks and digital transformation projects and processes, through initiatives that promote the adoption and creative use of emerging technologies for productivity, inclusion, social well-being (including telemedicine and e-education) and protection of human rights.

- 6) Assistance in promoting local innovation ecosystems and public-private partnerships for sustainable connectivity projects, and in promoting local educational and cultural content to improve Internet usability in rural and remote areas.

AMS4: Promoting cyber resilience and capacity building in cybersecurity and cyber resilience

Objective: To promote an enabling environment for safe and secure connectivity.

Expected results

- 1) Increased and strengthened trust, safety and security in the use of digital technologies, including capacity building and support for:
 - a) development of national cybersecurity strategies, legislative templates/ guidelines, and national and regional mechanisms, taking into account institutional frameworks and relevant harmonized international standards and conventions; and
 - b) provision of technical assistance, training and support for telecommunication/ICT users, including support for community networks and small operators, to implement national cybersecurity strategies, encouraging active, reliable and secure participation in the digital environment.
- 2) Strengthening of cyber resilience in all developing countries of the region.
- 3) Assistance to developing countries in the region, including support for community networks and small operators, in accessing and using available ITU resources on cybersecurity and cyber resilience, and also those of organizations cooperating with ITU.
- 4) Promotion of human-capacity development, particularly for the engagement and participation of women and youth in cybersecurity and cyber resilience and in related careers and courses.

AMS5: Governance and enabling regulatory frameworks for sustainable digital transformation

Objective: To assist Member States in developing evidence-based telecommunication/information and communication technology (ICT) policy, legal and regulatory frameworks and regional cooperation mechanisms to promote and support effective governance and inclusive digital development across various sectors of the economy.

Expected results

- 1) Support for the development of capacities, competencies, enabling policies and convergent regulatory frameworks for digital ecosystem governance that incentivize technological innovation; facilitation of the adoption and responsible use of emerging technologies; facilitation of a level playing field for traditional and new market players; fostering of a global, open, resilient, secure and inclusive cyberenvironment; facilitation of investment and innovation to promote new sectors in the digital economy; and contribute to expanding and improving connectivity in unserved or underserved areas (rural/urban/maritime), including, where applicable, by providing support to community networks and small operators.
- 2) Strengthening of capacity for the development of standardized data collection and analysis tools, processes, methodologies and data governance frameworks to inform ICT policy-making and development strategies in such a way as to ensure that data collection processes take into account the rights of indigenous communities and their cultural assets and traditional knowledge.
- 3) Strengthening of the participation of developing countries in the region in ITU processes with the aim of increasing capacity, expertise and access to finance.
- 4) Assistance in removing barriers to deployment and in creating specific regulations to facilitate infrastructure deployment in rural, remote and unserved areas, promoting a more accessible environment for community networks and small operators.

- 5) Support for the establishment of national e-waste legislation/policies/regulation and extended producer responsibility frameworks for e-waste, including appropriate mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation.

ARAB STATES REGIONAL INITIATIVES

ARB1: Universal meaningful connectivity for inclusive growth

Objective: To close the connectivity gap in the region by ensuring meaningful access to digital services, including e-education, e-health care and e-government, through the use of ITU/Telecommunication Development Bureau tools and platforms (e.g. Broadband Platform, Broadband Mapping Toolkit, the Last-mile Internet Connectivity Solutions Guide, the Giga initiative and the Partner2Connect Digital Coalition). To enable data-driven planning, mobilize partnerships and strengthen stakeholder coordination with a view to fostering inclusive, affordable and reliable connectivity that drives economic growth, social inclusion and sustainable development.

Impact: Improvement of universal and meaningful connectivity that will stimulate inclusive economic growth, promote investment, enhance access to essential services, such as education and health care, and create job opportunities.

Expected results

- 1) Provision of a cost-sharing framework, innovative financing models and technical assistance, such as through the provision of consultancy and capacity building to implement large-scale projects to extend broadband networks in remote and underserved areas.
- 2) Provision of a mechanism for leveraging public-private partnerships and collaborating with international organizations to ensure the efficient execution of broadband deployment projects.
- 3) Provision of technical assistance to prioritize the restoration of networks in regions affected by disasters and wars and ensure rapid recovery of critical communication services by designing projects, engaging relevant stakeholders for implementation and carrying out fundraising.
- 4) Assistance in developing and implementing harmonized policies and strategies to accelerate disaster recovery of telecommunication networks.

- 5) Leveraging of international initiatives, such as Partner2Connect, to mobilize financial and logistical resources for meaningful connectivity in remote and underserved areas.
- 6) Accelerated development of the Broadband Map for the Arab States region with a view to enabling faster identification of connectivity gaps, benchmarking progress and providing evidence-based insights for policy-making.
- 7) Conducting of capacity-building workshops aimed at enhancing local skills, especially the digital skills for planning, operating and maintaining infrastructure, with a view to ensuring self-reliance.
- 8) Development and delivery of guidelines for regulatory frameworks and provision of assistance to support the utilization of satellite technology to connect remote and disaster-prone areas, with a view to providing uninterrupted access to essential digital services by offering expertise and consultancy and designing pilot projects, as well as facilitating engagement with relevant stakeholders to strengthen coordination and accelerate the deployment of satellite telecommunication services.
- 9) Facilitation of the development of a coordinated strategy among Arab States for the deployment and utilization of terrestrial and submarine cable infrastructure.
- 10) Development and delivery of guidelines for regulatory frameworks to promote open access policies, encourage collaborative investments in new high-capacity systems and diversified landing points and foster the development of interconnected terrestrial networks to maximize the reach and impact of subsea and terrestrial capacity across the Arab States region.
- 11) Development and delivery of guidelines and support for the implementation of policies to foster competitive broadband markets across the Arab States region and establish effective universal service obligations, with a view to ultimately driving down service costs and expanding access to affordable broadband for all citizens in the region.
- 12) Support for the use of new and emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence (AI) applications, in order to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of broadband infrastructure planning, deployment and management.

ARB2: Advancing sustainable digital transformation for a resilient and inclusive digital economy

Objective: To empower Member States in the Arab States region to harness digital technologies for sustainable economic growth, enhanced social welfare and equitable access to opportunities, with a focus on promoting sustainable practices to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and to build a resilient, inclusive digital economy.

Impact

- Establishing a resilient and inclusive digital economy in the Arab States region.
- Enhancing the quality of overall public services by adopting advanced digital technologies.
- Supporting underserved communities and areas to contribute to achieving the SDGs through digital empowerment programmes.

Expected results

- 1) Support for Member States in the development and updating of their national digital transformation strategies (DTS) and policies, in line with regional and global standards, in order to improve digital accessibility and inclusivity as a priority, with a view to building capacity, fostering innovation, monitoring the implementation of digital access and creating new partnerships or strengthening existing ones.
- 2) Design and implementation of pilot DTS initiatives to generate evidence-based insights, best practices and scalable models.
- 3) Establishment of regional collaboration and knowledge-sharing platforms that promote inclusive, sustainable and context-specific digital transformation approaches.
- 4) Enhancement of skills and institutional capacities and support for the development of stakeholder collaboration frameworks within Member States to ensure effective planning, monitoring and implementation of digital transformation agendas.
- 5) Development of adaptive governance frameworks to quickly respond to technological advancements and support regional digital transformation.

- 6) Development of enabling regulatory and policy frameworks that support and facilitate the deployment of terrestrial and satellite networks and smart infrastructure.
- 7) Assistance for Member States in adopting green information and communication technology recycling and waste management standards and leveraging technologies such as the Internet of Things and artificial intelligence (AI) to optimize resource use, monitor environmental impact and enhance sustainability.
- 8) Facilitation of the adoption of enabling policies that foster digital inclusion and provide capacity building and skills development programmes for all segments of society, particularly youth, women and low-income communities, by utilizing the ITU Academy and its training centres, and also by mobilizing partnerships with private technology companies for subsidized certifications, internships and apprenticeship programmes targeting high-demand skills.
- 9) Support for Member States, in particular those that are still developing or that are less advanced, in assessing and enhancing the sustainability and digital readiness of their smart sustainable cities and communities, in line with ITU standards and best practices.
- 10) Promotion of affordable access to digital services and devices, particularly in underserved communities and areas.
- 11) Provision of support for developing robust digital public infrastructure across various sectors, such as health care, education and transportation, prioritizing innovations that enhance access to services in underserved regions.
- 12) Advocacy and guidance on implementing secure and interoperable digital solutions to improve urban planning and accessibility in the delivery of public services, with a view to ensuring efficiency and sustainability.

ARB3: Enhancing emergency telecommunication preparedness and response in the Arab States region

Objective: To strengthen emergency preparedness and disaster resilience in the Arab States region through the integration of resilient telecommunication systems, inclusive early warning mechanisms and regional coordination frameworks. This initiative leverages cutting-edge technologies, including artificial intelligence (AI), the Internet of Things (IoT) and mobile-based alerting, while addressing existing gaps in national capacities and regional cooperation.

Impact: Enhanced disaster resilience will protect lives and livelihoods, reduce vulnerabilities to natural and human-induced disasters, and improve the efficiency of emergency response. By integrating advanced telecommunications into early warning systems, communities will be better prepared to mitigate the impact of disasters.

Expected results

- 1) Development of a regional coordination centre equipped with satellite and terrestrial communications, acting as a central node for information exchange and disaster response.
- 2) Support for Arab Member States in setting up or upgrading national emergency telecommunication coordination centres, especially in fragile and conflict-affected areas.
- 3) Enhancement of national and local alerting through common alerting protocol-based systems and mobile alerts (e.g. SMS, cell broadcasting) for natural and human-induced disasters (floods, earthquakes, conflict).
- 4) Integration of the Early Warning for All initiative within regulatory authorities and other national stakeholders.
- 5) Support for the development or update of national emergency telecommunication plans (NETPs) in Arab Member States to ensure structured preparedness and coordinated crisis response.
- 6) Promotion of the deployment of telecommunication networks that can withstand disaster conditions.

- 7) Facilitation of the rapid deployment and rehabilitation of emergency communication systems post-crisis.
- 8) Creation of a regional network of experts and national rapid response teams that can be mobilized nationally during crises in order to support the execution of NETPs.
- 9) Promotion of peer exchange and dissemination of best practices.
- 10) Facilitation of regional cooperation and dialogue with satellite service providers, with the aim of enhancing access to satellite solutions for remote, underserved and disaster-prone areas, in line with the Union's mandate to promote universal connectivity and resilience of communications.
- 11) Conducting of regional and national training workshops and simulation-based tabletop exercises to assess preparedness and improve coordination.
- 12) Development of training manuals and scenario-based planning guides.
- 13) Provision of technical and legal assistance to Arab Member States in signing, ratifying and implementing the Tampere Convention on the Provision of Telecommunication Resources for Disaster Mitigation and Relief Operations.
- 14) Work with regional partners to establish and promote unified emergency numbers and communication protocols across Member States.
- 15) Development of a comprehensive regional policy document and action plan addressing cross-border risks, telecommunication resilience and crisis governance.
- 16) Inclusion of risk assessment frameworks, regulatory guidance and regional simulation exercises.
- 17) Strengthening of the resilience of critical infrastructure and services; in that regard the Regional Policy and Action Plan on Comprehensive Risk Management will prioritize the adoption of emerging technologies, including AI and IoT.

ARB4: Innovation ecosystems to support the adoption and growth of emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence

Objective: To establish a comprehensive strategy that fosters the development of artificial intelligence (AI) and digital innovation ecosystems across the Arab States region, capable of navigating technical revolutions, establishing a sustainable environment fostering the use of emerging technologies, supporting the growth of micro, small and medium enterprises and startups, driving economic growth and building resilience against technological advancements and contributing significantly to the socio-economic development of the region.

Impact

- Enhanced productivity and innovation: adoption of digital technologies, such as AI, the Internet of Things (IoT) and Blockchain, will enhance productivity and stimulate innovation.
- Strengthened capacity of the Arab States region to adopt and scale transformative digital technologies by creating a robust AI innovation ecosystem.
- Fostering of collaboration among governments, private sector entities and academia to drive innovation and economic growth.
- Accelerated adoption of emerging technologies to address regional challenges in critical sectors such as health, energy and transport.

Expected results

- 1) Investigation of AI-powered solutions to improve quality of life for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs, including persons with autism spectrum disorders and visual/hearing impairments.
- 2) Establishment of regional training programmes and innovation hubs to build expertise in AI, data science and ethics of AI among youth and professionals in the Arab States region.
- 3) Support for Arab Member States to develop and implement national digital innovation strategies and policies, and conduct sectoral innovation assessments to be able to accurately assess digital innovation gaps.

- 4) Development of innovation knowledge platforms to exchange experiences and best practices among Member States on relevant new technologies and innovation regulatory frameworks, policies and strategies to accelerate the adoption of emerging technologies, including AI.
- 5) Support for Arab Member States to establish and develop innovation incubators and technology centres to support startups and small businesses.
- 6) Enhancement of collaboration and cooperation between public and private sectors to accelerate the adoption of emerging technologies, including AI.
- 7) Support for the establishment of innovation platforms to formulate projects based on regional priorities.

ARB5: Cybersecurity resilience for a digital Arab future

Objective: To enhance cybersecurity resilience and governance in the Arab States region while promoting innovation, inclusivity and sustainable development through the use of telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICTs). This initiative aims to strengthen national security, foster societal transformation and support the transition toward a fully digitalized society.

Impact

- Strengthened national cybersecurity frameworks, improving security, privacy and governance.
- Fostering of economic growth by ensuring the safe use of emerging technologies and promoting the digital economy.
- Support for societal transformation by increasing awareness of cybersecurity threats and encouraging responsible online behaviour.

Expected results

- 1) Assistance to Arab Member States in developing comprehensive cybersecurity frameworks and national strategies addressing security and child online protection, outlining clear goals, responsibilities and enforcement mechanisms.
- 2) Alignment of national cybersecurity strategies with global best practices to enhance governance and resilience, strengthening cybersecurity of Arab Member States.
- 3) Conducting of workshops and campaigns to strengthen the understanding of cybersecurity threats, raise societal awareness of online safety and responsible digital behaviour and also conduct regional and/or global cyberdrills.
- 4) Facilitation of the establishment of innovation hubs dedicated to developing advanced cybersecurity solutions and technologies.
- 5) Promotion of collaboration between academia and industry to accelerate research, innovation and practical applications in cybersecurity.
- 6) Support for the development of a skilled cybersecurity workforce through training programmes, certifications and regional and/or global cyberdrills.

- 7) Provision of consultancy and expertise on the deployment of secure and reliable ICT infrastructure to meet the demands of emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI), the Internet of Things and Blockchain.
- 8) Support for initiatives to enhance connectivity in underserved and rural areas, ensuring that cybersecurity infrastructure is accessible and inclusive, promoting equitable digital growth.
- 9) Provision of technical assistance to enhance the capabilities of national computer incident response teams in managing and mitigating cyberincidents.
- 10) Fostering of international cooperation to ensure robust data protection and facilitate the exchange of best practices for cybersecurity governance.

ASIA-PACIFIC REGIONAL INITIATIVES

ASP1: Addressing special needs of least developed countries, small island developing states, including Pacific island countries, and landlocked developing countries

Objective: To provide special assistance to the least developed countries (LDCs), small island developing states (SIDS), including Pacific island countries, and landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) to assist delivering their telecommunication/information and communication technology (ICT) priorities.

Expected results

- 1) Development of policy and regulatory frameworks for broadband infrastructure, ICT applications and cybersecurity, taking into account the special needs of LDCs, SIDS, including Pacific island countries, and LLDCs.
- 2) Development of human capacity for addressing future telecommunication/ICT policy and regulatory challenges.
- 3) Promotion of affordable, resilient, universal and meaningful broadband access in LDCs, SIDS, including Pacific island countries, and LLDCs, in particular for remote communities.
- 4) Assistance to LDCs, SIDS, including Pacific island countries, and LLDCs in deploying telecommunication/ICT applications in disaster management relating to disaster prediction, preparedness, adaptation, monitoring, mitigation, response, rehabilitation and recovery of telecommunication/ICT networks based on their priority needs.
- 5) Assistance to LDCs, SIDS, including Pacific island countries, and LLDCs in their efforts to achieve internationally agreed goals, such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Istanbul Programme of Action for LDCs, the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS and the Vienna Programme of Action for LLDCs.

ASP2: Harnessing telecommunications/ICTs to support inclusive and sustainable digital transformation

Objective: To assist Member States to use information and communication technologies (ICTs) and emerging technologies for inclusive and sustainable digital transformation by building human and institutional capacity, bridging digital divides, improving and expanding digital skills, reducing the gender gap, and assisting population groups who may be in vulnerable situations¹.

Expected results

- 1) Development of policies, strategies and guidelines to support effective and sustainable digital transformation in the public and private sectors, including those that support transition to digital government and the use of emerging telecommunications/ICTs.
- 2) Establishment and annual updating of a repository of all work done within ITU relating to the digital transformation since the World Telecommunication Development Conference (Kigali, 2022).
- 3) Acceleration of digital infrastructure readiness through the timely deployment of appropriate infrastructure and platforms that underpin the delivery of telecommunication/ICT services to improve the delivery of value-added services in areas such as health, education, climate change and environment, agriculture, and financial services; diversified funding channels, including economic recovery funds and resources of development banks, can be utilized as part of this process.
- 4) Development of cross-sectoral national/regional programmes on digital literacy, digital and ICT skills, and digital inclusion to support the participation of all in digital transformation, develop skilled telecommunication/ICT workforces, and increase demand for telecommunication/ICT services. These programmes should also take into account population groups who may be in vulnerable situations.

¹ This refers to persons with specific needs such as children, women, indigenous people, local communities, refugees, older persons and persons with disabilities.

- 5) Development of human capacity to bridge the standardization gap, including collaboration with the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector and other standards-development organizations.
- 6) Enhancement of international cooperation related to new and emerging technologies pertaining to telecommunications/ICTs to ensure that all countries can benefit from digital transformation and contribute to the global value chain.

ASP3: Fostering development of infrastructure to enhance digital connectivity and connecting the unconnected

Objective: To assist Member States in developing telecommunication/information and communication technology (ICT) infrastructure to facilitate the provision of affordable and meaningful services and applications and to connect the unconnected.

Expected results

- 1) Migration/transition of analogue networks to appropriate digital networks, application of affordable wired and wireless technologies (including interoperability of ICT infrastructure) and optimized use of the digital dividend.
- 2) Maximized use of new and emerging technologies for the development of communication networks, such as 5G.
- 3) Development of capacity to review and revise, if necessary, the existing national broadband objectives, with a view to providing broadband access to unserved and underserved areas, in particular to remote communities; to promote affordable broadband access for all, especially for population groups who may be in vulnerable situations²; to develop and use universal service funds effectively; and to develop financially and operationally sustainable business models.
- 4) Promotion of Internet exchange points and community-centred connectivity initiatives as long-term solutions to advance connectivity and deployment of networks and applications based on Internet Protocol version 6 (IPv6), and facilitate the transition from IPv4 to IPv6.
- 5) Strengthened capacity to implement conformance and interoperability (C&I) procedures and facilitate the establishment of common regional/subregional C&I regimes (including the adoption and implementation of mutual recognition arrangements).

² This refers to persons with specific needs such as children, women, indigenous people, local communities, refugees, older persons and persons with disabilities.

- 6) Increased capability to address spectrum-management issues, including radio-frequency planning, spectrum redeployment, enhancement of spectrum-monitoring systems, and facilitation of the implementation of decisions of world radiocommunication conferences.
- 7) Enhancement of skills for the development and use of terrestrial and non-terrestrial network services.
- 8) Enhancement of regional telecommunication/ICT connectivity and strengthening of cooperation with international/regional organizations in programmes such as the Asia Pacific Information Superhighway.

ASP4: Enabling an innovative and sustainable telecommunication/information and communication technology sector

Objective: To assist Member States in developing appropriate policy and regulatory frameworks that foster innovation, investment and sustainability across the telecommunications/information and communication technology (ICT) sector, by way of enabling ICT-centric innovation and the growth of startups and micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), while also addressing the need for sustainability.

Expected results

- 1) Development of enabling policy and regulatory environments and sharing of best practices to encourage innovation, entrepreneurship and investment in the telecommunication/ICT sector.
- 2) Formulation and review of telecommunication/ICT strategies, national programmes, policies and regulatory frameworks that identify entry barriers and support the entry, growth and connectivity of startups and MSMEs, facilitate digital transformation, and enable the adoption of new and emerging telecommunications/ICTs.
- 3) Development of an enabling environment that supports startups and MSMEs for local design and manufacturing of telecommunication/ICT equipment and enhances awareness and capacity building in protection of intellectual property rights.
- 4) Promotion and sharing of practices to support ICT-centric innovation, including but not limited to innovation hubs, incubators, accelerators and mentoring programmes by, *inter alia*, leveraging ITU innovation and acceleration centres.
- 5) Development of strategic frameworks and enhancement of capacity to support research and development activities, including in relation to emerging telecommunications/ICTs and development of products.
- 6) Development of national digital innovation strategies and policies, and the promotion of multistakeholder and multisectoral partnerships to create an innovative, meaningful and sustainable telecommunication/ICT sector.

ASP5: Supporting a safe, secure and resilient telecommunication/information and communication technology environment

Objective: To assist Member States in developing and maintaining safe, secure, trusted and resilient telecommunication/information and communication technology (ICT) networks and services and in addressing challenges related to climate change and the management of disasters and emergencies.

Expected results

- 1) Compilation of national/regional cybersecurity strategies; establishment of national/regional cybersecurity capabilities such as computer incident response teams; and sharing of good practices to nurture a culture of cybersecurity.
- 2) Strengthened institutional cooperation and coordination among key actors and stakeholders at the national, regional and global levels (including through organizing cyberdrills); and enhanced capacity to address issues related to cybersecurity.
- 3) Development of cross-sectoral programmes on building cyber hygiene and cyberliteracy skills for individuals and businesses to promote confidence in the use of telecommunications/ICTs.
- 4) Development of national emergency telecommunication plans and telecommunication/ICT-based initiatives for disseminating early warnings, timely disaster response and other humanitarian assistances in disasters and emergencies.
- 5) Incorporation of disaster-resilient features into telecommunication networks and infrastructure; and development of telecommunication/ICT-based solutions (including the use of wireless and satellite-based technologies) to enhance network resilience.
- 6) Development of standards-based monitoring and early-warning systems linked to national and regional networks; and enhanced use of active and passive terrestrial/space-based sensing systems for disaster prediction, detection and mitigation.
- 7) Promotion of guidelines and best practices for safe telecommunications/ICTs to support and protect consumers, including on issues related to spam, online fraud, caller identification spoofing, counterfeit devices and mobile device theft.

- 8) Formulation of comprehensive strategies and measures to help mitigate and address the devastating effects of climate change.
- 9) Development of comprehensive e-waste management policies, regulations, national action plans and strategies to support a sustainable circular economy.
- 10) Strengthened capabilities to develop and implement environmentally sustainable telecommunication/ICT policies, regulations and strategies; and sharing of best practices and innovations in greenhouse gas reduction and energy efficiency across sectors, including but not limited to health, education, environment, agriculture, government and financial services.

CIS REGIONAL INITIATIVES

CIS1: Introduction of new and emerging telecommunication/information and communication technology systems and networks

Objective: The need to bridge the digital divide in terms of the technical accessibility of telecommunication/information and communication technology (ICT) services and the continuing emergence of new telecommunication/ICT systems and networks make it necessary for Member States, businesses and academic institutions in the Commonwealth of Independent States region to work jointly for their integration.

Expected results

- 1) Studies on the management of radio-frequency and orbital resources, including aspects of monitoring and control of their use, for the introduction of new and emerging telecommunication/ICT systems and networks.
- 2) Analysis of ways to develop and implement green ICTs, including improving energy efficiency.
- 3) Studies on the implementation of metaverse-related telecommunication/ICT systems and networks.

CIS2: Telecommunication/information and communication technology education and skills, including for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs

Objective: The need to bridge the digital skills divide in the use of telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICTs) and the need for participation of all segments of the population, including persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs, in the digital economy and digital transformation processes necessitate further focus on telecommunication/ICT education and skills in the Commonwealth of Independent States region.

Expected results

- 1) Studies on improving digital literacy and digital skills for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs for digital transformation.
- 2) Use of metaverse for distance learning, including for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs.
- 3) Creation of a network of training institutions implementing programmes for the development of human potential for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs, taking into account the need to develop the necessary methodological basis and introduce specialized technical means.
- 4) Creation of a regional educational platform for the exchange of experience and training of technical staff in the field of digital broadcasting and media production.
- 5) Enhancement of human resources in satellite communication and broadcasting technologies, including through regional training seminars.

CIS3: Security in the use of telecommunications/information and communication technologies, including countering fraud

Objective: The need to build confidence and security in addressing the bridging of the digital divide, and the continuing emergence of new cyberthreats and new forms of economic crime using information and communication technologies (ICTs) make it necessary to continue focusing on cybersecurity issues in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) region.

Expected results

- 1) Study on the use of telecommunications/ICTs to combat economic crime and ICT fraud.
- 2) Cooperation and technical assistance for the protection of critical information infrastructure.
- 3) Establishment of and support for computer incident response teams in the CIS region, including the Central Asia subregion.
- 4) Enhancement of training for technical staff in the field of security in the use of telecommunications/ICTs in the CIS region and the Central Asia subregion, including through dedicated training centres and cyber exercises.

CIS4: Enabling environment and telecommunication/information and communication technology regulation

Objective: The need to bridge the digital divide in terms of affordability and the continuing emergence of new telecommunication/information and communication technology (ICT) systems and networks necessitate the timely evolution of digital regulation and the formulation of digital development strategies, both in the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and at the level of the entire region.

Expected results

- 1) Study on ways to apply a pan-regional approach to digital transformation, which involves pooling the efforts and resources of the countries of the CIS region.
- 2) Shaping of regulatory frameworks for artificial intelligence (AI) technologies and systems and for metaverse.
- 3) Formation of a regional system for the development, functioning and interaction of information technology parks.
- 4) Establishment of regulatory frameworks for development and access of non-geostationary satellite orbit systems.

CIS5: Development and implementation of artificial intelligence technologies

Objective: The emergence of artificial intelligence (AI) technologies provides a wide range of opportunities for their use to solve the problems facing the communications sector in the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Expected results

- 1) Investigation of the use of AI to improve quality of life for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs, including persons with autism spectrum disorders.
- 2) Introduction of digital platforms based on AI and big data to measure the information society and sustainable development.
- 3) Application of AI and related technologies to monitor climate and environmental parameters.
- 4) Formation of a regional branch of the AI for Good platform for development purposes.

EUROPE REGIONAL INITIATIVES

EUR1: Digital infrastructure development

Objective: To facilitate the attainment of universal and meaningful connectivity through resilient and synergistic infrastructure development and an enabling environment, ensuring ubiquitous coverage.

Expected results

Assistance to countries in need in the following areas:

- 1) Development and updating of plans and feasibility studies for the deployment of ubiquitous resilient high-speed connectivity with all relevant components including legislation, standards, organizational set-up, capacity building and cooperation mechanisms, as needed.
- 2) Assessment of dynamics, challenges and opportunities in respect of the roll-out of resilient high-speed connectivity to inform best practice sharing on the various above-mentioned aspects through the organization of regional workshops, conferences or webinars.
- 3) Rehabilitation and rebuilding of telecommunication/information and communication technology (ICT) infrastructure in countries affected by natural hazards or human-induced crises, to ensure digital resilience for all.
- 4) Providing national or regional platforms for building capacities in the field of universal and meaningful connectivity, including an enabling environment and collaborative regulation between the telecommunication sector and other synergistic sectors such as energy, railway and transportation.
- 5) Mapping of ubiquitous infrastructure and services, fostering harmonization of approaches across the region and taking into account infrastructure-sharing approaches applied by countries, including the development of broadband mapping systems for broadband networks and related facilities and promoting innovative solutions for meaningful connectivity.
- 6) Initiatives on the wider deployment of broadband ICT services and contributing to environmental sustainability.

Implementation of this regional initiative will contribute to the following processes:

Process	Focus Area
World Summit on the Information Society Action Lines	C1, C2, C6, C11
Global Digital Compact	Objective 1. Close all digital divides and accelerate progress across the Sustainable Development Goals
Sustainable Development Goals	SDG 9

EUR2: Digital transformation for resilience

Objective: To facilitate the digitalization processes of services in different sectors (e.g. agriculture, health, government, education), including those of public administrations, in order to ensure greater resilience in responding to critical situations, including the challenges of pandemics, natural hazards or human-induced crises.

Expected results

Assistance to countries in need in the following areas:

- 1) Creating an experience- and knowledge-exchange platform between countries.
- 2) Developing technical and service infrastructure (data centres, networks, secure gateways, authentication, interoperability, standards and metadata) as well as capacity building within the national administrations and institutions.
- 3) Strengthening emergency preparedness in the case of natural hazards or human-induced crises, including through special initiatives, such as Support to Western Balkans on Emergency Warning Systems, aimed at roll-out of cell broadcast systems in countries concerned.
- 4) Building the capacities necessary for accelerating the digitalization process, through the development of national strategies and dedicated programmes, including the cross-sectoral actions in support of the digitalization of different sectors of economy.
- 5) Increasing public trust in, and successful development/uptake of, e-government services and processes.

Implementation of this regional initiative will contribute to the following processes:

Process	Focus Area
World Summit on the Information Society Action Lines	C1, C7, C11
Global Digital Compact	Objective 4. Advance responsible, equitable and interoperable data governance approaches Objective 5. Enhance international governance of artificial intelligence (AI) for the benefit of humanity
Sustainable Development Goals	SDG 2, SDG 3, SDG 4, SDG 9, SDG 11

EUR3: Digital inclusion and skills development

Objective: To facilitate equitable access to information and communication technologies (ICTs) and necessary digital skills for all groups of society, including persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs, as well as women and youth, in order to take advantage of telecommunications/ICTs.

Expected results

Assistance to countries in need in the following areas:

- 1) Leveraging digital accessibility for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs as a priority for the countries, and supporting them through the creation and updating of strategies and policies, taking into account regional or global standards, building capacity, fostering application of innovative approaches, monitoring the implementation of digital accessibility, and creating new partnerships or strengthening existing ones such as "Accessible Europe – ICT for All".
- 2) Improving gender equality in all groups in the telecommunication/ICT sector and beyond by providing opportunities for collaboration, skills enhancement, maximizing impact and supporting the setting up of new projects and the scaling up of successful ongoing projects.
- 3) Meaningful empowerment, engagement and participation of youth in the telecommunication/ICT sector and beyond, leading towards the creation of new career schemes and opportunities.
- 4) Assessment of national and regional approaches for digital-skills development, elaboration of national and regional strategies or action plans, development of necessary digital skills, knowledge and literacy programmes, and providing support for educators.
- 5) Building and/or strengthening partnerships with the private sector, regional and subregional organizations, United Nations system organizations, academia and other possible stakeholders for the benefit of digital inclusion in the Europe region and globally.

Implementation of this regional initiative will contribute to the following processes:

Process	Focus Area
World Summit on the Information Society Action Lines	C1, C3, C4, C11
Global Digital Compact	Objective 2. Expand inclusion in and benefits from the digital economy for all
Sustainable Development Goals	SDG 4, SDG 5, SDG 8, SDG 10

EUR4: Trust and confidence in the use of telecommunications/information and communication technologies

Objective: To support the deployment of resilient infrastructure and secure telecommunication/information and communication technologies (ICTs) allowing all citizens, especially children, to use telecommunications/ICTs in their daily lives with confidence.

Expected results

Assistance to countries in need in the following areas:

- 1) Providing platforms and tools for building human capacities to enhance trust and confidence in the use of telecommunications/ICTs, including establishing strengthened approaches to cybersecurity capacity building for European countries with a cross-sectoral cybersecurity-skills curriculum and guidelines promoting related skills.
- 2) Sharing best practices and case studies, conducting surveys on confidence and trust in the use of ICTs, including training, and creating other opportunities for sharing knowledge and experience.
- 3) Elaborating or reviewing national cybersecurity strategies that promote multistakeholder engagement and facilitate secure adoption of new and emerging telecommunication/ICT services and technologies.
- 4) Setting up or improving the capabilities of national computer security incident response teams (CSIRTs) and the corresponding networks to support these CSIRTs in cooperating with each other.
- 5) Conducting simulation or educational exercises such as cyberdrills or other events at the national and regional levels in cooperation with international and regional organizations.
- 6) Creating a safer online environment for children and young people through raising awareness and education about cybersecurity, implementation and promotion of the Guidelines on Child Online Protection and other educational resources, encouraging stakeholders to identify risks and vulnerabilities for children in cyberspace.

Implementation of this regional initiative will contribute to the following processes:

Process	Focus Area
World Summit on the Information Society Action Lines	C1, C5, C11
Global Digital Compact	Objective 3. Foster an inclusive, open, safe and secure digital space that respects, protects and promotes human rights
Sustainable Development Goals	SDG 9, SDG 16

EUR5: Digital innovation ecosystems

Objective: To foster environments that are conducive to innovation and entrepreneurship through systemic approaches based on digital telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICTs), aimed at closing the growing digital innovation divide in the region.

Expected results

Assistance to countries in need in the following areas:

- 1) National digital innovation strategies and policies, country profiles and reviews, and sectoral innovation assessments to provide an accurate assessment of digital innovation gaps.
- 2) Conducting of trend research readiness and foresight studies to support countries in navigating the changing environment.
- 3) Capacity-building and knowledge-sharing platforms such as regional innovation forums, open innovation competitions and ecosystem development training to empower stakeholders.
- 4) Ecosystem-building initiatives and projects developed in line with the Regional Initiative Accelerator Framework such as technology sandboxes and programmes supporting tech start-ups and entrepreneurship to create concrete impact.
- 5) Promoting multistakeholder and multisectoral partnerships between and within different ecosystems, for sustainability and scale-up.
- 6) Fostering inclusion by sharing, twinning best practices and connecting different ecosystems, with special attention to gender and youth.

Implementation of this regional initiative will contribute to the following processes:

Process	Focus Area
World Summit on the Information Society Action Lines	C1, C4, C5, C6, C7, C11
Global Digital Compact	Objective 2. Expand inclusion in and benefits from the digital economy for all
Sustainable Development Goals	SDG 9

Part IV – Resolutions and Recommendations

RESOLUTION 1 (Rev. Baku, 2025)

Rules of procedure of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Baku, 2025),

considering

- a)* that the functions, duties and organization of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) are described in Articles 21, 22, 23 and 24 of the ITU Constitution and Articles 16, 17, 17A and 20 of the ITU Convention;
- b)* the General Rules of conferences, assemblies and meetings of the Union adopted by the Plenipotentiary Conference;
- c)* that Resolution 165 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on deadlines for the submission of proposals and procedures for the registration of participants for conferences and assemblies of the Union, applies to the World Telecommunication Development Conference,

considering also

- a)* that ITU-D shall work, *inter alia*, through telecommunication development study groups, the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group and regional and world meetings organized within the framework of the ITU-D action plan;
- b)* that, in accordance with Resolution 77 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, ITU conferences and assemblies shall, in principle, be held in the last quarter of the year, and not in the same year;
- c)* that Resolution 154 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference establishes methods and approaches for the use of the six official languages of the Union on an equal footing;
- d)* Resolution 167 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on strengthening and developing ITU capabilities for fully virtual meetings and physical meetings with remote participation, and the electronic means to advance the work of the Union;

e) that Resolution 191 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference establishes methods and approaches for the coordination of efforts among the three Sectors of the Union;

f) that Resolution 208 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference establishes the appointment procedure and the maximum term of office for chairs and vice-chairs of Sector advisory groups, study groups and other groups;

g) that Article 43 (No. 194) of the Constitution states that "Member States reserve the right to convene regional conferences, to make regional arrangements and to form regional organizations, for the purpose of settling telecommunication questions which are susceptible of being treated on a regional basis..."; and the successful establishment and the sustainability of regional groups of study groups of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector,

resolves

that, for ITU-D, the provisions of the Constitution, the Convention, the General Rules of conferences, assemblies and meetings of the Union and the resolutions of the Plenipotentiary Conference should be supplemented by the provisions of this resolution and its annexes, bearing in mind that, in the case of inconsistency, the Constitution, the Convention and the General Rules of conferences, assemblies and meetings of the Union (in that order) shall prevail over this resolution.

SECTION 1 – World Telecommunication Development Conference

1.1 The World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC), in undertaking the duties assigned to it in Article 22 of the ITU Constitution, Article 16 of the ITU Convention and the General Rules of conferences, assemblies and meetings of the Union, shall:

- a) adopt and modify, if necessary, the working methods and procedures for the management of the activities of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D);
- b) consider the reports of ITU-D study groups on their activities;

- c) approve, modify or reject draft new or revised ITU-D Recommendations submitted by study groups for consideration by WTDC, with an indication of the reasons for the proposed action, and draft Recommendations submitted by Member States and Sector Members, or make arrangement for the consideration and approval of draft Recommendations by study groups;
- d) consider, in accordance with Nos. 215J and 215JA of the Convention, reports of the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG), including the report on the implementation of any specific functions assigned to TDAG by the previous WTDC;
- e) provide the directions and guidance for the work programme of ITU-D;
- f) establish work programmes and guidelines for defining ITU-D study Questions and priorities;
- g) adopt a WTDC declaration, an ITU-D action plan, including programmes and regional initiatives, and ITU-D's contribution to the draft strategic plan for the Union; adopt WTDC resolutions and decisions; and approve ITU-D study Questions and Recommendations;
- h) decide on the need to maintain, terminate or establish study groups and allocate to each of them ITU-D study Questions;
- i) approve the work programme¹, taking into account the priority, urgency and time-scale for completion of the studies, and determining the financial implications, taking into account the provisions of Article 34 of the Convention on the financial responsibilities of conferences, arising from an analysis of:
 - i) existing and new ITU-D study Questions;
 - ii) existing and new WTDC resolutions and decisions; and
 - iii) matters enumerated in No. 211 of the Convention to be carried over to the next study period as determined in TDAG and study group reports to WTDC, as appropriate;

¹ The programme is developed taking into account the proposals of the meeting of the heads of delegation (see §§ 1.12 and 1.13 below).

- j) in the light of the approved work programme, decide on the need to maintain, terminate or establish other groups, and establish their terms of reference; such groups shall not adopt ITU-D study Questions or Recommendations;
- k) appoint the chairs and vice-chairs of TDAG, study groups and other groups, as well as two experts to represent ITU-D in the joint ITU Coordination Committee for Terminology at the level of vice-chairs, based on the provisions of Resolutions 208 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) and 154 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, and taking into account the proposals of the meeting of heads of delegation (see §§ 1.12 and 1.13 below);
- l) consider and approve the report of the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) on the activities of the Sector since the last conference;
- m) consider proposals for the admission of entities and organizations as Associates in accordance with Articles 19, 20 and 33 of the Convention, and small and medium enterprises, in accordance with Resolution 209 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference;
- n) consider and approve any other documents within its scope, or make arrangements to transfer the question of the consideration and approval of these documents to the study groups, as set out elsewhere in this resolution or in other WTDC resolutions, as appropriate.

1.2 If necessary, WTDC may, in accordance with No. 213A of the Convention and WTDC Resolution 24 (Rev. Baku, 2025), assign specific matters within its competence to TDAG between two consecutive WTDCs, indicating the recommended action on those matters. WTDC shall assure itself that the specific functions it assigns to TDAG do not require financial expenses exceeding the ITU-D budget. TDAG may consult with the Director of BDT on these matters. TDAG shall prepare and send to the Director a report on the matters assigned to it, pursuant to No. 215JA of the Convention and WTDC Resolution 24 (Rev. Baku, 2025), for submission to the conference. Such authority shall terminate when the following WTDC meets, although WTDC may decide to extend it for a specified period.

1.3 WTDC shall establish a steering committee, presided over by the chair of the conference, and composed of the vice-chairs of the conference and the chairs and vice-chairs of the committees and any group(s) created by the conference.

1.4 Prior to and during the process of developing resolutions which define working methods and identify priority issues, the approach of WTDC should be as follows:

- a) If an existing resolution of the Plenipotentiary Conference identifies a priority issue, the need for a similar WTDC resolution should be questioned;
- b) WTDC resolutions should not repeat preambular texts from resolutions of the Plenipotentiary Conference;
- c) If only editorial updates are required to a WTDC resolution, the need to produce a revised version should be questioned;
- d) If the actions proposed in the resolution have been accomplished, the resolution should be viewed as fulfilled and the need for it should be questioned.

1.5 WTDC shall establish a budget control committee and an editorial committee, the tasks and responsibilities of which are set out in the General Rules of conferences, assemblies and meetings of the Union (General Rules, Nos. 69–74):

- a) The Budget Control Committee, *inter alia*, examines the estimated total expenses of the conference and estimates the financial needs of ITU-D up to the next WTDC and the costs to ITU-D and ITU as a whole entailed by the execution of the decisions of the conference;
- b) The Editorial Committee perfects the wording of texts arising from WTDC deliberations, such as resolutions, without altering their sense and substance, and aligns the texts in the official languages of the Union.

1.6 In addition to the steering, budget control and editorial committees, the two following committees shall be established:

- a) The Committee on Working Methods of ITU-D, which submits to the Plenary Meeting reports, on the basis of the proposals of ITU Member States, ITU-D Sector Members and Academia, considering TDAG and study group reports submitted to the conference. It shall:
 - i) examine proposals and contributions relating to cooperation among members;
 - ii) evaluate the working methods and functioning of the ITU-D study groups and TDAG;

- iii) assess and identify options for maximizing programme delivery and approve appropriate changes thereto with a view to strengthening the synergies between ITU-D study Questions, programmes and regional initiatives.
- b) The Committee on ITU-D Objectives, which submits reports to the Plenary Meeting, on the basis of the proposals of ITU Member States, ITU-D Sector Members and Academia, considering TDAG and study group reports submitted to the conference. It shall:
 - i) review and approve the outputs and outcomes for the objectives;
 - ii) review and agree on the related ITU-D study Questions and regional initiatives and establish appropriate guidelines for their implementation;
 - iii) review and agree on relevant resolutions; and
 - iv) ensure that the output is in accordance with a results-based management approach aiming to improve management effectiveness and accountability.

1.7 The Plenary Meeting of a WTDC may set up other committees or groups that meet to address specific matters, if required, in accordance with No. 63 of the General Rules of conferences, assemblies and meetings of the Union. The terms of reference should be contained in the establishing resolution, taking into account the appropriate distribution of workload between the committees.

1.8 All committees and groups referred to in §§ 1.3–1.7 above shall normally cease to exist with the closing of WTDC except, if required and subject to the approval of the conference and within the budgetary limits, the Editorial Committee. The Editorial Committee may therefore hold meetings after the closing of WTDC to complete its tasks as assigned by the conference.

1.9 The chairs of study groups, the chair of TDAG and the chairs of other groups set up by the preceding WTDC should make themselves available to WTDC and provide information on issues related to the groups they led.

1.10 The programme of work of WTDC shall be designed to provide adequate time for consideration of the important administrative and organizational aspects of ITU-D.

1.11 A WTDC may express its opinion relating to the duration or agenda of a future WTDC.

1.12 Prior to the inaugural meeting of WTDC, in accordance with No. 49 of the General Rules of conferences, assemblies and meetings of the Union, the heads of delegation shall meet to prepare the agenda for the first plenary meeting and make proposals for the organization of the conference, including proposals for chairships and vice-chairships of WTDC and its committees and groups.

1.13 During WTDC, the heads of delegation shall meet:

- a) to consider the proposals concerning the work programme and the constitution of study groups in particular;
- b) to draw up proposals concerning the designation of chairs and vice-chairs of study groups, TDAG and any other groups established by WTDC (see section 3).

1.14 In accordance with Resolution 191 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, WTDC identifies areas of common interest to the other Sectors of ITU where work is to be done and that require internal coordination within ITU.

1.15 Voting

Should there be a need for a vote at WTDC, the vote shall be conducted according to the relevant sections of the Constitution, Convention and General Rules of conferences, assemblies and meetings of the Union.

SECTION 2 – Documentation of ITU-D

2.1 General principles

In §§ 2.1.1 and 2.1.2 below, the term "texts" is used for the WTDC declaration, the ITU-D action plan, ITU-D objectives/programmes, WTDC resolutions and decisions, ITU-D study Questions and Recommendations, regional initiatives, ITU-D reports, handbooks and other ITU-D documents, as defined in §§ 2.2–2.10.

2.1.1 Presentation of texts

2.1.1.1 Texts should be as brief as possible and should relate directly to the objective, resolution, decision, Recommendation, report or ITU-D study Question/topic or part thereof.

2.1.1.2 Texts shall be presented showing their number, their title and an indication of the year of their initial approval, where appropriate, and the year of approval of revisions.

2.1.1.3 Annexes to any of these texts should be considered as having equivalent status.

2.1.2 Publication of texts

2.1.2.1 All texts shall be published in electronic form as soon as possible after approval and may also be made available in paper form according to the publication policy of ITU.

2.1.2.2 The approved WTDC declaration, ITU-D action plan, ITU-D objectives/programmes, WTDC resolutions and decisions, and ITU-D study Questions, Recommendations and output reports (if a report exceeds 50 pages, § 2.4.1 applies) shall be published by ITU in the six official languages of the Union as soon as practicable. Other texts should be published, as soon as possible, in English only or in the six official languages of the Union, depending on the decision of the relevant group.

2.2 WTDC declaration

2.2.1 Definition

Statement of the main outcomes and priorities established by WTDC. The declaration is usually named after the conference venue.

2.2.2 Approval

WTDC shall examine and approve a WTDC declaration based on proposals by Member States and ITU-D Sector Members, taking into account suggestions by TDAG, new trends in the development of telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICTs) and emerging issues, particularly in developing countries² and countries with specific needs.

² These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

2.3 ITU-D action plan

2.3.1 Definition

A comprehensive package that will promote the equitable and sustainable development of telecommunication/ICT networks and services. It consists of ITU-D study Questions and programmes and regional initiatives that intend to address the specific needs of the regions. The ITU-D action plan is usually named after the adopting conference venue.

2.3.2 Approval

WTDC shall examine and approve an ITU-D action plan based on proposals by Member States and ITU-D Sector Members, taking into account suggestions by TDAG and paying special attention to the needs of developing countries.

2.4 ITU-D objectives/programmes

2.4.1 Definition

Key elements of the ITU-D action plan, constituting components of the toolkit BDT uses when solicited by Member States and ITU-D Sector Members to support their efforts to build the information society for all. In the implementation of objectives/programmes, account should be taken of the resolutions, decisions, Recommendations and reports emanating from WTDC.

2.4.2 Approval

WTDC shall examine and approve new ITU-D objectives/programmes proposed by Member States and ITU-D Sector Members.

2.5 Regional initiatives

2.5.1 Definition

Regional initiatives are intended to identify the principal telecommunication/ICT areas of concern to a region, which will then be addressed through partnerships and resource mobilization to implement projects that are part of the ITU-D action plan.

2.5.2 Approval

WTDC shall examine and approve new regional initiatives proposed by Member States and ITU-D Sector Members.

2.6 WTDC resolutions/decisions

2.6.1 Definition

A WTDC text containing provisions on the organization, working methods and programmes of ITU-D and ITU-D study Questions and topics to be studied.

2.6.2 Approval

WTDC shall examine and may approve revised or new WTDC resolutions/decisions proposed by Member States and ITU-D Sector Members, taking into account suggestions by TDAG.

2.6.3 Deletion

WTDC may delete resolutions/decisions based on proposals from Member States and ITU-D Sector Members, taking into account suggestions by TDAG.

2.7 ITU-D study Questions

2.7.1 Definition

Description of an area of work to be studied, normally leading to the production of new or revised ITU-D Recommendations, guidelines, handbooks or reports.

2.7.2 Adoption and approval

The procedures for adopting and approving ITU-D study Questions are set out in section 5 hereunder.

2.7.3 Deletion

The procedure for deleting ITU-D study Questions is set out in section 6 hereunder.

2.8 ITU-D Recommendations

2.8.1 Definition

An answer to an ITU-D study Question, part of a study Question, or a resolution of WTDC or of the Plenipotentiary Conference, for the organization of the work of ITU-D, which, within the scope of existing knowledge and the research carried out by study groups and adopted in accordance with established procedures, may provide guidance on technical, organizational, tariff-related and operational matters, including working methods, may describe a preferred method or proposed solution for undertaking a specific task, or may recommend procedures for specific applications. These Recommendations should be sufficient to serve as a basis for international cooperation.

2.8.2 Adoption and approval

The procedures for adopting and approving ITU-D Recommendations are set out in section 7 hereunder.

2.8.3 Deletion

The procedure for deleting ITU-D Recommendations is set out in section 8 hereunder.

2.9 ITU-D reports

2.9.1 Definition

A technical, operational or procedural statement, prepared by study groups on a given subject related to a current ITU-D study Question, group of ITU-D study Questions organized in a joint rapporteur group, or resolution of WTDC or of the Plenipotentiary Conference.

2.9.2 Approval

Each study group may approve revised or new ITU-D reports, preferably by consensus.

2.9.3 Deletion

Each study group may delete an ITU-D report, within its area of responsibility, preferably by consensus.

2.10 ITU-D handbooks

2.10.1 Definition

A text which provides a statement of the current knowledge, the present position of studies or good operating or technical practice, in certain aspects of telecommunications/ ICTs, including best national practices, paying particular attention to the requirements of developing countries.

2.10.2 Approval

Each study group may approve revised or new ITU-D handbooks, preferably by consensus.

2.10.3 Deletion

Each study group may delete an ITU-D handbook, within its area of responsibility, preferably by consensus.

2.11 ITU-D guidelines

2.11.1 Definition

ITU-D guidelines present a range of options that reflect the written contributions, discussion, research, analysis, ideas and experience of study group participants. The goal is to produce a menu of choices to assist the ITU membership and others in delivering a robust communication sector capable of accelerating the achievement of national and international goals for social and economic development. The membership and others are encouraged to apply those guidelines that are agreeable and suitable for their individual circumstances. Best-practice guidelines are not mandatory, and while thorough consideration of the full range of guidelines is encouraged, inapplicable or otherwise unsuitable suggestions need not be employed.

2.11.2 Approval

Each study group may approve revised or new ITU-D guidelines, preferably by consensus.

2.11.3 Deletion

Each study group may delete ITU-D guidelines, within its area of responsibility, preferably by consensus.

SECTION 3 – Study groups and their relevant groups

3.1 Classification of study groups and their relevant groups

3.1.1 WTDC establishes study groups, each studying telecommunication/ICT matters of interest to developing countries in particular, including the issues referred to in No. 211 of the Convention. Study groups shall observe strictly Nos. 214, 215, 215A and 215B of the Convention.

3.1.2 Each study group shall maintain a work plan covering the present study period, taking due account of the corresponding schedules of TDAG and WTDC.

3.1.3 To facilitate their work, preferably at the first meeting after a WTDC, the study groups may set up rapporteur groups and joint rapporteur groups (JRG), or intersector rapporteur groups (IRG), or intersector correspondence groups (ICG) to deal with specific ITU-D study Questions or parts thereof, including with the participation of other ITU Sectors, and appoint rapporteurs and vice-rapporteurs (see § 3.3).

3.1.4 Regional groups may be established within the ITU-D study groups to study Questions or problems that, in view of their specific nature, should be considered at the level of one or more regions of the Union.

3.1.5 The establishment of regional groups should not result in unnecessary duplication of the work undertaken on a worldwide basis by the corresponding study groups, their relevant groups or any other group established in accordance with No. 209A of the Convention.

3.1.6 ITU-D study groups shall develop terms of reference and working methods for these regional groups.

3.1.7 ITU-D regional groups are encouraged to cooperate closely with the corresponding regional telecommunication organizations, regional groups of study groups of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) and ITU regional and area offices, and to report on their work in their regions.

3.1.8 In instances where complementary work on certain topics is being conducted by study groups in the ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R), ITU-T and ITU-D, it may be agreed between the two Sectors concerned or among the three Sectors to establish an ICG or an IRG in coordination among the study group chairs concerned. For details on these groups, see Resolution ITU-R 75 (Dubai, 2023) of the Radiocommunication Assembly, specifically Annexes 2, 3 and 4, and Recommendation ITU-T A.1, specifically section 4.3.

3.1.9 A JRG may be established for ITU-D study Questions requiring the participation of experts from more than one ITU-D study group. An IRG/ICG may be established for ITU-D study Questions requiring the participation of experts from study groups of other Sector(s). A JRG or IRG/ICG may be created when all study groups concerned agree to the creation of the group. Unless otherwise specified, the working methods of IRGs, ICGs and JRGs should be identical to those of rapporteur groups. At the time a JRG, IRG or ICG is established, its terms of reference, reporting lines and final decision-making authority should be clearly identified.

3.1.10 The procedures for establishing an ICG or IRG when organizing and conducting work in these groups are set out in WTDC Resolution 59 (Rev. Baku, 2025)³. In order to facilitate their task, TDAG may complement the working procedures of ICGs and IRGs with additional or revised procedures in line with those of the other Sectors.

³ Note by the secretariat: For details on the procedures of the other Sectors, see also the relevant resolutions from the Radiocommunication Assembly (RA) and the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA), with reference to RA Resolution ITU-R 75 and WTSA Resolution 18.

3.1.11 A rapporteur group, JRG, IRG or regional group shall submit draft deliverables as indicated in its relevant terms of reference to its lead study group.

3.2 Chairs and vice-chairs of ITU-D study groups

3.2.1 Appointment of chairs and vice-chairs by WTDC shall be in accordance with Resolution 208 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on appointment and maximum term of office for chairs and vice-chairs of Sector advisory groups, study groups and other groups. It is expected that the chairs and the vice-chairs, having assumed their duties, will receive from their Member State or Sector Member the support necessary for the performance of those duties throughout the period until the next WTDC. If they do not receive the necessary support and are unable to participate in two consecutive meetings, the Director of BDT should remind their nominating member to honour the commitment made when proposing their candidate for the position of chair or vice-chair of the study groups. When appointing candidates for the positions of chair and vice-chair of the study groups, nominating members should commit in writing to use all reasonable measures to provide the necessary support to their candidate during the period up to the next WTDC. The number of vice-chairs should be limited to two or three candidates from each of the six regional telecommunication organizations⁴.

3.2.2 Within the mandate set out by WTDC Resolution 2 (Rev. Baku, 2025), study group chairs shall be responsible for establishing an appropriate structure to distribute the work, after consulting with study group vice-chairs. The study group chairs shall perform the duties required of them within their study groups or within joint coordination activities.

⁴ Resolution 58 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference names six regional telecommunication organizations: the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT), the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT), the Inter-American Telecommunications Commission (CITEL), the African Telecommunications Union (ATU), the Council of Arab Ministers of Telecommunication and Information represented by the Secretariat-General of the League of Arab States (LAS) and the Regional Commonwealth in the field of Communications (RCC).

3.2.3 The mandate of the vice-chairs shall be to assist the chair in matters relating to the management of the study group, including substitution for the chair at official ITU meetings or replacement of the chair should he or she be unable to continue with study group duties. In order to better guarantee fulfilment of the workload involved in the management of meetings, at the beginning of the study period, each vice-chair should be assigned specific functions by the chair, after consultation with the study group vice-chairs, including to assist the chair and study groups as they produce the outputs called for by WTDC, including as indicated in § 3.3.7 below. Vice-chairs could be designated by chairs as coordinators on specific topics or as focal points for monitoring other programmes and sectors. Functions of the vice-chairs should be defined at the beginning of the study period.

3.2.4 In order to ensure equitable distribution of tasks and to achieve greater involvement by the vice-chairs in the management and work of the study groups, and in the work of TDAG, study group vice-chairs should be the preferred choice for other responsibilities, such as rapporteur or vice-rapporteur for a study Question or rapporteur or vice-rapporteur of a JRG or an IRG, but they shall not occupy more than two such posts at the same time in the study period.

3.2.5 Study group chairs should participate in WTDC and in TDAG to represent their respective study groups.

3.2.6 Study group chairs shall comply with the provisions of the Constitution, the Convention, the General Rules of conferences, assemblies and meetings of the Union and this resolution. BDT staff should provide support and advice in this regard.

3.2.7 Chairs and vice-chairs of study groups and other groups shall be impartial in the performance of their duties, and shall follow the TDAG guidelines on chairs and vice-chairs.

3.2.8 TDAG shall be made aware of the non-attendance of chairs and vice-chairs at study group meetings, and raise the issue through the Director of BDT with the ITU-D members concerned in an attempt to encourage and facilitate participation in these roles and ensure the fulfilment of commitments undertaken by members.

3.3 Rapporteurs and vice-rapporteurs for ITU-D study Questions

3.3.1 Rapporteurs and vice-rapporteurs are appointed by a study group in order to progress the study of an ITU-D study Question based on contributions received and to develop draft new and revised ITU-D reports and Recommendations. A rapporteur shall have responsibility for only one study Question. Rapporteurs and vice-rapporteurs may be representatives of Member States, ITU-D Sector Members, Associates or Academia⁵. Following the appointment of candidates to the roles of rapporteur and vice-rapporteur, nominating Member States, ITU-D Sector Members, Associates or Academia should commit in writing to use all reasonable measures to provide the necessary support to their representative for the period up to the next WTDC. If a representative does not receive adequate support and is unable to attend two consecutive meetings, the Director of BDT should remind the nominating member to fulfil its commitment.

3.3.2 Chairs of IRGs are appointed in accordance with WTDC Resolution 59 (Rev. Baku, 2025) and specific procedures that TDAG may put forward in accordance with § 3.1.11 above.

3.3.3 Due to the nature of the studies, rapporteur appointments should be based not only on expertise in the subject to be studied, but also on the ability to coordinate the work and actively participate in ITU-D activities. Elements of the expected work carried out by the rapporteurs are described in Annex 5 hereto.

3.3.4 If required, the study group may modify the terms of reference of the rapporteur determined in the corresponding study Question, including expected results and deliverables as specified in §§ 3.10.1–3.10.6 below.

⁵ Academia includes colleges, institutes, universities and associated research institutions interested in telecommunication/ICT development.

3.3.5 One rapporteur and one or more vice-rapporteurs are appointed, as appropriate, by a study group, preferably at its first meeting, for each study Question. Co-rapporteurs may also be appointed where, for example, this would balance the workload and facilitate optimum results. Vice-rapporteurs should be agreed based on their expertise and experience in relation to the study Question. Their duties and responsibilities should be clearly defined. The composition of rapporteurs and vice-rapporteurs should be stable during the study period. Nonetheless, if absolutely necessary, the study group may decide to change the composition of rapporteurs and vice-rapporteurs in the course of a study period.

3.3.6 A co-rapporteur or, in the absence of the co-rapporteur, one of the vice-rapporteurs representing a Member State, ITU-D Sector Member, Associate or Academia shall take over as chair when the rapporteur is not available.-

3.3.7 For all contributions that meet the deadline for translation as specified in § 4.1.3.2, rapporteurs, with assistance from all vice-rapporteurs, shall prepare, publish, and place on the meeting agenda a contribution that compiles all lessons learned and suggested best practices submitted to the meeting. To prepare this contribution, rapporteurs shall use information included in box 2 of the contribution template, as provided in Annex 2 referenced in § 4.5.4.

3.3.8 JRG rapporteurs and IRG chairs should participate in the work of the respective study groups to present the results of the activities of their respective groups.

3.3.9 TDAG shall be made aware of the non-attendance of rapporteurs, co-rapporteurs and vice-rapporteurs at study group meetings, and raise the issue through the Director of BDT with the ITU-D members concerned in an attempt to encourage and facilitate participation in these roles and ensure the fulfilment of commitments undertaken by members.

3.3.10 Rapporteurs, co-rapporteurs and vice-rapporteurs shall be impartial in the performance of their duties, and shall follow the TDAG guidelines on rapporteurs, co-rapporteurs and vice-rapporteurs.

3.4 Powers of the study groups

3.4.1 Each study group may develop draft new or revised ITU-D Recommendations based on contributions received during the study period for approval either by WTDC or in accordance with the procedure in section 7 below. Recommendations approved in accordance with either procedure shall have the same status.

3.4.2 Each study group may also adopt draft ITU-D study Questions in accordance with the procedure described in section 5.

3.4.3 In addition to the above, each study group shall be competent to approve ITU-D guidelines, reports and handbooks.

3.4.4 In cases where the implementation of the results obtained is through BDT activities, such as workshops, regional meetings or surveys, these activities should be reflected in the annual operational plan and conducted in coordination with the relevant ITU-D study Question.

3.4.5 In cases where the terms of reference of a rapporteur group are completed prior to the end of the study period, the study group should issue ITU-D guidelines, ITU-D reports, best practices and ITU-D Recommendations promptly for review by the membership.

3.4.6 Workshops, seminars or other events for exchanging information with invited experts from outside the ITU membership on key topics and issues may be held during or around study group meetings.

3.5 Meetings

3.5.1 The study groups and their relevant groups shall normally meet at ITU headquarters.

3.5.2 Study groups and their relevant groups may meet outside Geneva if invited by Member States, ITU-D Sector Members, or organizations other than administrations pursuant to Article 19 of the Convention (hereafter called other authorized entities and organizations) authorized in this respect by a Member State of the Union, having regard to facilitating the attendance of developing countries. Such invitations shall normally be considered only if they are submitted to WTDC, to TDAG or to an ITU-D study group meeting after consultation with the Director of BDT. If such invitations cannot be submitted to any of these meetings, the decision to accept the invitation rests with the Director in consultation with the chair of the study group concerned. They may be finally accepted after consultation with the Director if they are compatible with the resources allocated to ITU-D by the ITU Council and the objectives, responsibility and mandates of the study groups.

3.5.3 Regional and subregional meetings and events organized by BDT offer a valuable opportunity for information exchange and for the development of management and technical experience and expertise. Every opportunity should be taken to provide additional opportunities for experts (study group participants) from developing countries to gain experience by participating in regional and subregional meetings which deal with study group work. To this end, invitations to regional and subregional meetings organized on topics dealt with by study groups should be extended to participants of the rapporteur groups, IRGs or JRGs concerned.

3.5.4 The invitations referred to in § 3.5.2 above shall be issued and accepted, and the corresponding meetings outside Geneva organized, only if the conditions laid down in Resolution 5 (Kyoto, 1994) of the Plenipotentiary Conference and Council Decision 304 (C-1963, last amended C-1976) are met. Invitations to hold meetings of the study groups or their relevant groups away from Geneva shall be accompanied by a statement indicating the host's agreement to defray the additional expenses involved and that it will provide at least adequate premises and the necessary furniture and equipment free of charge, except that in the case of developing countries, equipment need not necessarily be provided free of charge by the host government, if the government so requests.

3.5.5 In exceptional situations, study groups and other relevant groups may benefit from virtual meetings/remote participation, having regard to the possibilities of developing countries and their ability to participate virtually/remotely (rather than at ITU headquarters or in a region). A request by a rapporteur for such a meeting should be submitted to and approved by the parent study group or TDAG. In the event that a virtual meeting is organized, it should be held at convenient working hours taking into account the time zones and availability of participants to ensure maximum participation from every region. As these meeting times may be too long and affect the concentration and availability of participants from different time zones, an alternative would be to increase the number of meeting days if the current virtual meeting times continue to be used. The purpose and expectation of the meeting should be well-defined in advance to maximize contributions.

3.5.6 The dates, place and agenda for meetings of relevant groups shall be agreed by the parent study group.

3.5.7 Should an invitation be cancelled for any reason, it shall be proposed that the meeting be convened in Geneva, in principle on the date originally planned.

3.5.8 Interpretation into an official language of the Union can be provided for meetings of study groups if requested at least 45 days prior to the start of the meeting. Interpretation for rapporteur group, JRG and IRG meetings can be provided in a similar manner if requested at least 45 days prior to the meeting and the necessary ITU-D financial resources are available.

3.5.9 Captioning should be provided for meetings of study groups, within the existing ITU-D financial resources.

3.6 Participation in meetings

3.6.1 Member States, ITU-D Sector Members, Associates, Academia and other authorized entities and organizations shall be represented in the study groups and subordinate groups in whose work they wish to take part, by participants registered by name and chosen by them as representatives to make an effective contribution to work under the ITU-D study Questions entrusted to those study groups. The chair of a meeting may, in accordance with No. 248A of the Convention, invite individual experts, as appropriate, to present their specific point of view at one or more meetings, without the experts taking part in the decision-making process or liaison activity of that meeting and without giving the expert the right to participate in any other meetings to which a specific invitation by the chair has not been extended. Experts may present reports and submissions for information at the request of the chairs of meetings; they may also participate in relevant discussions.

3.6.2 Informal roundtable discussions, seminars or illustrative workshops associated with one or more ITU-D study Questions featuring such experts and others are encouraged within the allocated resources in the financial plan and biennial budget, taking into account the provisions of WTDC Resolution 40 (Rev. Baku, 2025), on capacity building, to allow for coordinated effort between the activities under the study Question and other work carried out by BDT. Lessons learned and suggested best practices from these activities shall be recorded in a report prepared by the rapporteur group for its consideration and submitted as a contribution to the corresponding study group. Lessons learned and suggested best practices recorded from workshops shall also be added to the website for any relevant ITU-D study Question in accordance with § 4.4 below.

3.6.3 The Director shall keep up to date a list of the Member States, ITU-D Sector Members, Associates, Academia and other authorized entities and organizations participating in each study group.

3.6.4 To the extent possible and practicable, the secretariat shall provide, pursuant to Resolution 167 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, study groups and their relevant groups with facilities for remote participation as part of efforts to encourage and enable broader participation in the work of the study groups by all Member States, ITU-D Sector Members, Associates and Academia, especially for persons with specific needs and persons with disabilities.

3.6.5 The rapporteur of each ITU-D study Question shall coordinate and keep up to date a list of focal points from Member States, ITU-D Sector Members, Associates and Academia in order to facilitate the communication and exchange of information on specific matters in the context of study.

3.7 Frequency of meetings

3.7.1 The study groups shall in principle meet at least once a year during the interval between two WTDCs, preferably in the second half of the year so that rapporteur groups associated therewith may meet in the first half of the year to prepare the necessary reports and submit them to the parent study group. However, additional meetings may take place with the approval of the Director of BDT, having regard to the priorities laid down by the preceding WTDC and the resources of ITU-D.

3.7.2 Unless the meeting in question has been planned or scheduled in advance, the Director of BDT shall send and post on the ITU-D webpage an invitation circular at least three months before the meeting.

3.7.3 Rapporteur groups shall in principle meet twice a year, at least in the period between two WTDCs, one of the meetings being held in conjunction with the parent study group. However, additional meetings may be held with the approval of the parent study group and with the approval of the Director of BDT, having regard to the priorities laid down by the preceding WTDC and the resources of ITU-D.

3.7.4 To ensure the best possible use of the resources of ITU-D and of those participating in its work, the Director of BDT, in collaboration with the study group chairs, shall establish and publish a timetable of meetings no later than three months before the first meeting of the calendar year, including those held by study group management teams. The timetable shall take account of such factors as the capacity and facilities in the ITU conference services, document requirements for meetings and the need for close coordination with the activities of the other Sectors and other international or regional organizations.

3.7.5 In establishing the timetable of each meeting, to the extent possible, meeting sessions of rapporteur groups on ITU-D study Questions from the same study group shall not take place in parallel, in order to allow participants to attend the meetings on related study Questions. On the other hand, if within the allocated resources of the budget as approved by the Council and the financial plan as approved by the Plenipotentiary Conference, rapporteur group sessions on study Questions from different study groups, when deemed necessary by the management team, may be held in parallel, to allow sufficient time for each study Question to develop its work and to extend the time allocated for study Questions with a higher number of contributions.

3.7.6 When formulating a timetable for meetings in accordance with § 3.7.4, the Director of BDT, in cooperation with the study group chairs, should make every possible effort, as far as practicable, in order that the planned period for meetings not be scheduled during a period which is considered a major religious period by a Member State.

3.7.7 In the establishment of the work plan, the timetable of meetings shall take into account the time required for participating Member States, ITU-D Sector Members, Associates, Academia and other authorized entities and organizations to prepare contributions and documentation.

3.7.8 All study groups shall meet sufficiently in advance of WTDC in order to enable the approved ITU-D reports and draft ITU-D Recommendations to reach administrations of Member States and Sector Members no later than 35 calendar days before the opening of WTDC.

3.8 Establishment of work plans and preparation of meetings

3.8.1 After each WTDC, a work plan shall be proposed by each study group chair and rapporteurs, with the assistance of BDT. The work programmes shall take account of the ITU-D programme of activities and priorities and they should be connected to the WTDC resolutions, decisions, ITU-D Recommendations approved by WTDC and relevant resolutions and decisions of the Plenipotentiary Conference. The work programmes may organize the work of a specific ITU-D study Question around subtopics to be addressed sequentially during the study cycle, provided that such subtopics are within the terms of reference of the study Question. As an informational resource to support the development of the work plans, the Director of BDT shall, through the appropriate BDT staff, prepare information about all ITU projects and other ITU activities relevant to the particular study Question or issue, including those being implemented by the regional offices and in the other Sectors. This information should be provided in a contribution to the study group chairs and rapporteurs prior to the development of their work plans so as to allow them to take full advantage of new, existing and ongoing ITU activities that could contribute to the work under their study Questions.

3.8.2 The respective study group chairs, rapporteurs and chairs of IRGs and JRGs shall establish a work plan for their ITU-D study Question stating clearly the outputs planned to be developed and the time-frame by which they are expected to be delivered. The implementation of the work plan will, however, depend to a large extent on the contributions received from Member States, ITU-D Sector Members, Associates and Academia, other authorized entities and organizations and BDT, as well as on the opinions expressed by participants in the meetings. Outputs include those specified in §§ 3.4.1–3.4.6 above. At the beginning of the study period, the chairs of the study groups may, through a liaison statement, notify other Sectors of the Union on the work plan, in particular the table of contents of the study Questions, to request their opinions.

3.8.3 A circular with an agenda of the meeting, a draft work plan and a list of the ITU-D study Questions to be considered shall be prepared by BDT with the help of the chair of the study group concerned.

3.8.4 The circular shall include details about any study group management team meeting and shall reach the ITU-D members and other authorized entities and organizations participating in the work of the study group concerned at least three months before the opening of the meeting.

3.8.5 Details on registration, including a link to the online registration form, shall be included in the circular so that the representatives of the entities concerned can announce their intention to participate in the meeting. The form shall contain the names and addresses of intended participants and an indication of the languages required by participants. The form shall be submitted no less than 45 calendar days prior to the opening of the meeting, in order to secure interpretation and the translation of documents in the requested languages.

3.9 Study group management teams and joint management team

3.9.1 Each ITU-D study group has a management team composed of the chair and vice-chairs of the study group and the rapporteurs and vice-rapporteurs. The management team is encouraged to assist the chair in managing the study group, for example in the responsibilities for liaison activities, cooperation and collaboration with other organizations, forums, etc. outside ITU, and promotion of the related study group activities.

3.9.2 Study group management teams should maintain contact among themselves, with TDAG and with BDT by electronic means to the extent practicable. Appropriate liaison meetings should be arranged, as necessary, with study group chairs from the other Sectors.

3.9.3 The ITU-D study group management team should meet prior to the meeting of the study group, in order to properly organize the coming meeting, including the review and approval of a time management plan. To support these meetings and identify any efficiencies, the Director of BDT shall, through the appropriate BDT staff (e.g. directors of regional offices, focal points), provide information to study group rapporteurs on all relevant existing and planned ITU projects and initiatives, including those being implemented by the regional offices and in the other Sectors. The ITU-D study group management team may, as appropriate, meet remotely.

3.9.4 A joint management team shall be established, chaired by the Director of BDT, composed of the ITU-D study group management teams and the TDAG bureau. The joint management team should meet during the annual meeting of the study groups, as required.

3.9.5 The role of the joint management team of the ITU-D study groups is to:

- a) advise BDT management on the estimation of the budget requirements of the study groups;
- b) coordinate issues common to study groups;
- c) prepare joint proposals to TDAG or other relevant bodies in ITU-D as required;
- d) finalize the dates of subsequent study group meetings;
- e) deal with any other issue that may arise.

3.9.6 The study group management team should also suggest to the study group to consider other activities, such as those outlined in § 3.4.6, that may be better suited to meeting the needs of the ITU membership, especially developing countries.

3.10 Preparation of reports

3.10.1 Reports on the progress and results of study group activities can be of five major types:

- a) meeting reports;
- b) progress reports;
- c) interim deliverables;
- d) output reports;
- e) chair's report to WTDC.

3.10.2 Meeting reports

3.10.2.1 Prepared by the study group chair, assisted by BDT, study group meeting reports shall contain a summary of the outcome of the study group work, as appropriate. They shall also indicate items which require further study at the next meeting, existing difficulties in work and the state of readiness of the output documents or a recommendation for conclusion or completion of the work of an ITU-D study Question or consolidation with another study Question. The reports should also include reference to contributions and/or meeting documents, the main results (including ITU-D Recommendations and guidelines), directives for future work (including referral of output reports to BDT for incorporation into relevant BDT programme activities as appropriate), planned meetings of rapporteur groups and JRGs, and liaison statements endorsed at the study group level.

3.10.2.2 The rapporteur, assisted by vice-rapporteurs, shall prepare meeting reports for their meetings. These reports shall contain a summary of the outcomes of the work. They shall also clarify items requiring further study at a subsequent meeting. They should indicate the contributions to the meeting and/or documents, key outcomes, directives for future action and meetings planned on the ITU-D study Question concerned, and liaison statements endorsed at the study group level.

3.10.2.3 The report of a study group's first meeting in the study period shall include a list of the appointed rapporteurs, co-rapporteurs and vice-rapporteurs of rapporteur groups, and of any other groups that may have been created. This list shall be updated, as required, in subsequent reports.

3.10.3 Progress reports

3.10.3.1 Progress reports provide information on the current state of study in various thematic areas and are published on the ITU-D website to provide the ITU membership with timely information on progress made and planned activities and to stimulate further contributions on these topics.

3.10.3.2 The following list of items and results achieved so far is suggested for inclusion in progress reports:

- a) brief summary of the status and draft outline of the output report and all other output documents as specified in §§ 3.4.1–3.4.6 above;
- b) conclusions or titles of ITU-D reports or Recommendations to be endorsed;
- c) status of work with reference to the work plan, indicating the difficulties with its implementation, if any, and including the baseline document, if available;
- d) draft new or revised ITU-D reports, guidelines or Recommendations, or reference to source documents containing the Recommendations;
- e) draft liaison statements in response to or requesting action by other study groups or organizations;
- f) reference to normal or delayed contributions considered part of the assigned study and a summary of contributions considered;
- g) reference to submissions received in response to liaison statements from other organizations;
- h) major issues remaining for resolution and draft agenda of future approved meetings, if any;
- i) reference to the list of attendees at meetings held since the last progress report;
- j) reference to the list of normal contributions or temporary documents containing the reports of all rapporteur group meetings since the last progress report.

3.10.3.3 The progress report may make reference to meeting reports in order to avoid duplication of information, including meetings on ITU-D study Questions and, where information is available, thematic events under the auspices of BDT, including regional and subregional ones.

3.10.3.4 Progress reports by rapporteur groups, including JRGs, shall be submitted to the study group for approval and for further action, if any. Progress reports on the work of the IRGs shall be submitted for consideration and approval to the study groups of the Sectors that established the IRGs.

3.10.4 Interim deliverables

3.10.4.1 Interim deliverables are produced to provide the beginnings of solutions to specific issues that arise during the study period or that are defined in the mandate of the ITU-D study Question. Such deliverables provide the opportunity to share information from study group contributions at a shorter interval than a four-year output report.

3.10.4.2 The scope and objectives of the interim deliverables (e.g. reports of studies, thematic reports, reports from workshops or training) should be well defined on the basis of member contributions received and its relevance to the ITU-D study Question, with a view to meeting the needs of the membership. A compilation of published interim deliverables may constitute an output report.

3.10.4.3 Thematic reports are deliverables reflecting a specific topic of interest of the membership, prepared by a study Question rapporteur group or JRG. The topics of thematic reports shall directly correspond to the expected output of the ITU-D study Question concerned in accordance with the ITU-D action plan adopted by WTDC.

3.10.4.4 Interim deliverables shall be submitted during the study period to the study group for review and approval.

3.10.5 Output reports

3.10.5.1 Output reports contain deliverables reflecting the final principal results of study. The items to be covered are indicated in the expected output of the ITU-D study Question concerned in accordance with the ITU-D action plan adopted by WTDC. The total volume of all new output reports of a study Question shall normally be limited to a maximum of 70 pages, excluding annexes and appendices, with relevant electronic references as needed, provided that each individual new report does not exceed 50 pages. When an individual output report exceeds the 50-page limit, and after consultation with the study group chair concerned, annexes and appendices may be included without translation when they are considered of particular relevance and provided that the body of the output report is within the 50-page limit. If there is a large amount of significant material on one of the topics defined by the terms of reference of the study Question, they could be set out in a separate additional document, for example ITU-D guidelines. All output reports shall be translated up to the number of pages agreed upon in the terms of reference for a study Question, to the extent possible and within the available budget.

3.10.5.2 If thematic areas or topics from the ITU-D study Questions are to be continued in the next study period, the previously approved ITU-D report should serve as a reference for a subsequent report⁶. Any subsequent report can take into account relevant findings from past reports. Subsequent reports shall be approved by the study group.

3.10.5.3 Revised output reports may exceed 50 pages in length but by no more than 20 additional pages generated in the course of each revision, within existing ITU-D financial resources.

3.10.5.4 To help maximize the use of study group final reports, study groups may place final reports and associated annexes, as well as additional output documents such as ITU-D guidelines, in an online library accessible from the ITU-D homepage as well as the study group document registry, until the study group decides that they have become outdated. Study group outputs should be incorporated into BDT programme and regional office activities and form part of the implementation of ITU-D strategic objectives.

3.10.5.5 To help ascertain the extent to which the ITU-D membership, and in particular developing countries, benefit from the outputs of studies, it would be useful for study group chairs, with the help of the ITU-D study Question rapporteurs, to prepare a joint survey to be sent to the membership at least six months before the end of the study period. The results of the joint survey shall be analysed and submitted to the meetings of the study groups and TDAG before being transmitted to the next WTDC. They should serve to prepare for the next study period.

3.10.5.6 To assess the extent to which an issue generates interest among the ITU-D membership, in particular developing countries, statistics should be provided on the contributions presented by each rapporteur group or study group meeting, broken down by country or by region.

⁶ A subsequent report can be either a new or revised report.

3.10.6 Chair's report to WTDC

3.10.6.1 The chair's report for each study group to WTDC shall be the responsibility of the chair of the study group concerned, with the assistance of BDT, and shall include:

- a) a summary of the results achieved by the study group during the study period in question, describing the work of the study group, the number of contributions on the ITU-D study Questions, and the outcome achieved, including discussion of the ITU-D strategic objectives that are linked to the current and possible future activities of the study group;
- b) reference to any new or revised ITU-D Recommendations approved by correspondence by Member States during the study period;
- c) reference to any ITU-D Recommendations deleted during the study period;
- d) reference to the text of any ITU-D Recommendations submitted to WTDC for approval;
- e) a list of any new or revised ITU-D study Questions proposed for study during the next study period, including proposals from study groups for future study topics;
- f) a list of any ITU-D study Questions proposed for deletion, if any;
- g) summary of collaboration between the programmes and regional offices in undertaking the activities of the study group.

3.10.6.2 The preparation of ITU-D Recommendations should follow the general practice of the Union, and Recommendations should be standalone documents. Information may be annexed to the Recommendations, in order to accomplish this. A Recommendation template is set out in Annex 1 hereto.

SECTION 4 – Submission, processing and presentation of contributions

4.1 Submission of contributions

4.1.1 Contributions to a WTDC should be submitted no later than 21 calendar days before the opening of the conference to allow for their timely translation and thorough consideration by delegations. BDT shall immediately publish all contributions submitted to WTDC in their original language(s) on the WTDC website, even before their translation into the other official languages of the Union. All contributions shall be published no later than 14 calendar days before WTDC.

4.1.2 Secretariat documents, including reports from study groups, TDAG, the Director of BDT, etc., shall be published no later than 35 calendar days before the opening of WTDC to allow for their timely translation and careful consideration by delegations.

4.1.3 The submission of contributions to the meetings of TDAG, the study groups and their relevant groups shall be as follows:

4.1.3.1 Each contribution should clearly indicate the ITU-D study Question, resolution or topic, as well as the group for which it is intended, and be accompanied by the details of a contact person as may be needed to clarify the contribution.

4.1.3.2 Contributions shall be received no later than 45 calendar days before a meeting if they are to be translated for the meeting. Beyond this 45-day deadline, the contributor may submit the document in the original language and in any official language into which it may have been translated by the author. Contributions that do not meet this 45-day deadline but are received at least 12 calendar days before the opening of the meeting shall be published but not translated.

4.1.3.3 Member States, ITU-D Sector Members, Associates, Academia, other authorized entities and organizations and the chairs and vice-chairs of study groups or their relevant groups should submit their contributions to current ITU-D studies to the Director of BDT using the official templates made available online and included in Annex 2 hereto.

4.1.3.4 Such contributions should, *inter alia*, deal with the results of experience gained in national and regional telecommunication/ICT development, describe case studies and/or contain proposals for promoting balanced worldwide and regional telecommunication/ICT development.

4.1.3.5 In order to facilitate the study of certain ITU-D study Questions, BDT may submit consolidated documents relevant to the study Question or the results of case studies, including information on existing programme and regional office activities. Such documents will be treated as contributions.

4.1.3.6 In principle, documents submitted to the study groups as contributions should not exceed five pages. For existing texts, cross-references should be used instead of repeating material in extenso. Information material can be placed in annexes or provided on request as an information document. An example of the template for the submission of contributions is set out in Annex 2 hereto.

4.1.3.7 Member States, ITU-D Sector Members, Associates and Academia are invited to include specific lessons learned and suggested best practices, as appropriate, when submitting contributions to the meetings of the study groups, TDAG and other relevant ITU-D groups. The contribution template in Annex 2 hereto contains a designated section for this purpose. Lessons learned and suggested best practices submitted in the appropriate box of the contribution template shall be published in accordance with § 4.2.4 below.

4.1.3.8 Contributions should be submitted to BDT using the online template in order to fast-track their processing by minimizing the need for reformatting, without any modification to the content of the text. Any contribution submitted by participants shall be immediately transmitted by BDT to the chair of the study group and to the rapporteur in accordance with § 4.4.1.

4.1.3.9 Secretariat documents, including reports by the Director of BDT, shall be published no later than 30 calendar days before a study group or TDAG meeting.

4.1.3.10 The collaboration between members of study groups and their relevant groups should be, as far as possible, by electronic means. BDT should provide all study group members with appropriate access to electronic documentation for their work, and promote the provision of appropriate systems and facilities to support the conduct of study group work by electronic means in all the official languages of ITU.

4.2 Processing of contributions

Input to study group or rapporteur group meetings may be of three types:

- a) Contributions for action (documents included on the meeting agenda for discussion);
- b) Contributions for information (information documents not included on the meeting agenda or discussed at the meeting);
- c) Liaison statements.

4.2.1 Contributions for action

4.2.1.1 All contributions for action received at least 45 calendar days before a study group meeting or a block of rapporteur group meetings shall be translated and published not less than seven calendar days before the meeting. Beyond this 45-day deadline, but no later than 12 calendar days before the meeting, the contributor may submit the document in the original language and in any official language into which it may have been translated by the author.

4.2.1.2 After consultation with the chair of the study group or rapporteur group concerned, it may be agreed to accept contributions for action that exceed the page-limit of five pages. In such cases, it may be agreed to publish a summary, which shall be drawn up by the author of the contribution.

4.2.1.3 All contributions received less than 45 calendar days but at least 12 calendar days before a study group meeting or a block of rapporteur group meetings shall be published but not translated. The secretariat shall publish these delayed contributions as soon as possible and not later than three working days after receipt.

4.2.1.4 Contributions received by the Director of BDT less than 12 calendar days before a meeting shall not be entered on the agenda. They shall not be distributed but held for the next meeting. Exceptionally, contributions judged to be of extreme importance and urgency might be admitted by the chair, in consultation with the Director, in derogation to the above deadlines, provided that these contributions are available to participants at the opening of the meeting. For such late contributions, no commitment can be made by the secretariat to ensure the document will be available at the opening of the meeting in all the required languages.

4.2.1.5 No contributions for action shall be accepted after the opening of the meeting.

4.2.1.6 The Director of BDT should insist that authors follow the rules established for the presentation and form of documents set out in this resolution and annexes and the timing given therein. A reminder should be sent out by the Director whenever appropriate. The Director, with the agreement of the study group chair, may return to the author any document that does not comply with the general directives set out herein so that it may be brought into line with those directives.

4.2.2 Contributions for information

4.2.2.1 Contributions submitted to the meeting for information are those which do not require any specific action under the agenda (e.g. descriptive documents submitted by Member States, Sector Members, Associates, Academia or duly authorized entities and organizations, general policy statements, etc.), as well as other documents considered by the study group chair and/or the rapporteur, in consultation with the author, as being for information. They should be published in the original language only (and in any other official language into which they may have been translated by the author) and appear under a separate numbering scheme from the contributions submitted for action.

4.2.2.2 Information documents considered to be of extreme importance may be translated after the meeting if requested by more than 50 per cent of the participants at the meeting, within the budgetary limit.

4.2.2.3 The secretariat shall prepare a list of information documents that provides summaries of the documents. This list shall be available in all the official languages.

4.2.2.4 Contributions for information shall be received by the Director of BDT no later than 12 calendar days before the meeting.

4.2.3 Liaison statements

Liaison statements are requests for actions or information from other study groups, working bodies of other ITU Sectors, other United Nations agencies, other relevant organizations, or documents that provide a response to a request for coordination from these entities. For liaison statements requiring any action, a reply shall be prepared. Replies to liaison statements shall be approved by the chair of the study group concerned, before their transmission to the destination entity. Incoming liaison statements shall not be translated. A template for liaison statements is set out in Annex 4 hereto.

4.2.4 Publication of lessons learned and suggested best practices

BDT shall maintain and update the lessons learned and suggested best practices relating to each ITU-D study Question, which include all lessons learned and suggested best practices received as part of contributions for action or for information/background in accordance with §§ 3.3.7, 3.6.2 and 4.1.3.7 above. At the end of each study period, rapporteur groups will complement the compiled lessons learned and suggested best practices sent in each of the contribution types referred to above, with the set of lessons learned and best practices outlined in the ITU-D study Question reports to be published on the website for each ITU-D study Question, intended to function as a continually updated information resource.

4.3 Other documents

4.3.1 Background documents

Reference documents containing only background information relating to issues addressed at the meeting (data, statistics, detailed reports of other organizations, etc.) should be available upon request in the original language only and, if available, also in electronic format.

4.3.2 Temporary documents

Temporary documents are documents produced during the meeting to assist in the progress of work.

4.4 Electronic access

4.4.1 BDT will post all input and output documents (e.g. contributions, draft ITU-D Recommendations, liaison statements and reports) as soon as electronic versions of these documents are available.

4.4.2 A website dedicated to the study groups, containing a description of working methods and procedures, information on activities, results of studies, reports of the ITU-D study groups and other documentation, and their relevant groups shall be constantly updated to include all input and output documents, as well as information related to each of the meetings. The website shall be organized in such a way that makes it easy to search for and obtain relevant information. While the website of the study groups shall be in the six official languages of the Union on an equal footing, those of specific meetings shall be in the languages of the meeting concerned as per § 3.8.5.

4.4.3 The website shall enable Telecommunication Information Exchange Service (TIES) account users to have real-time access to all WTDC resolutions, ITU-D Recommendations in force, ITU-D study Questions, reports and guidelines, etc. and to temporary and draft documents.

4.5 Presentation of contributions

4.5.1 Contributions for action shall be relevant to the ITU-D study Question or the subject under discussion as agreed by the chair of the study group, the rapporteur for the study Question, the coordinator of the study group and the author. Contributions shall be clear and concise. Documents that are not directly related to the study Questions should not be submitted.

4.5.2 Articles that have been or are to be published in the press should not be submitted to ITU-D, unless they relate directly to study Questions, and in this case should be fully attributed to their source, including, if possible, the relevant webpage address.

4.5.3 Contributions that include passages of an unduly commercial nature shall be deleted by the Director of BDT in agreement with the chair; the author of the contribution shall be advised of any such deletions.

4.5.4 The cover page of a contribution shall indicate the relevant study Question(s), agenda item, date, source (originating country and/or organization, address, telephone number and e-mail address of the author or contact person of the submitting entity), and the title of the contribution. Indication should also be made as to whether the document is a contribution for action or for information and the action required, if any. As specified in Annex 2 hereto, an abstract should be provided containing (i) a summary of the contribution, and (ii) lessons learned and suggested best practices (if deemed appropriate by the contribution author). In addition, where a contribution is proposing that material contained therein be used in output documents under development, the contributor is recommended to clearly identify which output document and the relevant section thereof. A template is set out in Annex 2 hereto.

4.5.5 If existing text needs to be revised, the number of the original contribution shall be indicated and revision marks (tracked changes) shall be used in the original document.

4.5.6 Contributions submitted to the meeting for information only (see § 4.2.2) should include a summary prepared by the author. When summaries have not been provided by authors, BDT shall, to the extent possible, prepare such summaries.

4.5.7 Contributions submitted under several ITU-D study Questions may be presented once in a plenary session at the beginning of study group meetings to accelerate discussion in sessions under the Question, allowing for extended deliberations on the matters put forward in the text of the contribution.

SECTION 5 – Proposal, adoption and approval of new and revised ITU-D study Questions

5.1 Proposal of new and revised ITU-D study Questions

5.1.1 Proposed new ITU-D study Questions shall be submitted at least two months prior to a WTDC by Member States, ITU-D Sector Members and Academia authorized to participate in the activities of the Sector.

5.1.2 However, an ITU-D study group may also propose new or revised study Questions at the initiative of a member of that study group if there is consensus on the subject. These proposals shall be treated in accordance with §§ 5.1 and 5.2 hereof.

5.1.3 Each proposed study Question should state the reasons for the proposal, the precise objective of the tasks to be performed, the urgency of the study and any contacts to be established with the other two Sectors and/or other international or regional bodies. Authors of study Questions should use the online template for the submission of new and revised study Questions based on the outline found in Annex 3 hereto, in order to ensure that all relevant information is included.

5.2 Adoption and approval of new and revised ITU-D study Questions by WTDC

5.2.1 Before a WTDC, TDAG shall meet to examine proposed new ITU-D study Questions and, if necessary, recommend amendments to take account of ITU-D's general development policy objectives and associated priorities, and to review the reports of the ITU regional preparatory meetings for WTDC.

5.2.2 At least one month before a WTDC, BDT shall communicate to Member States, ITU-D Sector Members, Associates and Academia a list of the study Questions proposed for consideration at WTDC, together with any changes recommended by TDAG, and make these available on the ITU website along with the results of the surveys referred to in § 3.10.5.6 above.

5.2.3 The proposed study Questions may be approved by WTDC in accordance with the General Rules of conferences, assemblies and meetings of the Union.

5.2.4 WTDC is recommended to approve a limited number of study Questions/ subjects per study period and per study group, preferably not more than five.

5.3 Adoption and approval of proposed new and revised ITU-D study Questions between two WTDCs

5.3.1 Between two WTDCs, the ITU-D membership and other duly authorized entities and organizations participating in ITU-D activities may submit proposed new and revised ITU-D study Questions to the study group concerned.

5.3.2 Each proposed new and revised study Question should be based on the template found in Annex 3 hereto.

5.3.3 If the study group concerned agrees, preferably by consensus, to study the proposed new and revised study Question and some Member States, Sector Members or other duly authorized entities and organizations (normally at least four) have committed themselves to supporting the work (e.g. by contributions, provision of rapporteurs or editors and/or hosting of meetings), it shall address the draft text thereof to TDAG with all the necessary information.

5.3.4 After adoption by TDAG, the Member States can approve new or revised study Question(s) by correspondence in accordance with §§ 5.3.5–5.3.8 below.

5.3.5 The Director of BDT, within one month of the adoption of a draft new or revised study Question by TDAG, shall circulate the new or revised study Question(s) to Member States, and shall request that they indicate whether or not they approve the proposal within two months.

5.3.6 If two or more Member States object, the draft new or revised study Question will be referred back to the study group for further consideration. If there are fewer than two objections, the draft new or revised study Question shall be approved.

5.3.7 Those Member States that indicate disapproval are requested to provide their reasons and indicate the possible changes that would facilitate further work under the study Question.

5.3.8 Notification of the result will be given in a circular, and TDAG will be informed by a report from the Director of BDT. In addition, the Director shall publish a list of new or revised study Questions whenever appropriate, but at least once by the middle of a study period.

SECTION 6 – Deletion of ITU-D study Questions

6.1 Introduction

Study groups may decide to delete ITU-D study Questions. In each individual case, it has to decide which of the following procedures is the most appropriate.

6.1.1 Deletion of an ITU-D study Question by WTDC

Upon agreement by the study group, the chair shall include the request to delete an ITU-D study Question in the report to WTDC, for decision.

6.1.2 Deletion of an ITU-D study Question between WTDCs

6.1.2.1 A study group meeting may agree, by consensus among its participants, to delete an ITU-D study Question, e.g. because work has been terminated. Member States, Sector Members, Associates and Academia shall be notified of the decision by circular, including an explanatory summary of the reasons for the deletion. If a simple majority of the Member States having replied has no objection to the deletion within two months, the deletion comes into force. Otherwise the issue is referred back to the study group.

6.1.2.2 Those Member States that indicate disapproval are invited to provide their reasons and to indicate the possible changes that would facilitate further work under the study Question.

6.1.2.3 Notification of the result will be given in a circular, and TDAG will be informed by a report from the Director of BDT. In addition, the Director shall publish a list of deleted study Questions whenever appropriate, but at least once by the middle of a study period.

SECTION 7 – Adoption and approval of new or revised ITU-D Recommendations

7.1 Introduction

After adoption at a study group meeting, Member States can approve ITU-D Recommendations, either by correspondence or at a WTDC.

7.1.1 When the study of an ITU-D study Question has reached a mature state resulting in a draft new or revised Recommendation, the approval process to be followed is in two stages:

- a) adoption by the study group concerned (see § 7.2);
- b) approval by the Member States (see § 7.3).

The same process shall be used for the deletion of existing Recommendations.

7.1.2 In the interest of stability, revision of a Recommendation should not normally be considered for approval within two years, unless the proposed revision complements rather than changes the agreement reached in the previous version.

7.2 Adoption of a new or revised ITU-D Recommendation by a study group

7.2.1 A study group may consider and adopt draft new or revised Recommendations, when the draft texts have been prepared and made available in all the official languages four weeks in advance of the study group meeting.

7.2.2 A rapporteur group or any other group which feels that its draft new or revised Recommendation(s) is (are) sufficiently mature can send the text to the study group chair to start the adoption procedure in accordance with § 7.2.3 below.

7.2.3 Upon request of the study group chair, the Director of BDT shall explicitly indicate, in a circular, the intention to seek adoption of new or revised Recommendations under this procedure for adoption at a study group meeting. The circular shall include the specific intent of the proposal in summarized form. Reference shall be provided to the document where the text of the draft new or revised Recommendation may be found. This information shall be distributed to all Member States and ITU-D Sector Members and should be sent by the Director so that it shall be received at least two months before the meeting.

7.2.4 Adoption of a draft new or revised Recommendation shall be unopposed by any Member State present at the study group meeting.

7.2.5 A Member State objecting to the adoption shall inform the Director of BDT and the chair of the study group of the reasons for objection, and, when the objection cannot be resolved, the Director shall make reasons available to the next meeting of the study group.

7.2.6 If there is an objection to the text that cannot be resolved and there is no other study group meeting scheduled before WTDC, the chair of the study group shall forward the text to WTDC.

7.3 Approval of new or revised ITU-D Recommendations by Member States

7.3.1 When a draft new or revised Recommendation has been adopted by a study group, the text shall be submitted for approval by Member States.

7.3.2 Approval of new or revised Recommendations may be sought:

- a) at a WTDC;
- b) through consultation of the Member States by correspondence as soon as the relevant study group has adopted the text.

7.3.3 At the study group meeting during which a draft is adopted, the study group shall decide to submit the draft new or revised Recommendation for approval, either at the next WTDC or by consultation of the Member States.

7.3.4 When it is decided to submit a draft to WTDC, the study group chair shall inform and request the Director of BDT to take the necessary action to ensure that it is included in the agenda of the conference.

7.3.5 When it is decided to submit a draft for approval by consultation, the conditions and procedures hereafter will apply.

7.3.5.1 At the study group meeting, the decision of the delegations to apply this approval procedure shall also be unopposed by any Member State present.

7.3.5.2 Exceptionally, but only during the study group meeting, delegations may request more time to consider their positions, while explaining the reasons. Unless advised of formal opposition, with reasons given, from any of these delegations within a period of one month after the last day of the meeting, the approval process by consultation shall continue. In this case, the draft shall be submitted to the next WTDC for consideration.

7.3.5.3 For the application of the approval procedure by consultation, within one month of the adoption of a draft new or revised Recommendation by a study group, the Director of BDT shall request Member States to indicate within three months whether they approve or do not approve the proposal. This request shall be accompanied by the complete final text, in the six official languages of the Union, of the proposed new or revised Recommendation.

7.3.5.4 The Director of BDT shall also advise ITU-D Sector Members participating in the work of the relevant study group under the provisions of Article 19 of the Convention that Member States are being asked to respond to a consultation on a proposed new or revised Recommendation, but only Member States are entitled to respond. This advice should be accompanied by the complete final texts, for information only.

7.3.5.5 If 70 per cent or more of the replies from Member States indicate approval, the proposal shall be accepted. If the proposal is not accepted, it shall be referred back to the study group.

7.3.5.6 Any comments received along with responses to the consultation shall be collected by the Director of BDT and submitted to the study group for consideration.

7.3.5.7 Those Member States which indicate that they do not approve are requested to state their reasons and to participate in the future consideration by the study group and its relevant groups.

7.3.5.8 The Director of BDT shall promptly notify, by circular, the results of the above consultation approval procedure.

7.3.5.9 Should minor, purely editorial amendments or correction of evident oversights or inconsistencies in the text as presented for approval be necessary, the Director of BDT may correct these with the approval of the chair of the relevant study group.

7.3.5.10 The secretariat shall publish the approved new or revised ITU-D Recommendations in the official languages as soon as practicable.

7.4 Reservations

If a delegation elects not to oppose the approval of a Recommendation but wishes to enter reservations on one or more aspects, such reservations shall be mentioned in a concise note appended to the text of the Recommendation concerned.

SECTION 8 – Deletion of ITU-D Recommendations

8.1 Each study group is encouraged to review the maintained ITU-D Recommendations and, if they are found to be no longer necessary, should propose their deletion.

8.2 The deletion of existing Recommendations shall follow a two-stage process:

- a) agreement to the deletion by a study group if no delegation representing a Member State attending the meeting opposes the deletion;
- b) following this agreement to delete, approval by Member States, by consultation (applying the procedure in § 7.3.5).

8.3 WTDC may also delete existing Recommendations based on proposals by the Member States of the Union.

SECTION 9 – Support to the ITU-D study groups and their relevant groups

9.1 The Director of BDT should ensure that, within the limits of existing budgetary resources, the study groups and their relevant groups have appropriate support to conduct their work programmes as outlined in the terms of reference and as envisioned by the work plan for ITU-D. In particular, support may be provided in the following forms:

- a) appropriate administrative and professional staff support from BDT and the other two Bureaux and the General Secretariat, as appropriate;
- b) contracting of outside expertise, as necessary;
- c) coordination with relevant regional and subregional organizations.

9.2 Workshops, seminars or other events for exchanging information with experts invited from outside the ITU membership on key topics and issues related to the priorities and objectives of the ITU-D action plan and WTDC resolutions, which are of interest to the membership, may be held during or around study group meetings, within existing ITU-D financial resources. Such events shall be announced at least 45 days prior to their scheduled dates, and their corresponding presentations/reports shall be electronically accessible.

SECTION 10 – Other groups

10.1 As far as applicable, the same rules of procedure as for study groups in this resolution should also apply to other groups referred to in Nos. 209A and 209B of the Convention and their meetings, for example with respect to the submission of contributions. However, these groups shall not adopt ITU-D study Questions nor deal with ITU-D Recommendations.

SECTION 11 – Telecommunication Development Advisory Group

11.1 In accordance with No. 215C of the Convention, TDAG shall be open to representatives of administrations of Member States and representatives of ITU-D Sector Members and to chairs and vice-chairs of the study groups and other groups, and should act through the Director of BDT. Academia may participate in accordance with Resolution 169 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference. WTDC Resolution 24 (Rev. Baku, 2025) also assigned to TDAG several specific matters between two consecutive WTDCs including, among others: review 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; review 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 Council session; consider and provide comments on the contribution of ITU-D to the draft strategic plan for the Union (see also § 1.1 g), etc.

11.2 The TDAG bureau comprises the chair and vice-chairs of TDAG, as well as the chairs of ITU-D study groups.

11.3 WTDC appoints chairs and vice-chairs of TDAG in accordance with Resolution 208 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference.

11.4 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. WTDC should assure itself that the specific matters assigned to TDAG do not require financial expenses exceeding the ITU-D budget. The report on TDAG activity on the fulfilment of specific functions shall be submitted to the next WTDC. Such assignment shall terminate when the following WTDC meets, although WTDC may decide to extend it for a designated period.

11.5 TDAG shall hold regular scheduled meetings, included in the ITU-D timetable of meetings. The Director of BDT, in cooperation with the TDAG chair, should make every possible effort, as far as practicable, in order that the planned period for meetings not be scheduled during a period which is considered a major religious period by a Member State.

11.6 TDAG meetings should take place at least once a year. The timing of meetings should be such as to allow TDAG to effectively review the draft operational plan before its adoption and implementation. TDAG meetings should not take place in conjunction with the study group meetings. Meetings of the advisory groups of the three Sectors of the Union should preferably be held consecutively whenever possible.

11.7 In the interest of minimizing the length and costs of the meetings, the chair of TDAG should collaborate with the Director of BDT in making appropriate advance preparation, for example by identifying the major issues for discussion.

11.8 In general, the same rules of procedure as for study groups in this resolution should also apply to TDAG and its meetings, for example in respect of the submission of contributions. However, at the discretion of the chair, written proposals may be submitted during the TDAG meeting, provided they are based on ongoing discussions taking place during the meeting and are intended to assist in resolving conflicting views which exist during the meeting.

11.9 The TDAG bureau should maintain contact among themselves and with BDT by electronic means to the extent practicable and meet not less than once per year, including one meeting prior to the meeting of TDAG, in order to properly organize the coming meeting, including the review and approval of a time management plan.

11.10 In order to facilitate its task, TDAG may complement these working procedures with additional or revised procedures. It can establish working groups and other groups to study a particular topic, where appropriate, as provided in WTDC Resolution 24 (Rev. Baku, 2025) and within existing financial resources, as well as appoint their chairs and vice-chairs.

11.11 At its first meeting after a WTDC, TDAG shall appoint two of its representatives as vice-chairs for the Inter-Sector Coordination Group on issues of mutual interest.

11.12 After each TDAG meeting, a concise summary of conclusions shall be drawn up by the secretariat, in collaboration with the TDAG chair, to be distributed in accordance with normal ITU-D procedures. It should contain only TDAG proposals, recommendations and conclusions in respect of the above items. A detailed report by TDAG on its activities, including matters assigned to TDAG by the previous WTDC, shall be made available no later than three weeks after the closing of the meeting. This report shall be distributed in accordance with the normal ITU-D procedures and shall be available in all the official languages of the Union.

11.13 In accordance with No. 215JA of the Convention, at its last meeting prior to WTDC, TDAG shall prepare a report for WTDC. This report should summarize TDAG's activities on the matters assigned to it by WTDC, including its work to facilitate linkages to the strategic plan for the Union and the four-year rolling operational plan for ITU-D, and offer advice on allocation of work, proposals on ITU-D working methods, strategies and relations with other relevant bodies inside and outside ITU, as appropriate. Likewise, it shall provide advice on the implementation of regional actions, initiatives and projects. This report shall be transmitted to the Director of BDT for submission to the conference.

11.14 In addition to other duties, the TDAG vice-chairs should engage with their respective regional and area offices, and with the membership in their regional telecommunication organizations, as appropriate, in order to follow the progress of regional initiatives.

11.15 TDAG shall be made aware of the non-attendance of TDAG bureau members at TDAG meetings, and shall raise the issue, through the Director of BDT, with the Member State or ITU-D Sector Member concerned, in an attempt to ensure participation in these roles in TDAG, and ensure the fulfilment of commitments undertaken by members.

11.16 TDAG bureau members shall be impartial in the performance of their duties.

SECTION 12 – Coordination of work on terminology

12.1 Coordination of work on terminology in ITU-D is carried out by the ITU Coordination Committee for Terminology (ITU CCT), composed of experts from all ITU Sectors proficient in different official languages and persons designated by interested administrations and other participants in the work of ITU, as well as rapporteurs on terminology from study groups, working in close collaboration with the General Secretariat and Bureaux editors.

12.2 In selecting and using terms and definitions, ITU-D study groups should take into account the established use of terms and current definitions within ITU, in particular those terms and definitions that appear in the ITU online database of terms and definitions. In cases where more than one ITU-D study group is considering using the same terms, definitions and/or concepts, a single term and a single definition should be chosen that are acceptable to all interested ITU-D study groups.

12.3 WTDC, in accordance with Council Resolution 1386 (C17, last amended C25), shall appoint two experts (one from ITU-D Study Group 1 and one from ITU-D Study Group 2) to represent ITU-D in ITU CCT at the vice-chair level.

SECTION 13 – Regional and world meetings of the Sector

13.1 In general, the same working methods as found in this resolution, and in particular those relating to the submission and processing of contributions, apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to other regional and world meetings of the Sector, with the exception of those referred to in Article 22 of the Constitution and Article 16 of the Convention.

ANNEX 1 to RESOLUTION 1 (Rev. Baku, 2025)

Template for drafting ITU-D Recommendations

The ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) (*general terminology applicable to all Recommendations*),

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (*terminology only applicable to Recommendations approved at a WTDC*),

considering

This section should contain various general background references giving the reasons for the study. The references should normally refer to ITU documents and/or resolutions.

recognizing

This section should contain specific factual background statements such as "the sovereign right of each Member State" or studies which have formed a basis for the work.

taking into account

This section should detail other factors that have to be considered, such as national laws and regulations, regional policy decisions and other applicable global issues.

noting

This section should indicate generally accepted items or information that support the Recommendation.

convinced

This section should contain details of factors that form the basis of the Recommendation. These could include objectives of government regulatory policy, choice of financing sources, ensuring fair competition, etc.

recommends

This section should contain a general sentence, leading into detailed action points:

specific action point

specific action point

specific action point

etc.

Note that the above list of *action verbs* is not exhaustive. Other *action verbs* may be used when appropriate. Existing ITU-D Recommendations provide examples.

ANNEX 2 to RESOLUTION 1 (Rev. Baku, 2025)

Template for submission of contributions for action/for information⁷

Venue and date of meeting		Document No./Study Group No.-E	
		Date	
		Original language	
		FOR ACTION (Place on the agenda)	Indicate which is appropriate
		FOR INFORMATION (For reference only; not to be placed on the agenda or discussed)	
QUESTION:			
SOURCE:			
TITLE:			
Revision to previous contribution (Yes/No) If yes, please indicate the document number <i>Any changes in a previous text should be indicated with revision marks (tracked changes)</i>			
Action required Please indicate what is expected from the meeting (for contributions submitted for action only). If it is proposed to include material in output reports, please indicate clearly which document and which section thereof.			
Abstract			
Include here a summary of a few lines outlining your contribution			
Include here lessons learned and suggested best practices (if appropriate)			
Start your document on the following page (maximum 4 pages)			
Contact: Name of author submitting the contribution: Phone number: E-mail:			

⁷ This model outlines the information to be submitted and the format of the contribution. The contribution is, however, submitted through an online template.

ANNEX 3 to RESOLUTION 1 (Rev. Baku, 2025)

Template for proposed ITU-D study Questions and issues for study and consideration by ITU-D

* *Information identified by * in this annex and in italics describes the information which should be provided by the author under each heading.*

Title of ITU-D study Question or issue (the title replaces this heading)

1 Statement of the situation or problem

* *Provide an overall general description of the situation or problem which is proposed for study, with specific focus on:*

- *the implications for developing countries⁸;*
- *gender perspective; and*
- *how a solution will benefit these countries (indicate why the problem or situation warrants study at this time).*

2 ITU-D study Question or issue for study

* *State the study Question or issue that is proposed for study, expressed as clearly as possible. The tasks should be tightly focused.*

⁸ These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

3 Expected output

* *Provide a detailed description of the expected output of the study. This should include a general indication of the organizational level or status of those who are expected to use and to benefit from the output. Outputs may include a set of actions, activities, work and work products specific to the work of the study Question, including those undertaken pursuant to programmes and regional initiatives that are relevant to the work under the study Question (e.g. documented best practices, guidelines, workshops, capacity-building events, seminars, etc.). More specifically, study outputs may promote gender equality and greater access by women to telecommunications/information and communication technologies, as well as to employment, health and education.*

4 Timing

* *Indicate the required timing for all outputs, noting that the urgency of the output, including the annual output report, will influence both the method used to carry out the study and the depth and breadth of the study. Outputs and the work under a study Question may be completed in less than the four-year study cycle.*

5 Proposers/sponsors

* *Identify by organization and contact point those proposing and supporting the study.*

6 Sources of input

* *Indicate what types of organizations are expected to provide contributions to further the work, e.g. Member States, ITU-D Sector Members, Associates, Academia, other United Nations agencies, regional groups, other ITU Sectors, BDT focal points, as appropriate, etc.*

* *Also include any other information, including potentially useful resources, such as expert organizations or stakeholders, that will be helpful to those responsible for carrying out the study.*

7 Target audience

* *Indicate expected types of target audience, by noting all relevant points on the matrix which follows:*

Target audience	Developed countries	Developing countries
Telecommunication policy-makers	■	■
Telecommunication regulators	■	■
Service providers/operators	■	■
Manufacturers	■	■
ITU-D programme	■	■

Where appropriate, please provide explanatory notes as to why certain matrix points were included or excluded.

a) Target audience – Who specifically will use the output

* *Indicate as precisely as possible which individuals/groups/regions within the target organizations will use the output. In addition, indicate as precisely as possible which ITU-D programmes, regional initiatives and strategic objectives that the work under the study Question could/will be relevant to, and how the results of the work under the study Question can/could be used to fulfil the objectives of those relevant programmes, regional initiatives and strategic objectives.*

b) Proposed methods for the implementation of the results

* *In the author's opinion, how should the results of this work best be distributed to and used by the target audience and the specified relevant programmes and/or regional offices.*

8 Proposed methods of handling the ITU-D study Question or issue

a) How?

* *Indicate the suggested handling of the proposed study Question or issue*

- 1) Within a study group:
 - Question (over a multi-year study period) ☐
- 2) Within regular BDT activity (*indicate which programmes, activities, projects, etc. will be involved in the work under the study Question*):
 - Programmes ☐
 - Projects ☐
 - Expert consultants ☐
 - Regional offices ☐
- 3) In other ways – *describe* (e.g. regional, within other organizations with expertise, jointly with other organizations, etc.) ☐

b) Why?

* *Explain why you selected the alternative under a) above.*

9 Coordination and collaboration

* *Include, inter alia, the requirements for coordination of the study with all of:*

- regular ITU-D activities (including those of the regional offices);
- other study Questions or issues;
- regional organizations, as appropriate;

- work in progress in the other ITU Sectors;
- expert organizations or stakeholders, as appropriate.

** The Director shall, through the appropriate BDT staff (e.g. regional directors, focal points), provide information to rapporteurs on all relevant ITU projects in the regions. This information should be provided to the meetings of the rapporteurs when work of the programmes and regional offices is in the planning stages and when it is completed.*

** Identify which programmes, regional initiatives and strategic objectives are related to the work under the study Question and list specific expectations for collaboration with the programmes and regional offices.*

10 BDT programme link

** Note the programme and regional initiatives of the action plan that would best contribute to, help facilitate and make use of the outputs and results under this study Question, and list specific expectations for collaboration with the programmes and regional offices.*

11 Other relevant information

** Include any other information that will be helpful in establishing how this study Question or issue should best be studied, and on what schedule.*

ANNEX 4 to RESOLUTION 1 (Rev. Baku, 2025)

Template for liaison statements

Information to be included in the liaison statement:

- 1) List the appropriate ITU-D study Question numbers of the originating and destination study groups.
- 2) Identify the study group or rapporteur group meeting at which the liaison was prepared.
- 3) Include a concise and clear subject. If this is in reply to a liaison statement, make this clear, e.g. "Reply to the liaison statement from (*source and date*) concerning" "...".
- 4) Identify the study group(s), if known, or other organizations to which it is sent.

NOTE – Can be sent to more than one organization.

- 5) Indicate the level of approval of such liaison statement, e.g. study group, or state that the liaison statement has been agreed at a rapporteur group meeting.
- 6) Indicate if the liaison statement is sent for action or comments, or for information only.

NOTE – If sent to more than one organization, indicate this for each one.

- 7) If action is requested, indicate the date by which a reply is required.
- 8) Include the name and address of the contact person.

NOTE – The text of the liaison statement should be concise and clear using a minimum of jargon.

NOTE – Liaison statements among ITU-D groups should be discouraged and problems should be solved through informal contacts.

Example of a liaison statement:

QUESTIONS:	A/1 of ITU-D Study Group 1 and B/2 of ITU-D Study Group 2
SOURCE:	Chair of ITU-D Study Group X
MEETING:	Geneva, September 2018
SUBJECT:	Request for information/comments by [deadline when it is an outgoing liaison statement] – Reply to liaison statement from ITU-R/ITU-T WP 1/4
CONTACT:	Name of chair of the study group or rapporteur for ITU-D study Question [number] Tel./fax/e-mail

ANNEX 5 to RESOLUTION 1 (Rev. Baku, 2025)

Rapporteur's checklist

- 1 Establish a work plan in consultation with the vice-rapporteurs. The work plan should be reviewed periodically by the relevant study group and contain the following:
 - list of tasks to be completed;
 - target dates for milestones in consideration of annual output reports;
 - results anticipated, including titles of output documents and annual output reports;
 - liaison required with other groups, and schedules for liaisons, if known;
 - proposed meeting(s) of rapporteur group and estimated dates, with request for interpretation, if any.
- 2 Adopt work methods appropriate to the group. Use of electronic document handling, and e-mail and fax to exchange views is strongly encouraged.
- 3 Act as chair at all meetings under the relevant ITU-D study Question. If special meetings on the study Question are necessary, give appropriate advance notice.
- 4 Delegate portions of the work to vice-rapporteurs or other collaborators, depending on the workload.
- 5 Keep the study group management team regularly informed of the work progress. In case no progress can be reported on a given ITU-D study Question between two study group meetings, the rapporteur should nevertheless submit a report indicating the possible reasons for the lack of progress. To allow the chair and BDT to take the necessary steps for the work to be done on the study Question, reports should be submitted at least two months before the study group meeting.

6 Keep the study group informed of the progress of work through reports to study group meetings. The reports should be in the template of white contributions (when substantial progress has been made such as completion of draft ITU-D Recommendations or a report) or temporary documents.

7 The progress report mentioned in §§ 3.10.1 and 3.10.3 under Resolution 1 (Rev. Baku, 2025) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference should, as far as applicable, comply with the format given in those sections.

8 Ensure that liaison statements are submitted as soon as possible after all meetings, with copies to the study group chairs and BDT. Liaison statements shall contain the information described on the *Template for liaison statements* in Annex 4 to Resolution 1 (Rev. Baku, 2025). BDT may provide assistance in distributing the liaison statements.

9 Oversee the quality of texts up to and including the final texts submitted for approval.

RESOLUTION 2 (Rev. Baku, 2025)

Establishment of study groups

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Baku, 2025),

considering

- a) that the mandate for each study group needs to be clearly defined, in order to avoid duplication between study groups and other groups of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) established pursuant to No. 209 a) in Article 16 of the ITU Convention and to ensure the coherence of the overall work programme of the Sector;
- b) that, for carrying out the studies entrusted to ITU-D, it is appropriate to set up study groups, as provided for in Articles 17 and 20 of the Convention, to deal with specific task-oriented telecommunication questions of priority to developing countries¹, taking into consideration the ITU strategic plan and goals, and prepare relevant outputs in the form of reports, guidelines and/or Recommendations for the development of telecommunications/information and communication technologies;
- c) the need as far as possible to avoid duplication between studies undertaken by ITU-D and those carried out by the other two Sectors of the Union;
- d) the results of the studies under the study Questions adopted by the World Telecommunication Development Conference (Dubai, 2014) and the World Telecommunication Development Conference (Buenos Aires, 2017) and assigned to the two study groups,

resolves

- 1 to carry out the work within the Sector of two study groups, with a clear responsibility and terms of reference, as set out in Annex 1 to this resolution;

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

- 2 that each study group and its relevant groups will conduct studies within the framework of the ITU-D study Questions adopted by this conference and assigned to it in accordance with the structure shown in Annex 2 to this resolution, and the ITU-D study Questions adopted or revised between two world telecommunication development conferences (WTDCs) in accordance with the provisions of Resolution 1 (Rev. Baku, 2025) of this conference;
- 3 that the organization of the study groups should lead to increased synergy, transparency and efficiency with minimal overlap between ITU-D study Questions;
- 4 that ITU-D study Questions should be linked with the implementation of WTDC and Plenipotentiary Conference resolutions, and also with the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) programmes set out in the ITU-D action plan, so that the study groups and the BDT programmes benefit from each other's activities, resources and expertise, and jointly contribute to the achievement of ITU-D objectives;
- 5 that the study groups should make use of the relevant outputs and materials of the other two Sectors and the General Secretariat relevant to their terms of reference and collaborate closely with study groups in the other Sectors on issues of mutual interest;
- 6 that the study groups will be managed by the chairs and vice-chairs as shown in Annex 3 to this resolution.

ANNEX 1 to RESOLUTION 2 (Rev. Baku, 2025)

Scope of ITU-D study groups

1 Study Group 1

Universal meaningful connectivity² for bridging the digital divide

- National policy and regulatory aspects of broadband telecommunication/ICT development
- Economic aspects in the field of national telecommunications/ICTs, including facilitating the implementation of the digital economy and the provision of telecommunication/ICT services, including for rural and remote areas
- National approaches for providing access to telecommunications/ICTs in rural and remote areas, with special focus on developing countries, including least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition
- Access to telecommunication/ICT services to enable inclusive communications, especially for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs
- Migration and adoption of digital technologies for broadcasting for different environments
- Use of telecommunications/ICTs for disaster risk reduction and management, particularly in developing countries
- Consumer information, empowerment, protection and rights for telecommunication/ICT services, especially for vulnerable groups
- New and emerging telecommunications/ICTs, including applications of artificial intelligence (AI), in delivering universal meaningful connectivity

² Meaningful connectivity is a level of connectivity that allows users to have a safe, satisfying, enriching and productive online experience at an affordable cost.

2 Study Group 2

Digital transformation

- Telecommunications/ICTs for digital transformation, including e-health and e-education
- Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs
- Using telecommunications/ICTs for monitoring and mitigating the impact of climate change, and consideration of circular economy and safe disposal of electronic waste
- Combating counterfeit telecommunication/ICT devices and theft of mobile telecommunication devices
- Implementation of conformance and interoperability testing for telecommunication/ICT devices and equipment
- Human exposure to electromagnetic fields
- Challenges and prospects for developing countries in access to emerging telecommunication/ICT technologies, platforms, applications and use cases
- Using telecommunications/ICTs to create smart cities and the information society
- Adoption of telecommunications/ICTs and improving digital skills
- Availability and affordability of user devices
- Utilization of new and emerging telecommunication/ICT technologies

ANNEX 2 to RESOLUTION 2 (Rev. Baku, 2025)

Questions assigned by the World Telecommunication Development Conference to the ITU-D study groups

Study Group 1

- **Question 1/1:** Enabling policies and strategies for universal connectivity with a focus on underserved, remote and rural areas
- **Question 2/1:** Enabling policies and regulations for adopting digital telecommunication/ICT services and technologies for distribution and broadcasting
- **Question 3/1:** Use of telecommunications/ICTs for disaster risk reduction and management
- **Question 4/1:** Economic aspects of national telecommunications/ICTs
- **Question 5/1:** Consumer protection and empowerment, and meaningful accessibility for all, especially for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs

Study Group 2

- **Question 1/2:** Enabling telecommunications/ICTs for digital transformation and smart sustainable cities and communities
- **Question 2/2:** ICTs for the environment, and assessment of human exposure to electromagnetic fields
- **Question 3/2:** Securing information and communication networks: Best practices for developing a culture of cybersecurity
- **Question 4/2:** Availability and affordability of user devices, and telecommunication/ICT equipment issues, including conformance and interoperability
- **Question 5/2:** Adoption and utilization of new and emerging telecommunication/ICT services and technologies, and development of digital skills

ANNEX 3 to RESOLUTION 2 (Rev. Baku, 2025)

List of chairs and vice-chairs

Study Group 1

Chair:

Mr Roberto Mitsuke Hirayama (Brazil)

Vice-Chairs:

Ms Hadiza Kachallah (Nigeria)

Mr Malick Ndiaye (Senegal)

Mr Francisco Antonio Casaccia Torres (Paraguay)

Mr Abdelwaheb Galizra (Algeria)

Mr Ali Rasheed Hamad Al-Hamad (Kuwait)

Mr Wesam Sedik (Egypt)

Ms Memiko Otsuki (Japan)

Mr Dao Ngoc Tuyen (Viet Nam)

Ms Sha Wei (China)

Mr Sunil Kumar Singhal (India)

Mr Ilgar Abdullayev (Azerbaijan)

Ms Anastasia Konukhova (Russian Federation)

Ms Umida Musayeva (Uzbekistan)

Ms Cristina Aguiar (Portugal)

Mr Mehmet Alper Tekin (Türkiye)

Mr Teddy Woodhouse (United Kingdom)

Study Group 2

Chair

Mr Fadel Digham (Egypt)

Vice-Chairs

Ms Imelda Salum Banali (Tanzania)

Mr Mohamed Lamine Minthe (Guinea)

Ms Fifatin Carrelle Lucrece Toho (Benin)

Mr Víctor Antonio Martínez Sánchez (Paraguay)

Ms Aisha Al Marzooqi (United Arab Emirates)

Ms Maha Ziad Yousef Mouasher (Jordan)

Mr Hideo Imanaka (Japan)

Mr Sandeep Kumar Gupta (India)

Mr Tongning Wu (China)

Mr Javokhir Aripov (Uzbekistan)

Ms Uliana Stoliarova (Russian Federation)

Ms Lidia Stepinska-Ustasiak (Poland)

Ms Carmen-Madalina Clapon (Romania)

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.

RESOLUTION 8 (Rev. Baku, 2025)

Collection and dissemination of information and statistics

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Baku, 2025),

recalling

- a) Resolution 8 (Rev. Kigali, 2022) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC);
- b) Resolution 131 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on measuring information and communication technologies (ICTs) to build an integrating and inclusive information society;
- c) Resolution 37 (Rev. Baku, 2025) of this conference, on bridging the digital divide;
- d) Resolution 208 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on appointment and maximum term of office for chairs and vice-chairs of Sector advisory groups, study groups, and other groups;
- e) Resolution 1 (Rev. Baku, 2025) of this conference, on rules of procedure of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D),

considering

- a) that ITU-D, as the main source of international information and statistics on telecommunications/ICTs, performs a key role in the collection, coordination, exchange, analysis and dissemination of information;
- b) that the Expert Group on Telecommunication/ICT Indicators (EGTI) and Expert Group on ICT Household Indicators (EGH) are enabling wider participation, including from relevant technical experts beyond ITU-D membership, and its value to informing fulfilment by the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) of this resolution;
- c) the pivotal role of EGTI and EGH in developing and reviewing telecommunication/ICT indicators and data collection methodology;

- d) that clear working methods for EGTI and EGH can enhance active participation, including from developing countries¹;
- e) the importance of BDT databases and tools, in particular ITU DataHub and the regulatory database, and the usefulness of the analytical reports published by ITU-D;
- f) the need to collect and disseminate information and statistics for follow-up on and monitoring of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development related to ICTs, World Summit on Information Society (WSIS) outcomes, and the strategic plan for the Union, and the cross-cutting nature of telecommunications/ICTs as a strategic component in achieving the goals under the Agenda;
- g) that, despite all the efforts made, various types of digital divide persist, especially in developing countries, based on economic, age, gender and geographical aspects, making it necessary to enhance the collection of corresponding disaggregated statistics and their dissemination, which would make it possible to address public policies at the national level, with a view to facilitating the formulation of public policy at national level in order to continue and monitor efforts made to bridge the digital divide;
- h) that numerous regional and international organizations make use of and rely upon the statistics prepared and published by the Union in their indicators and reports;
- i) that the ITU Council at its 2017 session instructed the Secretary-General to grant all Member States the right of free electronic access to ITU publications relating to statistics and indicators,

considering further

- a) the value for Member States in having free electronic access to up-to-date ITU publications relating to statistics and indicators to facilitate prompt and effective implementation;
- b) the rapid and varied development of the telecommunication/ICT sector at national, regional and international levels and the advantages for Member States in sharing information and best practices,

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

recognizing

- a) that the work of BDT to collect and produce information and statistical data is fundamental to enabling Member States to design informed national policies and monitor their impact;
- b) that the EGTI and EGH working methods should enhance transparency and efficiency and facilitate active participation by ITU-D members and relevant invited statistical experts;
- c) that the WSIS Tunis Agenda for the Information Society stresses that all indices and indicators must take into account different levels of development and national circumstances, maintaining a collaborative approach, in a cost-effective and non-duplicative fashion;
- d) that § 70 of Resolution 70/125 of the United Nations General Assembly, on the overall review of the implementation of the WSIS outcomes, acknowledges the importance of data and statistics to support the use of ICTs for development and calls for further quantitative data to support evidence-based decision-making, as well as for the inclusion of telecommunication/ICT statistics in national strategies for the development of statistics and in regional statistical work programmes;
- e) that high-quality telecommunication/ICT indicators and statistics are key elements for drawing up evidence-based public policies;
- f) that Member States, especially developing countries, still lack the necessary capacity to compile and disseminate high-quality telecommunication/ICT indicators and statistics in an effective manner;
- g) the importance of the World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Symposium (WTIS),

recognizing further

- a) that telecommunication/ICT statistics are extremely useful for the work of the study groups and in assisting ITU to monitor and evaluate telecommunication/ICT developments and measure the digital divide;

- b) that telecommunication/ICT statistics are highly valuable for academia and other organizations from a quantitative perspective, providing evidence-based justifications for ICT regulatory frameworks;
- c) the new responsibilities to be held by ITU-D pursuant to the Tunis Agenda, in particular §§ 112–120 thereof, as well as the WSIS-SDG Matrix which makes it possible to connect the WSIS action lines with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
- d) the targets of SDG 9 (Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation) and SDG 5 (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- e) the need to further enhance transparency, efficiency and inclusiveness in the working methods of expert groups;
- f) the importance of timely and consistent reporting to the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG) for proper oversight and guidance,

resolves to instruct the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

- 1 to continue to support this activity by providing adequate resources, including resources of ITU regional and area offices, and according it the necessary priority;
- 2 to continue to assist and work with Member States in developing best practices for designing national telecommunication/ICT policies and strategies, including capacity-building initiatives on the collection of data and the use of administrative data for statistical purposes, designing surveys at the national level and the development and dissemination of statistics, disaggregated as necessary, for the formulation of national public policies that take into consideration issues such as gender, age, geographical location, disability and other criteria or analytical perspectives that contribute to the identification and evaluation of digital divides;

3 to continue to survey countries and produce global and regional analytical reports which highlight country experiences and impact, in particular on:

- how far the telecommunication/ICT sector has advanced, such as in bridging the digital divide, adapting to new and emerging technologies, digital transformation, digital economy, with examples of national and regional initiatives carried out to achieve progress in telecommunications/ICTs;
- world telecommunication/ICT developments at subregional, regional and international level;
- trends, best practices and regulation in the field of telecommunications/ICTs and tariff policies;
- the use of telecommunications/ICTs to achieve the WSIS outcomes and SDGs;
- how household surveys are a source of information for measuring the widespread use by the population of new and emerging telecommunications/ICTs;
- statistical analysis of different funding mechanisms, including the role of public and private partnerships, used in advancing digital inclusion and expanding broadband access in underserved areas;

4 to rely primarily on official data provided by Member States based on internationally recognized methodologies; only in the absence of official data may other sources be used, after consulting the Member States concerned in advance of using other sources to obtain the information and publishing the data;

5 to provide, upon request, technical assistance to Member States to strengthen their capacity to design surveys, gather and record telecommunication/ICT data, in line with ITU documents, and ensure the appropriate use of the material produced;

6 to support Member States in establishing national databases that bring together statistics and information on policy and regulation in the sphere of telecommunications/ICTs;

7 to establish and collect indicators and to encourage countries to collect statistics and information in order to illustrate the progress, in particular in developing countries, in creating an information society, in bridging the digital divide and in evaluating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

8 to consult on a regular basis with Member States and encourage the membership to submit contributions on issues related to the identification and definition of indicators and data-collection methodologies, especially for implementation of Resolution 131 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022), within the ITU-D study groups, EGH and EGTI, and other groups, coordinated by BDT;

9 to monitor the development and improvement of methodologies relevant to indicators and methods of data collection, through consultation with Member States and responding to needs resulting from the accelerated transformation of telecommunications/ICTs;

10 to monitor the level of development of the telecommunication/ICT sector, taking into account national and regional perspectives, as well as trends in telecommunications/ICTs, through indicators, indices and ICT price baskets;

11 to continue to convene WTIS on an annual basis for discussion and generalization, in the form of a final document/report, of best practices in determining indicators and data-collection methods for international comparison in the field of telecommunications/ICTs, based on contributions submitted by the membership, as well as ITU-D study groups, EGH and EGTI;

12 to ensure that WTIS does not conflict with any major events of the Union and, as far as possible, to hold it in each of the regions in turn;

13 to continue to convene regular meetings of EGTI and EGH, in view of their importance;

- 14 to develop and disseminate standardized guidelines for the submission of contributions to EGTI and EGH;
- 15 to appoint management teams for specific areas of work within EGTI and EGH, according to their terms of reference, with a view to enhancing engagement from across membership;
- 16 to ensure that meetings of EGTI and EGH are scheduled well in advance, with timely notifications to facilitate adequate preparation and coordination;
- 17 to use the expert groups to review draft methodologies and datasets in a timely manner, with sufficient time for comments from the membership;
- 18 to ensure that contributions to EGTI/EGH are submitted to BDT no later than 12 calendar days before the expert group meetings, in order to allow for thorough consideration and timely publication of all submitted contributions on the EGTI/EGH website;
- 19 to ensure that EGTI/EGH chairs present the outcomes of the annual EGTI/EGH meeting to WTIS and TDAG, outlining its work, achievements, recommendations and future work;
- 20 to review, revise and further develop benchmarking, including through consultation and inviting contributions from Member States and experts, and ensure that ICT indicators, the ICT Development Index and the ICT Price Basket reflect the real development of the ICT sector, taking into consideration different levels of development and national circumstances, as well as ICT trends, in application of the WSIS outcomes;
- 21 to encourage Member States to collect statistical indicators and information for follow-up on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to illustrate national digital divides as well as the efforts made through various programmes to close the gap, showing, as much as possible, the impact on gender issues, children and adolescents, as well as older persons, persons with disabilities and different social sectors and geographical areas (e.g. urban and rural areas);

- 22 to encourage countries to participate in working groups coordinated by the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), relevant United Nations agencies, and ITU to discuss ways to increase the availability of ICT data with experts and Member States with the aim of identifying innovative data-collection tools to support methodological recommendations for consideration by the relevant experts in statistics;
- 23 to encourage and support Member States in the setting up of national centres for statistics on the information society and in the advancement of existing centres;
- 24 to strengthen ITU-D's role as a member of the Steering Committee of the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development and through active participation in discussions and activities geared to achieving the partnership's main objectives, related to the development of telecommunication/ICT indicators and capacity building for national statistical offices;
- 25 to encourage Member States to bring together stakeholders in government, the private sector, academia and civil society in raising national awareness about the importance of the collection and dissemination of globally comparable data, statistics and information in the field of telecommunications/ICTs, including for policy purposes;
- 26 to continue to cooperate with relevant international and regional organizations, such as the members of the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development, the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC), UNSD and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, including on capacity building, developing training material and conducting specialized training courses on telecommunication/ICT statistics;
- 27 to assist Member States with indigenous populations in developing indicators to evaluate the impact of telecommunications/ICTs on Indigenous Peoples that enable the achievement of the objectives set forth in § C8 of the WSIS Geneva Plan of Action;
- 28 to organize regional workshops on statistics in cooperation with relevant regional and international organizations, with the aim of building capacity in ways and means of collecting and processing data and statistics in the field of telecommunications/ICTs, particularly for developing countries;

29 to post in a timely manner all questionnaires, surveys, methodological manuals, reports and publications relating to ITU-D statistics and indicators, particularly those relating to regulatory information, statistics and indicators which rely on data submitted by Member States, on the website of the Union, making them easy to identify and access;

30 to send, by means of a circular letter, the information regarding ITU data collection and questionnaires, including the data dissemination and data collection schedule and validation process timeline, ensuring regular updates if any;

31 to continue to seek technical solutions to work on statistics in the field of telecommunications/ICTs in all six languages of the Union;

32 to report annually on the implementation of this resolution to TDAG;

33 to coordinate with Member States, including through the ITU regional offices, on the statistical data collection process, with a view to providing support to BDT in facilitating and streamlining the overall process;

34 to make available to Member States their scores, for information purposes, prior to publication;

35 to make available the interactive web-based tools for the ICT indicator definitions in all six official languages of the Union;

36 to ensure that all ITU-D ICT statistics databases, including but not limited to ITU DataHub related publications, indices and reports shall explicitly indicate the year of issuance, guaranteeing that the scores reflected on the dashboard and in previous publications are not changed retroactively, in order to accurately reflect the situation and progress achieved within each respective year;

37 to promote the integration of data sources, such as mobile phone data and real-time geospatial information, in coordination with national regulatory authorities, national statistical offices and mobile network operators for production of official ICT statistics;

38 to update the ITU Manual for Measuring ICT Access and Use by Households and Individuals to reflect the latest ICT definitions and standards,

instructs the Expert Group on Telecommunication/ICT Indicators and the Expert Group on ICT Household Indicators

to review and revise, where appropriate, their terms of reference in their first meeting after a WTDC,

invites Member States and Sector Members

1 to participate actively in this endeavour by providing the statistics and information solicited, including statistics in the field of telecommunications/ICTs disaggregated by gender, age, and also by other vulnerable groups, as appropriate, and by engaging actively in discussions on ICT indicators and data-collection methodologies through contributions, in particular by means of EGH and EGTI and other expert groups coordinated by BDT;

2 to develop national systems or strategies for strengthening the consolidation of statistical information related to telecommunications/ICTs to ensure the quality and timely availability of statistical data;

3 to establish effective national and institutional coordination mechanisms for the compilation and dissemination of telecommunication/ICT information and statistics to monitor achievement of the SDGs at the national level;

4 to establish mechanisms for effective national coordination in order to mobilize and guarantee the quality of statistical data produced by various national stakeholders;

5 to contribute with experiences of policies that have a positive impact on telecommunication/ICT indicators;

6 to strengthen collaboration among national stakeholders for ICT statistics including national statistical offices;

7 to strive to harmonize the methodologies for their domestic statistical data-collection systems with those used at the international level, encouraging interoperability with domestic open data systems, in line with standards on reusable metadata and formats;

8 to promote the documentation, anonymization and availability of statistical microdata on telecommunications/ICTs, ensuring the protection of confidentiality and promoting their reuse by researchers and decision-makers,

encourages

donor agencies and relevant United Nations agencies to cooperate in providing relevant support and information on their activities.

RESOLUTION 9 (Rev. Baku, 2025)

Participation of countries, particularly developing countries, in spectrum management

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Baku, 2025),

recalling

Nos. 120–129 of the ITU Constitution,

considering

- a) that the continuing growth in demand for spectrum, from both existing and new radiocommunication applications and systems, places ever greater requirements on a scarce resource;
- b) that, because of the investment in equipment and infrastructures, major changes in the existing use of the spectrum are often difficult to achieve, except in the long term;
- c) that the needs of society and the marketplace drive the development of new technologies to find new solutions to address development problems;
- d) that national strategies should take into account international commitments under the Radio Regulations;
- e) that it is recommended that national strategies should also take into account global changes in telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICTs) and developments in technology;
- f) that increased spectrum access may be facilitated through technical innovation and greater sharing capabilities;
- g) that, based on its mandate, the ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R) is well placed to provide worldwide information on radiocommunication technology and spectrum utilization trends;
- h) that world radiocommunication conferences (WRCs) take many decisions that have a very significant economic and social impact on national spectrum-management strategies;

- i)* that some countries, particularly developing countries¹, have some difficulties in implementing the outcomes of WRCs;
- j)* that the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) is well placed to facilitate the participation of developing countries in ITU-R activities, and, for those developing countries that so request, to distribute to them the results of particular ITU-R activities;
- k)* that such information would assist spectrum managers in developing countries to develop their own national medium- or long-term strategies;
- l)* that such information would enable developing countries to benefit from sharing studies and other technical studies in ITU-R, including frequency-sharing methodologies;
- m)* that, within spectrum management, one of the most pressing concerns of many developing countries, including least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition, is the difficulty of elaborating methods for the calculation of fees for use of the radio-frequency spectrum;
- n)* that regional, bilateral or multilateral agreements could be a basis for fostering cooperation in the field of the radio-frequency spectrum;
- o)* that spectrum redeployment² could accommodate the increasing demand for new and existing radiocommunication applications;
- p)* that spectrum monitoring includes effective use of spectrum-monitoring facilities to support the spectrum-management process, the evaluation of spectrum utilization for the purpose of spectrum planning, the provision of technical support for frequency allocation and assignment and the resolution of cases of harmful interference;
- q)* the need to disseminate best practices in spectrum management in order to make broadband access more available and affordable to lower-income populations, especially to bridge the digital divide in developing countries;

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

² As noted in Recommendation ITU-R SM.1603, redeployment is also referred to as refarming.

- r) that emerging telecommunications/ICTs could pose challenges for developing countries in terms of available spectrum and licensing policy;
- s) that developing countries can benefit from compiled information on national experiences on spectrum released for emerging technologies;
- t) that flexible regulatory environments and access to spectrum for experimental purposes, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Radio Regulations and Member States' regulations, may benefit the research community and industry, including startups;
- u) that, while short-term courses on spectrum management are being conducted by universities and other training institutions, there are few comprehensive courses on spectrum management, and that the Spectrum Management Training Programme (SMTP) of the ITU Academy and its training centres will continue to be very helpful to developing countries;
- v) that in accordance with Resolution ITU-R 22-6 (Rev. Dubai, 2023) of the Radiocommunication Assembly (RA), personnel involved in spectrum management from developing countries are particularly invited to participate in spectrum-management studies of ITU-R Study Group 1;
- w) that the transition period to digital terrestrial television broadcasting for the developing countries which are party to the Regional Agreement (Geneva, 2006) (GE06 Agreement) ended on 17 June 2020, after which terrestrial analogue television is no longer protected and is subject to the operating conditions prescribed in the GE06 Agreement;
- x) the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG) report on the outcomes of ITU-D Study Groups 1 and 2 on the implementation of this resolution, in collaboration with the Radiocommunication Advisory Group and relevant study groups;
- y) that some resolutions on use of the radio spectrum adopted by WRCs are regional in nature and apply only to a group of countries;
- z) that, in some cases, multilateral agreements among countries are required in frequency planning and coordination to ensure regional harmonization, and that, in that regard, the support of the Radiocommunication Bureau (BR) and the ITU regional offices is useful for coordination of projects aimed at reaching multilateral agreement among countries,

recognizing

- a) that it is the sovereign right of every State to manage spectrum use within its territories;
- b) that ITU-D's specific functions include providing information and advice on possible policy and structural options, promoting the development, expansion and operation of telecommunication networks and services, taking into account the activities of other relevant bodies, by reinforcing capabilities for human resources development, planning, management, resource mobilization, and research and development, and assisting the implementation of best practices and guidelines;
- c) that there is a strong need for the active participation of developing countries in ITU activities, as expressed in Resolution 123 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, Resolution 5 (Rev. Baku, 2025) of this conference, Resolution ITU-R 75 (Dubai, 2023) of RA and Resolution 44 (Rev. New Delhi, 2024) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly, which may be represented individually and through regional groups;
- d) that it is important to take into consideration the ongoing work in ITU-R and ITU-D, and the need to avoid duplication of effort;
- e) the successful cooperation between ITU-R and ITU-D to assist developing countries in spectrum management, effective use of radio-frequency spectrum and dissemination of best practices;
- f) the considerable support given by the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) in the compilation of documents and other relevant outputs, supporting developing countries;
- g) the successful development of the Spectrum Fees Database (SF Database) and the initial compilation of guidelines³ and national experiences to assist administrations in extracting information from the SF Database for use in the preparation of fee-calculation models that suit their national requirements;

³ Here, "guidelines" refers to a range of options that may be used by ITU Member States in their domestic spectrum-management activities.

- h)* that, in connection with the ITU-R Handbook on national spectrum management and Report ITU-R SM.2012, additional guidelines have been compiled offering various national approaches to spectrum-management fees for spectrum use;
- i)* that there is significant activity across multiple ITU-R study groups to address spectrum sharing and strategies for effective utilization of spectrum, which may have implications for national spectrum management and which may be of particular interest to developing countries;
- j)* that ITU-R continues to update Recommendation ITU-R SM.1603, which provides guidelines for spectrum redeployment;
- k)* that the report of ITU-D Study Group 1 on satellite regulation in developing countries, for the study period 2002–2006, provided valuable satellite regulatory information of countries;
- l)* that the ITU-R Handbook on spectrum monitoring provides guidelines for the installation and operation of spectrum-monitoring infrastructures and the implementation of spectrum monitoring, while Recommendation ITU-R SM.1139 prescribes administrative and procedural requirements for international monitoring systems;
- m)* that the ITU-D Report on exploring the value and economic valuation of spectrum (April 2012) provides some insight into how spectrum value may be assessed in different situations;
- n)* that Questions ITU-R 240/1, on assessment of spectrum efficiency and economic value, and ITU-R 241/1, on methodologies for assessing or predicting spectrum availability, are being studied within ITU-R Study Group 1,

resolves to instruct the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau, in close consultation with the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau

1 to collect pertinent information and prepare, over the period between world telecommunication development conferences, appropriate documents and other relevant outputs, that are responsive to the specific needs of developing countries (including, but not limited to, the examples given in Annex 1 to this resolution and membership input to the ITU-D study groups), on national technical, economic, regulatory and financial approaches to, and challenges of, spectrum management and spectrum monitoring, taking into account ITU-R Recommendations, reports, handbooks and other outputs from ITU-R;

2 to continue the development of the SF Database, including methods for spectrum valuation and methods for pricing, incorporating national experiences, and to provide additional guidelines, tools and national experiences, based on contributions from administrations, within available resources;

3 to compile national experiences, in order to prepare the documents identified in *resolves* 1 above, on the use of shared spectrum, different tools for spectrum management that allow for greater flexibility, efficiency and both economic and social benefits, as well as the economic aspects of spectrum management, including mechanisms to stimulate affordable and accessible services to low-income users;

4 to continue to assist Member States, in particular developing countries, in the implementation of the outcomes of WRCs, and to organize presentations on issues of interest for developing countries through seminars and workshops;

5 to assist Member States, in particular developing countries, within the resources available, in utilizing up-to-date ITU spectrum management tools, such as the Radio Regulations Navigation Tool and the RR5 Table of Frequency Allocations software developed by BR for the implementation of the outcomes of WRCs, and BDT resources, such as the Spectrum Management Training Programme and Spectrum Management System for Developing Countries (SMS4DC);

6 to provide spectrum management capacity building programmes at various levels that match the specific needs of each developing country, within available resources,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to continue to provide the support described in *recognizing f)* above;

2 to encourage Member States from developing countries, at the national and/or regional level, to provide ITU-R and ITU-D with a list of their needs, national experiences and/or special requirements with respect to national spectrum management, to which the Director of BDT should endeavour to respond, and an example of which is given in Annex 1 to this resolution;

3 to encourage Member States to continue to provide ITU-R and ITU-D with practical examples of their experiences of using the SF Database, national trends in spectrum management, spectrum redeployment and the installation and operation of spectrum-monitoring systems;

4 to provide annual reports to TDAG on the implementation of this resolution;

5 to establish a mechanism for evaluating Member States' spectrum management capacity needs in order to design responsive capacity building initiatives and to monitor progress,

invites the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau

to ensure that ITU-R continues the collaboration with ITU-D in the implementation of this resolution,

invites the membership of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector

- 1 to contribute to the work of ITU-D, TDAG, ITU-D study groups and other ITU Sectors, by providing national experiences regarding spectrum sharing, national uses of different tools for spectrum management, including various licensing and authorization schemes, as well as economic and social benefits and challenges;
- 2 to contribute actively to the implementation of this resolution,

invites Member States

- 1 to explore the possibility of enabling flexible regulatory environments and access to spectrum for experimental purposes, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Radio Regulations;
- 2 to update the information available in national frequency allocation tables and make the website for this resolution and the ITU ICT-Eye data portal complementary;
- 3 to undertake voluntary self-assessments related to spectrum management skills organized by BDT and BR to help customize capacity-building programmes.

ANNEX 1 to RESOLUTION 9 (Rev. Baku, 2025)

Examples of specific needs of developing countries in spectrum management

The main types of technical assistance which developing countries⁴ expect from ITU are as follows:

1 Assistance in raising the awareness of national policy-makers as to the importance of effective spectrum management for a country's economic and social development

With the restructuring of the telecommunication sector, the emergence of competition, high demand for frequencies from operators, disaster mitigation and relief operations and the need to combat climate change, effective spectrum management has become indispensable for States. ITU should play a key role in raising the awareness of policy-makers by organizing special seminars designed specifically for them. To this end:

- In view of how important the regulators have become, ITU might include them in its regular distribution list for circulars providing information about the different education programmes and modules organized by the Union.
- ITU should include dedicated spectrum-management modules in the programmes of meetings (colloquiums, seminars) bringing together regulators and ministries responsible for spectrum management, with private-sector involvement.
- Within the limits of available resources, ITU should make fellowships available to promote the least developed countries' participation at those meetings.

⁴ These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

2 Training and dissemination of available ITU documentation

Spectrum management must be in accordance with the provisions of the Radio Regulations, regional agreements to which administrations are parties, and national regulations. Spectrum managers must be able to provide frequency users with relevant information.

Developing countries would like to have access to ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R) and ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) documentation, which must be available in the six official languages of the Union.

Developing countries would also like to see suitable training provided (either on-site or remotely) in the form of specialized ITU seminars, in order to help frequency managers gain a thorough knowledge of ITU-R Recommendations, reports and handbooks, which are constantly updated.

Through its regional offices, ITU could set up an effective system to provide frequency managers with real-time information on existing and future publications.

Specialized courses on spectrum management, access to radio-frequency resources and the preparatory process for world radiocommunication conferences (WRCs) will be very helpful for developing countries.

3 Assistance in developing methodologies for establishing national tables of frequency allocations and spectrum redeployment

Tables of frequency allocations form the mainstay of spectrum management; they identify the services provided and their category of use. ITU could encourage administrations to make available national frequency allocation tables to the public and stakeholders and facilitate administrations' access to information available in other countries, in particular by developing links between its website and the websites of administrations which have produced national tables of frequency allocations available to the public, allowing developing countries to obtain information on national allocations in a rapid and timely fashion. ITU-R and ITU-D could also compile guidelines for the development of the above-mentioned tables. Spectrum redeployment is sometimes necessary to allow the introduction of new radiocommunication applications. ITU could provide support in this regard by compiling guidelines for the implementation of spectrum redeployment, on the basis of practical experience of administrations and based on Recommendation ITU-R SM.1603, on spectrum redeployment as a method of national spectrum management.

In certain circumstances, the Telecommunication Development Bureau could make available the assistance of its experts for the development of national tables of frequency allocations and for the planning and implementation of spectrum redeployments, at the request of the countries concerned.

To the extent possible, ITU-D should incorporate appropriate issues into its regional seminars on spectrum management.

4 Assistance in setting up computerized frequency management and monitoring systems

These systems facilitate routine spectrum-management tasks. They must be capable of taking local features into account. The establishment of operational structures also enables the smooth execution of administrative tasks, frequency allocation, spectrum analysis and monitoring. According to the specific features of individual countries, ITU can provide expert help in identifying the technical means, operational procedures and human resources needed for effective spectrum management. The ITU-R Handbook on computer-aided techniques for spectrum management and the ITU-R Handbook on spectrum monitoring may provide technical guidelines for setting up the above-mentioned systems.

ITU should improve the Spectrum Management System for Developing Countries (SMS4DC) software (including its availability in the other official languages), to the extent possible, customize it to address the specific needs of administrations concerned and make it more affordable, and also ensure the necessary assistance and training in the implementation of the software in administrations' daily spectrum-management activities.

ITU should provide expert advice to administrations of developing countries and facilitate participation of developing countries in regional or international spectrum-monitoring activities, as necessary. ITU should also provide encouragement and assistance to administrations in setting up regional spectrum-monitoring systems, if required.

5 Economic and financial aspects of spectrum management

ITU-D and ITU-R could, together, provide examples of:

- a) reference frameworks for management accounting;
- b) guidelines for the implementation of management accounting, which could be very useful for calculating the administrative costs of spectrum management referred to in *recognizing g*) of Resolution 9 (Rev. Baku, 2025) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference;
- c) guidelines on the various methods for valuing, awarding and charging for spectrum.

ITU could further develop the mechanism set up under *resolves 2* of Resolution 9 (Rev. Baku, 2025) in order to enable developing countries to:

- learn more about practices in other administrations, which could be useful for defining spectrum fee policies tailored to each country's specific situation;
- identify financial resources to be allocated to the operational and investment budgets for spectrum management.

6 Assistance with preparations for WRCs and with follow-up and implementation of WRC decisions

The submission of joint proposals is a way of guaranteeing that regional needs are taken into account. Alongside regional organizations, ITU could give impetus to the establishment and running of regional and subregional preparatory structures for WRCs.

With support from regional and subregional organizations, the Radiocommunication Bureau (BR) could communicate the broad outlines of decisions taken by the conferences, and thereby contribute to establishing a follow-up mechanism for such decisions at national and regional levels.

7 Assistance with participation in the work of the relevant ITU-R study groups and their working parties

The ITU-R study groups play a key role in the drafting of Recommendations which affect the entire radiocommunication community. It is essential that developing countries participate in study group work in order to ensure that their specific features are taken into account. For effective participation of those countries, ITU could – through its regional offices – assist in running a subregional network organized around coordinators responsible for the Questions under study within ITU-R, as well as by providing financial assistance in order for the coordinators to participate in meetings of the relevant ITU-R study groups. The designated coordinators for the different regions should also assist in meeting the desired needs.

8 Transition to digital terrestrial television and radio broadcasting

Most developing countries are currently undergoing the transition from analogue to digital terrestrial television and radio broadcasting. There is thus a need for assistance in many topics, especially for developing countries party to the Regional Agreement (Geneva, 2006), including frequency planning, service scenarios and technology selection, which all in turn affect spectral efficiency and the resulting digital dividend.

9 Assistance in identifying the most efficient ways to utilize the digital dividend

Developing countries, upon completing the digital switchover, will have some portions of a very valuable spectrum freed, which are known as the digital dividend. Different discussions are being conducted on how to optimally reallocate, and enable more efficient use of, the relevant part of these bands. In order to maximize both economic and social impacts, it will be appropriate to consider including potential use cases and best practices in the ITU case library, and to hold regular international and regional workshops on that subject.

Additional measures aimed at ensuring efficient and sustainable utilization of the digital dividend in developing countries:

i) Development of use cases adapted to regional conditions:

Use cases and technical recommendations on utilization of the digital dividend under different geographical and economic conditions, including in remote and rural areas, should be developed and included in the ITU case library.

ii) Methodological assistance in the development of national roadmaps:

ITU may, where necessary, provide technical assistance to developing countries in the preparation of national roadmaps for the phased implementation and utilization of the digital dividend.

iii) Support in the establishment of public-private partnership mechanisms:

It is recommended to consider example public-private partnerships and licensing models which include universal service obligations in order to ensure effective utilization of the digital dividend, in particular for mobile communications and the Internet in remote areas.

10 Assistance in frequency planning for interregional agreements on the use of frequency assignments for application of new generation radio technologies

Currently, the Radio Regulations and regional agreements serve as the framework for the introduction of new generation radio technologies. In some cases, there is a need for planning and coordination of frequency bands or assignments in terrestrial services between countries belonging to different regions under the Radio Regulations or served by different ITU regional offices. For such cases, it is necessary to establish and develop mechanisms for cooperation between different ITU regional offices in order to bring countries together and conduct frequency planning and coordination work, provide the necessary methodological support, in consultation with BR, and, if necessary, involve independent experts.

11 Emerging technologies and approaches in using spectrum

With the ongoing demand for high data rates, there is pressure on the limited spectrum resource. Developing countries need to be aware of emerging technologies and approaches in using spectrum which are intended to improve spectrum efficiency and cost-effectiveness, through training, seminars and national experiences. Some examples include:

- dynamic spectrum sharing (DSS);
- use of satellite and high-altitude platform (HAPS) systems for the provision of services in remote and inaccessible areas;
- Internet of things (IoT);
- IMT-2020, IMT-2030 and beyond;
- short-range devices;
- emerging telecommunication/ICT technologies;
- unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV)/drones;
- machine learning for spectrum management (see relevant ITU-R publications).

12 Innovative ways of spectrum licensing

As part of smart government, public services are increasingly being offered over mobile and online platforms. The process of spectrum licensing can also be automated, and the process of receiving requests for spectrum use and licensing can be made available online and on smart devices. Innovative ways of spectrum licensing such as light licensing and authorized shared access/licensed shared access could have potential to improve the efficiency of spectrum utilization. Training and national experiences can be offered to developing countries in order for them to benefit from the experience of countries that have deployed such systems, including the licensing regimes, frequency surrender and frequency leasing/sharing methods.

13 Assistance with interference caused by devices in derogation of national spectrum allocations

Radiocommunication devices are required to operate in accordance with the Radio Regulations, national regulations and the Table of Frequency Allocations in order to avoid harmful interference. As spectrum allocations can vary among countries, radiocommunication devices manufactured to operate in one country can cause harmful interference if used in another country in specific bands allocated to different services.

In this regard, the popularity of small-sized radiocommunication devices, their potential growth and the lack of technical knowledge on the part of their users will pose an increasing challenge for national spectrum regulators.

14 Assistance in resolving seasonal interference caused by anomalous propagation of radiowaves

Coastal areas of nations, and island nations, especially small island nations, experience seasonal cross-border interference to their mobile networks due to anomalous propagation of radiowaves. This interference becomes very critical if both countries are using different frequency planning in the same frequency band. This issue continues to pose challenges to national spectrum-management authorities.

RESOLUTION 10 (Rev. Baku, 2025)

Financial support for national spectrum-management programmes

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Baku, 2025),

recalling

Resolution 10 (Rev. Hyderabad, 2010) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC),

considering

- a) that we are currently witnessing the accelerated implementation and globalization of different radiocommunication services, and the emergence of new, efficient radio applications;
- b) that guaranteeing successful development of radiocommunications and implementation of these new applications calls for the availability of appropriate interference-free frequency bands, at national, regional and international levels, in accordance with the Radio Regulations and Recommendations and resolutions of the ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R);
- c) the outputs from the second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society, in particular § 96 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society pertaining to the role of ITU in taking steps to ensure the rational, efficient and economic use of, and equitable access to, the radio-frequency spectrum by all countries;
- d) that the provision of frequency bands and more efficient use of the spectrum, at national, regional and international levels, depend on the establishment and implementation of relevant national spectrum-management, including radio-monitoring, programmes to prevent interference;

e) that efficient national spectrum-management programmes are essential to the liberalization of radiocommunications and the privatization of some radiocommunication services and to promoting competition, realizing that such programmes are not available in some developing countries¹;

f) that several countries are switching off their analogue television transmissions and migrating to digital broadcasting technologies, freeing a range of radio frequencies currently used for analogue television;

g) that spectrum can be used for efforts to bridge the digital divide,

recognizing

a) the critical role of adequate budget allocation for spectrum management in achieving the goals of the Union;

b) the success of regional models in pooling resources for capacity building;

c) the need for sustainable financing mechanisms to ensure active participation in ITU-R activities, particularly for developing countries;

d) the importance of implementing spectrum-management programmes in ensuring effective development of radiocommunications and the role played by radiocommunications in developing a country's economy, and that such programmes are sometimes not given the necessary priority;

e) that national and international finance organizations frequently accord much more priority to supporting the implementation of telecommunication (including radiocommunication) systems than to the implementation of national spectrum-management programmes;

f) the success achieved in the implementation of Resolution 9, on participation of countries, particularly developing countries, in spectrum management, since it was first adopted by WTDC (Valletta, 1998),

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

resolves

- 1 to continue to invite national and international finance organizations to pay more attention to giving substantial financial support, including through favourable credit arrangements, to national spectrum-management – including radio-monitoring – programmes and training therein for those countries that lack appropriate spectrum-management programmes, as a prerequisite for efficient spectrum utilization, the successful development of radio services and the implementation of new and promising applications, including global ones, at the national, regional and international levels;
- 2 to continue to invite the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) to provide, in its budget, for the holding of an annual meeting to study the question of national spectrum management, in full coordination with the Radiocommunication Bureau (BR), within the activities of Programme 1, at regional and international levels;
- 3 to invite BDT to follow up development of the national spectrum-management system for developing countries (SMS4DC), in cooperation with BR and ITU-R Study Group 1;
- 4 to invite BDT to evaluate the possibility of:
 - i) studying optimal ways of phasing out analogue TV in developing countries; and
 - ii) better utilizing the phased-out analogue TV frequencies,

requests the Telecommunication Development Bureau

to bring this resolution to the attention of relevant international and regional financing and development organizations so as to support developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing states, in:

- i) developing human resources in spectrum management through training, capacity building and knowledge sharing;
- ii) ensuring active participation in relevant ITU meetings and activities,

invites the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau

to continue the cooperation with BDT in developing the national SMS4DC, and training therein,

invites ITU Radiocommunication Sector Study Groups 5 and 6

to continue the cooperation with ITU Telecommunication Development Sector Study Group 2, providing information on the current and future use of the spectrum with the phased-out analogue TV frequencies and reporting how developed and developing countries are using or planning to use the digital dividend,

invites Member States

to prioritize financial support for developing human resources in national spectrum management and participating in related ITU activities and initiatives in regional and international organizations.

RESOLUTION 11 (Rev. Baku, 2025)

Telecommunication/information and communication technology services in rural, isolated, unserved and underserved areas

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Baku, 2025),

recalling

- a)* Resolution 20 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC), on non-discriminatory access to modern telecommunication/information and communication technology (ICT) facilities, services and related applications;
- b)* Resolution 37 (Rev. Baku, 2025) of this conference, on bridging the digital divide;
- c)* Resolution 46 (Rev. Baku, 2025) of this conference, on assistance to Indigenous Peoples and communities through ICTs;
- d)* Resolution 69 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA), on non-discriminatory access and use of Internet resources and telecommunications/ICTs;
- e)* Resolution 77 (Rev. New Delhi, 2024) of WTSA, on enhancing standardization work in the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) for software-defined networking;
- f)* Resolution 90 (Hammamet, 2016) of WTSA, on open source in ITU-T;
- g)* Resolution 135 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on ITU's role in the durable and sustainable development of telecommunications/ICTs, in providing technical assistance and advice to developing countries¹ and in implementing relevant national, regional and interregional projects;

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

h) Resolution 137 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on deployment of future networks in developing countries;

i) Recommendation ITU-D 20 (Dubai, 2014) of WTDC, recommending that the world's governments and regulators take policy and regulatory measures to accelerate the development of telecommunications/ICTs/broadband in their rural and remote areas through specific policy and regulatory interventions/initiatives;

j) Recommendation ITU-D 19 (Dubai, 2014) of WTDC, recommending that, in planning infrastructure development in rural and remote areas, it is important to assess all available technologies in the market, taking into consideration the regulatory environment, geographical conditions, climate, costs (capital expenditure and operational expenditure), maintainability, operability, sustainability, etc., based on the results of the site survey and community needs;

k) Resolution 209 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, encouraging the participation of small and medium enterprises in the work of the Union;

l) the Global Digital Compact, as adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in Annex I to its Resolution 79/1²;

m) Resolution 71 (Rev. Kigali, 2022) of WTDC, on strengthening cooperation between Member States, Sector Members, Associates and Academia of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D), including the private sector, which resolves that the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau, when implementing the ITU-D operational plan, should consider facilitating the development of public-private sector partnerships for the implementation of global, regional and national flagship initiatives,

considering

a) that all WTDCs have reaffirmed the important and urgent need to provide access to basic telecommunication/ICT services for everyone, and particularly for developing countries, in order to provide coverage in rural and isolated areas which lack this service;

² Noting that some Member States have not endorsed the Global Digital Compact.

- b) the outputs of the first and second phases of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) in relation to the importance of ensuring telecommunication/ICT services in those areas and communities;
- c) that broadband-satellite and terrestrial radiocommunication services in turn offer fast, reliable and cost-effective communication options characterized by high connection density both in urban areas and in rural and remote areas;
- d) the critical role of telecommunication/ICT services in ensuring the safety of lives, including life at sea, and supporting the economic and social development of communities with limited access in the least developed countries (LDCs), landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) and small island developing states (SIDS);
- e) that the WSIS process has assessed progress and challenges over the past two decades;
- f) that the Global Digital Compact recognizes the need to promote inclusion in the digital economy, facilitating market access and participation by micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs),

noting

- a) that a clear correlation between the availability of universal telecommunication/ICT services and environmental, cultural, economic and social development has been firmly established;
- b) the importance of achieving telecommunication/ICT infrastructure development and modernization in developing countries, which helps to enhance access to services, particularly in rural, isolated or unserved and underserved areas;
- c) the findings of the ITU-D Smart Seas project, which highlight that certain populations³ in many SIDS and coastal countries remain underserved in terms of access to ICTs, despite their high vulnerability at sea, and are often excluded from the benefits of ICT advancements owing to limited capital, capacity, policy and regulatory provisions and adoption at the national and international levels;

³ Including small-scale fishers, shipping operators and tourism providers.

- d) that very few Member States, where applicable, explicitly consider territorial waters as unserved/underserved areas within the scope of their universal service frameworks or universal service funds;
- e) the annual reports of the ITU/United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development, after 15 years of work, which highlight its efforts to promote universal access to broadband and digital inclusion, especially with the results of the Working Group on connectivity for MSMEs;
- f) that submarine cables are essential infrastructures for global communications and for supporting high-capacity and resilient connectivity to rural, isolated, unserved and underserved areas,

taking into account

the fact that future networks are potential tools for resolving the new and complex issues facing the telecommunication sector, and that deployment of future networks and standardization activities are of great importance for developing countries, especially for their unserved and underserved areas in which the greater part of their populations live,

recognizing

- a) that significant progress has been made in many developing countries through universal access to telecommunication/ICT services in rural, isolated, underserved and unserved areas countrywide, thereby demonstrating the economic and technical feasibility of projects to provide this type of service;
- b) that, in many areas and some developing countries, there is convincing evidence of the overall profitability of telecommunication/ICT services in rural, isolated, underserved and unserved areas, under appropriate regulatory and market conditions;
- c) that Member States have implemented financing mechanisms for the benefit of rural and underserved areas, where feasible taking into account the capabilities and resources of all countries, especially LDCs;
- d) that sustainable business models are key to long-term service continuity, and that local community involvement could be beneficial;

e) that high-altitude platform stations (HAPS) are solutions in the terrestrial service, among others, which can be used to provide backhaul and direct access connectivity in rural and remote areas, and are defined in No. 1.66A of the Radio Regulations,

recognizing further

a) that there are new and emerging telecommunications/ICTs that may help to facilitate innovation in the provision of telecommunication/ICT services, in particular broadband technologies, to rural, isolated, unserved and underserved areas, including when considering territorial waters;

b) that various new and emerging telecommunication/ICT solutions (such as terrestrial and satellite systems, software-defined networking and open-source systems) and their potential combination play an important role in implementing the strategy of bridging the digital divide, leaving no one behind;

c) that access to telecommunication/ICT services in rural, isolated, unserved and underserved areas can only be achieved by adopting a technology-neutral and interoperable approach when considering all available connectivity solutions/technologies;

d) that ITU-D study groups, in the course of their work under related study Questions in previous study periods, collected numerous case studies relating to rural projects and projects serving isolated areas, that these case studies include the preparation, design and implementation of such projects, and that they represent an important reference to be used as lessons for successful projects covering many situations;

e) that, under ITU-D Study Group 1, existing challenges for the development of telecommunications/ICTs in rural and remote areas were examined, among which the most noteworthy are the high costs of installation and operation, the lack of energy supply, the absence of technical staff, geographic characteristics and ICT literacy, among others, and the various methods that can help solve these challenges were also identified and examined,

resolves

1 to invite ITU-D study groups to continue their studies, under the appropriate study Questions, on the best means for providing access to telecommunication/ICT services in rural, isolated, underserved and unserved areas, including when considering territorial waters, in terms of universal access, rural telecommunication programmes, regulatory framework, financial resources and commercial approach, taking into account the aims of this resolution, including open and interoperable network technologies, such as software-defined and open-source network technologies;

2 to invite the ITU-D study groups to consider studies on MSME telecommunication operators who provide telecommunication/ICT services in rural, isolated, underserved and unserved areas, including when considering territorial waters, with a view to promoting innovation and reducing the digital divide;

3 to invite the ITU-D study groups to consolidate and disseminate information through seminars, workshops and online spaces such as webinars to exchange national experiences on the roll-out and operation of broadband networks using new and emerging telecommunication/ICT services in rural, isolated, underserved and unserved areas, with special emphasis on LLDCs and SIDS,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to submit reports to the relevant ITU-D study groups, in particular, on the lessons learned from the projects it has implemented and the seminars and training programmes it is conducting to satisfy the objectives of this resolution;

2 to assist Member States in developing frameworks and strategies for telecommunication/ICT development using universal service funds effectively;

3 to assist in disseminating information on best practices for the deployment and operation of broadband networks in rural, isolated, underserved and unserved areas, with special emphasis on LLDCs and SIDS;

4 to provide assistance to Member States so that they can identify and develop policies, mechanisms and regulatory initiatives to reduce the digital divide by promoting the deployment and adoption of broadband,

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

- 1 to continue supporting the studies undertaken in response to this resolution;
- 2 to promote further the use of all appropriate means of telecommunication/ICT to facilitate effective development and implementation of telecommunication/ICT services in rural, isolated, underserved and unserved areas of the world through the relevant programmes;
- 3 to continue efforts to promote the optimum use by developing countries of all available new and emerging telecommunication/ICT services provided by satellite and terrestrial systems, including submarine cables, as appropriate, to serve these rural, isolated, underserved and unserved areas and communities;
- 4 to coordinate efforts on supporting governments for the development and provision of telecommunication/ICT services in rural, isolated, underserved and unserved areas;
- 5 to provide specialized assistance to Member States to enable them to identify and develop adaptive policies, mechanisms and regulatory initiatives to reduce the digital divide by promoting available, affordable, accessible deployment and adoption of broadband;
- 6 to continue to promote initiatives in order to identify isolated, underserved and unserved areas, enabling governments to plan concrete participatory policies for the implementation of telecommunication/ICT services, and to implement capacity-building programmes to support the expansion and maintenance of telecommunication networks in these areas;
- 7 within the framework of available resources, to continue to promote the exchange of experiences and capacity building on financing mechanisms, including the study of universal service funds, for the development of telecommunication networks in unserved or underserved areas involving rural, isolated and other underserved communities and small operators, including blended finance and social impact investments, among other things;

8 to encourage the active participation of MSMEs, with special emphasis on small telecommunication operators, in collaboration with stakeholders, through dissemination and training mechanisms, for the benefit of developing countries;

9 to explore appropriate partnerships with the relevant international and regional organizations to implement this resolution,

invites Member States

1 to consider sharing best practices on the use of renewable energy and energy-efficient technologies for powering telecommunication/ICT infrastructure in off-grid areas;

2 to raise awareness of different licensing and deployment models for impacted rural, isolated, underserved and unserved areas;

3 to share successful models of development of telecommunication/ICT services and applications, including public-private partnership models, in the fields of health, education, trade, etc., in rural, remote, isolated, underserved and unserved areas,

invites Member States and Sector Members

1 to consider reviewing and, where appropriate, revising the scope of universal service frameworks and universal service funds to include territorial waters as unserved or underserved areas, and submitting associated progress reports, findings and lessons learned to the relevant ITU-D study groups;

2 to continue investing in and researching new technological developments to address the access and usage gaps in communities with limited access, through innovative solutions.

RESOLUTION 15 (Rev. Kigali, 2022)

Applied research and transfer of technology

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Kigali, 2022),

recalling

- a) No. 19 in Article 1 of the ITU Constitution, on the purposes of the Union, and No. 124 in Article 21, on the functions and structure of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D);
- b) the Tunis Commitment of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), recognizing the principles of universal, non-discriminatory, equitable and affordable access to information and communication technology (ICT) for all nations and all persons everywhere (see §§ 15, 18 and 19);
- c) Resolution 64 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on non-discriminatory access to modern telecommunication/ICT facilities, services and applications, including applied research and transfer of technology, and e-meetings, on mutually agreed terms;
- d) the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the third International Conference on Financing for Development, endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in Resolution 69/313, which recognizes the transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms as a powerful driver of economic growth and sustainable development;
- e) the Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, endorsed by UNGA in Resolution 64/222, which emphasizes the need to promote, including through South-South cooperation, access to and the transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms,

recognizing

- a) that many countries would benefit from technology transfer;
- b) that joint ventures can be effective means of technology transfer;

- c) that seminars and training conducted by various countries as well as by international and regional organizations have contributed to the transfer of technology, and hence to the development of telecommunication/ICT networks in the regions;
- d) that providers of telecommunication/ICT equipment and services are important partners in ensuring the flow of technology to developing countries¹ and that they are ready to enter freely into such arrangements;
- e) that applied research is a promising activity for developing countries;
- f) that a great number of engineers originally from developing countries contribute to applied research in developed countries;
- g) that research institutes in developed countries have substantial human and material resources compared to those in developing countries;
- h) that a relationship of partnership and cooperation between applied research centres and laboratories improves technology transfer;
- i) that cooperation among developing countries, including South-South cooperation, holds enormous potential for effective technology transfer on mutually agreed terms,

resolves

1 that, based on agreement among parties concerned, transfer of technology in the area of telecommunications/ICTs should be supported as much as possible, in respect of both conventional technology and new technologies and services;

2 that developing and developed countries should continue to cooperate through exchanges of experts, the organization of seminars, specialized workshops and meetings, and the establishment of contacts between telecommunication/ICT applied research institutions, including by means of teleconferencing, etc.,

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

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

- 1 to continue to hold specialized seminars, workshops or training in the field of telecommunications/ICTs in order to raise the technological level in developing countries, including the involvement of academia and research and development institutions from both developed and developing countries;
- 2 to continue to promote the exchange of information among international organizations, donor countries and recipient countries on transfer of technology, including by assisting them in setting up cooperative networks between telecommunication/ICT research institutes in developing and developed countries;
- 3 to assist in the elaboration of terms of reference guaranteeing technology transfer;
- 4 to continue to develop handbooks addressing the issue of technology transfer, and ensure that these handbooks are disseminated to developing countries and that users are properly initiated in their use;
- 5 to give financial support to research institutes in developing countries so as to enable them to attend ITU research meetings, workshops and programmes within available resources;
- 6 to encourage the admission of academic institutions, universities and their associated research establishments in the work of ITU-D as Sector Members or Associates, at a reduced level of financial contribution, particularly academic institutions of developing countries,

invites developing countries

- 1 to continue establishing new telecommunication/ICT research projects and to submit them to existing applied research institutes in order to facilitate cooperation with other research institutes;
- 2 to participate in the activities of standards development organizations;
- 3 to participate in joint activities and telecommunication/ICT technology transfer between developing countries,

invites telecommunication equipment and service providers

pursuant to the Geneva Declaration of Principles of the first phase of WSIS and the Tunis Commitment of the second phase, to make relevant new technologies and know-how available to their customers in developing countries on a voluntary basis and/or in accordance with sound commercial principles,

appeals to international organizations and donor countries

to assist the developing countries in exploring ways and means of improving technology transfer and developing telecommunication/ICT applied research centres and laboratories, including technical and financial assistance.

RESOLUTION 16 (Rev. Baku, 2025)

Special actions and measures for the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Baku, 2025),

recalling

- a)* United Nations resolutions concerning programmes for least developed countries (LDCs), small island developing states (SIDS), landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) and countries with economies in transition;
- b)* Resolution 79/194 of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), on information and communication technologies (ICTs) for sustainable development;
- c)* UNGA Resolution 78/160, on science, technology and innovation for sustainable development;
- d)* UNGA Resolution 70/1, on transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- e)* UNGA Resolution 70/125, on the outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS),

considering

- a)* Resolution 30 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on special measures for LDCs, SIDS, LLDCs and countries with economies in transition;
- b)* Resolution 25 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on strengthening the regional presence;
- c)* Resolution 131 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on measuring ICTs to build an integrating and inclusive information society;

- d) Resolution 135 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on ITU's role in the durable and sustainable development of telecommunications/ICTs, in providing technical assistance and advice to developing countries¹ and in implementing relevant national, regional and interregional projects;
- e) Resolution 139 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the use of telecommunications/ICTs to bridge the digital divide and build an inclusive information society;
- f) Resolution 214 (Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on artificial intelligence (AI) technologies and telecommunications/ICTs;
- g) Resolution 218 (Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on ITU's role in the implementation of the "Space2030" Agenda: space as a driver of sustainable development, and its follow-up and review process;
- h) Resolution 37 (Rev. Baku, 2025) of this conference, on bridging the digital divide,
recognizing
- a) that telecommunications/ICTs are a key tool for implementing the WSIS vision beyond 2015 and a key enabler for social, environmental, cultural and economic development, and consequently for accelerating the timely attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals and associated targets;
- b) the unique vulnerabilities and challenges faced by LLDCs and SIDS, particularly those in the Pacific, owing to geographical isolation, limited economies of scale, infrastructure constraints, and significant time zone differences – factors that create persistent barriers to full participation in ITU processes, access to technical and financial assistance, and opportunities for capacity building and institutional development;
- c) the Lagatoi Declaration on Digital Transformation of the Pacific, with its commitment to build an inclusive, connected and digitally empowered Pacific, taking into account the Pacific's unique geographic, economic and social challenges;

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

- d) the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent and Pacific Islands Forum Leaders' commitment for a well-connected region that ensures inclusion, and accessible, secure and affordable ICT infrastructure and services;
- e) that the African Union Agenda 2063 envisions the establishment of world-class infrastructure across the continent to support inclusive and sustainable economic growth, while promoting full and productive employment and ensuring decent work for all;
- f) that the African Union Digital Transformation Strategy for Africa (2020–2030) aspires to create an inclusive and integrated digital economy and society that improves the quality of life for citizens, strengthens and diversifies the economic landscape, and reinforces Africa's ownership of its digital future;
- g) that many new and emerging telecommunication/ICT services and technologies offer significant potential to help close digital divides, improve the resilience and robustness of telecommunication/ICT networks and tackle the challenges faced by LDCs, SIDS, LLDCs and countries with economies in transition,

noting

- a) Resolution 1 (Dubai, 2012) of the World Conference on International Telecommunications, on special measures for LLDCs and SIDS for access to international optical fibre networks;
- b) the striking imbalance in telecommunication/ICT development between these countries (LDCs, SIDS, LLDCs and countries with economies in transition) and other countries, the persistence of which exacerbates the digital divide, which can exclude women and girls and create accessibility divides for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs;
- c) that accessible and affordable telecommunications/ICTs for rural and remote areas are critical to bridging the digital divide, and that network operators, including telecommunication/ICT complementary access networks and solutions, can play a role to this end;

- d) that these countries and countries in special need are vulnerable to extreme levels of devastation to their telecommunication/ICT infrastructure resulting from natural disasters, and often lack the capacity to effectively respond to, and recover from, such calamities, potentially deepening the digital divide in those countries;
- e) the existence of countries which owing to geographical and political conditions have limited access to terrestrial and marine international cable systems;
- f) that SIDS are working together to define shared development priorities and regional commitments on digital transformation, resilience and inclusion, which is gaining recognition within the international community;
- g) that fully realizing the benefits of new and emerging telecommunication/ICT services and technologies will require bridging digital divides and achieving universal access;
- h) that despite the significant potential of new and emerging telecommunication/ICT services and technologies, including space-based connectivity solutions, to expand connectivity and coverage and improve national telecommunication/ICT resilience, many developing countries face unique challenges, requiring further capacity building in order to effectively access and benefit from those solutions,

appreciating

the special measures taken for the benefit of these countries in the form of concentrated assistance provided under the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) action plan,

noting with concern

- a) that, despite all the measures taken so far, the telecommunication networks in many of these countries remain in a very poor state of development in urban, semi-urban, rural and remote areas;
- b) that the geographical situation of SIDS and LLDCs is an obstacle to the establishment of international telecommunication network connectivity with these countries;
- c) that multilateral and bilateral flows of technical assistance and investment finance to these countries are constantly declining;

- d) that to date there are many countries in this category;
- e) the low level of resources allocated to the special programme for these countries,

aware

that improved telecommunication networks in these countries will constitute a major driver underpinning their social and economic recovery and their development, and can provide opportunities for sustainable livelihoods and drive digital transformation,

resolves

to endorse the new priority areas for the next four years, the associated programme of action for these countries and its implementation strategy,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to continue efforts to support cooperation among the ITU membership on this issue and on mobilizing resources to address the needs of LDCs, SIDS (including Pacific island countries), LLDCs and countries with economies in transition, as well as populations that are underserved and face particular challenges, including through the Partner2Connect Digital Coalition;

2 to continue to review the state of telecommunication/ICT services in LDCs, SIDS, LLDCs and countries with economies in transition, as identified by the United Nations and needing special measures for the development of telecommunications/ICTs, and to identify areas of critical weakness requiring priority action;

3 to continue submitting to the ITU Council concrete measures intended to bring about genuine improvements and effective assistance to these countries, from the Special Voluntary Programme for Technical Cooperation, the Union's own resources and other sources of finance;

4 to implement fully the programme of assistance for these countries contained in the ITU-D action plan, noting the priorities of LDCs, SIDS, LLDCs and countries with economies in transition;

5 to give priority to requests received from these countries in implementing other Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) programmes of assistance to developing countries that are intended to improve and provide effective assistance to these countries;

6 to pay special attention to suburban, rural and remote telecommunication/ICT development in these countries, particularly for remote communities, and the role that telecommunication/ICT complementary access networks and solutions can play in connecting the unconnected, with a view to achieving universal access to telecommunication/ICT services;

7 to foster the exchange of information and advisory services to facilitate an understanding in these countries of the roll-out of new and emerging telecommunication/ICT services and technologies, including space-based communication technologies, as well as related opportunities, risks and recommended enabling policy and regulatory considerations;

8 to continue to work towards providing the necessary administrative and operational structure for identifying the development needs of these countries and for proper administration of the resources appropriated for LDCs, SIDS, LLDCs and countries with economies in transition;

9 to actively seek to improve the human resources of ITU regional offices for executing initiatives to meet the needs and priorities of LDCs, SIDS, LLDCs and countries with economies in transition, within the available budget, and to maximize the regional presence;

10 to report annually on this matter to the Council, covering progress made in the implementation of this resolution and highlighting key achievements, challenges and recommendations for further action,

requests the Secretary-General

1 to request the Plenipotentiary Conference (Doha, 2026) to provide the necessary budget for these countries with a view to enabling BDT to undertake essential and programmed activities for them;

2 to continue enhancing the assistance provided to these countries through other resources, and in particular through unconditional voluntary contributions and appropriate partnerships, as well as any surplus income from world and regional telecommunication exhibitions and forums;

3 to propose new and innovative measures capable of generating additional funds to be used for telecommunication/ICT development in these countries, in order to benefit from the possibilities afforded by financial mechanisms in facing the challenges of utilizing ICT for development purposes, as stated in the WSIS Tunis Agenda for the Information Society;

4 to make every possible effort to encourage coordination and minimize duplication among financial institutions and international organizations in implementing this resolution,

calls upon governments of least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition

1 to continue to accord higher priority to ICT development and resilience building, as well as disaster response and risk reduction planning, and to adopt measures, policies and national strategies that are conducive to bringing about faster development of resilient telecommunications/ICTs in their countries, such as sector liberalization and the introduction of new technologies;

2 in selecting technical cooperation activities financed by bilateral and multilateral sources, to continue to accord high priority to telecommunication/ICT activities and projects;

3 to accord priority to the development of ICTs in national development plans;

4 to engage actively in regional and subregional cooperation to strengthen the voice of LDCs, SIDS, LLDCs and countries with economies in transition, particularly those in the Pacific, in promoting participation and driving global telecommunication/ICT development processes,

calls upon other Member States and Sector Members

- 1 to establish partnerships with these countries, either directly or through BDT, in order to bring increased investment into their ICT sectors and to stimulate the modernization, affordability and expansion of resilient telecommunication/ICT networks and systems, including access to international optical fibre networks, in these countries in a bold attempt to reduce the digital divide, which has the potential to exclude women and girls, and persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs, and to achieve the ultimate goal of universal access in line with the WSIS Geneva Plan of Action, Tunis Commitment, Tunis Agenda and vision beyond 2015 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- 2 to recognize the unique challenges faced by landlocked and doubly landlocked countries regarding the need to support coordination in developing terrestrial infrastructure for international connectivity.

RESOLUTION 17 (Rev. Baku, 2025)

Resource mobilization, implementation and cooperation for approved regional initiatives¹

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Baku, 2025),

recalling

- a)* Resolution 34 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on support for countries in special need for rebuilding their telecommunication sector;
- b)* 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 countries² and in implementing relevant national, regional and interregional projects;
- c)* Resolution 157 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on strengthening of the project execution and project monitoring functions in ITU;
- d)* Resolution 21 (Rev. Baku, 2025) of this conference, on strengthening coordination and collaboration with regional and subregional organizations;
- e)* Resolution 52 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference, on strengthening the executing agency role of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D), which emphasized the importance of establishing partnerships between the public and private sectors as an efficient way of implementing sustainable ITU projects, and of utilizing locally available expertise in executing ITU projects at regional or country level;

¹ An initiative shall take the form of an all-embracing heading under which a number of projects can be included, leaving it to each region to define these.

² These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

f) Resolution 25 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on strengthening the ITU regional presence;

g) the mechanism for cooperation at regional and international level to implement the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, the Global Digital Compact³, the Partner2Connect Digital Coalition (P2C) led by ITU, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as ITU regional initiatives and regional development forums (RDFs),

considering

a) that telecommunications/ICTs are one of the most vital elements for the growth of national economies and protection of the environment;

b) that, in order to achieve the objectives of developing countries, new policy approaches may be required to meet the challenges of growth, in both qualitative and quantitative terms, including emerging needs related to innovation and digital skills;

c) that developing countries are increasingly experiencing the need for knowledge of fast-developing technologies and the associated policy and strategic issues, and that knowledge exchange and best practice exchange are essential to address rapid technological shifts;

d) that ITU-D is an appropriate platform for the exchange of experiences and best practices on development of the telecommunication/ICT sector;

e) the vital importance of cooperation and partnerships among Member States, ITU-D Sector Members and Associates for the implementation of regional initiatives and maximizing funding opportunities;

f) the satisfactory and encouraging results achieved by projects which have received international cooperation support under an initiative of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) and the critical role of regional and area offices in linking stakeholders and disseminating operational experience;

³ Noting that some countries have not endorsed the Global Digital Compact.

- g) that telecommunication/ICT networks and services for sustainable development are an essential element for national development and improving the social, economic, financial and cultural situation and security capacities of Member States;
- h) the need to coordinate and harmonize efforts to develop telecommunication/ICT infrastructure at the national, regional, interregional and global levels;
- i) that the leadership of the ITU Member States is needed to outline a unified national vision of a connected society that is comprehensive of all stakeholders;
- j) the commitment of the ITU Member States to promote access to ICTs at affordable prices, paying special attention to the least favoured segments;
- k) the importance of the telecommunication/ICT sector and its contribution to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;
- l) that each region's priorities reflect the diverse socio-economic and digital transformation needs of Member States of that region,

recognizing

- a) that developing countries, countries in need and countries participating in regional initiatives aligned with ITU-D priorities and seeking the support of ITU-D are at different stages of development and access to funding;
- b) that, given the resources at the disposal of developing countries, it is an important task for ITU, as the United Nations specialized agency for telecommunications/ICTs, to help these countries meet the requirements cited in *considering c)* above;
- c) the need, therefore, to exchange experiences on telecommunication/ICT development at regional, interregional and global levels in order to support these countries;
- d) that ITU and regional organizations share common beliefs that close cooperation can promote regional telecommunications/ICTs in order to support these countries;

e) that there is a continued need for ITU, using its regional and area offices, to cooperate more closely with regional and subregional organizations, including regional organizations of regulators, in order to support these countries;

f) the important role of ITU's regional and area offices in achieving effective cooperation with regional organizations;

g) that regional telecommunication organizations (RTOs) are instrumental partners in advancing telecommunication/ICT development and regulatory cooperation,

taking into account

a) the vital importance of telecommunication/ICT development initiatives, as defined in the ITU-D action plan, confirmed by the RDFs and endorsed by regional development conferences and the preparatory meetings preceding this conference;

b) the persistent challenges of funding, especially from international agencies, that impede the implementation of such initiatives, and the vital need for diversified partners, including the public and private sector;

c) the satisfactory and encouraging project outcomes achieved in various areas of the regional initiatives;

d) that some Member States' national policies and regulations may pose constraints on the implementation of such initiatives;

e) that partnerships and resource mobilization are essential to scale up the impact of development programmes and projects across all regions;

f) the strategic role of P2C for developing global and regional activities/projects related to digital transformation;

g) that new mechanisms are needed to mobilize funding for priority areas and regional initiatives in order to accelerate progress towards meaningful connectivity and the goals set in the strategic plan for the Union;

h) the important role of the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Alliance for Digital Development and the network of ITU acceleration centres established under this alliance, which builds local and organizational capabilities in innovation and entrepreneurship for the ITU membership,

noting

a) Resolution 73 (Rev. Baku, 2025) of this conference, on ITU Academy training centres (ATCs), which aims to assist membership with capacity building and development;

b) that the relevant regional organizations play a prominent and important role in supporting developing countries in areas such as regional cooperation and technical assistance activities;

c) the development of cooperation and technical assistance activities among regional and subregional organizations of regulators;

d) that there is an increasing demand from Member States for assistance in funding and project co-design to achieve national and regional digital development goals aligned with the ITU-D mandate;

e) that securing sufficient funds is essential to support the implementation of regional initiatives,

resolves

1 that BDT, including through the ITU regional offices, should reinforce strategic cooperation with regional entities to stimulate mutual exchanges of experiences and assistance, focusing specifically on the implementation of the regional initiatives, making the utmost use of available BDT resources and its annual budget;

2 that BDT continue to actively assist the developing countries in elaborating and implementing the regional initiatives which are specified in the ITU-D action plan;

3 that BDT provide an estimate breakdown for cash and/or in-kind contribution items for the implementation of projects under the regional initiatives, and their value in the proposed budget for the projects, taking into consideration *recognizing a)* above;

4 that the budget allocation for the implementation of the regional initiatives shall be individualized in the budget of the Sector to be executed by BDT, identifying funds for ongoing projects and funds for new projects, divided by region;

5 that Member States should consider contributing in kind and/or in cash to the budget foreseen for implementation of these initiatives and the realization of other projects foreseen within the framework of these initiatives at national, regional, interregional and global levels, including through partnerships and coalitions, to secure sustainable funding and implementation capacities;

6 that BDT should continue to actively conclude partnerships with Member States, ITU-D Sector Members, financial institutions and international organizations in order to sponsor implementation activities for these initiatives;

7 that BDT should assist in the implementation of these initiatives at the national, regional, interregional and global levels, integrating as far as possible those initiatives that have the same content or objectives, taking into consideration the ITU-D action plan in force;

8 that BDT, through the ITU regional offices, should provide information accumulated during the implementation of regional initiatives in each region (outcomes, stakeholders, financial resources used, and so on) to the Member States and RTOs, so as to capitalize on the experience and leverage the outcomes, which might be replicated in order to save time and resources when setting up and designing projects in the other regions, using the portal for the execution of projects in the six official languages of the Union;

9 that BDT should present progress reports to the RDFs on the implementation of the regional initiatives, including, *inter alia*, outcomes, stakeholders and financial resources used;

10 that BDT should develop comprehensive, viable project proposals for each of the regional initiatives, outlining the technical assistance required and the financial resources needed to achieve the objectives of the ITU-D action plan;

- 11 that BDT should ensure the development and dissemination of compelling value propositions and investment cases, in order to attract support for regional initiatives;
- 12 that BDT should enhance the governance mechanism involving ITU Member States and funding partners;
- 13 that BDT should advocate for and mobilize funding for each regional initiative and for building sustainable partnerships through collaboration, knowledge exchange and mutual recognition,

appeals to international financial organizations/agencies, equipment suppliers and operators/service providers

to contribute, fully or partially, to financing and supporting these approved regional initiatives,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

- 1 to take all necessary measures for promoting and implementing these approved regional initiatives at national, regional, interregional and global levels, and in particular the similar initiatives agreed at international level;
- 2 to ensure that BDT actively coordinates, collaborates in and organizes joint activities in areas of common interest with regional telecommunication organizations and training institutions, and takes into consideration their activities, as well as providing them with direct technical assistance;
- 3 to consider appropriate measures to enhance the role of existing ITU-D programmes and initiatives (such as the ATCs, ITU acceleration centres and others) in the implementation of regional initiatives with a view to maximizing their impact;
- 4 to issue an appeal at the annual Global Symposium for Regulators and in the RDFs for worldwide and regional support for the implementation of these regional initiatives;

5 to support ITU regional offices with the required human and financial resources for them to have a role in monitoring the implementation of the initiatives approved in their regions, identify the impact of these regional initiatives, considering the possible benefits at the national level, in collaboration with countries served by these regional initiatives, and submit an annual report to the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG) and the ITU Council on the implementation of this resolution;

6 to report annually to TDAG and the Council on the implementation of regional initiatives in each region, highlighting the projects and activities implemented and funded under the regional initiative, including detailed strategies and actions taken, resource mobilization targets and efforts undertaken to achieve these targets;

7 to establish a structured mechanism, in consultation with Member States, for the periodic review and evaluation of the implementation of projects under regional initiatives, including the definition and application of clear performance indicators for each project, and to share the results with Member States, in order to enhance and accelerate implementation, ensure accountability, promote continuous improvement and maximize developmental impact;

8 to continue to promote the dissemination to other regions of the results of projects implemented under regional initiatives;

9 that an annual meeting be held in each region, dedicated to discussing the regional initiatives and projects for each region and mechanisms for implementation of the initiatives adopted and to making known the needs of the different regions, and that an RDF may be held in conjunction with the annual meeting for each region;

10 to promote, by possible means, the holding of consultations with the Member States in each region before implementing and executing approved initiatives in a timely fashion, in order to agree on priorities, enabling RTOs to suggest strategic partners, means of financing, in kind and/or in cash, and personnel for projects under the regional initiatives, and decide on other issues, as appropriate, thereby promoting a participatory, inclusive process of meeting the goals;

11 in consultation and coordination with the Directors of the Radiocommunication and Telecommunication Standardization Bureaux, to promote the joint work of the three Sectors in order to provide suitable, efficient, agreed assistance for Member States to implement the regional initiatives;

12 to ensure that BDT facilitates the active involvement of regional and subregional telecommunication organizations in the different phases of project management established by ITU, as well as in forging partnerships and resource mobilization, with a view to effectively advancing the implementation of regional initiatives,

requests the Secretary-General

1 to continue special measures and programmes to develop and promote activities and regional initiatives, in close cooperation with regional and subregional telecommunication organizations, including regulators, and other related institutions;

2 to make every possible effort to encourage the private sector to take actions to facilitate cooperation with Member States in these regional initiatives, including countries with special needs;

3 to continue to work closely with the coordination mechanism established in the United Nations family and the five United Nations regional commissions;

4 to bring this resolution to the attention of the Plenipotentiary Conference, with an emphasis on digital inclusion, innovation and sustainability, for adequate budget support,

invites Member States and Sector Members

1 to collaborate in identifying funding opportunities and in shaping and co-designing viable projects that fulfil national needs under regional initiatives;

2 to continue supporting ITU in identifying and developing strategic partnerships that strengthen the implementation and impact of regional initiatives.

RESOLUTION 18 (Rev. Baku, 2025)

Special technical assistance to Palestine

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Baku, 2025),

recalling

- a) Resolution 32 (Kyoto, 1994) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on technical assistance to Palestine for the development of telecommunications, Resolution 125 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference on assistance and support to Palestine for infrastructure development and capacity building in the telecommunication and information technology sector on assistance and support to Palestine for rebuilding its telecommunication networks;
- b) Resolution 99 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the status of Palestine in ITU;
- c) the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;
- d) Resolution 18 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) and Resolution 18 (Rev. Kigali, 2022) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC), on special technical assistance to Palestine;
- e) United Nations General Assembly Resolutions 68/235 and 72/240, which recognize the Palestinian people's right to permanent sovereignty over their natural resources, specifically land, water, energy and other natural resources, in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem;
- f) the provisions of § 16 of the Declaration of Principles of the first phase (Geneva, 2003) of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and the outcomes of the second phase of WSIS, particularly § 96 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, relating to ITU's role in taking steps to ensure rational, efficient and economic use of, and equitable access to, the radio-frequency spectrum by all countries, based on relevant international agreements,

considering

- a) that the ITU Constitution and Convention are designed to strengthen peace and security in the world for the development of international cooperation and better understanding among the peoples concerned;

b) ITU's policy of assistance to Palestine for the development of its telecommunication/information and communication technology (ICT) sector, which is efficient but has not yet achieved its goals;

c) Resolution 9 (Rev. Kigali, 2022) of this conference, to the effect that it is the sovereign right of every State to manage spectrum use within its territories, the provisions in Resolution 99 (Rev. Dubai, 2018), and Resolution 12 (Rev. Dubai, 2023) of the World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC),

considering further

a) that establishment of a reliable and modern telecommunication network is indispensable to support economic and social development and is of the utmost importance to the future of the Palestinian people;

b) the damage to infrastructure and telecommunication services;

c) Palestine, under the current circumstances and in the foreseeable future, requires assistance for the reconstruction and development of its telecommunication sector in general, and its infrastructure in particular, which necessitates the support of the international community, whether on a bilateral, regional, or multilateral basis, including through international organizations,

having regard to

a) the continuing challenges faced by Palestine and ITU in executing the five projects agreed with the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) under the implementation of Resolution 18 (Rev. Istanbul, 2002), Resolution 18 (Rev. Doha, 2006), Resolution 18 (Rev. Hyderabad, 2010), Resolution 18 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) and Resolution 18 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017), Resolution 18 (Rev. Kigali, 2022) of WTDC, which must be a matter of anxiety and concern for the entire international community, especially ITU;

b) the decisions of the Connect Arab summit;

c) the key outcomes of the Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Arab region (RPM-ARB), held in Sudan in 2017, particularly issues relating to Palestine,

noting

the long-term technical assistance from BDT to Palestine for the development of its telecommunications/ICTs pursuant to Resolution 32 (Kyoto, 1994) and the urgent need for forms of assistance to be provided in the various fields of information, informatics and communication, and the increasing difficulties that have accompanied the provision of this assistance continuously since that resolution was adopted,

noting with grave concern

1 the restrictions and difficulties related to the current situation in Palestine that are preventing access to telecommunication/ICT means, services and applications and which constitute a continuing obstacle to telecommunication/ICT development in Palestine;

2 the repercussions of war in Palestine on digital economy and the sector of information and communications technology, and its impact on the infrastructure of communication and information technology in Palestine generally, and in Gaza strip particularly;

3 easing up the restrictions and difficulties related to telecommunication networks in Gaza strip, which still operate by 2G technology, to support the progress towards digital transformation;

4 the importance of providing assistance urgently to Palestine to operate and manage telecommunication technologies and spectrum management, in order to use 4G and 5G networks;

5 the continue need to expand 4G and 5G services in Palestine, and its impact on the development of infrastructure and the Palestinian digital economy;

6 the inconsistency of mobile services inside Palestinian territories, and its negative direct impact on the Palestinian economy,

resolves to continue to instruct the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to continue and enhance the technical assistance provided to Palestine for the development of its telecommunications/ICTs and digital transformation, taking into consideration the need to overcome the increasing and escalating difficulties encountered in the provision of this assistance during the previous cycles since 2002;

- 2 to take appropriate measures within the mandate of BDT aimed at facilitating enabling Palestine to establish international access networks, including terrestrial and satellite stations, submarine cables, optical fibre and microwave systems;
- 3 to instruct BDT, in coordination with the Radiocommunication Bureau, to enable Palestine in acquiring and managing frequencies required in the band 470-694 MHz for the operation of single- and multi-frequency digital terrestrial television, and identify mechanisms for ensuring that Palestine can exploit the 694-862 MHz frequency band resulting from the digital transition for broadband mobile service uses and applications to be used after WRC-23;
- 4 to provide a technical periodic report on various experiences in liberalization and privatization of telecommunications/ICTs and the challenges of the Palestinians in the sector, the development of the infrastructure, and to assess their impact on the development of the sector in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank;
- 5 to implement e-health, e-education, e-government, spectrum planning and management pursuant to the previous agreements in ITU, and human resources development projects and all other forms of assistance;
- 6 to instruct BDT in coordination with the Secretary-General and directors of the other Bureaux to provide urgent assistance to Palestine in acquiring and managing the required radio-frequency spectrum resource for the operation of 4G and 5G networks, and introducing the necessary devices and equipment for this purpose; consistent with the interim Agreement;
- 7 to instruct the BDT, in coordination with the Secretary-General and Radiocommunication Bureau, to provide assistance to Palestine, and facilitate acquiring the frequency bands required for satellite communication services;
- 8 to take the necessary measures, within the mandate of the BDT, aiming to enable the state of Palestine to establish, own, and operate telecommunication broadband networks, including networks of fibre optics, and microwaves, connecting it to neighbouring states and Palestinian cities, as well as connecting the west bank with Gaza strip, in order to expand digital coverage and achieve transformation;

9 to urgently provide assistance, follow up, and support Palestine to rebuild the telecommunication/ICT sector;

10 to report to the ITU Council with an annual report on the progress made in implementing this resolution (and similar resolutions) and the mechanisms employed to deal with the increasing difficulties arising;

11 to ensure the mobilization of sufficient human and financial resources, within available budget, and ICT Trust Fund, to implement proposed procedures,

calls upon ITU members

1 to provide all forms of support and assistance to Palestine bilaterally or through executive actions taken by ITU in this regard;

2 to assist Palestine in rebuilding and restoring the Palestinian telecommunication networks in general, and particularly in Gaza strip;

3 to assist Palestine in recovering its entitlements accruing from incoming and outgoing international traffic;

4 to provide Palestine with assistance in support of the implementation of BDT projects, including human resources capacity building;

5 to provide essential support to build and activate 4G and 5G services, and satellite services in Palestine,

requests the Secretary-General

1 to report to the ITU Council and the Plenipotentiary Conference on the progress achieved in implementing this resolution;

2 to take the necessary measures to provide financial and technical resources to implement this resolution.

RESOLUTION 20 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017)

Non-discriminatory access to modern telecommunication/ information and communication technology facilities, services and related applications

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Buenos Aires, 2017),

recalling

- a) Resolution 102 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference;
- b) Resolution 64 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on non-discriminatory access to modern telecommunication/information and communication technology (ICT) facilities, services and applications, including applied research and transfer of technology, and e-meetings, on mutually agreed terms;
- c) Resolution 69 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly, on non-discriminatory access and use of Internet resources and telecommunications/ICTs,

recalling also

- a) the decisions of the two phases of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) concerning non-discriminatory access, in particular §§ 15, 18 and 19 of the Tunis Commitment and §§ 90 and 107 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society;
- b) United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Resolution 70/1, on transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- c) UNGA Resolution 70/125, on the outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the overall review of the implementation of the WSIS outcomes;
- d) the WSIS+10 Statement on the implementation of WSIS outcomes and WSIS+10 vision for WSIS beyond 2015, adopted at the ITU-coordinated WSIS+10 High-Level Event (Geneva, 2014) and endorsed by the Plenipotentiary Conference (Busan, 2014), which was submitted as an input into the UNGA overall review of WSIS,

taking into account

- a) that ITU plays an important role in the promotion of global telecommunication/ICT standardization and development;
- b) that, to this end, the Union coordinates efforts aimed at securing harmonious development of telecommunication/ICT facilities in all its Member States,

taking into account further

that this conference, like its predecessors, is required to formulate a viewpoint and draw up proposals on issues determining a worldwide strategy for the development of telecommunication/ICT facilities, services and applications, and facilitate mobilization of the necessary resources to that end,

noting

- a) that modern telecommunication/ICT facilities, services and applications are established, in the main, on the basis of Recommendations of the ITU Radiocommunication (ITU-R) and ITU Telecommunication Standardization (ITU-T) Sectors;
- b) that ITU-R and ITU-T Recommendations are the result of the collective efforts of all those taking part in the standardization process within ITU and are adopted by consensus by the members of the Union;
- c) that limitations on access to the telecommunication/ICT facilities, services and applications on which national telecommunication/ICT development depends and which are established on the basis of ITU-R and ITU-T Recommendations constitute an obstacle to the harmonious development and compatibility of telecommunications/ICTs worldwide,

recognizing

that full harmonization of telecommunication/ICT networks is impossible unless all countries participating in the work of the Union without exception enjoy non-discriminatory access to new telecommunication/ICT technologies and modern telecommunication/ICT facilities, services and applications, without prejudice to national regulations and international commitments within the competence of other international organizations,

resolves

that there should be non-discriminatory access to telecommunication/ICT facilities, services and applications established on the basis of ITU-R and ITU-T Recommendations,

encourages the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

to engage in partnerships or strategic cooperation with parties which respect access to telecommunication/ICT facilities, services and applications without discrimination,

requests the Secretary-General

to transmit this resolution to the forthcoming plenipotentiary conference for consideration,

invites the Plenipotentiary Conference

to consider this resolution with a view to taking measures to foster global access to modern telecommunication/ICT facilities, services and applications,

invites Member States

1 to refrain from taking any unilateral and/or discriminatory actions that could impede technically another Member State from having full access to the Internet within the spirit of Article 1 of the ITU Constitution and the WSIS principles;

2 to help telecommunication/ICT equipment manufacturers and service providers in ensuring that telecommunication/ICT facilities, services and applications established on the basis of ITU-R and ITU-T Recommendations are made available for the use of the public without any discrimination, in accordance with the WSIS outcomes.

RESOLUTION 21 (Rev. Baku, 2025)

Strengthening coordination and collaboration with regional and subregional organizations

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Baku, 2025),

considering

- a)* Resolution 37 (Rev. Baku, 2025) of this conference, on bridging the digital divide;
- b)* Resolution 25 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on strengthening the regional presence;
- c)* Resolution 58 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on strengthening of relations between ITU and regional telecommunication organizations and regional preparations for the Plenipotentiary Conference;
- d)* Resolution 123 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on bridging the standardization gap between developing¹ and developed countries;
- e)* Resolution 139 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on use of telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICTs) to bridge the digital divide and build an inclusive information society;
- f)* Resolution 44 (Rev. New Delhi, 2024) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA), on bridging the standardization gap between developing and developed countries;
- g)* Resolution 54 (Rev. New Delhi, 2024) of WTSA, on regional groups of study groups of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T);
- h)* Recommendation ITU-D 22 (Dubai, 2014) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference, on bridging the standardization gap in association with regional groups of study groups;

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

- i)* Resolution 72 (Rev.WRC-19) of the World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC), on world and regional preparations for WRCs;
- j)* the provisions of §§ 26 and 27 of the Geneva Plan of Action of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS);
- k)* the key principles of the WSIS Geneva Declaration of Principles in §§ 60, 61, 62, 63 and 64;
- l)* the provisions of §§ 23 c), 27 c), 80, 87, 89, 96, 97 and 101 of the WSIS Tunis Agenda for the Information Society;
- m)* Resolution 70/1 of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), on transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- n)* UNGA Resolution 70/125, on the outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the overall review of the implementation of the WSIS outcomes,

conscious

- a)* that the regional and subregional organizations play an increasingly vital role in promoting coordinated telecommunication/ICT development to achieve sustainable digital transformation;
- b)* that enhancing collaboration among ITU regional offices, regional telecommunication and standardization organizations, academia, civil society and the private sector is essential in the implementation of regional projects;
- c)* that the relationship between ITU regional and area offices and regional telecommunication organizations has proved to be of great benefit;
- d)* that physical meetings with remote participation improve participation and knowledge sharing across regions;
- e)* that the activities of regional groups have become more important, and encompass a growing number of issues of particular importance for developing countries;

f) that it is necessary to adopt ways and means of enhancing the role of ITU in general, and the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) in particular, in implementing the WSIS goals and in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in relation to the development of telecommunications/ICTs globally, regionally and nationally, in close cooperation with other international and regional organizations and relevant civil-society bodies;

g) that it is necessary to seize every opportunity to give experts from developing countries additional opportunities to gain experience by participating in regional and subregional meetings relating to the work of ITU-D Study Groups 1 and 2,

recognizing

a) the different stages of development among Member States and the need for tailored regional approaches;

b) that the benefits of coordinated and cost-effective regional rapporteur groups facilitating participation supports meaningful exchange of opinions on telecommunication development at regional and interregional levels;

c) the difficulty for some countries in some regions to participate in the activities of ITU-D, ITU-T and the ITU Radiocommunication Sector;

d) that a common and coordinated approach within ITU to the study of matters relating to the development and standardization of telecommunications/ICTs could serve to foster the promotion of standardization activities in developing countries;

e) the necessity for continuous knowledge exchange, capacity building, and sustainable funding mechanisms;

f) the call for holding future virtual or physical meetings with remote participation for ITU regional groups and subgroups, organized in coordination with the ITU regional and area offices;

g) the increasing involvement of the regional and area offices in match-making efforts across the United Nations system based on developing countries' telecommunication/ICT needs;

h) Article 43 (No. 194) of the ITU Constitution, which states that "Member States reserve the right to convene regional conferences, to make regional arrangements and to form regional organizations, for the purpose of settling telecommunication questions which are susceptible of being treated on a regional basis. Such arrangements shall not be in conflict with either this Constitution or the Convention",

recalling

- a)* the possibility of creating regional groups to study questions or difficulties which, because of their specific nature, it is desirable to study within the framework of one or more of ITU's regions;
- b)* regional initiatives with a view to:
 - i)* implementation of technical cooperation projects and direct assistance to other regions;
 - ii)* cooperation in regional initiatives with regional and international organizations involved in telecommunication/ICT development;
- c)* the need to create an appropriate mechanism to unify efforts with the bodies referred to in Resolutions 44 and 54 (Rev. New Delhi, 2024);
- d)* the budgetary constraints of the regional and area offices and the need to support them with financial and human resources,

resolves

- 1 to continue to encourage the creation of regional groups to study questions or difficulties that concern a specific region;
- 2 to encourage cooperation of ITU regional and area offices with relevant regional groups, ITU Sector Members, Associates and Academia as well as with regional telecommunication organizations and regional standardization organizations, on issues of mutual interest;
- 3 that ITU-D continue to coordinate, collaborate in and organize joint activities in areas of common interest with regional and subregional organizations and training institutions and take into consideration their activities;
- 4 that the results of the activities of regional groups be sent for use, as appropriate, in ITU-D,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

- 1 to take necessary measures to coordinate and strengthen the partnership frameworks across regional and subregional telecommunication organizations and stakeholders;
- 2 to implement the necessary procedures to ensure effective liaison between regional groups set up under Resolutions 44 and 54 (Rev. New Delhi, 2024) and the ITU-T and ITU-D study groups, especially on complementary study Questions;
- 3 to study means to increase resources in regional and area offices for the implementation of regional initiatives in the study period to the extent practicable, within the limits of budgetary resources;
- 4 to make the utmost effort for the regional and area offices to support and facilitate the implementation of national initiatives of Member States;
- 5 to ensure transparent monitoring and reporting on implementation progress through accessible digital platforms on the ITU website, in particular within the review of the ITU regional presence, as instructed in Resolution 25 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022),

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

within the allocated or contributed resources that are available,

- 1 to provide necessary support for the smooth functioning of regional groups and coordination of collaborative activities across ITU sectors;
- 2 to consider, whenever possible, holding joint conferences and workshops concurrently with meetings of the regional groups of ITU-T study groups, to optimize resource use and broaden stakeholder engagement;
- 3 to take all necessary measures to facilitate the organization of meetings and conferences/workshops of the regional groups;
- 4 to actively seek to improve the human and financial resources in regional offices for implementation of initiatives, within available budgets,

invites Member States

to actively support the implementation of this resolution by contributing in-kind and financially, and to propose innovative ideas for revenue generation to sustain implementation of the regional initiatives.

RESOLUTION 22 (Rev. Baku, 2025)

Alternative calling procedures on international telecommunication networks and identification of origin in providing international telecommunication services

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Baku, 2025),

recalling

- a)* Resolution 21 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on measures concerning alternative calling procedures on international telecommunication networks;
- b)* Resolution 29 (Rev. New Delhi, 2024) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA), on alternative calling procedures on international telecommunication networks;
- c)* Resolution 20 (Rev. New Delhi, 2024) of WTSA, on procedures for allocation and management of international telecommunication numbering, naming, addressing and identification (NNAI) resources;
- d)* Resolution 61 (Rev. New Delhi, 2024) of WTSA, on countering and combating misappropriation and misuse of international telecommunication NNAI resources;
- e)* Resolution 65 (Rev. New Delhi, 2024) of WTSA, on calling party number (CPN) delivery, calling line identification (CLI) and origin identification (OI) information;
- f)* the results and ongoing work of Study Groups 2 and 3 of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T),

considering

- a)* the sovereign right of each Member State to regulate its telecommunications/ information and communication technologies (ICTs), which may include the provision of CLI, CPN delivery and OI information, and to structure, manage and utilize NNAI resources under their jurisdiction in accordance with the relevant ITU-T Recommendations;
- b)* the purposes of the Union, as stated in Article 1 of the ITU Constitution;

c) the necessity of identifying the origin of calls as one of the aims of national security;

d) the need to facilitate the determination of routing and charging,

considering further

a) that alternative calling procedures, which may be potentially harmful, are not permitted in many countries and permitted in some others;

b) that although alternative calling procedures may be potentially harmful, they may be attractive for users;

c) that the use of alternative calling procedures adversely affects the economies of developing countries¹ and may seriously hamper the efforts of these countries for the sound development of their telecommunication networks and services, may prejudice national security aims and may have an economic effect;

d) that some forms of alternative calling procedures may have an impact on traffic management and network planning, and degrade the quality and performance of telecommunication networks;

e) that a number of relevant ITU-T Recommendations, particularly those of ITU-T Study Groups 2 and 3, address, from several points of view, including technical and financial, the effects of alternative calling procedures on the performance and development of telecommunication networks;

f) that some countries are allocating national numbering and addressing resources to services supporting alternative calling procedures;

g) the emerging telecommunication/ICT services and their role in facilitating the connectivity between countries,

noting

a) that the role of ITU with respect to reports of numbering misuse is stated in Recommendation ITU-T E.156, on guidelines for ITU-T action on reported misuse of E.164 number resources;

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

- b) that any calling procedure should aim to maintain acceptable levels of quality of service (QoS) and quality of experience (QoE), as well as to enable CPN delivery, CLI and/or OI information;
- c) the relevant articles of the International Telecommunication Regulations, as appropriate;
- d) that over-the-top (OTT) services, defined in a national context, are considered as a form of alternative calling procedures, and may also be beneficial for persons with specific needs;
- e) that alternative calling procedures such as OTT services have transformed the economies of both developed and developing countries,

resolves

1 to encourage all administrations and international telecommunication operators to give effect to ITU-T Recommendations which help limit the negative effects of alternative calling procedures and CPN delivery on developing countries, and limit the negative effects of misappropriation and misuse of relevant international telecommunication numbering resources within the remit of ITU;

2 to request study groups of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector and of ITU-T to collaborate so as to avoid overlap and duplication of effort in studying alternative calling procedures, including OTT services, taking into account *considering a)*, and specifically ITU-T Study Group 2, in studying aspects and forms of alternative calling procedures; ITU-T Study Group 3, in studying the economic effects of alternative calling procedures; and ITU-T Study Group 12, in studying the minimum QoS and QoE threshold to be fulfilled during the use of alternative calling procedures;

3 to request administrations and international telecommunication operators which permit the use of alternative calling procedures but do not provide CPN delivery in their countries in accordance with their national regulations to respect the decisions of other administrations and international operators whose regulations do not permit such services and which request the provision of CPN delivery, international CLI and/or OI information, taking into account the relevant ITU-T Recommendations, for security and economic reasons,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

to continue to cooperate with the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau in order to facilitate the participation of developing countries in ITU studies and to make use of the results of the studies, and in the implementation of this resolution,

invites Member States and Sector Members

1 to support the study of the impact of alternative calling procedures on national environments based on the introduction of appropriate ITU-T Recommendations concerning alternative calling procedures;

2 to support the work of ITU-T Study Group 2 in enabling Member States to benefit by sharing national telecommunication service restrictions to ensure conformance with national regulatory and legal frameworks.

RESOLUTION 23 (Rev. Baku, 2025)

Internet access and availability for developing countries and charging principles for international Internet connection

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Baku, 2025),

recalling

- a)* United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Resolution 70/1, on transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- b)* UNGA Resolution 70/125, on the outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS);
- c)* Resolution 64 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on non-discriminatory access to telecommunication/information and communication technology (ICT) facilities, services and applications, including applied research and transfer of technology, and e-meetings, on mutually agreed terms, which invites Member States to refrain from taking any unilateral and/or discriminatory actions that could impede technically another Member State from having full access to the Internet, within the spirit of Article 1 of the ITU Constitution and the WSIS principles;
- d)* Resolution 101 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on Internet Protocol (IP)-based networks;
- e)* Resolution 139 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on use of telecommunications/ICTs to bridge the digital divide and build an inclusive information society;
- f)* Resolution 20 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference, on non-discriminatory access to modern telecommunication/ICT facilities, services and related applications;

- g)* Resolution 37 (Rev. Baku, 2025) of this conference, on bridging the digital divide;
- h)* the provisions of § 50 of the WSIS Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, recognizing the particular concerns among developing countries¹ that charges for international Internet connectivity should be better balanced to enhance access, and calling for the development of strategies for increasing affordable global connectivity, thereby facilitating improved and equitable access for all, by the means described in the said paragraph, especially items a), b), c), d), e), f) and g) thereof;
- i)* the four targets set by the ITU/United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Broadband Commission for Digital Development for making broadband universal and boosting affordability and uptake thereof, namely: making broadband policy universal; making broadband affordable; connecting homes to broadband; and getting people online;
- j)* Opinion 1 (Geneva, 2013) of the World Telecommunication/ICT Policy Forum, which expresses the view that enabling the interconnection of international, national and regional networks through Internet exchange points (IXPs) may be an effective way to improve international Internet connectivity and to reduce the costs of such connectivity, with regulation only when necessary to promote competition, and invites Member States and Sector Members to work in a collaborative manner to do a number of things, including to promote public policies aimed at permitting the local, regional and international Internet network operators to interconnect through IXPs,

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

noting

- a) that Recommendation ITU-T D.50, on international Internet connection, recommends that administrations take appropriate measures nationally to ensure that parties (including operating agencies authorized by Member States) involved in the provision of international Internet connections negotiate and agree to bilateral commercial arrangements, or other arrangements as agreed between administrations, enabling direct international Internet connections that take into account the possible need for compensation between them for the value of elements such as traffic flow, number of routes, geographical coverage and cost of international transmission, and the possible application of network externalities, among others;
- b) that Recommendation ITU-T D.52, on establishing and connecting regional Internet exchange points to reduce costs of international Internet connectivity, proposes measures to empower administrations and consumers to benefit from efficient cooperation so that they have the required information to take appropriate regulatory actions, and to identify measures for improving the way the market works and proposals for regulatory actions, which may include measures to lower costs;
- c) that the rapid growth of the Internet and IP-based international services, in addition to the rise in high-speed mobile telecommunication access in all parts of the world and general availability of connected devices, has allowed users access to a wider range of services;
- d) that international Internet connections remain subject to commercial agreements between the parties concerned, and Internet service provider (ISP) operators from developing countries have expressed concerns that such agreements have not achieved the required balance in regard to charges between developed and developing countries, especially affecting landlocked countries;

- e)* that the composition of costs for operators, whether regional or local, is, in part, significantly dependent on the type of connection (transit or peering) and the availability and cost of backhaul and long-haul infrastructure;
- f)* that the cost of transit is an obstacle for the availability and development of the Internet in developing countries;
- g)* that Opinion 1 (Geneva, 2013) considered that the establishment of IXPs is a priority to address connectivity issues, improve quality of service and reduce interconnection costs; and that IXPs and telecommunication traffic exchange points may play a relevant role in the deployment of Internet infrastructure and reaching the overall goals of improving quality, increasing the connectivity and resilience of networks, fostering competition and reducing the costs of interconnection;
- h)* that access to information and sharing and creation of knowledge contribute significantly to strengthening economic, social and cultural development, thus helping countries to reach the internationally agreed development goals and objectives, a process which can be enhanced by removing barriers to universal, ubiquitous, equitable and affordable access to information;
- i)* that continuing technical and economic development require ongoing studies in this area by the relevant ITU Sectors, in particular best practices for reducing the cost of international Internet connectivity (transit and peering);
- j)* that efficient networks and costs enable increased traffic volumes, economies of scale and a shift from transit connections to peering arrangements where appropriate;
- k)* that a rise in the costs of international connectivity will result in delayed access to and benefit from the Internet;

l) that the disparities in ICT development between countries remain substantial, ICT Development Index values being on average twice as high in developed compared to developing countries;

m) that the case could arise in which the surcharges that a Member State, especially a transit country, applies to parties operating at the national level (including recognized operating agencies) are transferred via tariffs to the parties (including recognized operating agencies) that are operating abroad under the rules of another Member State;

n) that the variation in international connectivity approaches can affect the affordability and quality of service, especially in developing countries,

recognizing

a) that commercial initiatives by service providers have the potential to deliver cost savings for Internet access, for example through the development of more local content and the optimization of Internet traffic routing patterns in a manner that provides for a greater proportion of traffic to be routed locally;

b) that the development of an information society requires not only the deployment of appropriate technical infrastructure but also measures to promote availability of local content, applications and services, in a range of languages and at affordable prices, while providing access to remotely available content regardless of location;

c) that skills development, education and capacity building play a critical role in promoting Internet access in developing countries and the development of an information society;

d) the need to bridge the digital divide at various levels (including the digital divide between regions, countries, parts of countries, and between urban and rural areas);

e) the need for coordination on inclusive, transparent and cost-reflective approaches to international Internet connection that supports universal access and sustainable infrastructure development, specifically in developing countries,

taking into account

a) that, as part of the work of Study Group 3 of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T), on tariff and accounting principles including related telecommunication economic and policy issues, a rapporteur group was set up for the purpose of drafting a supplement to Recommendation ITU-T D.50 to facilitate the adoption of specific measures to reduce international Internet connection costs, especially for developing countries;

b) that ITU-T Study Group 3 adopted Recommendation ITU-T D.52, on establishing and connecting regional IXPs to reduce costs of international Internet connectivity, which guides regional collaboration to establish central hubs or IXPs that enable local Internet traffic to be routed locally, saving international bandwidth and reducing the costs of international Internet connectivity, and ongoing work to study the competitiveness of the market for international connectivity,

invites Study Group 1 of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector

1 to take into account the content of this resolution when conducting related studies to promote international connections to the Internet, and to maintain close cooperation with ITU-T Study Group 3;

2 to provide guidance based on contributions of Member States and Sector Members on the support and best practices which are available from ITU-T, including Recommendations ITU-T D.50 and ITU-T D.52, the Internet Society, the regional IXP associations and other relevant stakeholders in regard to the establishment of IXPs;

3 to continue to study the national aspects related to this resolution under study Question 3/1 of ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) Study Group 1,

resolves to invite Member States

- 1 to support the work of ITU-T in monitoring the application of Recommendations ITU-T D.50 and ITU-T D.52, bearing in mind the importance of the issue of international Internet connection costs in developing countries;
- 2 to make progress in the coordination of regional policies in order to reduce international Internet connection costs, by agreeing on specific measures that will lead to an improvement in conditions for developing countries, including the deployment of regional IXPs, and supporting the Recommendation ITU-T D.52 supervisory work;
- 3 to promote, taking into account the policies of each country, the establishment of regional, subregional and national IXPs that represent an alternative to reduce the costs of broadband, ensuring that they in turn enable a direct flow without the need for recourse to international circuits;
- 4 to create policy conditions for effective competition in the international Internet backbone network access market as well as in the domestic Internet access service market, as an important factor for lowering the cost of Internet access for users and service providers;
- 5 to foster establishment of IXPs in facilitating the creation of a place to connect networks and exchange data traffic directly;
- 6 to implement the Tunis Agenda in this respect, particularly § 50 thereof;
- 7 to take appropriate measures at national level to promote the provision of international connections that comply with international regulations in force;
- 8 to continue to support initiatives to promote skills development, education and capacity building in ICTs, particularly in developing countries;
- 9 to support the action being taken by ITU-T Study Group 3 to facilitate the adoption of specific measures to reduce the cost of global Internet connectivity, particularly for developing countries,

reaffirms

its resolution in the quest to continue to ensure that everyone can benefit from the opportunities that ICTs can offer, by recalling that governments, as well as the private sector, civil society and the United Nations and other international organizations, should work together to: improve access to information and communication infrastructure and technologies as well as to information and knowledge; build capacity; increase confidence and security in the use of ICTs; create an enabling environment at all levels; develop and widen ICT applications; foster and respect cultural diversity; recognize the role of the media; address the ethical dimensions of the information society; and encourage international and regional cooperation,

urges regulators

1 to promote such measures as may be considered appropriate to foster an improvement in conditions for service providers, including small and medium-sized ISPs and incumbent network access service providers, with a focus on reducing connectivity costs as referred to in *noting c), d), f) and i)* above;

2 to contribute data, case studies and regulatory experiences to support the work of ITU-D study groups, in cooperation with ITU-T Study Group 3, on potential charging principles and approaches to international Internet connection;

3 to exchange experiences and best practices regarding the establishment of regional, subregional and national IXPs and encourage partnerships to improve international connections,

urges service providers

to negotiate and agree to bilateral commercial arrangements enabling direct international Internet connections that take into account the possible need for compensation between them for the value of elements such as, *inter alia*, traffic flow, number of routes, geographical coverage and the cost of international transmission,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

- 1 to continue to coordinate activities that promote information sharing among regulators on the relationship between charging arrangements for international Internet connection and the affordability of international Internet connectivity in developing and least developed countries, through cooperation with ITU-T in this matter, by giving the necessary priority to the relevant study Questions in the work under the programme concerned;
- 2 to encourage the relevant ITU-D study group, in collaboration with ITU-T Study Group 3, to explore the feasibility of charging principles for international Internet connection, based on appropriate criteria;
- 3 to continue to undertake studies on the structure of international Internet connection costs for developing countries, with emphasis on the influence and effects of the connection mode (transit and peering), secure cross-border connectivity and the availability and cost of backhaul and long-haul physical infrastructure;
- 4 to coordinate actions to provide training and technical assistance in order to encourage and promote the creation and development of regional interconnection infrastructure as a platform for exchanging Internet traffic between developing countries;
- 5 to organize workshops and seminars dealing with the advantages of establishing regional and national IXPs and international connectivity, covering technical, regulatory and quality-related matters as well as their impact on operators and users.

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.

RESOLUTION 25 (Rev. Kigali, 2022)

Assistance to countries in special need: Afghanistan, Burundi, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Liberia, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan and Timor-Leste

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Kigali, 2022),

recalling

Resolution 34 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference,

recalling further

the purposes of the Union, as enshrined in Article 1 of the ITU Constitution,

recognizing

a) that the ongoing ITU efforts in extending assistance, including through ITU Telecom surplus funds, to countries in special need (Afghanistan, Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Liberia, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan and Timor-Leste) should be extended to other countries whose circumstances are similar to the aforementioned countries;

b) that a reliable telecommunication network is indispensable for promoting the socio-economic development of countries, in particular those having suffered from natural disasters, domestic conflicts or war;

c) that, under the present conditions and in the foreseeable future, these countries will not be able to bring their telecommunication systems up to an acceptable level without help from the international community, provided bilaterally or through international organizations,

noting

a) the report of the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) on the implementation, *inter alia*, of Resolution 34 (Rev. Dubai, 2018);

b) the efforts deployed by the Secretary-General and the Director of BDT towards the implementation of Resolution 34 (Rev. Dubai, 2018),

noting further

that the conditions of order and security sought by United Nations resolutions have been only partially achieved and that, due to non-allocation of resources for the implementation of Resolution 34 (Rev. Dubai, 2018), the resolution has been only partially implemented,

resolves

that the special action initiated by the Secretary-General and the Director of BDT, with specialized assistance from the ITU Radiocommunication Sector and the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector, should be continued in order to provide appropriate assistance and support to countries that have suffered from natural disasters, domestic conflicts or wars, namely Afghanistan, Burundi, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Liberia, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan and Timor-Leste, in rebuilding their telecommunication networks, as and when the conditions of order and security sought by United Nations resolutions are met,

calls upon Member States

to offer all possible assistance and support to the governments of the countries in special need, either bilaterally or through the special action of the Union referred to above,

invites the ITU Council

to allocate the necessary funds within available resources for the implementation of this resolution,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

- 1 to use the necessary funds, within available resources, to implement activities in favour of the countries listed above;
- 2 to mobilize extrabudgetary resources to assist these countries,

requests the Secretary-General

- 1 to ensure that the Union's actions in favour of these countries are as effective as possible and to report on the matter to the Council;

- 2 to coordinate the activities carried out by the three ITU Sectors in accordance with *resolves* above, to ensure that the Union's action in favour of countries in special need is as effective as possible, and to report on the matter to the Council;
- 3 to update this list of countries from time to time, as needed and with the approval of the Council.

RESOLUTION 26 (Rev. Doha, 2006)

Assistance to countries in special need: Afghanistan

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Doha, 2006),

recalling

Resolution 34 (Rev. Minneapolis, 1998) of the Plenipotentiary Conference,

recalling further

the purposes of the Union, as enshrined in Article 1 of the ITU Constitution,

recognizing

a) that no budget was allocated by the Plenipotentiary Conference to accompany Resolution 34 (Rev. Minneapolis, 1998) for the benefit of countries in special need;

b) that the telecommunication infrastructure in Afghanistan has been completely destroyed by the two decades of war and that the existing equipment in use is over forty years old and thus obsolete;

c) that Afghanistan at present does not have a national telecommunication infrastructure, access to international telecommunication networks or access to the Internet;

d) that a telecommunication system is an essential input for the reconstruction, rehabilitation and relief operations in the country;

e) that, under the present conditions and in the foreseeable future, Afghanistan will not be able to rebuild its telecommunication systems without help from the international community, provided bilaterally or through international organizations,

noting

a) that Afghanistan has not benefited from the Union's assistance over a long period due to war in the country;

b) the efforts deployed by the Secretary-General and the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) towards the provision of assistance to other countries emerging from war situations,

resolves

that the special action initiated by the Secretary-General and the Director of BDT, with specialized assistance from the ITU Radiocommunication Sector and the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector, should be continued in order to provide assistance and support to Afghanistan in rebuilding its telecommunication infrastructure, establishing institutions for the sector, developing telecommunication legislation and regulatory framework, including numbering plan, spectrum management, tariff and human resource development and all other forms of assistance,

calls upon Member States

to offer all possible assistance and support to the Government of Afghanistan, either bilaterally or through the special action of the Union referred to above,

invites the ITU Council

to allocate the necessary funds within available resources for the implementation of this resolution,

instructs the Director of the telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to implement fully a programme of assistance for the least developed countries from which Afghanistan can receive focused assistance in various areas determined to be of high priority by the country;

2 to take immediate measures to assist Afghanistan in the period up to the Plenipotentiary Conference (Antalya, 2006),

requests the Secretary-General

to coordinate the activities carried out by the three ITU Sectors in accordance with *resolves* above, to ensure that the Union's action in favour of Afghanistan is as effective as possible, and to report on the matter to the Council.

RESOLUTION 30 (Rev. Baku, 2025)

Role of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector in implementing the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Baku, 2025),

recalling

- a)* the outcomes of both phases of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS);
- b)* Resolution 70/125 of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), on the outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the overall review of the implementation of WSIS outcomes;
- c)* UNGA Resolution 70/1, on transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- d)* the Global Digital Compact (GDC), as contained in Annex I to UNGA Resolution 79/1;
- e)* UNGA Resolution 76/189, on information and communication technologies (ICTs) for sustainable development;
- f)* the WSIS 10-year review (WSIS+10) statement on the implementation of WSIS outcomes and the WSIS+10 vision for WSIS beyond 2015, adopted at the ITU-coordinated WSIS+10 High-Level Event (Geneva, 2014) and endorsed by the Plenipotentiary Conference (Busan, 2014), which were submitted as an input into the UNGA's overall review on the implementation of WSIS outcomes;
- g)* Resolution 2025/18 of the United Nations Economic and Social Council, on the assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the WSIS outcomes;
- h)* Resolution 37 (Rev. Baku, 2025) of this conference, on bridging the digital divide;
- i)* Resolution 71 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the strategic plan for the Union for 2024–2027;

- j) Resolution 130 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on strengthening the role of ITU in building confidence and security in the use of ICTs;
- k) Resolution 131 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on measuring ICTs to build an integrating and inclusive information society;
- l) Resolution 139 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the use of telecommunications/ICTs to bridge the digital divide and build an inclusive information society;
- m) Resolution 140 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on ITU's role in implementing the outcomes of WSIS and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as in their follow-up and review processes;
- n) Resolution 200 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the Connect 2030 Agenda for global telecommunication/ICT, including broadband, for sustainable development;
- o) [Resolution 1332](#) (C11, last amended C24) of the ITU Council, on ITU's role in the implementation of the WSIS outcomes and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- p) the opinions of the World Telecommunication/ICT Policy Forum relevant to ITU's activities on WSIS and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),

recognizing

- a) that WSIS stated that the core competencies of ITU are of crucial importance for building the information society, and identified ITU as lead facilitator for implementing WSIS Action Lines C2, C4, C5 and C6, as co-facilitator for Action Lines C1, C3, C7 and C11, and as partner for Action Lines C8 and C9;
- b) that it was agreed among the parties in follow-up of the Summit outcomes to appoint ITU as lead facilitator for the implementation of WSIS Action Lines C4 and C6, in which it had previously been only co-facilitator;

- c)* that the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) – in view of its purposes and objectives; the nature of the existing partnership among Member States and ITU-D Sector Members; its experience over many years in dealing with different development needs and implementing a range of projects, including infrastructure projects and specifically telecommunication/ICT infrastructure projects, financed by possible partnerships; the nature of its four existing objectives, to meet the needs of the telecommunication/ICT infrastructure, including building confidence and security in the use of telecommunications/ICTs and fostering an enabling environment, and to achieve the WSIS goals; and the presence of its authorized regional offices – is a key partner in the implementation of WSIS outcomes, in respect of WSIS Action Lines C2, C4, C5 and C6, which are the cornerstone of the Sector's work pursuant to the ITU Constitution and Convention, and also participates with other stakeholders, as appropriate, in the implementation of Action Lines C1, C3, C7, C8, C9 and C11 and all other relevant action lines and other WSIS outcomes, within the financial limits set by the Plenipotentiary Conference;
- d)* that UNGA Resolution 70/125 calls for close alignment between the WSIS process and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, highlighting the cross-cutting contribution of ICTs to the SDGs and poverty eradication, and noting that access to ICTs has also become a development indicator and aspiration in and of itself;
- e)* that the United Nations Group on the Information Society has developed a matrix linking the WSIS outcomes with the SDGs and the GDC, with the view to enhancing coherence and coordination within the United Nations system;
- f)* that the GDC includes commitments to fast-track digital transformation, make progress in achieving sustainable development and bridge the digital divides within and between countries;
- g)* that the WSIS outcomes will help achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and help facilitate the development of the digital economy;
- h)* that ITU plays a pivotal role in providing a global perspective on the information society (see Council Resolution 1332 (C11, last amended C24)),

recognizing further

- a) the commitment of ITU to implement relevant WSIS outcomes as one of the most important goals for the Union;
- b) the potential of ICTs to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other internationally agreed development goals;
- c) that ITU-D shall give high priority to building information and communication infrastructure (WSIS Action Line C2), capacity building (WSIS Action Line C4), confidence and security in the use of ICTs (WSIS Action Line C5), enabling environment (WSIS Action Line C6) and e-applications (WSIS Action Line C7),

taking into account

- a) Resolution 75 (Rev. Geneva, 2022) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly, on the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector's contribution in implementing the WSIS outcomes, taking into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- b) Resolution ITU-R 61-3 (Rev. Dubai, 2023) of the Radiocommunication Assembly, on the ITU Radiocommunication Sector's contribution in implementing the WSIS outcomes and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- c) the programmes, activities and regional initiatives being carried out in accordance with the decisions of this conference for bridging the digital divide;
- d) the relevant work already accomplished and/or to be carried out by ITU and reported to the Council, including the annual reports on the activities of the Council Working Group on WSIS & SDGs (CWG-WSIS&SDG) and the Council Working Group on international Internet-related public policy issues (CWG-Internet);
- e) Council Resolution 1336 (C11, last amended C19), on CWG-Internet,

noting

that the ITU Secretary-General created the ITU Task Force on WSIS and the SDGs (WSIS&SDG Task Force), whose role is to formulate strategies and coordinate ITU's policies and activities in relation to WSIS, taking into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and that this task force is chaired by the Deputy Secretary-General,

noting with appreciation

- a) the ITU Secretary-General's "WSIS+20 Report: Building a digital future for all", on ITU's contribution to the implementation of and follow-up to the WSIS outcomes and its role in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- b) the outcomes of the WSIS+20 High-Level Event 2025, hosted by ITU and jointly organized with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) from 7 to 11 July 2025 in Geneva;
- c) the successful chairing by ITU of the WSIS+20 High-Level Event 2025, including the summary presented by the Chair, which highlighted the importance of the WSIS architecture as a cornerstone of global efforts to shape a digital future for all;
- d) the effective coordination among all United Nations agencies, including ITU, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNDP and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, involved in the joint preparatory process for the WSIS 20-year review (WSIS+20), which facilitated the identification of milestones leading to that review,

resolves to invite the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector

1 to continue working in cooperation with the other ITU Sectors and with development partners (governments, specialized agencies of the United Nations, relevant international and regional organizations, etc.), through a clear plan and appropriate mechanisms for coordination among the different partners concerned at the national, regional, interregional and global levels, having particular regard to the needs of the developing countries¹, including in the field of building telecommunication/ ICT infrastructure, capacity building, establishing an enabling environment, building confidence and security in the use of telecommunications/ICTs, to support and accelerate the implementation of the other WSIS goals that can help achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and facilitate the development of the digital economy;

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

- 2 to continue its work on the realization of the WSIS vision contributing to the achievement of the relevant objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- 3 to continue to update the roadmaps for WSIS Action Lines C2, C4, C5 and C6 to take into account activities related to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- 4 to continue to provide input, as appropriate, into the roadmaps/work plans for WSIS Action Lines C1, C3, C7, C8, C9 and C11, also related to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- 5 to continue to encourage the principle of non-exclusion from the information society and to devise appropriate mechanisms to this end (§§ 20–25 of the WSIS Tunis Commitment);
- 6 to continue to facilitate an enabling environment encouraging ITU-D Sector Members to give priority to investing in the development of the telecommunication/ICT infrastructure, encompassing rural, isolated and remote regions, through different technologies;
- 7 to assist Member States in finding and/or improving innovative financial mechanisms to develop telecommunication/ICT infrastructure (such as those mentioned in § 27 of the WSIS Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, and partnerships);
- 8 to continue to assist developing countries in advancing their legal and regulatory frameworks in order to further the goal of building telecommunication/ICT infrastructure and achieve the other WSIS goals and SDGs;
- 9 to promote international cooperation and capacity building in issues related to cyberthreats and building confidence and security in the use of ICTs consistent with WSIS Action Line C5, in which ITU is lead facilitator;
- 10 to pursue its activities in the field of statistical work for telecommunication development, using the indicators required to evaluate progress in this area with a view to bridging the digital divide, *inter alia*, within the framework of the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development and consistent with §§ 113–118 of the Tunis Agenda and taking into account new and emerging technologies;

11 to develop and implement the ITU-D action plan, taking into account the need to give priority to building telecommunication/ICT infrastructure, including broadband access, at the national, regional, interregional and global levels, and to achieve the other WSIS goals and SDGs related to the activities of ITU-D;

12 to propose at the forthcoming plenipotentiary conference appropriate mechanisms for funding the activities flowing from the WSIS outcomes and SDGs that are relevant to the core competencies of ITU, specifically those to be adopted in relation to:

- i) WSIS Action Lines C2, C4, C5 and C6, in which ITU is now identified as lead facilitator;
- ii) WSIS Action Lines C1, C3, C6, C7, including its eight sub-action lines, and C11, in which ITU is now identified as co-facilitator, as well as C8 and C9, in which ITU is identified as partner;
- iii) relevant SDGs and targets through and in harmony with the WSIS framework;
- iv) monitor ICT trends to anticipate future challenges and ensure alignment with WSIS action lines,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to continue to provide CWG-WSIS&SDG with a comprehensive summary of ITU-D progress on implementation of the WSIS outcomes and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including challenges;

2 to ensure that concrete objectives and deadlines for WSIS and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development activities are developed and reflected in the operational plans of ITU-D, in accordance with Resolution 140 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) and with the objectives that will be set for ITU-D by the Plenipotentiary Conference (Doha, 2026) with regard to the implementation by ITU of the WSIS+20 outcomes and achievement of the SDGs;

3 to collaborate with Member States and partners in strengthening the monitoring and measurement of WSIS indicators and to provide the membership with updated information and statistics based on ITU-D activities;

4 in close collaboration with the Directors of the Radiocommunication Bureau and the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau, to take account of the impact of ITU's work related to digital transformation, which fosters sustainable growth of the digital economy, in line with the WSIS stocktaking process, and provide assistance to the membership upon request;

5 to take appropriate action to facilitate the activities to implement this resolution,

further instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to strengthen and facilitate the work of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) focal points for WSIS Action Lines C2, C4, C5 and C6, and other BDT focal points for Action Lines C1, C3, C7, C8, C9 and C11, where ITU is either co-facilitator or partner, depending on the action line;

2 to act as a catalyst in the development of partnerships among all stakeholders, with a view to ensuring that initiatives and projects, especially those related to WSIS and the SDGs, attract investment, and to continue to act as a catalyst in the following functions, among others:

- i) encouraging the implementation of regional telecommunication/ICT initiatives and projects;
- ii) participating in the organization of training and capacity-development initiatives;
- iii) signing agreements with national, regional and international partners involved in development, when required;
- iv) collaborating on initiatives and projects with other relevant international, regional and intergovernmental organizations, where appropriate;

3 to promote human capacity building in developing countries relating to various aspects of the telecommunication/ICT sector, consistent with the mandate of ITU-D;

4 to foster an environment, particularly with the ITU regional offices, that enables micro, small and medium enterprises in and among developing countries to develop and grow;

5 in implementing the WSIS outcomes/SDGs within the mandate of ITU-D, to pay particular attention to the needs of developing countries;

6 to encourage international financial institutions, Member States and Sector Members, in their respective roles, to address, as a priority issue, the building, reconstruction and upgrading of networks and infrastructure in developing countries;

7 to pursue coordination with international bodies, with a view to mobilizing the financial resources needed in the implementation of projects;

8 to take the necessary initiatives to encourage partnerships which have been given high priority pursuant to:

- i) the WSIS Geneva Plan of Action;
- ii) the WSIS Tunis Agenda;
- iii) the outcomes of the WSIS review process and WSIS vision;
- iv) the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

9 to submit contributions to the relevant annual reports of the ITU Secretary-General on these activities;

10 to strengthen, involving, among others, the ITU regional and area offices, coordination and collaboration at the regional level with the United Nations regional economic commissions and United Nations Regional Development Group, as well as all United Nations agencies (in particular those acting as facilitator for WSIS action lines), and other relevant regional organizations, especially in the field of telecommunications/ICTs, with the aim of the following:

- i) aligning WSIS and SDG processes and their implementation as requested by UNGA Resolution 70/125;
- ii) implementing ICT for SDG actions through the relevant United Nations initiatives and resolutions;
- iii) incorporating ICTs in the United Nations development assistance frameworks;
- iv) developing partnerships for implementation of inter-agency and multistakeholder projects, advancing implementation of WSIS action lines and advancing achievement of SDGs;

- v) highlighting the importance of advocacy for ICTs in national sustainable development plans;
- vi) strengthening regional input to the WSIS Forum, WSIS Prizes and WSIS Stocktaking,

encourages the study groups of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector

to continue their effective contribution to activities related to WSIS and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including WSIS Forum, WSIS Stocktaking and WSIS Prizes, and use outcomes thereof in the work of the study groups,

requests the Secretary-General

to bring this resolution to the attention of the Plenipotentiary Conference (Doha, 2026) for consideration and the required action, as appropriate, when reviewing Resolution 140 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022),

calls upon Member States, Sector Members, Associates and Academia

1 to continue to give priority to the development of telecommunication/ICT infrastructure, including in rural, remote and underserved areas, to building confidence and security in the use of telecommunications/ICTs, to fostering an enabling environment and to ICT applications, in order to build an inclusive and connected information society and achieve the SDGs, which can facilitate the growth of the digital economy;

2 to consider the development of principles towards the adoption of strategies in areas such as telecommunication network security, consistent with WSIS Action Line C5;

3 to submit contributions to relevant ITU-D study groups and to the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG), where appropriate, and contribute to CWG-WSIS&SDGs on implementing WSIS outcomes and achieving the SDGs within ITU's mandate;

- 4 to continue to support and collaborate with the Director of BDT in implementing relevant WSIS outcomes and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in ITU-D;
- 5 to contribute to meetings and consultations in the WSIS+20 preparatory process leading up to the UNGA High-Level Meeting;
- 6 to engage in the WSIS and SDG processes, in order to reaffirm the need to address remaining challenges of ICT for development to be addressed in the implementation of the vision for WSIS beyond 2015 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

invites Member States, Sector Members, Associates and Academia

- 1 to submit contributions to relevant ITU-D study groups and to TDAG, where appropriate, and contribute to CWG-WSIS&SDG on implementing WSIS outcomes and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, within ITU's mandate;
- 2 to continue updating and contributing information on their activities for the public WSIS Stocktaking Database, maintained by ITU, covering activities implemented;
- 3 to continue nominating projects for the annual WSIS Prizes;
- 4 to support and collaborate with the Director of BDT in implementing relevant WSIS outcomes, taking into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in ITU-D;
- 5 to submit contributions to CWG-WSIS&SDG.

RESOLUTION 31 (Rev. Baku, 2025)

Regional preparations for world telecommunication development conferences

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Baku, 2025),

recalling

- a)* Resolution 58 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on strengthening of relations between ITU and regional telecommunication organizations (RTOs) and regional preparations for the Plenipotentiary Conference;
- b)* Resolution 25 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on strengthening the regional presence,

considering

- a)* that many RTOs, including the six principal ones, namely the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT), the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT), the Inter-American Telecommunications Commission (CITEL), the African Telecommunications Union (ATU), the Council of Arab Ministers of Telecommunication and Information, represented by the Secretariat-General of the League of Arab States (LAS), and the Regional Commonwealth in the field of Communications (RCC), seek close cooperation with the Union and have coordinated their preparations for this and preceding conferences;
- b)* that many common proposals have been submitted to this conference from administrations which have participated in the preparations, thereby facilitating the work of this conference;
- c)* that this consolidation of views at regional level, together with the opportunity for interregional discussions prior to the conference, has eased the task of reaching a consensus at the last meeting of the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG) of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) and during the conference;
- d)* that preparation for future conferences is likely to increase;

- e) the firm conviction that the coordination of preparations at regional level for the six regions has been of great benefit to the Member States and Sector Members;
- f) that the continued success of future conferences will depend on greater efficiency of regional coordination and interaction at interregional level prior to such conferences, and in particular at the last TDAG meeting before the conference, as well as during the conference;
- g) that there is a need for RTOs to collaborate closely with relevant subregional organizations within their region;
- h) that some regional organizations lack the resources necessary to organize adequately and participate in such preparations;
- i) that there is a continuing need for overall coordination of the interregional consultations,

recognizing

- a) the benefits of regional coordination for the six regions as already experienced in the preparation of all ITU conferences and assemblies;
- b) the benefits of interregional coordination and preparation prior to plenipotentiary conferences and ITU Sector conferences and assemblies in terms of developing regional cooperation in areas of common interest; facilitating coordination among all regions on major issues; establishing channels of communication among regional coordinators from Member States; and providing opportunities for negotiations prior to a conference;
- c) that regional preparatory meetings (RPMs) for plenipotentiary conferences and world telecommunication development conferences (WTDCs) have helped in identifying and coordinating regional views on issues considered to be of particular relevance to each region and in developing common regional proposals for submission to those conferences,

taking into account

the continued belief in the benefits that a WTDC could gain in terms of efficiency from an increased amount and level of preparation by the six regions for the ITU Member States prior to the conference,

noting

- a) that many RTOs have expressed the need for the Union to cooperate more closely with them (see Resolution 21 (Rev. Baku, 2025) of this conference, on strengthening coordination and collaboration with regional and subregional organizations);
- b) that relations between ITU regional offices and RTOs have proved to be of great benefit, and that regional offices should continue to be used to facilitate the preparation of WTDCs;
- c) that some ITU Member States are not members of an RTO,

resolves to instruct the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

- 1 to continue to organize, within the financial limitations set by the Plenipotentiary Conference, one RPM per region for each of the six regions (if the relevant region deems appropriate), in close coordination and cooperation with the relevant regional organizations and in partnership with all Member States in the region, even if they do not belong to any of the RTOs, as soon as possible before the last meeting of TDAG before the next WTDC, avoiding overlap with other relevant ITU-D meetings and making full use of ITU regional offices to facilitate such meetings;
- 2 to organize a coordination meeting of the chairs and vice-chairs of RPMs in conjunction with the last meeting of TDAG before the next WTDC, with the participation of interested ITU-D members;
- 3 to support the organization of briefings and training sessions during RPMs in order to provide information on the conference, procedures for nominating candidates and preparing documents, and rules of procedure;

4 to help the least developed countries to participate in RPMs, within the financial resources available;

5 to prepare, in close consultation with the chairs and vice-chairs of RPMs, a report consolidating the results of such meetings, to be submitted to the TDAG meeting immediately preceding WTDC;

6 to convene the last TDAG meeting not less than three months and not more than six months before WTDC, in order to study, discuss and adopt the consolidated report presenting the outputs of the six RPMs in final form, as a basic document to be included, once approved by TDAG, in the report on the application of this resolution for submission to WTDC, as well as to accomplish whatever else is desirable prior to WTDC (such as consideration of Questions proposed for study by the study groups), including also a review and revision of all resolutions, Recommendations and programmes with the aim of proposing the necessary updates to some or all of them if possible and their submission as reports from TDAG to WTDC,

requests the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to continue to consult with Member States and RTOs in the six regions on the means by which assistance can be provided in support of their preparations for future WTDCs;

2 to continue, on the basis of such consultations, to assist Member States and RTOs in such areas as:

- i) organization of informal and formal regional and interregional preparatory meetings;
- ii) organization of information sessions;
- iii) identification of mutual coordination methods;
- iv) identification of major matters to be resolved by the future WTDC;

3 to continue to submit to the next WTDC a report on the application of this resolution;

4 to submit, no later than the session of the ITU Council during the calendar year following a WTDC, a report on feedback from Member States concerning WTDC regional preparatory meetings, the results of the meetings and implementation of this resolution,

invites Member States

to participate actively in the implementation of this resolution,

invites regional and subregional telecommunication organizations

1 to participate in coordinating and harmonizing the contributions of their respective Member States in order to generate common proposals where possible;

2 to take an active part in the preparation and holding of RPMs for WTDC;

3 to take part in the preparatory meetings of other regional organizations and to convene, if possible, informal interregional meetings in order to exchange information and to coordinate interregional common proposals.

RESOLUTION 33 (Rev. Dubai, 2014)

Assistance and support to Serbia for rebuilding its destroyed public broadcasting system

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Dubai, 2014),

recalling

- a) the noble principles, purpose and objectives embodied in the Charter of the United Nations and in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;
- b) the purpose of the Union, as enshrined in Article 1 of the ITU Constitution,

noting

- a) Resolution 33 (Rev. Doha, 2006) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference;
- b) Resolution 126 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference,

noting with appreciation

- a) the efforts deployed by the Secretary-General of ITU and the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) towards the implementation of the above-mentioned resolutions;
- b) the significant assistance from the European Union (EU), through the pre-accession funds (IPA), for the implementation of the digitization process,

recognizing

- a) that a reliable public broadcasting system is indispensable for promoting the socio-economic development of countries, in particular those having suffered from natural disasters, domestic conflicts or war;
- b) that the newly established public broadcasting facility in Serbia, "Broadcast Multiplex and Network Operator" (ETV), formerly a part of Radio Television of Serbia, is the public entity responsible for terrestrial broadcasting;
- c) that the severe damage to the public broadcasting system (ETV) in Serbia should concern the whole international community, in particular ITU;

d) that, under the present conditions and in the foreseeable future, Serbia will not be able to bring the public broadcasting system in Serbia up to an acceptable level without help from the international community, provided bilaterally or through international organizations,

resolves

1 to continue special action, within the framework and available budgetary resources of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector, with specialized assistance from the ITU Radiocommunication Sector and the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector;

2 to provide appropriate assistance;

3 to support Serbia in rebuilding the public broadcasting system,

calls upon Member States

1 to offer all possible assistance;

2 to support the Government of Serbia, either bilaterally or through, or at any rate in coordination with, the special action of ITU referred to above,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

to use the necessary funds within available resources in order to continue the appropriate action,

requests the Secretary-General

1 to coordinate the activities carried out by the ITU Sectors in accordance with the above;

2 to ensure that the ITU action in favour of Serbia is as effective as possible;

3 to report on the matter to the Council;

4 to transmit this resolution to the Plenipotentiary Conference (Busan, 2014).

RESOLUTION 34 (Rev. Baku, 2025)

Role of telecommunications/information and communication technologies in disaster preparedness, early warning, rescue, mitigation, relief and response

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Baku, 2025),

recalling

- a)* Resolution 136 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on use of telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICTs) for humanitarian assistance and for monitoring and management in emergency and disaster situations, including health-related emergencies, for early warning, prevention, mitigation and relief;
- b)* Resolution 182 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on role of telecommunications/ICTs in regard to climate change and the protection of the environment;
- c)* Resolution 646 (Rev.WRC-19) of the World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC), on public protection and disaster relief (PPDR);
- d)* Resolution 647 (Rev.WRC-19) of WRC, on radiocommunication aspects, including spectrum-management guidelines, for early warning, disaster prediction, detection, mitigation and relief operations relating to emergencies and disasters;
- e)* Resolution ITU-R 55-4 (Rev. Dubai, 2023) of the Radiocommunication Assembly, on ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R) studies of disaster prediction, detection, mitigation and relief;
- f)* Article 5 of the International Telecommunication Regulations, on safety of life and priority of telecommunications;
- g)* Article 40 of the ITU Constitution, on priority of telecommunications concerning safety of life;

- h) Article 46 of the Constitution, on distress calls and messages;
- i) that § 5.1 of the International Telecommunication Regulations stipulates that safety-of-life telecommunications, such as distress telecommunications, have absolute priority, where technically practicable, and in accordance with the relevant articles of the Constitution and the ITU Convention and taking due account of the relevant Recommendations of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T), in particular Recommendation ITU-T E.161.1, on guidelines to select the emergency number for public telecommunication networks;
- j) emergency telecommunication/ICT coordination mechanisms established by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs;
- k) Recommendation ITU-T X.1303*bis* on the common alerting protocol (CAP), version 1.2,

recognizing

- a) that there is a growing general awareness at the global level of the potentially serious negative consequences of climate change, especially if global emissions are not cut in accordance with relevant agreements;
- b) that the number of disasters caused by natural and human-induced hazards, as well as the tragic consequences associated therewith, is steadily increasing;
- c) that existing, new and emerging telecommunication/ICT services and technologies are crucial to disaster preparedness, early warning, messaging, rescue, mitigation, relief and response and also constitute a decision tool for rescue services and entities involved, as well as for communication with and among citizens;

d) that such disasters can damage not only telecommunication/ICT infrastructures but also electricity supplies that power telecommunication/ICT systems and devices, thereby making services inoperable, such that considerations of redundancy and resilience of both infrastructure and power supply become important when planning for disasters;

e) that frequent tragic events in the world and the experience of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) and the ITU Member States in this area clearly demonstrate the need for enhanced disaster preparedness, and for plans that incorporate consideration of resilient communications equipment and services, as well as reliable telecommunication infrastructure, in order to ensure public safety, to assist disaster-relief agencies in mitigating risk to human life, to provide the necessary general public information to ensure that preparation, rescue, mitigation and response can be undertaken in an efficient and timely manner, accurately and free of charge, including in local languages and for the benefit of Indigenous Peoples, and to meet communication needs in such situations;

f) that the concept of scientific monitoring and reliable telecommunication (SMART) cables includes scientific sensors mounted in the repeaters of submarine cables to measure ocean-bottom temperature, pressure and seismic acceleration,

considering

a) that the Intergovernmental Conference on Emergency Telecommunications (Tampere, 1998) (ICET-98) adopted the Tampere Convention on the Provision of Telecommunication Resources for Disaster Mitigation and Relief Operations and that this convention came into force in January 2005;

b) that the CAP Workshop held during the third Global Forum on Emergency Telecommunications (Mauritius, 2019) (GET-19) highlighted the benefits of CAP, and shared best practices and lessons learned on how to create an enabling environment for leveraging CAP;

- c)* that the disaster connectivity map launched at GET-19 is a mapping platform to help first responders determine the status of telecommunication network infrastructure, coverage and performance before and after a disaster;
- d)* that the second Conference on Disaster Communications (Tampere, 2001) (CDC-01) invited ITU to study the use of public mobile networks for early warning and the dissemination of emergency information and the operational aspects of emergency telecommunications such as call prioritization;
- e)* that ITU leads on pillar 3 of the United Nations Early Warnings for All (EW4All) initiative (Warning dissemination and communication) in support of achieving target (g) of the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction;
- f)* that Resolution 646 (Rev.WRC-19) addresses the broader category of PPDR, as well as the harmonization of frequency bands/ranges for PPDR solutions, and resolves to encourage administrations to satisfy temporary needs for frequencies in emergency and disaster-relief situations, in addition to those normally made available by agreement with the administrations concerned, and to facilitate cross-border circulation of radiocommunication equipment intended for use in emergency and disaster-relief situations through mutual cooperation and consultation without hindering national legislation;
- g)* that Resolution 646 (Rev.WRC-19) likewise resolves to encourage administrations to consider Recommendation ITU-R M.2015, and to use agreed frequency bands for PPDR to the maximum extent possible when undertaking their national planning for their PPDR applications, particularly broadband, in order to achieve harmonization;

h) that Resolution 646 (Rev.WRC-19) further encourages administrations to consider also parts of the regionally harmonized frequency ranges for their PPDR applications;

i) that Resolution 647 (Rev.WRC-19) resolves that ITU-R continue, through its study groups, to study those aspects of radiocommunications/ICTs that are relevant to early warning, disaster prediction, detection, mitigation and relief operations, taking into account Resolution ITU-R 55-4 (Rev. Dubai, 2023);

j) that Resolution 647 (Rev.WRC-19) instructs the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau (BR) to continue assisting Member States with their emergency communication preparedness activities by maintaining a database of information from administrations for use in emergency situations, which includes contact information and optionally includes available frequencies for use in emergency situations, reiterating the importance of having spectrum available in the very early stages of humanitarian assistance intervention for disaster relief;

k) that Resolution 647 (Rev.WRC-19) likewise invites the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau and the Director of BDT to collaborate closely with the Director of BR to ensure that a consistent and coherent approach is adopted in the development of strategies in response to emergency and disaster situations;

l) the work of the ITU-R and ITU-T study groups in adopting Recommendations that have helped to provide technical information on satellite and terrestrial radiocommunication systems and wired networks and their role in disaster management, including important Recommendations pertaining to the use of satellite networks in times of disasters;

- m)* the work of the ITU-T study groups in developing and adopting Recommendations for priority/preferential emergency telecommunications and emergency telecommunication services, including consideration of use of both terrestrial and wireless telecommunication systems during emergencies;
- n)* that modern telecommunications/ICTs are basic tools for disaster preparedness, mitigation and relief;
- o)* that mobile and personal communication systems are beneficial for responding to disasters, and should therefore also be used before a disaster to ensure information can be shared with those who need it most;
- p)* outcomes and activities of the ITU Global Forum on Emergency Telecommunications;
- q)* the importance of utilizing both existing and new technologies and solutions (satellite and terrestrial) to satisfy a range of interoperability requirements and for furthering the goals of PPDR, including through innovative SMART submarine cables;
- r)* that high-altitude solutions, when applied to telecommunications/ICTs, have the potential to enable the rapid restoration of communications in emergency and disaster situations;
- s)* the terrible disasters from which many countries suffer, and the disproportionate impact of disasters and of climate change on developing countries¹;

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

- t) the particular vulnerability of the least developed countries (LDCs), landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) and small island developing states (SIDS), including those facing significant coastal or other environmental hazard exposure, to the impact that disasters can have on their economies and infrastructures, and that these countries often lack the capacity to respond to disasters;
- u) the need to take into account the requirements of persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs with respect to disaster warning, response planning and recovery efforts;
- v) ITU's collaborative initiatives with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) to develop emergency maritime telecommunications/ICTs;
- w) the findings of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) Smart Seas project, which highlight that many SIDS and coastal countries remain underserved in terms of access to telecommunications/ICTs, despite their high vulnerability to disasters at sea;
- x) that the capability and flexibility of all telecommunication/ICT facilities depend upon appropriate planning for the continuity of each phase of network development and implementation;
- y) the opportunity to significantly facilitate all phases of disaster operations offered by national emergency communication plans that enable the pre-positioning, rapid deployment and effective utilization of telecommunication/ICT equipment;
- z) the potential of including the use of telecommunication/ICT tools in infrastructure development planning to avert the risk of disasters and mitigate their effects;

aa) the need for international and regional cooperation among States, as well as between organizations, on preparedness, early warning, rescue, mitigation, relief and response, including through the establishment of a network of experts in disaster management;

ab) that existing, new and emerging telecommunication/ICT services and technologies offer enormous potential to support assessment, early warning, mitigation and response, and that some technologies enable the transmission of messages to users on a massive scale and in real time, particularly in affected areas;

ac) the role of the private sector, governments and international and non-governmental organizations in providing telecommunication/ICT equipment and services, expertise and capacity-building assistance to support disaster-relief and recovery activities, particularly through the ITU Framework for International Cooperation in Emergencies (IFCE);

ad) that a disaster, when it occurs, may extend beyond the borders of a State, and its management may involve the deployment of efforts by more than one country in order to prevent loss of human life and regional economic crisis;

ae) that coordination between international, regional and national organizations specializing in disaster management and administrations increases the probability of saving human life when rescue operations are conducted, and thereby mitigates the consequences of a disaster, such that collaborative work and networking among disaster-management experts is thus essential;

af) that the use of telecommunications/ICTs for sharing of information in the event of a disaster is a powerful decision-making tool for rescue services and operating entities, and for communication with and between citizens;

ag) ITU's collaborative initiatives with United Nations and other expert bodies to work on disaster resilient telecommunications/ICTs, including: the SMART Cables Joint Task Force with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and its Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission; the AI Subgroup of the EW4All initiative with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, WMO, and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies; the Global Initiative on Resilience to Natural Hazards through AI Solutions with UNESCO, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Universal Postal Union and WMO; and the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System with IMO, under the auspices of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS)²;

ah) the need to investigate the use of submarine telecommunication cables for ocean and climate monitoring and disaster warning;

ai) that oceanographic sensors on undersea telecommunication cables constitute a promising solution for obtaining the extensive, longitudinal, real-time data that are critical for understanding and managing urgent environmental issues such as climate change and tsunami hazard mitigation;

aj) the United Nations Secretary-General's Roadmap for digital cooperation, which highlights the importance of accelerating discussions on connectivity as part of emergency preparedness, response and aid,

² In 2012, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Labour Organization and IMO published Safety Recommendations for Decked Fishing Vessels of Less than 12 metres in Length and Undecked Fishing Vessels, containing voluntary recommendations for vessels not covered by the SOLAS Convention.

noting

a) the continued pursuit by ITU and other relevant organizations of joint activities being undertaken at the international, regional and national levels to establish internationally agreed means to operate systems for PPDR on a harmonized and coordinated basis, and the successful role of BDT through its programme activities in this area;

b) the successful role of BDT, in partnership with the ITU membership, and in coordination with the Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC), with respect to rapid intervention in enabling and facilitating telecommunications/ICTs for countries which have suffered disasters;

c) that all phases of disaster operations can be greatly facilitated by national emergency telecommunication plans that enable the pre-positioning, rapid deployment and effective utilization of ICT equipment;

d) that including the use of telecommunication/ICT tools in infrastructure development planning can avert the risk of disasters and mitigate their effects,

noting further

a) the latest version of the ITU-D Handbook on emergency telecommunications (2014), the Compendium of ITU's work on emergency telecommunications (2007), the ITU Handbook on best practice on emergency telecommunications (2008), and the adoption of Recommendation ITU-D 13.1, on effective utilization of the amateur radio services in disaster-mitigation and relief operations, as well as the reports on disruptive technologies and their use in disaster risk reduction and management and to protect the environment and tackle climate change;

- b) that further guidance for ITU members on disaster-communication management is provided by previous successful conclusions and outputs of ITU-D Study Group 2 (before 2022), including the Guidelines for conducting national-level ICT drills and exercises, the Handbook on outside plants for areas frequently exposed to disasters caused by natural hazards, and also by outputs of ITU-D Study Group 1, in particular under Question 3/1 (2022–2025), including the Guidelines for early warning systems and disaster drills;
- c) the results of work done by ITU-R Study Groups 4, 5, 6 and 7 on the use of different radiocommunication systems in emergency situations, and in particular Recommendations ITU-R S.1001, ITU-R M.1637, ITU-R BS.2107 and ITU-R RS.1859;
- d) that the ITU regional offices can be particularly helpful prior to and following emergencies, owing to their proximity to affected countries,

resolves to instruct the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to continue to ensure that priority consideration is given to emergency communications and disaster management³ as an element of telecommunication/ICT development, including continued close coordination and collaboration with ITU-R and ITU-T and relevant international organizations, and that coordination with BR must take into consideration the outcomes of studies, especially those which provide for harmonized models for PPDR networks;

2 within budgetary resources, to periodically organize forums and workshops on emergency communications and disaster management that provide administrations with best practices for mechanisms, procedures and coordination that can be used in emergency and disaster situations;

³ In this resolution, "disaster management" covers disaster preparedness, early warning, rescue, mitigation, relief and response.

3 to establish contact points at the level of BDT and the ITU regional offices, enabling affected Member States to request capacity building and direct assistance in terms of emergency communications and disaster management, whereby the contact numbers of these points are to be circulated to ITU members and contact points are to be responsible for coordinating ITU assistance to disaster-struck countries and with relevant United Nations and international organizations that coordinate and/or provide emergency communications;

4 to facilitate and encourage the use by Member States of telecommunications/ICTs that are appropriate and commonly available for early warning, disaster response, mitigation and relief operations, including those provided by amateur radio, satellite and terrestrial services, as well as undersea sensing technologies;

5 to promote, in close collaboration with ITU-R and ITU-T, the implementation of early-warning systems, and emergency information broadcasting, for example audio and TV broadcasting, mobile messages including cell broadcasting, etc., and the use of CAP, taking into account persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs, and ensuring the ability to reach isolated populations, especially those at sea or in underserved and unserved geographical areas;

6 to support administrations in their work towards the implementation of this resolution as well as ratification and implementation of the Tampere Convention;

7 to report to the next world telecommunication development conference on the status of ratification and implementation of the Tampere Convention;

8 to support administrations and regulators in the areas identified in this resolution by taking appropriate measures during the implementation of the ITU-D action plan;

9 to continue to support administrations in preparing their national disaster response and relief plans, including consideration of the necessary enabling national regulatory and policy environments to support the development and effective use of telecommunications/ICTs for disaster mitigation, relief and response;

10 to strengthen the role of the ITU regional offices, in coordination with the above-mentioned points of contact, in assisting Member States and Sector Members in developing emergency preparedness plans, national emergency telecommunication plans and early-warning systems, in organizing training workshops on emergency relief and response, in providing equipment training, in fostering collaboration with all parties involved and in helping deploy communication equipment during emergencies;

11 as part of the IFCE, to continue providing assistance to administrations, in coordination with the above-mentioned points of contact, within available resources, and in collaboration with the ITU membership and other partners, through the temporary supply of emergency communication/ICT equipment and services, especially during the initial phases of disasters;

12 to assist administrations in the use of telecommunication networks, including mobile networks, for the timely dissemination of alert messages and warnings in situations of risk or emergency, for those in potentially affected areas;

13 to assist Member States in enhancing and strengthening the use of all available radiocommunication services in emergency situations when conventional sources of electricity supply or telecommunications are often interrupted;

14 to expedite the study of aspects of telecommunications/ICTs related to flexibility and continuity in the event of disasters, as part of national disaster plans, including promoting the use of broadband networks for emergency communications through the work of the ITU-D study groups, in collaboration with expert organizations, taking account of the activities of the other ITU Sectors and relevant United Nations and other international organizations;

15 to work collaboratively in efforts under the ITU-D study Questions, as well as with the other two Sectors, ITU regional offices, the ITU membership and other relevant expert organizations, in implementing this resolution, and to report regularly on programme activities and relevant regional initiatives to the study groups;

16 to include, in the ITU Academy's training plans, programmes on the use of telecommunications/ICTs for disaster management and mitigation;

17 to promote the implementation of decisions of the ITU Global Forum on Emergency Telecommunications, within existing budgetary resources;

18 to strengthen the ability of Member States to make digital infrastructure more resilient to disasters, including those caused by climate change, and to promote more effective communication and response efforts;

19 to continue to give high priority to studies/investigations related to frontier technologies and disruptive technologies, including oceanographic sensors on undersea telecommunication cables, in order to help Member States assess, mitigate and adapt to climate change, as well as to their use in disaster risk reduction and management;

20 to support the ITU study groups in examining the benefits of undersea sensing technologies and in studying the technical, financial, legal and regulatory issues, including the standardization and specification of sensors and cables undertaken in ITU-T that could foster their adoption, in particular in relation to near-to-far field tsunami and earthquake early warning and seismic monitoring;

21 to provide technical assistance and capacity-building support to Member States, particularly developing countries, in integrating new and emerging telecommunication/ICT services and technologies into national emergency telecommunication plans and existing systems to improve their capacity to deliver resilient backup connectivity, analysis, forecasting, messaging, response and monitoring, for all disasters;

22 to continue discussions with financial donors, United Nations pooled funds, etc., with a view to mobilizing funds and additional resources to help developing countries, including LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS, and enhancing efforts to ensure the timely deployment of emergency telecommunication equipment, including assistance to other disaster-prone or geographically vulnerable countries in accessing mobile emergency kits;

23 to continue and enhance efforts to support the timely deployment of emergency telecommunication equipment, including assistance to developing countries and other disaster-prone or geographically vulnerable countries in accessing emergency equipment and services;

24 to continue collaboration with relevant stakeholders in order to increase ITU members' awareness and knowledge of undersea sensing technologies;

25 to help ensure at-risk populations receive alerts and other communications – even when terrestrial networks are impaired by disasters – by leveraging ITU's work on EW4All and working closely with governments, mobile network providers, the satellite industry and local communities to deliver multi-channel communication and ensure that resilient connectivity for telecommunication/ICT infrastructure is in place so that alerting, including satellite-based alerting, via cell broadcast and SMS, complements existing methods and infrastructure in order to guarantee durability and wide reach;

26 to leverage artificial intelligence (AI) for EW4All to support capacity building for telecommunication/ICT-related AI, including by establishing public-private partnerships,

requests the Secretary-General

to continue to work closely with the office of the United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator, ETC and other relevant external organizations with a view to further increasing the Union's involvement in, and support of, emergency communications and early-warning systems, and to report on outcomes of related international conferences, relief activities and meetings so that the Plenipotentiary Conference may take any action that it deems necessary,

invites Member States

1 to continue to deploy all necessary efforts to integrate disaster risk reduction, disaster mitigation, disaster relief and resilience into telecommunication/ICT development plans;

2 to collaborate with all stakeholders to ensure the use of telecommunications/ICTs in national disaster-management plans to address the specific needs of populations with particular challenges, on land and at sea, during all disaster phases, including persons with disabilities, children, older persons, displaced persons and illiterate persons;

3 to prioritize the collaborative development of national emergency telecommunication plans which consider both land and maritime hazards, in partnership with national stakeholders, including operators, disaster-management agencies and rescue coordination centres;

4 to leverage AI in new and emerging telecommunications/ICTs to improve monitoring, messaging, analysis and forecasting for all disasters;

5 to develop preparedness and disaster recovery and to assist businesses in creating plans that provide a resilient environment for essential government information systems;

6 to consider appropriate and effective mechanisms to facilitate disaster-communication preparedness and response efforts, including for developing countries, especially SIDS and other coastal countries;

7 to facilitate, to the extent practicable, cross-border circulation of radiocommunication equipment intended for use in emergency situations, rescue and relief operations and disaster-relief situations, through mutual cooperation and consultation, without prejudice to national legislation, in accordance with Resolution 646 (Rev.WRC-19);

8 to encourage authorized operating companies to inform all users, including roaming users, in good time and free of charge, of the contact details of the emergency services and other information relevant to emergency response;

9 to develop disaster-management plans that include a multi-channel approach to communication so that different methods of disseminating alert messages, particularly those methods that use telecommunications/ICTs, such as satellite alerts, cell broadcasts and SMS, complement each other to ensure that warnings reach the widest possible audience in good time, as noted in the EW4All Executive Action Plan 2023–2027;

10 to consider introducing, in addition to their existing national emergency numbers, a harmonized national/regional number for access to emergency services, taking into account the relevant ITU-T Recommendations;

11 to foster the training and updating of knowledge of the actors involved in the implementation, maintenance and updating of the telecommunication/ICT systems intended to be used in situations of emergency;

12 to coordinate on a regional basis, with the help of ITU bodies and regional and international specialized organizations, in order to draw up regional response plans in the event of a disaster;

13 to develop partnerships, in order to reduce barriers to access to relevant data obtained through the use of telecommunications/ICTs required for the purpose of assisting rescue operations;

14 to promote Geographic Information System-based mapping of telecommunication/ICT infrastructure and connectivity in disaster-prone areas for better-informed decision-making, with a view to enhancing preparedness, response and recovery efforts, while minimizing damage and loss of life, in accordance with their national policies,

invites also

1 Member States and Sector Members to work together on the study of emerging technologies, standards and related technical issues for improving radio broadcasting systems for sending and receiving information concerning public warning, rescue, disaster mitigation and relief;

2 Sector Members to make the necessary efforts to enable the operation of telecommunication/ICT services in emergency or disaster situations, giving priority, in all cases, to telecommunications/ICTs concerning safety of life in the affected areas and providing contingency plans for such purpose;

3 BDT to consider how relevant telecommunications/ICTs, including space-based technologies, submarine telecommunication cable networks and associated sensor technologies, can be used to help ITU Member States collect and disseminate data on the effects of climate change and support early warning, having regard to the link between climate change and natural hazards;

4 ITU-D to take account of the particular telecommunication/ICT requirements of LDCs, LLDCs, SIDS and low-lying coastal countries in terms of disaster preparedness, rescue, relief and recovery, with an emphasis on populations facing particular challenges, including those at sea;

- 5 ITU-D, within its studies on the role of telecommunications/ICTs in disaster preparedness, early warning, rescue, mitigation, relief and response, to take account of the work of other ITU Sectors and dedicated working groups, considering the increased use of mobile and portable communication devices which can be used by first responders to transmit and receive critical information;
- 6 the United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator, the Working Group on Emergency Telecommunications and other relevant external organizations or bodies to ensure follow-up and continue collaborating with ITU, specifically BDT, in working towards implementing this resolution and the Tampere Convention, and supporting administrations and international and regional telecommunication/ICT organizations in the implementation of that Convention;
- 7 Member States and Sector Members to provide training programmes for network operators, emergency responders and community volunteers, and to promote cross-border disaster information dissemination for seamless coordination, faster information sharing and better preparedness;
- 8 Member States to take into account ongoing efforts to integrate submarine cable connectivity and resilience into their national disaster-detection and preparedness strategies, and to continue engaging with and supporting such efforts in coordination with relevant expert bodies.

RESOLUTION 36 (Rev. Kigali, 2022)

Support for the African Telecommunications Union

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Kigali, 2022),

recalling

- a) Resolution 70/1 of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), on transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- b) UNGA Resolution 73/291, on the Buenos Aires outcome document of the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation;
- c) Resolution 25 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on strengthening the regional presence;
- d) Resolution 58 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, particularly its *resolves*;
- e) Resolution 21 (Rev. Kigali, 2022) of this conference, on strengthening coordination and collaboration with regional and subregional organizations,

recalling further

- a) UNGA Resolution 68/198, on information and communication technologies (ICTs) for development;
- b) Resolution 135 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on ITU's role in the durable and sustainable development of telecommunications/ICTs, in providing technical assistance and advice to developing countries and in implementing relevant national, regional and interregional projects;
- c) the first United Nations System-wide Strategy on South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Sustainable Development, which points the way towards even greater use of this invaluable vehicle,

considering

- a) the key role of the African Telecommunications Union (ATU) in continental coordination and as a driver for implementation of the outcomes of ITU conferences and assemblies;
- b) ATU's continuous and urgent need for assistance, support and cooperation;
- c) the rapid development of the telecommunication/ICT environment, obliging ATU to adapt to these changes in order to serve its membership, while considering its current human and financial resources;
- d) that in the context of digital transformation, telecommunications/ICTs become a major catalyst for economic growth in developing countries¹;
- e) the need for an African convening platform to coordinate, harmonize and combine efforts to accelerate the development of telecommunications/ICTs at the regional, interregional and global levels with a view to achieving the objectives and targets adopted in the ITU strategic plan, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the African Union's Agenda 2063;
- f) that the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector should provide adequate support to regional and subregional telecommunication organizations in order to facilitate their active involvement in the different phases of the project management model established by ITU, as well as in forging partnerships and resource mobilization, to support implementation of regional initiatives,

recognizing

- a) that the regional organizations are better acquainted with the real issues and challenges facing Member States of the region, and can better envision how to efficiently and effectively overcome those challenges;
- b) that ITU and regional organizations share a common belief that close cooperation can promote regional telecommunications/ICTs in order to support Member States of the region;

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

c) that there is a continuing need for ITU to cooperate more closely with regional organizations in order to support Member States of the region;

d) that the regional organizations play an effective role in identifying common priorities and interests, while ensuring better coordination among Member States as well as their involvement in all telecommunication/ICT activities, plans, projects, events, etc.,

noting

that the relevant regional organizations play a prominent and important role in supporting developing countries in areas such as regional cooperation and technical assistance activities,

resolves to instruct the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau, in collaboration with the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau and the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau

1 to take all necessary steps to associate ATU in the implementation of the Kigali Action Plan 2022, in respect of support to the African telecommunication/ICT sector;

2 to mobilize and provide the necessary support to ATU for it to assume the leading and coordination role among relevant entities involved in ICT activities at the regional level;

3 to strengthen relations with regional and subregional telecommunication organizations in order to identify synergies with their activities that may support the implementation of the regional initiatives;

4 to continue to deploy, and enhance the availability of, the necessary human and financial resources in the ITU regional presence, in support of ATU,

requests the Secretary-General and instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to take all necessary steps to identify new areas of cooperation on an annual basis and provide ATU with all required support and assistance, including administrative, financial, logistical and information technology/technical support, in particular by stepping up, fostering and enhancing cooperation between ATU and the ITU Regional Office for Africa, and by making experts available to that organization;

- 2 to coordinate and cooperate with relevant United Nations system organizations, such as the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, in telecommunication/ICT matters, including the related financing mechanisms, in support of ATU;
- 3 to develop an ATU-ITU partnership framework, based on an annual work plan, that could better contribute to the implementation of the regional initiatives and all identified joint activities;
- 4 to bring this resolution to the attention of the Plenipotentiary Conference for consideration and required action.

RESOLUTION 37 (Rev. Baku, 2025)

Bridging the digital divide

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Baku, 2025),

recognizing

- a) the continuing disparity between those who have and those who do not have access to telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICTs), cannot afford them or do not have the skills to use them, referred to as the "digital divide";
- b) that the distribution of the benefits brought about by ICTs and the digital economy is not equitable between developing¹ and developed countries, and between social categories within countries, taking into account the commitments of both phases of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) to bridge the digital divide and transform it into a digital opportunity;
- c) that telecommunications/ICTs and ICT applications are essential for political, economic, social and cultural development, that they play an important role in poverty alleviation, job creation, environmental protection and the prevention and mitigation of natural and other disasters (in addition to the importance of disaster prediction), and that they must be placed at the service of development in other sectors; and that, therefore, opportunities offered by ICTs should be accelerated and fully leveraged in order to foster digital inclusion towards sustainable development;
- d) that gaps in access to and use of telecommunications/ICTs further entrench social and economic inequality, negatively impacting various regions and social groups;
- e) that bridging the digital divide and ensuring affordable access to telecommunications/ICTs can promote inclusive economic growth and sustainable development, at the same time contributing to strengthening the resilience of societies;

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

- f) that the digital divide is characterized by inequality in the technical and economic availability of telecommunication/ICT infrastructure, devices and services, as well as in the development of policy and regulatory frameworks, and in the level of awareness, digital literacy and skills required to use them;
- g) that the digital divide includes people who live in areas that lack access to telecommunications/ICT networks, including broadband, that can offer meaningful connectivity, referred to as the "coverage gap", and people who do not use the Internet despite living in areas already served by such networks, referred to as the "usage gap";
- h) that the vast majority of people who remain offline live in areas covered by telecommunication/ICT networks, including broadband, that can offer meaningful connectivity² and do not use the Internet owing to, *inter alia*, demand-side barriers, including device and service affordability, lack of digital literacy and skills, lack of relevant content (including content in local languages) and applications, and safety and security concerns;
- i) that geographic coverage of the remaining unserved and underserved areas (including vast, sparsely populated regions, and when considering territorial waters) is critical to expanding availability and adoption of telecommunication/ICT services that can drive economic growth and enhance quality of life;
- j) that artificial intelligence (AI) in new and emerging telecommunications/ICTs can support efforts to enhance network planning and optimization, improving radio resource management, strengthening service quality and resilience, and lowering operational costs for extending affordable and reliable connectivity to unserved and underserved areas, and that the unavailability of these tools for developing countries may reduce their ability to bridge the digital divide;
- k) that the increasing deployment of space-based technologies offers significant potential for expanding access to connectivity in unserved and underserved areas;

² United Nations, "Achieving universal and meaningful digital connectivity – Setting a baseline and targets for 2030".

l) that natural and human-induced hazards, including pandemics, significantly impact access to ICTs, widening the digital divide, and that disruptions have severe consequences for the digital economy, emphasizing the need to enhance the resilience and preparedness of ICT infrastructure and critical services,

recalling

- a)* United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Resolution 70/1, on transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- b)* the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the 2015 Third International Conference on Financing for Development, endorsed in UNGA Resolution 69/313, and its commitment to bridging the digital divide;
- c)* UNGA Resolution 70/125, on the outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the overall review of the implementation of WSIS outcomes;
- d)* UNGA Resolution 78/132, on information and communication technologies for sustainable development;
- e)* UNGA resolution 79/1, on the Pact for the Future;
- f)* Resolution 25 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on strengthening the regional presence;
- g)* 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;
- h)* Resolution 135 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on ITU's role in the durable and sustainable development of telecommunications/ICTs, in providing technical assistance and advice to developing countries and in implementing relevant national, regional and interregional projects;
- i)* Resolution 139 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on use of telecommunications/ICTs to bridge the digital divide and build an inclusive information society;

- j)* Resolution 191 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on strategy for the coordination of efforts among the three Sectors of the Union;
- k)* Resolution 200 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the Connect 2030 Agenda for global telecommunication/ICT, including broadband, for sustainable development;
- l)* Resolution 201 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on creating an enabling environment for the deployment and use of ICT applications;
- m)* Resolution 11 (Rev. Baku, 2025) of this conference, on telecommunication/ICT services in rural, isolated, unserved and underserved areas;
- n)* Resolution 16 (Rev. Baku, 2025) of this conference, on special actions and measures for LDCs, SIDS, LLDCs and countries with economies in transition;
- o)* Resolution 23 (Rev. Baku, 2025) of this conference, on Internet access and availability for developing countries and charging principles for international Internet connection;
- p)* Resolution 46 (Rev. Baku, 2025) of this conference, on assistance to Indigenous Peoples and communities through ICTs;
- q)* Recommendation ITU-D 19 (Dubai, 2014) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference, on telecommunications for rural and remote areas;
- r)* Resolution 58 (Rev. Baku, 2025) of this conference, on telecommunication/ICT accessibility for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs;
- s)* Resolution ITU-R 69-2 (Rev. Dubai, 2023) of the Radiocommunication Assembly, on the development and deployment of international public telecommunications via satellite in developing countries;
- t)* Resolution 44 (Rev. New Delhi, 2024) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA), on bridging the standardization gap between developing and developed countries;

u) Resolution 101 (New Delhi, 2024) of WTSA, on standardization activities of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) on AI technologies in support of telecommunications/ICTs;

v) Resolution 214 (Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on AI technologies and telecommunications/ICTs;

w) Resolution 91 (Baku, 2025) of this conference, on AI technologies in telecommunication development,

noting

a) that meaningful connectivity is critical to bridging the digital divide, accelerating digital transformation and promoting digital inclusion;

b) that addressing the coverage gap and the usage gap is a requirement for closing the digital divide;

c) that people most affected by the digital divide can also be among the most vulnerable to ecological change and environmental disasters;

d) that digital transformation can benefit all walks of society, especially women and girls, youth, children, persons with disabilities, persons with specific needs, older persons, Indigenous Peoples, and people in remote, unserved and underserved areas, and should be pursued in responsible ways that enhance safety, well-being and empowerment;

e) that digital transformation is essential to bridging the digital divide and supporting resilient recovery from global crises, while improving access to education and quality of life, assisting in connecting all citizens globally, and facilitating effective use of national resources for the sustainable development of society,

noting further

a) the provisions of the WSIS Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, defining WSIS action lines falling under ITU's responsibility;

b) the WSIS 10-year review (WSIS+10) statement on the implementation of WSIS outcomes and WSIS+10 vision for WSIS beyond 2015, adopted at the ITU-coordinated WSIS+10 High-Level Event (Geneva, 2014), its Forums, and the related endorsements by the Plenipotentiary Conference;

c) the 2025 Broadband Advocacy targets set by the ITU/United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development,

acknowledging

a) that development of, and increased demand for, telecommunications/ICTs has contributed to reducing, and should continue to reduce, the cost of relevant equipment and services towards ensuring equal access and use of telecommunications/ICTs for all;

b) that there is an urgent need to continue creating digital opportunities and adopting telecommunications/ICTs in developing countries, recognizing their importance for resilience and sustainable development;

c) that relevant activities of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) study groups included studies on telecommunication/ICT complementary access networks and solutions and their possible relevance to the connectivity ecosystem and help to bridge the digital divide;

d) that ITU has committed itself to bridging the digital divide in accordance with the WSIS outcomes, as well as the relevant Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);

e) that ITU plays a key role in assisting Member States to bridge national, regional and international digital divides in telecommunications/ICTs and ICT applications by facilitating interoperability, interconnection and global connectivity, and by helping to address WSIS outcomes, including broadband for all;

f) that UNGA will regularly assess the implementation and outcomes of WSIS and the SDGs;

g) that Member States have implemented innovative financing mechanisms to reduce the digital divide, particularly in rural and underserved areas, where feasible, taking into account the capabilities and resources of all countries, especially LDCs,

considering

- a) ITU's role as a catalyst, and in particular that of ITU-D, for the coordination and promotion of the rational use of resources in the context of the various projects intended to bridge the digital divide;
- b) that programmes of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT), under its action plans for the development of infrastructure and ICTs, have provided assistance to developing countries in the area of spectrum management and in the efficient and cost-effective development of national, regional and international broadband telecommunication networks, including terrestrial, stratospheric and space-based solutions, with a particular focus on rural and underserved areas;
- c) that, in addition to ITU, many international and regional organizations from the public and private sectors, academia and non-governmental and multilateral organizations are undertaking increasing activities to bridge the digital divide, in line with WSIS outcomes;
- d) that the development of radiocommunication technologies and deployment of terrestrial, stratospheric (e.g. high-altitude platform stations) and space services and applications enable sustainable and affordable access to information and knowledge, through the provision of communication services with meaningful connectivity (broadband) and wide coverage (regional or global reach), which contribute to closing the coverage gap, efficiently complementing other technologies and enabling countries to be connected directly, quickly and reliably;
- e) that low-cost wired and wireless telecommunications/ICTs, including complementary access networks and solutions, can support connectivity in rural, remote and other underserved areas;
- f) that many ITU Member States have adopted regulatory frameworks, including for interconnection, tariffs, universal service, etc., designed to bridge the digital divide at the national level;
- g) that it is necessary to coordinate the efforts of both the public and private sectors to ensure that opportunities arising from the information society yield benefits, especially for the most disadvantaged;
- h) that each region, country and area should address its own specific digital divide challenge, while benefiting from regional and international cooperation and the sharing of experiences;

i) that national strategies for the provision and use of telecommunication/ICT services in developing countries can improve affordability for users, encourage Internet adoption, promote digital inclusion, and support the effective deployment and use of new and emerging telecommunications/ICTs to enhance accessibility and advance digital transformation across all communities, while considering the environmental impacts and opportunities of the greater deployment and use of telecommunication/ICT networks;

j) that capacity building is of the utmost relevance in today's innovative telecommunication/ICT environment for countries to have the necessary expertise for bridging the digital divide;

k) that extending connectivity and geographic coverage to unserved and underserved populations, including in vast and sparsely populated areas, is essential for economic growth, improved quality of life, and for bridging the digital divide,

considering further

a) that the goal of integrating ICTs and accelerating digital transformation is to improve the quality of all aspects of our daily life, and that universal, equitable and affordable access to telecommunications/ICTs is essential to achieving digital inclusion;

b) that building confidence and trust in the use of telecommunications/ICTs, including the security of ICT applications, is essential for their adoption and effective use;

c) that the rapid adoption of telecommunications/ICTs across all sectors of society, including through the ICT applications referenced in WSIS Action Line C7, with associated shifts in industrial development, provides new opportunities for socio-economic growth and increased resilience, especially for developing countries;

d) that fostering regional and international cooperation and sharing of telecommunications/ICT experiences and best practices among ITU members will help to facilitate and accelerate digital transformation;

e) that, despite the previous decade's achievements in ICT connectivity, digital divides remain, both between and within countries and regions, and in particular many developing countries do not have the necessary basic infrastructure, long-term plans, laws, appropriate regulations in place for telecommunication/ICT development, which need to be addressed through, among other actions, strengthened enabling policy environments and international cooperation;

f) that efforts to bridge the digital divide should consider the impacts of telecommunications/ICTs, on environmental sustainability,

confirming

a) the importance of approaches to transparent funding for bridging the digital divide in the WSIS Geneva Plan of Action, the WSIS Tunis Agenda and the ITU strategic plan and their translation into equitable mechanisms for action, particularly in respect of issues related to Internet management, new and emerging telecommunications/ICTs for disaster relief and mitigation, and the Child Online Protection initiative, having particular regard to women and girls, youth, vulnerable groups, Indigenous Peoples, older persons, persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs, and people that live in remote and underserved areas;

b) that international and regional financial institutions and other organizations have programmes aimed at bridging the digital divide, and that these funding and technical assistance programmes are essential to bridging that divide in developing countries, especially LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS,

undertakes

to expedite and prioritize work that benefits all countries, especially the developing countries and countries prone to disasters, with a view to establishing international methods and specific mechanisms to strengthen international cooperation in narrowing the digital divide, including through programmes which address demand-side barriers to Internet adoption and extend the availability of telecommunication/ICT networks in order to accelerate sustainable, inclusive and affordable access to telecommunications/ICTs, and, in parallel, to shorten the time-frames for implementation of the Digital Solidarity Agenda, beginning with the Geneva Plan of Action, the outcomes of the Connect the World summits, the Tunis Agenda and the strategic plan and urgent priorities for the Union,

resolves

that BDT, in collaboration with the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau and the Radiocommunication Bureau, continue to adopt the necessary measures to accelerate the implementation of regional projects, to actively link all stakeholders, organizations and institutions of the various sectors in an ongoing relationship of cooperation in which information is disseminated over networks, so as to bridge the digital divide in line with the outputs of Phases 1 and 2 of WSIS, and to contribute to and work towards the Connect 2030 Agenda, as well as United Nations' priorities, in order to seize the opportunities offered by digital technologies and cooperation,

resolves to instruct the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to continue to assist the Member States and Sector Members in developing a pro-competition policy and regulatory framework for telecommunications/ICTs, in order to bridge the digital divide, including for online services and e-commerce, as well as capacity building in connectivity and accessibility, taking into account the specific needs of women and marginalized, vulnerable and disadvantaged groups;

2 to continue to follow up BDT's work pursuant to Resolution 8 (Rev. Baku, 2025) of this conference in creating social connectivity indicators for the digital divide, standard indicators for each country and a single index, targeted in particular at measuring universal and meaningful connectivity, in cooperation with the competent organizations and the relevant United Nations agencies, using available statistics so that information on the current situation for each country and region in terms of the digital divide is continuously available online on the ITU website in a clear and user-friendly manner;

3 to establish partnerships and intensify collaboration with relevant international organizations and Sector Members to address, as a matter of priority, the "usage gap", including demand-side barriers;

4 to continue to advocate the advantages of developing low-cost, modern, high-quality telecommunication/ICT customer equipment that is widely affordable for users and can be directly connected to the networks supporting the Internet and Internet services and applications, so that economies of scale and social benefits can be achieved on account of their acceptability at the global level, taking into consideration the possibility of the use of terrestrial, stratospheric and space-based emerging technologies, and to promote human-centric approaches to regulatory and policy frameworks;

5 to continue promoting the adoption of telecommunications/ICTs by addressing demand-side barriers, including device and service affordability, lack of digital skills, lack of relevant content and applications, and safety and security concerns, acknowledging that a usage gap persists even where broadband network coverage exists;

6 to continue to support user-awareness campaigns for persons who have no access to or do not use telecommunications/ICTs, including transparency in pricing and other relevant contract conditions, in order to build user trust and confidence and address a key barrier to ICT adoption;

- 7 to encourage the use of new and emerging telecommunication/ICT services and technologies and the development of business models or other innovative ways to support telecommunication operators and complementary access networks and solutions in reducing costs, promoting investment in infrastructure and advancing connectivity, taking into account environmental impacts;
- 8 to continue to advocate the need for affordable devices and services and assist in reducing access costs by inviting Sector Members to develop appropriate technology scalable to broadband applications and having a low operating and maintenance cost, this having been adopted as a key objective of the Union as a whole and ITU-D in particular;
- 9 to continue to foster the development of innovative models and digital transformation in order to successfully reduce poverty and bridge the digital divide in developing countries;
- 10 to ensure that ICT applications continue to play a role in the BDT programme, showcasing them as relevant for the activities of study Questions related to ICT applications in line with WSIS Action Line C7;
- 11 to continue to help bridging the digital divide between urban and rural areas;
- 12 to continue to promote study on the development of innovative terrestrial and space-based telecommunications/ICTs, leveraging existing ITU-D mechanisms;
- 13 to provide targeted support to bridge the digital divide in countries affected by natural disasters and human-induced hazards, and to enhance equitable access to telecommunication/ICT services, strengthening resilience to support recovery, reconstruction and sustainable development;
- 14 to continue to support and coordinate efforts to connect women and girls, youth and vulnerable groups, Indigenous Peoples, older persons, persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs using telecommunication/ICT services, devices and applications;

15 to ensure that special programmes under the ITU Academy training centres and the digital transformation centres continue to address the specific issue of ICT training and development of digital literacy and skills for poverty alleviation and improving quality of life, and to accord high priority to these centres, and, where appropriate, develop and update digital literacy curricula on new and emerging telecommunications/ICTs, taking into account the needs of women, youth, and persons with disabilities;

16 to ensure BDT plays a central, agile and fit-for-purpose role in bridging the digital divide and collaborates closely with ITU Member States, through the ITU regional and/or area offices, to implement relevant programmes and projects, in addition to maintaining an active communication channel between strategic stakeholders;

17 to facilitate discussion and exchange of best practices regarding the challenges and benefits of implementing projects or activities relating to ICT-applications as referred to in WSIS Action Line C7 through strategic partnerships;

18 to continue to identify key, fit-for-purpose telecommunication/ICT applications in rural areas and to cooperate with specialized organizations, national initiatives, and ITU-T study groups in relation to bridging the standardization gap between developing and developed countries, with a view to developing a standardized user-friendly content format that overcomes the barrier of digital literacy and language;

19 to encourage innovation and accelerate the use and adoption of new and emerging telecommunications/ICTs and the development of business models, or other innovative ways to help telecommunication operators, and complementary access networks and solutions, reducing deployment costs, overcoming geographic obstacles, and expanding telecommunication/ICT availability, while minimizing any negative environmental impacts;

20 to take into consideration the importance of security and confidentiality of the ICT applications highlighted in WSIS Action Line C7 and of protection of privacy, in order to facilitate discussions regarding guidelines, tools and mechanisms; improve collaboration between government authorities; implement integrated, personalized and user-friendly government services; improve the quality and use of e-government services; and increase awareness of such services;

21 to continue supporting Member States, where requested, in developing policy and regulatory frameworks that could expand and support the engagement of network operators and telecommunication/ICT complementary access networks and solutions in bridging the digital divide;

22 to continue to help in dismantling demand-side barriers that prevent greater participation of women and girls, youth, children, persons with disabilities, persons with specific needs, older persons, Indigenous Peoples and people living in remote areas in digital transformation initiatives;

23 to increase awareness among Member States, in particular developing countries, and use of capacity-building resources relating to new and emerging telecommunications/ICTs in the United Nations system;

24 to promote the implementation of studies or projects and activities, in collaboration with the ITU Radiocommunication Sector, with a view to building capacities in efficient use of the orbit/spectrum resource for the provision of terrestrial, stratospheric and space-based technologies, including emerging radiocommunication technologies, in order to support utilization of the orbit/spectrum resource to stimulate broadband development and coverage and bridge the digital divide, especially in developing countries;

25 to continue to identify relevant telecommunication/ICT applications in rural areas and to cooperate with ITU-T to bridge the standardization gap between developing and developed countries;

26 to promote studying, exchanging and applying public-private partnership (PPP) models for developing digital infrastructure as well as models for centres providing Internet access and digital capacity development in rural and isolated areas;

27 to continue to take measures to develop cooperation, while ensuring a high level of transparency, with international financial institutions, donor agencies and private-sector associations, regarding projects aimed at bridging the digital divide, to inform Member States of the status of these efforts on a regular basis, and to create and maintain a resource on the ITU website where members of the Union can find information on ITU-partnered institutions and United Nations agencies that have available programmes for funding and technical assistance related to bridging the digital divide;

28 to leverage the ITU regional offices, and partnerships with regional telecommunication organizations, in match-making between Member States and these partners in support of Member States' efforts to bridge the digital divide;

29 to ensure that the necessary resources within the budgetary limits are allocated to comply with this resolution;

30 to circulate the outputs of the implementation of this resolution to all Member States on a regular basis,

resolves to instruct the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau, in collaboration with the Directors of the Radiocommunication Bureau and the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau

1 to support Member States, in particular developing countries, in increasing awareness and understanding of disaggregated³, open⁴, and interoperable network technologies, such as open radio access networks (Open RAN) and others, by organizing workshops and other capacity-building activities;

2 to work in collaboration with Member States, Sector Members and other stakeholders to facilitate information-sharing about the development and implementation of these technologies and solutions referred to in *resolves* 1 above, as well as others, with the objective of promoting reliable broadband access at affordable cost, in particular in unserved and underserved areas and communities;

3 within the framework of available resources, to continue to promote the exchange of national experiences and capacity building on financing mechanisms, including the study of universal service funds, for the deployment of telecommunication networks in unserved or underserved areas, including through schemes such as blended finance and social impact investments, among others,

invites the Secretary-General

1 to include the subject of the digital divide as an area of mutual interest to the three Sectors and the General Secretariat⁵;

2 to suggest to the Inter-Sector Coordination Group on issues of mutual interest that it consider the digital divide as a subject of common interest to the three Sectors,

³ "Disaggregated" refers to separation of hardware and software.

⁴ "Open" may refer to, inter alia, open standards and open interfaces to support interoperable network technologies.

⁵ Such a list is maintained by the ITU Secretary-General in accordance with Resolution 191 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference.

calls upon international financial institutions, donor agencies and private-sector entities

to assist in developing capacity in bridging the digital divide, as well as various inclusive, fit-for-purpose and sustainable business models for developing telecommunication/ICT applications towards digital transformation, and addressing demand-side barriers to telecommunication/ICT adoption, through PPP projects and programmes in developing countries, in a transparent manner,

invites Member States

1 to develop and promote policies for public and private investment in the development and deployment of terrestrial, stratospheric and space-based emerging technologies, and to include the use of such systems in their national and/or regional broadband plans, as an additional tool that will help to sustainably bridge the digital divide, including by expanding the availability of telecommunication/ICT networks, and to meet digital transformation needs, especially in developing countries;

2 when implementing Resolution 17 (Rev. Baku, 2025) of this conference, on resource mobilization, implementation and cooperation for approved regional initiatives, at national, regional, interregional and global levels, to consider the possibility of implementing projects in the framework of regional initiatives on bridging the digital divide that reflect optimal integration of telecommunications/ICTs;

3 to promote policies and mechanisms that address demand-side barriers to telecommunication/ICT adoption, such as initiatives for digital skills and literacy development, and for device and service affordability and global availability, as a means to help bridge the digital divide, and to participate actively in regional and global collaborative forums dealing with experiences and best practices in the implementation of e-service strategies and programmes;

4 to create policy conditions for effective competition in the domestic Internet access services market as an important factor for lowering the cost of Internet access for users and service providers;

5 to consider inclusive and innovative policies to close the digital divide and facilitate the development and adoption of essential broadband and narrowband applications that are key to driving economic growth and enhancing quality of life, taking into account national initiatives and telecommunication/ICT complementary access networks and solutions;

6 to consider network performance in the context of meaningful connectivity;

7 to collaborate and share good practices related to terrestrial and space-based telecommunications/ICTs, so that such services enhance connectivity and align with regional development goals,

invites Member States and Sector Members

1 to incorporate, in their e-government strategies and programmes, actions to accelerate the use of telecommunications/ICTs to improve collaboration between government authorities, actions to implement user-friendly digital services, potentially including integration and personalization of services to improve the quality and use of e-government services and other digital services, and actions to increase awareness of such services;

2 to support, pursuant to Resolution 8 (Rev. Baku, 2025) of this conference, the collection and analysis of data and statistics on telecommunication/ICT applications and services, including in agriculture, education, health care, manufacturing and processing, entertainment and media, oil and gas, transportation, tourism and smart sustainable cities, that will contribute to the formulation and implementation of public policies, and cross-country comparisons related to the digital divide;

3 to participate actively in regional and global collaborative forums dealing with experiences and best practices in the implementation of e-government strategies and programmes;

4 to participate in the study of the role of telecommunications/ICTs in education systems by contributing their own experiences regarding their implementation to achieve universal education;

5 to consider expanding the implementation and viability of projects and programmes to promote development of the telecommunication/ICT sector, including with the participation of ITU, in order to bridge the digital divide, and provide information on such projects and programmes for BDT;

6 to provide ITU with up-to-date ICT connectivity and rural experiences, which can then be made available on the ITU-D website;

7 to consider developing resilient and diversified digital infrastructure,

invites Member States, Sector Members and other stakeholders

to participate in and contribute to the activities referred to in *resolves to instruct the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau, in collaboration with the Directors of the Radiocommunication Bureau and the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau* 1 and 2 above and to undertake all efforts to foster an enabling environment for the greater, sustainable growth and development of technology-neutral broadband connectivity, in particular in developing countries.

RESOLUTION 40 (Rev. Baku, 2025)

Group on capacity-building initiatives

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Baku, 2025),

recalling

- a) the principles relating to capacity building in the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Geneva Declaration of Principles, in §§ 29 and 34 thereof;
- b) the provisions of § 11 in the WSIS Geneva Plan of Action;
- c) the provisions of §§ 14 and 32 of the WSIS Tunis Commitment;
- d) the provisions of §§ 22, 23a), 26g), 51 and 90c), d), k) and n) of the WSIS Tunis Agenda for the Information Society;
- e) that ITU is one of the moderators/facilitators identified under WSIS Action Line C4 in the Annex to the Tunis Agenda, alongside the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development;
- f) Resolution 73 (Rev. Baku, 2025) of this conference, on ITU Academy training centres (ATCs);
- g) United Nations General Assembly Resolution 70/125, on the outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the overall review of the implementation of the WSIS outcomes,

considering

- a) that human resources remain the most vital asset of any organization, and that there is a need for continual review and enhancement of technical, development and management skills;
- b) that ongoing training and exchange of knowledge with experienced technical, regulatory and development professionals and institutions are critical for capacity development;

- c) that the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) plays a pivotal role in skills development through its capacity-development and digital inclusion programme and field activities;
- d) that the major capacity-building initiatives undertaken by BDT, including the ITU Academy, global and regional human capacity-development forums, ATCs and digital transformation centres (DTCs), have greatly contributed to addressing regional needs, in alignment with the WSIS outcomes and in cooperation with ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) study groups according to their field of competence;
- e) that it is necessary for BDT to systematize its capacity and skills-development activities, treating them in a holistic, coordinated, integrated and transparent manner to achieve the strategic objectives of ITU-D efficiently;
- f) that BDT should regularly consult with members on their capacity- and skills-development priorities and implement activities accordingly;
- g) that BDT should report to the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG) on the initiatives and activities undertaken and results, in order to keep members informed and to guide BDT's future work;
- h) that capacity-building programmes should be inclusive and forward-looking, addressing the rapid evolution of new and emerging telecommunication/information and communication technology (ICT) services and technologies, and recognize that empowering people with relevant digital skills is essential to promoting equitable access, fostering innovation and ensuring meaningful participation in the digital economy and society,

taking into account

- a) the demonstrated value of practical skills and hands-on learning, as evidenced by regional seminars and the World Radiocommunication Seminar;
- b) the diverse range of organizations and individuals collaborating with BDT, whose educational contributions should be acknowledged;
- c) the capacity- and skills-development initiatives, needs and priorities identified by regions,

resolves to instruct the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

- 1 to maintain the group on capacity-building initiatives (GCBI), composed of competent capacity-development experts familiar with the needs of their regions, to enhance the ability of ITU Member States, Sector Members, Associates, Academia, experienced and expert professionals and organizations and to contribute to the successful implementation of capacity- and skills-development activities, in cooperation with the ITU-D study groups, and in line with the adopted ITU-D action plan priorities and regional initiatives, each according to its respective field of competence;
- 2 to undertake an in-depth assessment of the work of GCBI after the conclusion of the current cycle and report to TDAG on the findings;
- 3 that GCBI shall include two capacity-building experts representing each of the six regions, that participation shall also be open to all interested Member States, Sector Members and regional telecommunication organizations, and that the group shall collaborate with BDT staff electronically or, where appropriate, face-to-face, in order to:
 - i) assist in identifying global trends in the domain of telecommunication/ICTs, capacity and skills development;
 - ii) assist in identifying regional needs and priorities for capacity and skills development, considering regional initiatives and study group topics;
 - iii) coordinate with organizations and professionals with expertise in human skills development in order to build capacity in identified areas, by directing members to such experts or facilitating their involvement in ITU capacity-building activities;
 - iv) assist BDT in the continuous implementation of an integrated framework for ITU Academy activities;
 - v) provide advice on the development of formal telecommunication/ICT curricula design and content for both general digital literacy and specialized skills;
 - vi) provide advice on accreditation and certification based on regional and/or international standards;

- vii) provide advice on initiatives, academic alliances and partnerships that further the overall strategic objectives of the ITU Academy, including integration with, *inter alia*, ATCs, DTCs and ITU regional offices;
 - viii) provide advice on standards for quality assurance and monitoring of courses delivered through the ITU Academy and its partners, including those delivered through ATCs, DTCs and/or academic institutions;
 - ix) assist in preparing interim annual reports for TDAG meetings, detailing achievements and recommendations;
 - x) act as regional representatives in the related forums organized by BDT;
- 4 provide the necessary support for GCBI to carry out its work effectively;
- 5 take due account of any recommendations of GCBI.

RESOLUTION 43 (Rev. Baku, 2025)

Assistance in implementing International Mobile Telecommunications and future networks

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Baku, 2025),

recalling

- a)* Resolution 15 (Rev. Kigali, 2022) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference, on applied research and transfer of technology;
- b)* Resolution 200 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the Connect 2030 Agenda for global telecommunication/information and communication technology (ICT), including broadband, for sustainable development;
- c)* Resolution 59 (Rev. Baku, 2025) of this conference, on strengthening coordination and cooperation among the three ITU Sectors on matters of mutual interest;
- d)* Resolution 135 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on ITU's role in the durable and sustainable development of telecommunications/ICTs, in providing technical assistance and advice to developing countries¹ and in implementing relevant national, regional and interregional projects;
- e)* Resolution 178 (Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on ITU's role in organizing the work on technical aspects of telecommunication networks to support the Internet;
- f)* Resolution ITU-R 23-4 (Rev. Dubai, 2023) of the Radiocommunication Assembly (RA), on extension of the international monitoring system to a worldwide scale;
- g)* Resolution ITU-R 50-5 (Rev. Dubai, 2023) of RA, on the role of the ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R) in the ongoing development of International Mobile Telecommunications (IMT);

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

- h) Resolution ITU-R 56-3 (Rev. Dubai, 2023) of RA, on naming for IMT;
- i) Resolution ITU-R 57-2 (Rev. Geneva, 2015) of RA, on principles for the process of development of IMT-Advanced;
- j) Resolution ITU-R 65-1 (Rev. Dubai, 2023) of RA, on principles for the process of future development of IMT-2020 and IMT-2030;
- k) Resolutions 220 (WRC-23) and 223, 224, 241, 242 and 243 (Rev.WRC-23) of the World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC), on frequency bands for the terrestrial component of IMT;
- l) Recommendation 207 (Rev.WRC-19) of WRC, on future IMT systems;
- m) Resolution 92 (Rev. New Delhi, 2024) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA), on enhancing the standardization activities in the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) related to non-radio aspects of IMT;
- n) Resolution 93 (Rev. New Delhi, 2024) of WTSA, on interconnection of IMT networks,

considering

- a) the tremendous growth of data traffic and expansion of IMT networks, and the continuous need to promote the use of IMT throughout the world, particularly in developing countries;
- b) that IMT is a family of wireless access technologies defined by ITU for compatibility and technology evolution that support telecommunication/ICT services and applications, which contributes to global economic and social development;
- c) the important role of ITU in contributing to the standardization and harmonized use of IMT, which will promote global broadband connectivity and accelerate the uptake of advanced mobile applications and services;
- d) that IMT systems have contributed to global economic and social development, and are intended to provide telecommunication services on a worldwide scale, regardless of location, network or terminal used;

- e)* that IMT-2020 is being utilized widely to build a connected smart society and information ecosystem, and will make a positive and important contribution to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
- f)* that ITU-R and ITU-T are actively continuing their studies on standardization and development of mobile communication systems, overall network aspects of IMT and future networks;
- g)* that the ITU-T and ITU-R study groups have had, and continue to have, effective informal coordination via liaison activity with respect to the development of Recommendations relating to IMT and future networks;
- h)* that the ITU-R Handbook on global trends in IMT defines IMT and provides general guidance to relevant parties on issues related to the deployment of IMT systems;
- i)* that the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) study groups are currently involved in activities closely coordinated with ITU-T Study Groups 11 and 13 and ITU-R Study Group 5 in order to identify the factors influencing the effective development of broadband, including IMT and future networks, for developing countries;
- j)* that IMT systems are now being evolved to provide diverse usage scenarios and applications such as enhanced mobile broadband, massive machine-type communications and ultra-reliable and low-latency communications, and a substantial number of countries have started implementing these;
- k)* that ITU-T Study Group 13 initiated the study of non-radio aspects of IMT-2020 and future networks;
- l)* that many aspects of the research and development of designs for IMT and future networks are linked to big data, cloud computing and fog computing;
- m)* the need to develop relevant documents on the smooth transition of existing mobile networks to IMT-2020 and a handbook on deployment of IMT-2020 systems;

- n) the increasing global reliance on the use of IMT to support the achievement of, among other objectives, the 17 SDGs adopted in Resolution 70/1 of the United Nations General Assembly, particularly in key sectors such as health, agriculture, finance and education;
- o) the positive impact of IMT and future networks on economic development and improvement of communication as well as social inclusion;
- p) the very important role of IMT and future networks in broadband services and the crucial role of IMT-2020 for new services;
- q) that IMT-2020 will provide many very important benefits to developing countries (such as smart transportation systems to prevent traffic accidents, remote surgery with e-health, augmented/virtual reality-based e-learning, smart energy, smart water management, smart agriculture, new innovative applications for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs, etc.), and successful planning and deployment of IMT-2020 is very important;
- r) that ITU has successfully focused on the promotion of IMT during the last 16 years, coverage of these networks having reached 84 per cent of the world's population in 2016, and that it is important for ITU-D to include IMT-2020 in the next four-year period, the other two Sectors, ITU-R and ITU-T, having already prioritized IMT-2020;
- s) the need for assistance to developing countries to provide high-speed and high-quality mobile broadband in those countries, insofar as developed and developing countries are using the same mobile broadband technologies but there are very important differences between the mobile data speeds and service qualities;
- t) the need for assistance for affordable mobile broadband and widespread usage by all people and sectors,

noting

- a) the excellent work of the relevant ITU-R and ITU-T study groups in this regard;
- b) the handbooks for deployment of IMT systems prepared jointly by the three Sectors and their subsequent supplements adopted by ITU-R and ITU-T;

- c) the adoption by this conference of ITU-D study Question 1/1,

recognizing

- a) that deploying IMT in low-frequency bands has benefited operators in providing service in wider areas, as well as enabling investment efficiency and competitive prices for wireless broadband services in developing countries;
- b) that developing and developed countries should cooperate through exchanges of experts, the organization of seminars, specialized workshops and meetings relating to the deployment of IMT and future networks;
- c) that Member States, especially developing countries, would require continued assistance in the adoption of IMT technologies and systems that meet their national requirements and needs;
- d) that emerging Internet of Things applications have resulted in a rapid increase in the number of devices accessing the telecommunication network which, in turn, makes the need to coordinate work among the three Sectors in implementing IMT throughout the world more pressing;
- e) that there are many issues to consider in deploying IMT and future networks, such as suitable IMT technologies, frequency-band harmonization and strategic planning;
- f) that ITU-T Recommendations to address network architectures, roaming principles, numbering issues, charging and security mechanisms as well as interoperability and conformance testing for interconnection of IMT and future networks and beyond shall be progressed as quickly as possible,

resolves

- 1 to include support for implementation aspects of IMT, including suitable IMT technologies, a transition roadmap, frequency-band harmonization and re-planning of certain frequency bands to facilitate deployment of IMT, including the technologies currently used, and support for their implementation as a priority in the action plan adopted by this conference for developing countries;

2 to include support for ITU work on the deployment of IMT and future networks in developing countries in the action plan and the work plans of ITU study groups:

- i) ITU-R study groups: in the area of development of suitable technologies, a transition roadmap, frequency-band definition and harmonization and re-planning of certain frequency bands to facilitate deployment, including the technologies currently used;
- ii) ITU-T study groups: in the area of standardization of non-radio aspects of network management, protocols and interoperability, quality of service, future networks, transport, fronthaul/backhaul and security,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau in close collaboration with the Directors of the Radiocommunication Bureau and the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau, as well as with the relevant regional telecommunication organizations

1 to continue to involve the membership in activities to define and establish priorities with regard to challenges pertaining to the deployment of IMT and future networks, especially in developing countries;

2 to provide assistance to developing countries in their planning and optimization of spectrum usage for the medium to long term for the implementation of IMT, taking into account national and regional specificities and needs;

3 to continue encouraging and assisting developing countries to implement IMT systems and future networks using the relevant ITU Recommendations and studies carried out by the ITU study groups, taking into account the need to protect existing services;

4 to devote particular attention to work on questions related to the technologies and the radiocommunication standards recommended by ITU, in order to meet national requirements for the implementation of IMT in the short, medium and long term, with a view to encouraging the use of harmonized spectrum and associated band plans and standards to achieve economies of scale;

- 5 to disseminate as widely as possible the above-mentioned guidelines and amendments thereto, which are recommended to be used for the evolution of existing networks to IMT-2020 and future networks;
- 6 to provide assistance to administrations on the use and interpretation of ITU Recommendations relating to IMT and future networks adopted by both ITU-R and ITU-T;
- 7 to conduct seminars, workshops or training on strategic planning for the transition from networks operated primarily to IMT and future networks, taking into account specific national and regional requirements and characteristics;
- 8 to promote the exchange of information among international organizations, donor countries and recipient countries on upgrading to and deploying IMT-Advanced/IMT-2020 systems in certain frequency bands used by previous-generation IMT (particularly those operated below 2 GHz);
- 9 to provide expert advice on the creation of roadmaps for the evolution of IMT;
- 10 to encourage administrations to take heed of Reports ITU-R M.2078, ITU-R M.2290 and ITU-R M.2370 as well as Recommendation ITU-R M.2083, by making available a sufficient quantity of spectrum to enable the proper development of IMT, including IMT-2020, with the aim of expanding the provision of mobile-broadband services in an efficient manner;
- 11 to support projects and training on the use of IMT and future networks in key sectors, including health, finance, education and public safety, among others, through strategic partnerships;
- 12 to take into account the results of the work under study Question 1/1 in relevant BDT programmes that are components of the toolkit BDT uses when solicited by Member States and Sector Members in order to support their efforts to build broadband and deploy IMT networks;

13 to raise awareness through workshops, seminars and training sessions about the potential service disruptions associated with shutting down legacy mobile networks and to highlight the importance of strategic planning to ensure smooth implementation and transitions to advanced IMT networks;

14 to gather and share good practices and guidelines from countries that have successfully transitioned from legacy mobile networks to advanced IMT systems, and to make them publicly available to Member States;

15 to raise awareness, and to gather and share best practices and guidelines from countries that have successfully utilized advanced IMT systems, among other technologies, for enabling digital transformation and enhancing digital economy, including the transformation to the Fourth Industrial Revolution (Industry 4.0), across various industries, including critical infrastructures,

invites the study groups of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector

1 to take into account the contents of this resolution when conducting studies, and to maintain close cooperation in this matter with ITU-R study groups;

2 to take into account the decisions of RA-23, WRC-23 as well as WTSA-24 when implementing this resolution;

3 to take into account the importance of transition to IMT-2020;

4 to take into account the challenges to enhancing mobile-broadband services, including the need for greater data speeds, service quality and affordability in developing countries,

encourages Member States

- 1 to provide all possible support for the implementation of this resolution and for the future work on studies relating to the relevant study Questions;
- 2 to collect, document and share national experiences, good practices, strategies and guidelines related to the successful transition from legacy mobile networks to advanced IMT systems;
- 3 to contribute such materials to relevant ITU platforms, in order to make those materials accessible to all Member States and support informed and coordinated decision-making.

RESOLUTION 45 (Rev. Baku, 2025)

Mechanisms for enhancing cooperation on cybersecurity, including countering and combating spam

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Baku, 2025),

recalling

- a)* Resolution 130 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on strengthening the role of ITU in building confidence and security in the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs);
- b)* Resolution 174 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on ITU's role with regard to international public policy issues relating to the risk of illicit use of ICTs;
- c)* Resolution 179 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on ITU's role in child online protection;
- d)* Resolution 181 (Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on definitions and terminology relating to building confidence and security in the use of ICTs;
- e)* Resolution 50 (Rev. New Delhi, 2024) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA), on cybersecurity;
- f)* Resolution 52 (Rev. New Delhi, 2024) of WTSA, on countering and combating spam;
- g)* Resolution 58 (Rev. New Delhi, 2024) of WTSA, on encouraging the creation and enhancement of national computer incident response teams (CIRTs), particularly for developing countries¹;
- h)* Resolution 69 (Rev. Baku, 2025) of this conference, on facilitating the creation of CIRTs, particularly for developing countries, and cooperation among them;
- i)* Resolution 67 (Rev. Baku, 2025) of this conference, on the role of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) in child online protection;

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

- j)* Resolution 214 (Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on artificial intelligence (AI) technologies and telecommunications/ICTs, which establishes the scope through which the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) can support the work of ITU-D in addressing the challenges and opportunities that AI gives rise to as a new and emerging technology, as it applies to cybersecurity and combating spam;
- k)* the relevant opinions of the sixth World Telecommunication Policy Forum that fall under the mandate of ITU-D;
- l)* the noble principles, aims and objectives embodied in the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;
- m)* that ITU is the lead facilitator for Action Line C5 in the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society (Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs) of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS);
- n)* the cybersecurity-related provisions of the WSIS Tunis Commitment and the Tunis Agenda;
- o)* the thematic priorities set out in the strategic plan for the Union in force;
- p)* the WSIS Geneva Declaration of Principles, which states in § 37: "Spam is a significant and growing problem for users, networks and the Internet as a whole. Spam and cybersecurity should be dealt with at appropriate national and international levels";
- q)* ITU-D study Question 3/2, on securing information and communication networks: best practices for developing a culture of cybersecurity;
- r)* the report of the Chair of the High-Level Group of Experts of the Global Cybersecurity Agenda (GCA), established by the ITU Secretary-General pursuant to the requirements of WSIS Action Line C5, on building confidence and security in the use of ICTs, and in accordance with Resolution 140 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the role of ITU as lead facilitator for Action Line C5, and Resolution 58 (Rev. New Delhi, 2024), on encouraging the creation and enhancement of national CIRTs, particularly for developing countries;

- s) that the ITU Council approved, at its 2022 session, guidelines for the utilization of the GCA by ITU in its work;
- t) that ITU and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) in order to strengthen security in the use of ICTs;
- u) the Global Digital Compact, adopted in Annex I to Resolution 79/1 of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), which set out objectives, principles, commitments and actions related to digital transformation²,

considering

- a) the role of telecommunications/ICTs as effective tools to promote peace, economic development, security and stability and to enhance democracy, social cohesion, good governance and the rule of law, and the need to confront the escalating challenges and threats resulting from the abuse of this technology, including for criminal and terrorist purposes, while respecting human rights (see also § 15 of the Tunis Commitment);
- b) the need to build confidence and security in the use of telecommunications/ICTs by strengthening the trust framework (§ 39 of the Tunis Agenda), and the need for governments, in cooperation with other stakeholders within their respective roles, to develop necessary legislation for the investigation and prosecution of cybercrime at national levels, and cooperate at regional and international levels having regard to existing frameworks;
- c) the existence of a cryptographically relevant quantum computer would pose a threat to some deployed cryptography used in telecommunication/ICT networks;
- d) that UNGA Resolution 64/211 invites Member States to use, if and when they deem appropriate, the voluntary self-assessment tool that is annexed to that resolution for national efforts;

² Noting that some Member States have not endorsed the Global Digital Compact.

- e)* the need for Member States to develop national cybersecurity programmes centred around a national plan, private-public partnerships, a sound legal foundation, an incident management, watch, warning, response and recovery capability, and a culture of awareness, using as a guide the several resources developed and/or made available by ITU and its membership and partners, where desirable or applicable;
- f)* that an iterative, risk-based approach to cybersecurity enables cybersecurity practices to be developed and applied as needed to address constantly evolving threats and vulnerabilities, and that cybersecurity is a continuous and iterative process which must be built into the development and deployment of technologies and their applications from the beginning and continue throughout their lifetime;
- g)* that the considerable and increasing losses which users of telecommunication/ICT systems have incurred from the growing problem of cybersecurity incidents, including those that are linked to the misuse of telecommunications/ICTs for malicious purposes worldwide, alarm all developed and developing nations of the world without exception;
- h)* the reasons behind the adoption of Resolution 37 (Rev. Baku, 2025) of this conference, on bridging the digital divide, having regard to the importance of multistakeholder implementation at the international level and to the action lines referenced in § 108 of the Tunis Agenda, including building confidence and security in the use of ICTs;
- i)* the outcomes of several ITU activities related to cybersecurity, especially, but not limited to, the ones coordinated by BDT, in order to fulfil ITU's mandate as facilitator for the implementation of Action Line C5;
- j)* that various organizations from all sectors of society work in collaboration to enhance cybersecurity of, and build confidence in, telecommunication/ICT services and technologies;
- k)* that all relevant stakeholders can play a valuable role in promoting awareness of cybersecurity issues, in particular among women, children, persons with disabilities, persons with specific needs and persons with age-related disabilities;

- l) that the fact, among others, that critical telecommunication/ICT infrastructures are interconnected at global level means that low infrastructure security in one country could result in greater vulnerability and risks in others;
- m) that many Member States face significant skills shortages in their cybersecurity workforce, that this lack of trained cybersecurity professionals is a fundamental barrier to cybersecurity, and that it is important to encourage more people to choose a career in cybersecurity;
- n) that the development of human skills and capacity building are key to enhancing cybersecurity, including the need to raise awareness and promote basic security measures for cyber hygiene that everyone, including women, children, persons with disabilities, persons with specific needs and persons with age-related disabilities, should take to protect themselves from cybersecurity risks;
- o) that various information, materials, best practices and financial resources, as appropriate, are available to Member States from national, regional and other relevant international organizations, according to their respective roles;
- p) that the GCA encourages international cooperation aimed at proposing strategies for solutions to enhance confidence and security in the use of telecommunications/ICTs;
- q) that cybersecurity and cyber resilience have become fundamental at the national, regional and international levels for sustainable digital development, and that ITU-D, within its mandate, can continue to contribute to these efforts towards building confidence and security in the use of ICTs,

recognizing

- a) the challenges that States, in particular developing countries, face in building confidence and security in the use of telecommunications/ICTs;
- b) that measures undertaken to ensure the stability and security of telecommunication/ICT networks, to protect against cyberthreats/cybercrime and to counter spam must protect and respect the provisions for privacy and freedom of expression as contained in the relevant parts of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (see also § 42 of the Tunis Agenda) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

- c) that UNGA Resolution 75/176, on the right to privacy in the digital age, affirms, *inter alia*, that the same rights that people have offline must also be protected online, including the right to privacy, with special regard given to the protection of children;
- d) the need to take appropriate actions and preventive measures, as determined by law, against abusive uses of telecommunications/ICTs, as mentioned under "Ethical dimensions of the Information Society" in the WSIS Geneva Declaration of Principles and Plan of Action (§ 43 of the Tunis Agenda), the need to counter terrorism in all its forms and manifestations on telecommunication/ICT networks, while respecting human rights and complying with other obligations under international law, as outlined in operative paragraph 81 of UNGA Resolution 60/1 on the 2005 world summit outcome, the importance of the security, continuity and stability of the Internet, and the need to protect the Internet and other ICT networks from threats and vulnerabilities (§ 45 of the Tunis Agenda), while ensuring respect for privacy and the protection of personal information and data, whether via adoption of legislation, the implementation of collaborative frameworks, best practices and self-regulatory and technological measures by business and users (§ 46 of the Tunis Agenda);
- e) the need to effectively address challenges and threats resulting from the use of telecommunications/ICTs such as for purposes that are inconsistent with objectives of maintaining international stability and security and may affect the integrity of the infrastructure within States, and to work cooperatively to prevent the misuse of information resources and technologies, while respecting human rights;
- f) the role of telecommunications/ICTs in the protection of children and in enhancing their development, and the need to strengthen action to protect children and youth from abuse and defend their rights in the context of telecommunications/ICTs, emphasizing that the best interests of the child are a key consideration;

g) the desire and commitment of all concerned to build a people-centred, inclusive and secure development-oriented information society, premised on the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, international law and multilateralism, and respecting fully and upholding the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, so that people everywhere can create, access, utilize and share information and knowledge securely, in order to achieve their full potential and to attain the internationally agreed development goals and objectives, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);

h) the provisions of §§ 4, 5 and 55 of the Geneva Declaration of Principles, and that freedom of expression and the free flow of information, ideas and knowledge are beneficial to development;

i) that the Tunis phase of WSIS represented a unique opportunity to raise awareness of the benefits that telecommunications/ICTs can bring to humanity and the manner in which they can transform people's activities, interaction and lives, and thus increase confidence in the future, conditional upon the secure use of telecommunications/ICTs, as the implementation of WSIS outcomes has demonstrated;

j) that spam is a global problem, with different characteristics in different regions, and a multistakeholder cooperative approach is necessary to counter it;

k) that the manipulation of how caller information is presented when a call is received by a user is an important issue for voice spam that can arise from cybersecurity vulnerabilities that may require the application of appropriate measures and continued international cooperation among all stakeholders;

l) the need to deal effectively with the significant problem posed by spam, as called for in § 41 of the Tunis Agenda, as well as cyberattacks and cybersecurity incidents;

m) that comprehensive anti-spam mechanisms are essential to protect ICT/telecommunication users, particularly in developing countries,

noting

a) the need for effective coordination within ITU-D;

- b) the continuing work of ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) Study Group 17 (Security) and other standards-development organizations on various aspects of security of telecommunications/ICTs;
- c) that spam is a significant problem and continues to pose a threat for users, networks and the Internet as a whole, and that the issue of cybersecurity should be addressed at appropriate national, regional and international levels;
- d) that cooperation and collaboration among Member States, Sector Members and relevant stakeholders contributes to building and maintaining a culture of cybersecurity;
- e) the continuing work of the private sector, academia, the technical community and all other relevant stakeholders to promote cybersecurity of the telecommunication/ICT sector;
- f) countries may face significant new challenges and opportunities for cybersecurity and countering spam as new and emerging telecommunications/ICTs services and technologies continue to develop;
- g) that the cybersecurity aspects of protection of data and personally identifiable information (PII) are an important issue;
- h) that there is a need to promote the growth and development of a diverse and skilled cybersecurity workforce that is able to address and mitigate cybersecurity risks, and promote the importance of effective qualifications and professional career pathways,

resolves

1 to continue to recognize cybersecurity as one of ITU's priority activities, taking into account new and emerging telecommunication/ICT services and technologies, and to continue to address, within its area of core competence, the issue of building confidence and security in the use of telecommunications/ICTs, by raising awareness, sharing best practices, providing assistance in implementing technical measures, and developing appropriate tools and training materials in order to promote a culture of cybersecurity;

- 2 to continue to enhance collaboration and cooperation with, and share information among, all relevant international and regional organizations on cybersecurity, including cyber resilience-related initiatives, within ITU's areas of competence, taking into account the need to assist developing countries;
- 3 to invite national and international finance organizations to pay more attention to giving substantial financial support, including through favourable credit arrangements, to national cybersecurity hard-skills programmes and training for those developing countries that lack appropriate cybersecurity hard-skills, prioritizing youth, women and persons with disabilities;
- 4 to continue promoting partnerships for cybersecurity capacity building, enabling ITU-D to work with other relevant stakeholders and organizations that have the expertise and knowledge in the field;
- 5 to continue to integrate cybersecurity considerations into all ITU-D digital development initiatives and projects,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

- 1 to promote a culture in which security is seen as a continuous and iterative process, built into products from the beginning and continuing throughout their lifetime, and is accessible and understandable for users;
- 2 to continue to organize, in collaboration with relevant organizations, as appropriate, taking into account member contributions, and in cooperation with the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau (TSB), meetings of Member States, Sector Members and other relevant stakeholders to discuss ways and means to enhance cybersecurity, including countering and combating spam;
- 3 to continue, in collaboration with relevant organizations and stakeholders, to carry out studies on strengthening the cybersecurity and cyber resilience of developing countries at regional and international levels, based on a clear identification of their needs, particularly those relating to telecommunication/ICT use, including countering and combating spam, and new and emerging telecommunication/ICT services and technologies, as well as the online protection of children and youth and any vulnerable persons, and the cybersecurity aspects of protection of data and PII;

- 4 to consider the results of the Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI) to guide BDT cybersecurity-related initiatives, especially taking into account the gaps identified through the GCI process;
- 5 to maintain how the results of the GCI are presented so that countries are represented in tiers rather than by individual ranking in order to more accurately reflect the development of cybersecurity in Member States;
- 6 to identify and document practical steps to support developing countries in building capacity and skills in cybersecurity, taking into account the specific challenges that they face;
- 7 to support Member States' initiatives, especially in developing countries, regarding mechanisms for enhancing cooperation on cybersecurity, including countering and combating spam;
- 8 to support Member States in identifying the basic cybersecurity measures for cyber hygiene that everyone should take to protect themselves from cybersecurity risks and spam, and to encourage and support ITU members and other stakeholders to promote those measures to the public;
- 9 to assist Member States, particularly developing countries, by sharing guidance and best practices related to the challenges and opportunities of cybersecurity and countering spam that arise from new and emerging telecommunication/ICT services and technologies;
- 10 to help raise awareness and understanding of the need to prepare for national migration to post-quantum cryptography in telecommunication/ICT networks, within the remit and expertise of ITU, and to encourage members to share good practices and national experiences in this regard;
- 11 to disseminate to developing countries information on guidelines, recommendations, technical reports and best practices related to cybersecurity which have been developed by the ITU-T study groups, particularly ITU-T Study Group 17 as lead study group on security, in collaboration with the Director of TSB;

- 12 to help disseminate technical ITU-T recommendations and relevant information resources developed by other organizations that can help developing countries identify and implement measures that can prevent, detect and mitigate voice spam arising from cybersecurity vulnerabilities and encourage international cooperation among all stakeholders;
- 13 to assist developing countries in enhancing their states of preparedness in order to ensure a high and effective level of cybersecurity, including cyber resilience, for their critical telecommunication/ICT infrastructures, including through the holding of seminars, workshops and training to promote cyber hygiene and other events, within the framework of the GCA, on organizational, technical and capacity-building measures, in collaboration with the Director of TSB, as appropriate;
- 14 to assist Member States in the establishment of an appropriate framework between developing countries allowing rapid response to major incidents, including promoting voluntary information-sharing between interested administrations, and propose an action plan to increase their protection and strengthen cyber resilience, taking into account mechanisms and partnerships, as appropriate;
- 15 to collect from Member States and share, in conjunction with the work under study Question 3/2 of ITU-D Study Group 2, information regarding regulations, policies and other approaches for building confidence and security in the use of telecommunications/ICTs developed and/or implemented by national telecommunication regulatory authorities and other stakeholder organizations;
- 16 to encourage all relevant stakeholders to participate in and/or contribute to the activities of the ITU Academy training centres to train, educate and raise awareness in relation to cybersecurity issues, within the framework of the GCA;
- 17 to assist Member States by enhancing sharing of up-to-date information on cybersecurity issues and best practices for consideration by Member States;
- 18 to report the results of the implementation of this resolution to the next world telecommunication development conference;

19 to continue to consult with the membership on improving the GCI process, including discussion on the methodology, indicators, structure, weightage and questions, using the GCI Expert Group, as appropriate, taking into account the financial implications;

20 to continue to support the ITU-D Network of Women (NoW) and other initiatives to encourage active participation of women in ITU-D cybersecurity-related activities and leadership roles;

21 to develop, maintain and promote a repository of best practices on measures that facilitate and encourage people, particularly women and girls, to choose a career in cybersecurity,

invites the Secretary-General, in coordination with the Directors of the Radiocommunication Bureau, the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau and the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to report on MoUs between countries, as well as existing forms of cooperation, providing analysis of their status and scope and the application of these cooperative mechanisms to strengthen cybersecurity and combat cyberthreats, with a view to enabling Member States to identify whether additional MoUs or mechanisms are required;

2 to support regional and global cybersecurity initiatives and to invite all countries, particularly developing ones, to take part in these activities;

3 to continue to mobilize ITU's development expertise with a view to strengthening national, regional and international cybersecurity in support of the SDGs, working with other relevant bodies/agencies within the United Nations and other relevant international bodies, taking into account the specific mandates and areas of expertise of the different agencies, while remaining mindful of the need to avoid duplicating work between organizations and among the Bureaux and the General Secretariat,

requests the Secretary-General

to report the results of these activities to subsequent Council meetings and to plenipotentiary conferences, as appropriate,

invites Member States, Sector Members, Associates and Academia

- 1 to provide the necessary support for and engage actively in the implementation of this resolution;
- 2 to continue to partner with ITU-D to provide the necessary resources for the implementation of initiatives aiming to support developing countries, paying special attention to the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing states, in the development of their cybersecurity capacities, such as through the Cyber for Good project;
- 3 to recognize cybersecurity, including the aspects related to the impact of new and emerging telecommunications/ICTs services and technologies, and countering and combating spam as high-priority items, and to take appropriate action and contribute to building confidence and security in the use of telecommunications/ICTs at national, regional and international levels;
- 4 to encourage service providers to protect themselves from the cybersecurity risks identified, minimize exposure to such risks, endeavour to ensure the continuity of services provided and provide notification of cybersecurity infringements, in accordance with their national laws;
- 5 to promote initiatives that encourage more people, particularly women and girls, to enter the cybersecurity profession, including through the development of relevant education and training programmes;
- 6 to contribute and share information on innovative solutions which address cybersecurity threats and counter spam;
- 7 to collaborate closely to help address the challenges and leverage the opportunities arising from new and emerging technologies for the cybersecurity of telecommunication/ICT services and technologies, and to counter spam, including through national, regional and international efforts, as appropriate;
- 8 to collaborate at the national level in order to enhance solutions to protect the cybersecurity and resilience of networks;
- 9 to inform ITU about existing cooperation frameworks between members and with other entities and agencies, regional or international, at the bilateral level;

10 to contribute to work under the relevant ITU-D study Question on cybersecurity and to other ITU-D cybersecurity-related initiatives;

11 to promote the development of educational and training programmes to enhance user awareness of cybersecurity risks, especially for women, children, persons with disabilities, persons with specific needs and persons with age-related disabilities, and the steps that they can take to protect themselves from such risks;

12 to promote the development of tools and materials to enhance the cybersecurity and cyber resilience posture of small and medium enterprises;

13 to engage in the improvement of the GCI process, including the discussion on methodology, indicators, structure, weighting and questions, using the GCI expert group;

14 to contribute to discussions, information sharing, capacity building and studies on the challenges and opportunities of cybersecurity and countering spam as AI technologies develop and are used in telecommunications/ICTs to enhance their efficiency and capabilities;

15 to utilize the ITU Academy for capacity building and training on new and emerging telecommunication/ICT services and technologies and related cybersecurity topics,

invites Member States

1 to survey and analyse practices in the use of new and emerging telecommunications/ICTs to counter spam;

2 to encourage all relevant stakeholders to help raise awareness among the public of cybersecurity risks, particularly among women, children, persons with disabilities, persons with specific needs and persons with age-related disabilities;

3 to participate actively in the work of ITU-D on cybersecurity and countering the spread of spam and combating spam, providing technical training sessions and workshop activities for regulators and telecommunication operators;

4 to establish an appropriate framework allowing rapid response to critical cybersecurity incidents, and propose an action plan to prevent, mitigate and recover from such incidents;

- 5 to establish strategies and capabilities at the national level to ensure protection of national critical infrastructures, including enhancing the resilience of telecommunication/ICT infrastructures;
- 6 to take steps towards developing their national cybersecurity capacities considering the pillars of the GCI, if applicable;
- 7 to foster information-sharing on cybersecurity at national, regional and international levels;
- 8 to contribute to the ITU repository of best practices on measures that facilitate and encourage more people, particularly women and girls, to choose a career in cybersecurity.

RESOLUTION 46 (Rev. Baku, 2025)

Assistance to Indigenous Peoples and communities through information and communication technologies

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Baku, 2025),

recalling

- a) Resolution 139 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the use of telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICTs) to bridge the digital divide and build an inclusive information society;
- b) Resolution 200 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the Connect 2030 Agenda for global telecommunication/ICT, including broadband, for sustainable development,

recognizing

- a) the unique cultural, social and linguistic identities of Indigenous Peoples, which are essential to the diversity of human heritage and crucial for global sustainability;
- b) the need to achieve the goal of digital inclusion, enabling universal, sustainable, ubiquitous and affordable access to ICTs for all, including Indigenous Peoples, and to facilitate accessibility of ICTs for all, in the framework of access to information and knowledge;
- c) the need to ensure the inclusion of Indigenous Peoples in the information society, as outlined in the Geneva Declaration of Principles and the Tunis Commitment of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and other relevant United Nations documents, and to contribute to the development of their communities using ICTs, based on tradition and self-sustainability;
- d) that it is necessary to address obstacles that hinder the participation of Indigenous Peoples in the development of relevant telecommunication/ICT projects, and to have the necessary capacity building and digital skills to ensure better oversight of their telecommunication/ICT infrastructure;
- e) that digital public goods and digital public infrastructure can be key drivers of inclusive digital transformation and innovation,

considering

- a) the ongoing work of ITU in facilitating inclusive and equitable telecommunication/ICT development;
- b) that the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) provides assistance to Indigenous Peoples through its various programmes;
- c) that the multistakeholder report delivered by the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and the International Indigenous Steering Committee to the Tunis WSIS plenary (November 2005) highlighted the size of the population of Indigenous Peoples around the world and the essential role of public-private partnerships and multistakeholder cooperation to effectively integrate indigenous communities into the information society,

taking into account

- a) that the WSIS Geneva Plan of Action and Tunis Commitment established that the attainment of their objectives with regard to Indigenous Peoples and communities is a priority;
- b) that Article 16 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples states the following: "Indigenous peoples have the right to establish their own media in their own languages and to have access to all forms of non-indigenous media without discrimination";
- c) that Article 41 of the aforementioned Declaration states that: "The organs and specialized agencies of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations shall contribute to the full realization of the provisions of this Declaration through the mobilization, *inter alia*, of financial cooperation and technical assistance";
- d) that according to the WSIS 10-year review (WSIS+10) statement on implementation of the WSIS outcomes, digital integration remains an overall priority, beyond affordability and access to ICT networks, services and applications, particularly in rural and remote areas;

e) the linkage between WSIS Action Lines C2, C5 and C6 and the targets of Goal 9 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which include significantly increasing access to telecommunication/ICTs, improving digital inclusion and striving to facilitate universal and affordable Internet access in the least developed countries by 2030 at the latest,

recognizing further

a) that the public policy recommendations and best practices developed through the Connect a School, Connect a Community initiative, in accordance with the principles established by WSIS, indicate that there are minimum conditions in the sphere of technology, capacity building, regulatory framework, self-sustainability and participation, and content development, which must be ensured to achieve ICT development in indigenous regions;

b) that the Declaration of the Second Continental Summit on Indigenous Communication of Abya Yala, held in Mexico in 2013, decided to move ahead on consultation processes with international organizations in the interests of operationalizing the rights of Indigenous Peoples to communication laid down in the above-mentioned United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;

c) the necessity of continuing to foster efforts and training programmes for Indigenous Peoples and indigenous communities focusing on telecommunication/ICT skills that are relevant to their cultural practices and technological innovations, while at the same time ensuring the availability of resources and spectrum to support the development and sustainability of telecommunication/ICT networks operated by Indigenous Peoples;

d) that it is important to monitor closely the evolving communication experiences of the peoples in question and add to the public policy recommendations and best practices developed by ITU, taking into account the underlying technological innovations and organizational approaches that have stimulated their growth;

e) that the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) is working towards digital inclusion to guarantee that, in the development of the information society, no one is left behind, and some groups might require specific attention within the context of intersectionality;

f) that Indigenous Peoples and indigenous communities generally live in remote and rural areas, which also require priority attention;

g) that challenges faced by Indigenous Peoples may be addressed through making use of telecommunications/ICTs, including new and emerging telecommunications/ICTs, to promote their digital inclusion,

resolves

1 to reinforce assistance to Indigenous Peoples in all BDT programmes to ensure that these programmes pay specific attention to their needs and serve the groups among them that require priority attention;

2 to promote and support digital inclusion of Indigenous Peoples in general, and in particular their participation in workshops, seminars, forums and training on telecommunications/ICTs, including new and emerging telecommunications/ICTs for social and economic development, considering the generation of information in linguistic variations;

3 to support, through the ITU Academy¹, human-resource training programmes in the design and management of public policies and strategies aimed at the development of ICTs for Indigenous Peoples and indigenous communities, within available BDT funds and human resources;

4 to support, through the ITU Academy, capacity-building programmes for Indigenous Peoples in the installation, operation, administration, maintenance and development of ICTs and networks in indigenous communities;

5 to incorporate, in these training programmes, best practices, experience and knowledge that the Indigenous Peoples have developed on the matter and, where appropriate, include the participation of indigenous experts and mechanisms for exchange and internships among their members, in accordance with applicable ITU rules and regulations governing recruitment;

6 to update the research on best practices and public policy recommendations for the development of ICTs in indigenous communities and foster the study of mechanisms that ensure the availability of spectrum for network deployment;

¹ The ITU Academy initiative encompasses the ITU Academy training centre (ATC) and Internet training centre initiatives.

7 to promote training and innovative solutions through pilot projects that enable the implementation of local communication networks administered and operated by Indigenous Peoples;

8 in line with the above, the purposes of the Union, the WSIS outcomes and the SDGs, to recognize the global initiative of assistance to Indigenous Peoples worldwide as an integral part of the activities of BDT;

9 to promote and support research on telecommunication/ICT solutions that facilitate access to the use of telecommunication/ICT services for Indigenous Peoples;

10 to support the strengthening and creation of capacity-building for Indigenous Peoples on open standards and interoperable telecommunications/ICTs to promote access to, and delivery of, telecommunication/ICT services,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to carry out the necessary actions to reinforce the implementation of the ITU-D action plan as it relates to Indigenous Peoples, establishing collaboration mechanisms to enable the Member States and relevant regional and international organizations and cooperation agencies to share best practices, knowledge and experiences related to telecommunication/ICT development for Indigenous Peoples;

2 to invite ITU-D Study Group 1 to continue its studies under the respective study Question (ICT accessibility) on the best means for providing access to telecommunication/ICT services in rural, isolated, underserved and unserved areas for indigenous communities;

3 to promote further the use of all appropriate means of telecommunications/ICTs in order to facilitate effective development and implementation of telecommunication/ICT services and applications to indigenous communities through the relevant programmes;

4 that, within the allocated resources in the financial plan and biennial budget as approved by the ITU Council, as well as through partnerships, the necessary financial and human resources be allocated within BDT to respond to the existing global initiative for Indigenous Peoples;

5 to recognize the importance of issues affecting Indigenous Peoples worldwide in the determination of priority activities for ITU-D;

6 in line with the above, the purposes of the Union, the WSIS outcomes and the SDGs, to recognize the global initiative of the assistance to Indigenous Peoples as an integral part of the activities of BDT;

7 to coordinate efforts on supporting governments for the development of telecommunication/ICT services in indigenous communities, fostering collaboration, policy development, and capacity-building initiatives to ensure long-term impact,

requests the Secretary-General

1 to bring the continuous assistance provided by BDT to Indigenous Peoples through its activities to the attention of the next plenipotentiary conference, with a view to providing appropriate financial and human resources for the relevant actions and projects to be implemented in the telecommunication sector;

2 to submit a report on the BDT outcomes and activities in implementing this resolution to the Plenipotentiary Conference (Doha, 2026), with a view to providing appropriate financial and human resources for the relevant actions and projects to be implemented in the telecommunication sector,

invites Member States

1 to provide the necessary facilities and information to enable the participation of members of Indigenous Peoples and indigenous communities in the activities provided for in this resolution;

2 to support the integration of Indigenous knowledge into ICT curricula and training materials, in order to empower youth and local communities to preserve their heritage through technology;

3 to develop digital literacy programmes and create awareness among Indigenous Peoples and communities on the availability and use of telecommunication/ICT services and applications.

RESOLUTION 47 (Rev. Baku, 2025)

Enhancement of knowledge and effective application of ITU Recommendations in developing countries, including conformance and interoperability testing of systems manufactured on the basis of ITU Recommendations

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Baku, 2025),

recalling

- a)* Resolution 177 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on conformance and interoperability (C&I);
- b)* Resolution 139 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on use of telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICTs) to bridge the digital divide and build an inclusive information society;
- c)* Resolution 123 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on bridging the standardization gap between developing¹ and developed countries;
- d)* Resolution 15 (Rev. Kigali, 2022) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC), on applied research and transfer of technology;
- e)* Resolution 37 (Rev. Baku, 2025) of this conference, on bridging the digital divide;
- f)* Resolution 40 (Rev. Baku, 2025) of this conference, on the group on capacity-building initiatives;
- g)* Resolution 62 (Rev. Baku, 2025) of this conference, on assessment and measurement of human exposure to electromagnetic fields (EMF);
- h)* Resolution 76 (Rev. New Delhi, 2024) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA), on C&I testing, assistance to developing countries and a possible future ITU Mark programme;

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

i) Resolution ITU-R 62-3 (Rev. Dubai, 2023) of the Radiocommunication Assembly, on studies related to testing for conformance with ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R) Recommendations and interoperability of radiocommunication equipment and systems;

j) Resolution 96 (Rev. New Delhi, 2024) of WTSA, on ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) studies for combating counterfeit and tampered telecommunication/ICT devices,

considering

a) that Resolution 177 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022), on C&I, calls to assist developing countries in establishing regional or subregional C&I centres suitable to perform C&I testing, as appropriate and according to their needs;

b) the efforts made by regions and regional organizations (e.g. Maghreb, the Economic Community of West African States, the Caribbean Telecommunications Union, South America and the East African Community), with the collaboration of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT), to promote the collaboration and creation of societies aimed at promoting the efficient use of infrastructures for testing conformance, such as the harmonization of standards and testing services in laboratories;

c) that strengthening the capacity of Member States in the matter of conformance assessment and testing, as well as the availability of facilities for national and regional conformance assessment testing, can help to combat counterfeit telecommunication/ICT equipment and devices;

d) that the deployment of emerging ICTs requires advanced C&I testing frameworks to ensure interoperability, security and safety;

e) that sustainable ICT practices, including energy efficiency and circular economy considerations, should be integrated into C&I testing,

considering further

a) the action plan of the ITU C&I programme as updated by the ITU Council at its 2013 session, the pillars of which are: 1) conformity assessment; 2) interoperability events; 3) capacity building; and 4) establishment of test centres and a C&I programme in developing countries;

b) that ITU should take a leading role in the implementation of the ITU C&I programme, with ITU-T taking lead responsibility for Pillars 1 and 2, and the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) for Pillars 3 and 4;

c) that C&I of telecommunication/ICT equipment and systems, thanks to the implementation of relevant programmes, policies and decisions, can enhance market opportunities and reliability, and promote world integration and trade,

recognizing

a) that the provisions of ITU Recommendations may guide ITU Member States in the development of national standards;

b) the importance of bridging the standardization gap in the application of appropriate ITU Recommendations that relate to C&I issues;

c) that Resolution 44 (Rev. New Delhi, 2024) of WTSA instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau (TSB), in collaboration with the Directors of the Radiocommunication Bureau (BR) and BDT, to provide support and assistance to developing countries, if requested, in drafting/developing a set of guidelines on the application of ITU-T Recommendations at the national level in order to enhance their participation in ITU-T study groups, with the assistance of the ITU regional offices, for bridging the standardization gap, and to assist developing countries with their studies, in particular in respect of their priority questions and towards developing and implementing ITU-T Recommendations;

d) that conformance systems and testing, encompassing items such as security, electromagnetic compatibility, interoperability, spectrum occupancy, quality and national technical regulation of ICT equipment, constitute important tests from the standpoint of ICT infrastructure and the consumer;

e) the importance of assisting developing countries in identifying human and institutional capacity-building and training opportunities on C&I testing and in establishing regional or subregional C&I centres suitable to perform C&I testing, as appropriate, encouraging cooperation with governmental and non-governmental, national and regional organizations and international accreditation and certification bodies;

- f) that having infrastructure applications in developing countries which are compatible with ITU Recommendations is desirable, so as to maintain a competitive environment, reduce costs, ensure a safe ICT environment, increase the chances of interoperability and ensure satisfactory quality of service and quality of experience;
- g) that interoperability of international telecommunication networks was the main reason for creating the International Telegraph Union in 1865, and that this remains one of the main goals in the strategic plan for the Union;
- h) that emerging technologies could have needs for C&I testing;
- i) that conformity assessment is the accepted way of demonstrating that a product adheres to an international standard and/or specific requirements, and conformity assessment procedures continue to be important in the context of World Trade Organization members' international standardization commitments under the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade;
- j) that particular needs of developing countries must be considered in conformity testing for ICT devices with regard to human exposure to EMF,

recognizing further

that the ITU C&I programme was initiated at the request of the ITU membership, particularly developing countries, in order to enhance the conformity and interoperability of ICT networks and products implementing ITU Recommendations or part thereof, solicit feedback to improve the quality of ITU Recommendations, and reduce the digital divide and the standardization gap by assisting developing countries with human-resources and infrastructure capacity building,

taking into account

that technical training and capacity building for testing and certification are essential for countries to increase global connectivity and promote the deployment of advanced telecommunication networks,

noting

- a) that some countries, especially developing countries, have not as yet acquired the capacity to test equipment and provide security with respect to the consumers in their countries;

- b) that the activities of ITU-D Study Group 2 under Question 4/2 and of ITU-T Study Group 11, especially in the field of C&I testing, have created growing interest in developing countries in building capacities related to C&I;
- c) that C&I testing can facilitate the interoperability of certain emerging technologies such as Internet of Things (IoT), optical access networks and International Mobile Telecommunications-2020 and beyond;
- d) that having infrastructure applications in developing countries which are compatible with the Recommendations and standards of ITU-T and/or other international and internationally recognized organizations is desirable, as against those based on proprietary technologies and equipment, so as to maintain a competitive environment, reduce costs, increase the chances of interoperability and ensure the safety of ICT users and satisfactory quality of service and quality of experience;
- e) the need for C&I testing in order to reduce the probability of errors being introduced during the network integration period, which can impact on commercial deployment schedules;
- f) that prior interoperability tests between ICT devices/equipment from different manufacturers is expected to ensure satisfactory quality of service;
- g) that ITU is implementing human resources capacity building in the regions on conformity, interoperability and testing, which will also be organized in cooperation with other relevant regional and international organizations, to clarify fundamental aspects and accreditation;
- h) that, along with ITU-T Recommendations, there are a number of specifications for C&I testing developed by other standards-development organizations (SDOs), forums and consortia;
- i) that understanding ITU Recommendations and related international standards in order to apply new technology to the network appropriately and effectively is essential for the implementation of Resolution 76 (Rev. New Delhi, 2024),

resolves

- 1 to continue engaging in activities to enhance knowledge and effective application of ICT standards, including ITU-R and ITU-T Recommendations, in developing countries;

2 to enhance efforts to introduce best practice and share experiences on the application of ICT standards, including ITU-R and ITU-T Recommendations, in, for example, but not limited to, fibre-optic transmission technology, broadband network technology, International Mobile Telecommunications, next-generation networks, IoT and emerging technologies, and building confidence and security in the use of ICTs, by organizing training courses and workshops especially for developing countries, involving academia in the process;

3 to evaluate the benefits of using equipment tested in accordance with ITU-T and ITU-R Recommendations, particularly in developing countries, and share necessary information and recommendations based on best practices;

4 to collaborate with other SDOs, in particular the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) and the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), to share experiences and best practices in conformity assessment, and to promote synergies between international standards,

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

1 to continue to encourage the participation of developing countries in training courses and workshops organized by ITU-D, so as to introduce best practices and to share experience in the application of ICT standards, including ITU-R and ITU-T Recommendations;

2 to assist developing countries in taking advantage of the guidelines established and developed by ITU-T on how to apply ITU-T Recommendations;

3 to provide assistance in developing methodological guidance (manuals) on implementing ITU Recommendations;

4 to assist developing countries in building their capacity, in collaboration with the other Bureaux, so as to be able to perform conformance testing and interoperability testing of equipment and systems, relevant to their needs, in accordance with the relevant Recommendations, including the development or recognition of, as appropriate, conformity assessment bodies;

5 to assist the Director of TSB, in collaboration with the Director of BR and, as appropriate, with equipment and systems manufacturers and internationally and regionally recognized SDOs, in holding conformance assessment and interoperability testing events, preferably in developing countries, to encourage developing countries to attend these events;

6 to collaborate with the Director of TSB in order to build the capacity of developing countries to effectively participate and be involved in these events, and to provide the views of developing countries on this issue on the basis of a questionnaire addressed by the relevant BDT programme to the ITU members;

7 to promote, with the collaboration of regional C&I bodies (for example, regional standardization bodies, accreditation bodies, certification bodies and testing laboratories, among others), the establishment of technical collaboration with respect to conformance assessment;

8 to assist developing countries in establishing regional or subregional C&I centres and encourage public and private collaboration with governmental and non-governmental, national and regional organizations and international accreditation and certification bodies;

9 to identify regional and subregional ICT testing centres in developing countries as ITU Academy training centres (ATCs) for testing, training and capacity building of ITU members, as part of the strategies to fulfil the objectives of this resolution;

10 to use the ITU seed fund meant for projects and encourage donor agencies to fund annual capacity-building and training programmes in testing centres adopted as ATCs;

11 to coordinate and foster capacity building, by facilitating participation from developing countries in the work of international or regional test laboratories of organizations or entities specialized in conformance testing and interoperability testing, in order to gain on-the-job experience;

12 to collaborate with the Director of TSB in order to implement the recommended actions under Resolution 76 (Rev. New Delhi, 2024) in the C&I programme action plan as agreed by the Council at its 2012 session and revised at its 2013 session;

13 to assign to the BDT programme concerned the responsibility for following up implementation of this resolution;

14 to report on the implementation of this resolution to the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group and to the next WTDC;

15 to continue fostering the participation of developing countries in training courses and workshops organized by ITU-D to introduce suitable practices for implementing ICT standards, including ITU-R and ITU-T Recommendations;

16 to support the review, amendment, updating or drafting of various regulatory instruments such as technical standards, rules, conformance assessment procedures, guidelines for the type-approval and certification of products, equipment, devices or apparatus that can be connected to a telecommunication network;

17 to foster harmonization of C&I procedures, strengthening international, regional and national capacity in this matter;

18 to facilitate, through the ITU regional offices, meetings of experts at the regional and subregional levels, in order to promote awareness in developing countries on the question of the establishment of an appropriate C&I programme in such countries;

19 to assist Member States in enhancing their capabilities for conformance assessment and testing in order to combat counterfeit and tampered devices and to provide experts for developing countries;

20 to submit the progress reports on the activities to the Council for its consideration and required action;

21 to encourage the reduction of costs in C&I testing through relevant techniques;

22 to coordinate with other SDOs, e.g. ISO and IEC, for mutual recognition of testing results and shared best practices,

invites the ITU Council

to consider the report by the Director of BDT,

invites Member States and Sector Members

- 1 to contribute to the implementation of this resolution by means of the following, among others:
 - i) the specification of requirements to conduct C&I testing, actively submitting contributions to the relevant study groups;
 - ii) consideration of the possibility of collaborating in future C&I activities;
- 2 to encourage national and regional bodies in charge of ICT equipment and system conformance to contribute to the implementation of this resolution;
- 3 to exchange C&I expertise in order to enhance knowledge and share experiences;
- 4 to create an enabling environment for ICT equipment manufacturers to consider the local design and manufacture of equipment in developing countries;
- 5 to develop and improve the mutual recognition of C&I testing and results, including mechanisms and data analysis techniques between different regional testing centres;
- 6 to work together to combat counterfeit and tampered equipment using nationally and/or regionally established conformance assessment systems;
- 7 to evaluate the risks and costs of lack of conformity with acceptable international standards, especially in developing countries, and to share the necessary information and recommendations on best practices, in order to prevent losses;
- 8 to strengthen cooperation with relevant SDOs for harmonization of standards and mutual recognition of test results,

invites eligible organizations under Recommendation ITU-T A.5

in collaboration with the Director of BDT and the Director of TSB, in accordance with Resolution 177 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022), on C&I, to work on building the capacity of developing countries in C&I testing, including training.

RESOLUTION 48 (Rev. Baku, 2025)

Strengthening cooperation among telecommunication regulators

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Baku, 2025),

recalling

- a) Resolution 48 (Rev. Kigali, 2022) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference;
- b) Resolution 138 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR);
- c) 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 countries¹ and in implementing relevant national, regional and interregional projects;
- d) Resolution 2 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the world telecommunication/ICT policy forum;
- e) Resolution 70/125 of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), on the outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS);
- f) UNGA Resolution 70/1, on transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

considering

- a) that market liberalization, technological development and service convergence have resulted in new challenges, requiring new regulatory competencies among telecommunication regulators;

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

- b)* that an effective regulatory framework requires a balance of interest among all stakeholders, promoting fair competition and ensuring an equal-opportunity environment for all players, including addressing issues of consumer protection;
- c)* that ITU plays a fundamental role in providing global perspectives on the development of the information society, and one of the main tasks of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) under the terms of No. 127 of the ITU Constitution is to "offer advice, carry out or sponsor studies, as necessary, on technical, economic, financial, managerial, regulatory and policy issues, including studies of specific projects in the field of telecommunications";
- d)* that the rapid development of telecommunications/ICTs in recent years and the introduction of new technologies and systems calls for new approaches in the field of regulation;
- e)* that there is no single correct approach to telecommunication/ICT regulation in all countries, and the particular characteristics of each country must be taken into account; in an increasingly dynamic digital ecosystem, however, it is essential to seek harmonization of general principles;
- f)* that in the light of the considerable changes in telecommunications/ICTs, and the development of markets and society, telecommunication/ICT reforms have globally been implemented in most countries of the world, both developed and developing, including reforms of telecommunication/ICT regulation;
- g)* that the success of telecommunication/ICT reform will mostly depend on the establishment and implementation of an effective regulatory framework, regulatory mechanisms and laws;
- h)* that developing countries face unique challenges, such as digital infrastructure gaps, limited broadband penetration in rural areas, digital literacy, cybersecurity risks, and the need to foster local digital innovation ecosystems that are aligned with digital transformation goals,

recognizing

- a) that telecommunication regulators have been increasing in number, and that newly established regulators and regulators in developing countries would require strengthening of their competencies to cope with the increasing complexity of regulatory work with regard to the design and implementation of new laws and policies as part of telecommunication reform, especially in the rapidly changing telecommunication environment;
- b) the need to exchange information and share experiences among regulators on telecommunication development and reform, particularly between regulators and newly established ones;
- c) the importance and necessity of cooperation among these entities at regional and international levels,

recalling further

- a) the relevant Kigali Action Plan programmes, especially telecommunication/ICT regulatory symposia, forums, seminars and workshops;
- b) the recommendations of past GSRs on the creation of a global exchange programme for regulators;
- c) the success and continuation of the global exchange programme for regulators, which provides a platform for exchange of views on regulatory issues,

resolves

- 1 to continue the specific platform (G-REX) for telecommunication regulators to share and exchange information and experience electronically on matters concerning regulatory issues;
- 2 that ITU, and in particular ITU-D, should continue to support regulatory reform and help members address regulatory challenges by facilitating information- and experience-sharing among the membership;

3 that the Telecommunication Development Bureau should continue to coordinate and facilitate joint activities relating to telecommunication/ICT policy and regulatory issues with regional and subregional regulatory organizations and associations;

4 that ITU-D should continue to provide further technical cooperation, regulatory exchange, capacity building and expert advice, with the support of its regional offices, emphasizing the need to tailor capacity-building programmes and technical assistance to local contexts, with a focus on enhancing digital infrastructure regulation, fostering digital innovation hubs, promoting e-government services, expanding digital skills and literacy, and strengthening cybersecurity regulatory frameworks,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to continue to rotate GSR in different regions, to the extent possible, and reflect balanced regional representation of participants, speakers and relevant stakeholders, to the extent possible;

2 to consult Member States and relevant stakeholders in advance on topics for the annual GSR and the thematic priorities for the best-practice guidelines issued by GSR every year, in order to ensure that the outputs of GSR reflect the interests of all stakeholders and fully attract the participation of all countries;

3 to promote the formal meetings of regulators and regulatory associations at GSR and encourage the participation of other stakeholders;

4 to continue to have a specific platform for regulators and regulatory associations;

5 to organize, coordinate and facilitate activities that promote information-sharing among regulators and regulatory associations on key issues at the international, interregional and regional level;

6 to organize seminars, regional workshops and training programmes and other activities to help strengthen regulators, and to provide resources and assistance in consolidating all work relating to key policy and regulatory issues within ITU-D and provide easier access to and strengthened transfer of knowledge, information and experience-sharing among the regulators,

invites the study groups of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector

each within its mandate, to adopt the guidelines and best practices issued annually by GSR and to take them into account in their studies under relevant study Questions,

calls upon Member States

1 to provide to the governments of countries in special need all possible assistance and support for regulatory reform, whether bilaterally, multilaterally or through the special action of the Union;

2 to share knowledge, skills and experiences in adapting, designing and implementing new laws and robust digital policies aligned with national development strategies, including policies on emerging technologies, digital inclusion, data privacy, cybersecurity and on fostering public-private partnerships for digital infrastructure development, as part of telecommunication/ICT reform,

requests the Secretary-General

to transmit this resolution to the forthcoming plenipotentiary conference in order to ensure that appropriate attention is given to these activities, in particular within the framework of the implementation of the WSIS outcomes, and in regard to the role of regulators in the implementation of the strategic plan for the Union.

RESOLUTION 51 (Rev. Kigali, 2022)

Provision of assistance and support to Iraq to continue rebuilding and re-equipping its telecommunication/ICT systems

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Kigali, 2022),

recalling

- a) Resolution 51 (Doha, 2006) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC);
- b) Resolution 193 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference;
- c) the efforts of the United Nations to implement the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- d) the noble principles, intentions and goals embodied in the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;
- e) the purposes of the Union, as enshrined in Article 1 of the ITU Constitution,

conscious

- a) that a secure telecommunication network infrastructure and related services and applications, as appropriate, are indispensable to support the social and economic development of nations, particularly those that have suffered natural disasters or wars;
- b) that the damage caused to Iraq's telecommunication infrastructure and the illicit use of information and communication technology (ICT) services is a matter of concern for the entire international community and relevant international bodies/agencies;
- c) that telecommunication systems are fundamental for rebuilding and rehabilitation and for enhancing the social and economic development of nations, particularly those that have suffered the effects of war;

d) that Iraq continues to build and develop its telecommunication/ICT systems to an acceptable level, which requires assistance from the international community, provided bilaterally or through international organizations;

e) that similar resolutions have been adopted in relation to countries experiencing similar circumstances to those which Iraq is experiencing,

having regard to

the difficulties that were faced in the implementation of Resolution 51 (Rev. Hyderabad, 2010) of WTDC,

noting

a) that ITU had provided assistance to Iraq, yet the work of rebuilding and developing the telecommunication/ICT systems in Iraq still requires focused attention and support;

b) that the provision of suitable assistance to Iraq by the Union will contribute to the development of its telecommunication/ICT systems to meet the country's economic, service and information needs in the telecommunication field;

c) the efforts which have been and are being deployed by the Secretary-General and the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau to provide assistance to other countries that have recently emerged from the conditions of war they endured,

resolves

1 that special measures need to be taken, within the framework and available budgetary resources of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector, to provide the appropriate assistance to Iraq;

2 to support Iraq in rebuilding and overhauling its telecommunication infrastructure, establishing institutions, establishing tariffs, developing human resources and setting up training operations outside Iraqi territory if necessary, and to provide other forms of assistance, including technical assistance,

calls upon Member States

to offer all possible assistance and support to the Administration of Iraq in:

– contributing to the development of its ICT sector;

- supporting Iraq in the field of cybersecurity to enhance confidence and security in the use of ICTs, in order to mitigate telecommunication/ICT risks;
- achieving the most effective use of ICTs for economic and social benefits,

encourages Sector Members

- 1 to provide all forms of support and assistance to Iraq in order to increase investment in the telecommunication/ICT sector;
- 2 to contribute in the form of assistance to Iraq in order to build human capacities and to enhance confidence and security in the use of ICTs, in addition to technical assistance,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

- 1 to continue taking immediate measures to assist Iraq to the extent possible within available resources;
- 2 to take all possible measures to mobilize additional resources to this aim;
- 3 to submit an annual report to the ITU Council on the progress achieved in implementing this resolution and the mechanisms employed to tackle difficulties as they arise,

requests the Secretary-General

to bring to the attention of the Plenipotentiary Conference (Bucharest, 2022) the need to allocate a specific budget for Iraq as from the beginning of 2023.

RESOLUTION 52 (Rev. Dubai, 2014)

Strengthening the executing agency role of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Dubai, 2014),

recalling

- a) Resolution 135 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on ITU's role in the 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;
- b) Resolution 157 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on strengthening of the project execution function in ITU;
- c) Resolution 13 (Rev. Hyderabad, 2010) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC), on resource mobilization and partnerships for accelerating telecommunication/ICT development;
- d) Resolution 52 (Rev. Hyderabad, 2010) of WTDC,

considering

- a) that, in accordance with No. 118 of the ITU Constitution, one of the functions of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) is to discharge, within its specific sphere of competence, the Union's dual responsibility as a United Nations specialized agency and executing agency for implementing projects under the United Nations development system or other funding arrangements, so as to facilitate and enhance telecommunication development by offering, organizing and coordinating technical cooperation and assistance activities;
- b) Resolution 17 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) of this conference, on implementation of regionally approved initiatives at the national, regional, interregional and global levels;
- c) that Resolution 140 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on ITU's role in implementing the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information society (WSIS), recognized the key role that ITU can play in executing many of the projects pursuant to the WSIS outcomes;

- d) that, through programmes, projects and initiatives of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) and the regional offices, and some other efforts, including partnerships, there is significant local expertise that has developed over time;
- e) that partnerships between the public and private sectors are recognized as an efficient way of implementing sustainable ITU projects,

recognizing

- a) that the final outputs of the WSIS process have an impact on the definition of the future activities of ITU in general and ITU-D in particular;
- b) that ITU-D undertakes a significant number of projects and activities each year, corresponding to its goals and objectives, including in relation to the various ITU-D programmes, projects and regional initiatives,

noting

- a) that BDT has taken several steps to strengthen its project execution role by developing necessary tools and methodologies, including guidelines and templates for project management;
- b) that both large-scale and small-scale activities should contribute to the goals and objectives of ITU-D and the broader strategic plan for the Union;
- c) that BDT continues to build effective partnerships around specific projects and long-term activities, particularly in relation to the initiatives adopted by the six regions;
- d) that, to the greatest extent possible, it is important to develop and maintain the professional project-implementation potential of BDT staff at ITU headquarters and in the regional offices,

taking into account

- a) the continued implementation of results-based budgeting (RBB) and results-based management (RBM) in ITU, the main purpose of which is to ensure that activities within this framework are adequately resourced in order to achieve planned results;
- b) that the main pillars of RBB and RBM are the process of planning, programming, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation; delegation of authority and accountability; and staff performance and contract management;

c) the potential for improved sharing of information, experiences and lessons learned which would assist in reducing fragmentation and duplication among the wide range of projects undertaken by BDT,

resolves to instruct the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

on the basis of experience acquired in implementing Resolution 52 (Rev. Hyderabad, 2010), the contents of Resolutions 135 and 157 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) and other relevant resolutions:

1 to recognize the various benefits of involving locally available expertise, in the region and the country, as the case may be, in executing ITU projects in their region or country, and to stress the involvement of this expertise in the relevant ITU-D projects;

2 to encourage use of the ITU project toolbox for implementing projects and the regional initiatives in the capacity of executing agency;

3 to ensure, as specified in Resolution 157 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010), that, as far as possible, support costs and expenses borne by ITU-D in respect of project implementation under United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) arrangements or other agreed financing arrangements are recovered;

4 to continue to conclude partnerships with Member States, Sector Members, financial institutions and international and regional organizations in order to finance activities pertaining to implementation of this resolution;

5 to encourage collaboration and information sharing among ITU headquarters, regional offices and area offices, in order to optimize resources and efforts in implementing ITU-D projects;

6 to consider enhancing the projects portfolio on the ITU website, as far as practicable within existing resources, along with project activities and outcomes, where appropriate, in order to learn from past experiences.

NOTE – When implementing this resolution, the updating of relevant resolutions by the next Plenipotentiary Conference (Busan, 2014) may be taken into consideration.

RESOLUTION 53 (Rev. Dubai, 2014)

Strategic and financial framework for the elaboration and implementation of the Dubai Action Plan

(Abrogated by WTDC-25)

RESOLUTION 55 (Rev. Baku, 2025)

Mainstreaming a gender perspective in the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector and promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls through telecommunications/information and communication technologies

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Baku, 2025),

recalling

a) that Resolution 70/1 of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) identifies the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls as a crucial contribution to progress across all the goals and targets and contains Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5 (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls), which recognizes that gender equality is necessary to contribute to achieving a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable world, and specifically SDG 5 target 5.b (Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communication technology (ICT), to promote the empowerment of women), as well as SDG 9 (Build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization and foster innovation), which promotes subject areas that cut across other goals, and SDG 10 (Reduce inequality within and among countries);

- b)* Resolution 70 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on mainstreaming a gender perspective¹ in ITU and promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls through telecommunications/ICTs, which resolves to continue the work being done at ITU, and particularly in the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT), to promote gender equality in telecommunications/ICTs by recommending measures at international, regional and national levels on policies and programmes that improve socio-economic conditions for women and girls worldwide;
- c)* Resolution 55 (Rev. New Delhi, 2024) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly, on mainstreaming gender equality in ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) activities, which ensures gender mainstreaming in ITU-T activities;
- d)* Resolution ITU-R 72 (Dubai, 2023) of the Radiocommunication Assembly, on promoting gender equality and equity and bridging the contribution and participation gap between women and men in ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R) activities,

¹ "Gender perspective": Mainstreaming a gender perspective is the process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies or programmes in all areas and at all levels. It is a strategy for making women's as well as men's concerns and experiences an integral dimension of design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation so that women and men benefit equally and inequality is not perpetuated. The ultimate goal is to achieve gender equality. (Source: Report of the United Nations Inter-Agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality, third session, New York, 25–27 February 1998).

noting

- a) UNGA Resolution 64/289, on system-wide coherence, adopted on 2 July 2010, establishing the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) with the mandate to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls;
- b) the United Nations Secretary-General's commitment to achieve full gender parity across the United Nations system through the launch of a strategy in 2017 as the start of a system-wide campaign to advance this priority, referenced in UNGA Resolution 72/234;
- c) Resolution 2012/24 of the United Nations Economic and Social Council, on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system, which welcomed the development of the United Nations System-Wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women;
- d) that the United Nations Chief Executives Board, in April 2013, advocated the "Action Plan to measure gender equality and the empowerment of women across the United Nations system", under which ITU will participate in the dissemination, coordination, communication and networking activities forming part of the strategy, as well as the United Nations Secretary-General's launch of the System Wide Strategy on Gender Parity in September 2017;
- e) the United Nations HeForShe initiative (2014) to involve men and boys in the promotion of gender equality;
- f) the EQUALS Global Partnership for Gender Equality in the Digital Age (EQUALS), of which ITU is a founding member, including other United Nations agencies, governments, the private sector, academia and civil-society organizations, and which aims to reduce the gender digital divide in the world;

g) the United Nations International Gender Champion initiative and the ITU Secretary-General's commitment to promote the Panel Parity Pledge;

h) ITU's role as co-leader of the Technology and Innovation Action Coalition part of the Generation Equality Forum, a global five-year action journey and roadmap for gender equality to achieve the SDGs;

i) the Network of Women (NoW) in the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D), launched as a way to improve the number of women taking up leadership roles in the structures that make up ITU-D and in key management roles related to the preparation of the next world telecommunication development conference (WTDC), and beyond,

noting further

a) the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), namely the Geneva Declaration of Principles, the Geneva Plan of Action, the Tunis Commitment and Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, as well as the WSIS 10-year review;

b) the four-year rolling operational plans for the ITU Sectors (ITU-R, ITU-T and ITU-D) and the General Secretariat adopted by the ITU Council;

c) the decision of the Council at its 2013 session to endorse the ITU Gender Equality and Mainstreaming Policy (GEM), with the aim of integrating a gender perspective throughout the Union and leveraging the power of telecommunications/ICTs to empower both women and men;

d) the establishment by the Secretary-General, endorsed by the Council at its 2013 session (Council 2013), of an internal Gender Task Force, as well as establishment by ITU of an international Girls in ICT Day, with the aim of fulfilling the main objectives of ensuring coordinated implementation of Resolution 70 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022), reporting progress to the governing bodies of ITU, preparing a Union-wide action plan to implement the ITU GEM Policy (Council 2013) and overseeing its implementation, including a NoW in all ITU Sectors;

e) Council Decision 631 (C23), on the implementation of Resolution 70 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022), including a request for the development of a Gender Action Plan to coordinate gender-related activities across all three ITU Sectors and establish a functional unit on gender,

recognizing

that telecommunications/ICTs can help to create a world in which societies are free of discrimination, women and men have equal opportunities, and the economic and social potential of women and girls is guaranteed in order to improve their conditions as individuals, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

considering

a) the progress made by BDT in promoting the use of telecommunications/ICTs for the purpose of economic and social empowerment of women and girls, in particular the results of international Girls in ICT Day, within the framework of Resolution 70 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022);

b) the contributions made by ITU's Gender Task Force, proposing ways of ensuring that gender mainstreaming and the empowerment of women is underscored in policies and programmes and fully integrated into ITU's work and strategic plan,

resolves

1 that ITU-D, taking into account the above considerations, shall continue to support the development of activities, projects and events that reflect the commitment to gender equality and promote gender balance with the aim of closing the gender digital divide;

2 that BDT should maintain close links and collaborate, as appropriate, with the Gender and Youth Office and the Gender Task Force set up by the Secretary-General, to support gender mainstreaming across the Union's activities, with the aim of eliminating inequalities in access to and use of telecommunications/ICTs;

3 that BDT should continue to work to promote gender equality in the field of telecommunications/ICTs, recommending and supporting the implementation of actions on policies and programmes at the international, regional and national levels in order to improve the socio-economic condition of women, with particular emphasis on developing countries², taking into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

4 that inclusion of the gender perspective should be ensured in the implementation of all relevant BDT initiatives and projects as well as in the outcomes of this conference;

5 that high priority be accorded to the incorporation of gender equality-related goals, policies, and relevant guidelines in the management, staffing and operation of ITU-D, while also ensuring geographical representation;

6 that BDT should contribute to the economic empowerment and high-level professional employment of women in decision-making posts, encouraging women's leadership in the sphere of telecommunications/ICTs, collaborating to promote a plural, inclusive and integrating information society;

7 that telecommunications/ICTs may contribute to preventing and eliminating violence against women and girls in both public and private spaces, while also exposing women and girls to new risks that should be taken into account in initiatives dedicated to addressing the gender digital divide, including in enhancing digital literacy and skills, as well as initiatives to protect women's careers from discrimination;

² These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

8 to invite the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG) and the Radiocommunication and Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Groups to assist in the identification of subjects and mechanisms to foster the mainstreaming of a gender perspective, as well as matters of mutual interest in that regard;

9 that ITU-D should promote capacity-building programmes tailored to equip women and girls with digital and leadership skills, including exposing them to networking opportunities and mentoring programmes for career opportunities in the telecommunication/ICT sector;

10 that BDT should inform the ITU regional offices on, and ensure their participation in, progress and results achieved in implementing this resolution;

11 to encourage Member States to increase the representation of women in their delegations to ITU-D activities to solve the issue of underrepresentation of women,

further resolves

to endorse the following measures:

1 design, implement and support projects and programmes in developing countries that are either specifically targeted to women and girls or are gender sensitive, for the purpose of tackling the barriers that women and girls encounter in accessing and utilizing ICTs in terms of digital literacy and ICT skills, training in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields, affordability, trust and confidence, at the international, regional and national levels, taking into account SDG 5 target 5.b;

2 support the collection and analysis of sex-disaggregated data and gender-sensitive indicators to track the digital gender divide and identify barriers to women's full participation in the telecommunication/ICT sector;

3 promote gender mainstreaming to address obstacles that stand in the way of meaningful and affordable digital connectivity for women and girls;

4 evaluate relevant projects and programmes to assess gender implications, in connection with Resolution 17 (Rev. Baku, 2025) of this conference;

- 5 provide gender mainstreaming training and/or capacity building to BDT staff responsible for the design and implementation of development projects and programmes and work with them to develop gender-sensitive projects as appropriate;
- 6 incorporate a gender perspective into study Questions, as appropriate;
- 7 mobilize resources for gender-sensitive projects, including projects to ensure that women and girls can use ICTs for their own empowerment and in daily personal and professional activities, and create services and develop applications that contribute to the equality and empowerment of all women and girls;
- 8 encourage greater representation of girls and young women in technology by supporting initiatives such as international Girls in ICT Day and year-round activities that raise awareness of STEM opportunities, cultivate ICT skills, and integrate these skills into formal education and career pathways;
- 9 develop partnerships with other United Nations agencies to promote the use of telecommunications/ICTs in projects targeting women and girls in line with ITU's mandate, with the aim of encouraging women and girls to connect to the Internet, increasing training opportunities for them, and monitoring the gender divide in telecommunications/ICTs, including actively participating in and promoting EQUALS;
- 10 promote best practices and guidelines to integrate women's empowerment and gender equality into all aspects of telecommunication/ICT development and use;
- 11 promote educational programmes to protect women and girls from online forms of abuse and harassment and to address their safety needs;
- 12 support international Girls in ICT Day and efforts of the ITU membership to undertake all-year-round activities to make girls aware of STEM studies and careers and job opportunities in the ICT sector and develop their ICT skills;

13 promote efforts to enhance educational opportunities for women and girls in STEM and telecommunication/ICT skills and careers across their lifespan, with a particular emphasis on ensuring access for those in rural and underserved areas;

14 continue to assist developing countries to close the gender digital divide, including enhancing women's and girls' access to reliable, affordable connectivity and the use of telecommunications/ICTs services and devices, and also digital literacy and digital skills;

15 support the continuation of the NoW advisory group, working on a voluntary basis, composed of two women representative coordinators per region designated in collaboration with the regional groups,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to report annually to TDAG and the Council on the results and the progress achieved in integrating a gender perspective into the work of ITU-D, and on the implementation of this resolution;

2 to give high priority to gender mainstreaming in the management, financial assistance, staffing and operation of ITU-D, while taking into account geographical representation;

3 to conduct an annual review to track and assess progress in advancing gender mainstreaming within ITU-D, including by circulating questionnaires and collecting and reviewing statistics on ITU-D development activities by gender and region, in order to identify challenges and obstacles hindering women's full participation in the telecommunication/ICT sector, and propose subsequent solutions; and to share findings with TDAG and the next WTDC;

4 to continue the work of BDT in promoting the use of telecommunications/ICTs for the economic and social empowerment of women and girls, taking into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the United Nations Secretary-General's strategy on gender parity;

5 to collaborate with relevant stakeholders to advance gender equality initiatives by engaging in partnerships that leverage global expertise and resources to promote women's empowerment through telecommunications/ICTs;

6 to launch a dedicated set of Network of Women for WTDC (NoW4WTDC) activities prior to each WTDC encouraging the participation and nomination of women to leadership roles for the next study period and at the conference, taking into account Resolution 208 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference;

7 to ensure that the consistent participation of women within delegations is encouraged in all relevant communications to Member States,

invites the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

to assist members:

1 to encourage the mainstreaming of a gender perspective through appropriate administrative and policy mechanisms and processes within regulatory agencies and ministries and to promote inter-organizational cooperation on this issue within the telecommunication sector, including with non-governmental stakeholders, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

2 to provide concrete advice, in the form of guidelines for gender-sensitive project development and evaluation in the telecommunication sector as well as guidelines for projects aimed at bridging the gender digital divide;

3 to raise awareness among the ITU membership on gender issues related to telecommunications/ICTs by collecting and disseminating information and by sharing best practices, including on gender-sensitive programming;

4 to assist Member States to review existing national ICT policies and regulations and assess their gender responsiveness and share best practices on how to fully integrate women's participation in the development of relevant policies, strategies, regulations and other plans related to the development of telecommunications/ICTs to support the digital economy;

5 upon request, to develop and encourage the adoption of policies that address women's meaningful connectivity, particularly in unserved and underserved areas, and access to and use of telecommunication/ICT devices, services and applications;

6 to establish partnerships with Sector Members in order to develop and/or support specific telecommunication/ICT projects that target women and girls in developing countries, including countries with economies in transition;

7 to encourage Sector Members to promote gender equality in the telecommunication/ICT sector through financial commitments to specific projects involving women and girls, taking into account SDG 5 target 5.b;

8 to support active involvement of women delegates in ITU-D study groups and other ITU-D activities, including project implementation;

9 to provide training for women delegates on active participation in meetings, drafting, contributions, and chairing meetings,

invites the Plenipotentiary Conference

1 to build on and consolidate past accomplishments, by providing the necessary financial and human resources for the effective and sustained integration of a gender perspective in the activities of ITU-D;

2 to instruct the Secretary-General to bring this resolution to the attention of the United Nations Secretary-General in an effort to promote increased coordination and cooperation for development policies, programmes and projects that link access to and use and appropriation of telecommunications/ICTs and broadband for women and girls, in line with the objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

3 to support the promotion of gender equality, empowerment and the social and economic development of women and girls, taking into account SDG 5 target 5.b,

invites Member States and Sector Members

1 to submit candidatures for chair/vice-chair posts in order to support the active involvement of women as well as men in development groups and activities and in their own administrations and delegations;

- 2 to actively support and participate in the work of BDT, and to nominate experts for the ITU-D NoW group;
- 3 to designate, in liaison with the regional coordinators of NoW, national representatives in order to encourage in each part of the world the participation of women and girls in ITU-D activities;
- 4 to encourage and actively support ICT education that promotes girls' and women's participation, and to support all measures that will help prepare them for a professional and leadership career in ICT, including mentoring programmes and targeted capacity-building initiatives;
- 5 to encourage greater participation of women in ICT development as delegates and foster their expertise;
- 6 to encourage the adoption of proven measures and strategies to globally increase the number of women pursuing academic degrees in STEM fields, in particular those related to telecommunications/ICTs, at all levels.

RESOLUTION 57 (Rev. Hyderabad, 2010)

Assistance to Somalia

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Hyderabad, 2010),

recalling

Resolution 57 (Doha, 2006) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC) and Resolutions 34 (Rev. Marrakesh, 2002) and 34 (Rev. Antalya, 2006) of the Plenipotentiary Conference,

recalling further

the purposes of the Union, as enshrined in Article 1 of the ITU Constitution,

recognizing

- a) that the telecommunication infrastructure in the Somali Democratic Republic remains completely destroyed by civil conflict, with limited recovery, and that the Somali network requires rehabilitation and reconstruction;
- b) that Somalia at present does not have an adequate national telecommunication infrastructure, access to international telecommunication networks or access to the Internet;
- c) that a telecommunication system is an essential input for the reconstruction, rehabilitation and relief operations in the country after Somalia was hit by the tsunami;
- d) that, under the present conditions and in the foreseeable future, Somalia will not be able to rebuild its telecommunication systems without assistance from the international community, provided bilaterally or through international organizations,

noting

that Somalia has not effectively benefited from the Union's assistance over a long period due to war in the country and the lack of a national government since 1991,

resolves

that special action be initiated by the Secretary-General and the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau, with specialized and increased assistance from the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector and the ITU Radiocommunication Sector, resulting in the launch of a special initiative with funds allocated, within available budgetary resources, aimed at providing assistance and support to Somalia in rebuilding and modernizing its telecommunication infrastructure and in training activities,

calls upon Member States

to offer all possible assistance and support to the Government of Somalia, either bilaterally or through the special action of the Union,

invites the Council

to allocate the necessary funds within available resources for the implementation of this resolution,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to implement fully a programme of assistance for the least developed countries, of which reconstruction and rehabilitation of telecommunication/information and communication technology infrastructure is an integral part, and from which Somalia can receive focused assistance in various areas determined to be of high priority by the country;

2 to take immediate measures, to the extent possible within available resources, to assist in the period up to WTDC-14, focusing on staff training,

requests the Secretary-General

to coordinate the activities carried out by the three ITU Sectors in accordance with *resolves* above, to ensure that the Union's action in favour of Somalia is as effective as possible, and to report on the matter to the ITU Council.

RESOLUTION 58 (Rev. Baku, 2025)

Telecommunication/information and communication technology accessibility for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Baku, 2025),

recognizing

- a) Resolution 70/1 of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), on transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- b) Resolution 175 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on telecommunication/information and communication technology (ICT) accessibility for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs;
- c) Resolution 70 (Rev. New Delhi, 2024) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly, on telecommunication/ICT accessibility for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs, including the studies, initiatives and events on the subject conducted by the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) and in particular ITU-T Study Group 21, on the accessibility of multimedia systems and services for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs;
- d) Resolution ITU-R 67-2 (Rev. Dubai 2023) of the Radiocommunication Assembly, on telecommunication/ICT accessibility for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs, including the initiatives, recommendations and reports carried out by the ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R) and the work of its relevant study groups to support the needs of, and protect, persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs;
- e) Article 12 of the International Telecommunication Regulations, adopted by the World Conference on International Telecommunications (Dubai, 2012), which states that Member States should promote access for persons with disabilities to international telecommunication services, taking into account the relevant ITU-T Recommendations;

- f)* the United Nations flagship report "Disability and Development Report, 2018", which sees telecommunication/ICT accessibility as a critical element for ensuring inclusion and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs, and UNGA Resolution 73/142, which encourages Member States to promote access to information and communication, including information and communication technologies and systems, to ensure that accessibility is promoted as a means of achieving inclusive societies and development;
- g)* the United Nations flagship report "Disability and Development Report, 2024", on accelerating the realization of the SDGs by, for and with persons with disabilities, which aims to place disability squarely at the core of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and address the need to accelerate efforts to achieve the SDGs for persons with disabilities;
- h)* UNGA Resolution 79/149, which encourages Member States to promote access to and the accessibility of information and communication, including information and communication technologies and systems and accessible telecommunication/ICT devices and technologies, and to ensure that accessibility is promoted to achieve inclusive societies and development;
- i)* the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy¹, which reaffirms that the full and complete realization of the human rights of all persons with disabilities is an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and the Secretary-General's annual reports² to UNGA to monitor the progress made by the United Nations system in integrating disability inclusion and implementing the strategy,

¹ <https://www.un.org/en/content/disabilitystrategy/>

² <https://www.un.org/disabilitystrategy/sreport>

recognizing further

- a) the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) Digital Inclusion initiative, which promotes telecommunication/ICT accessibility and use for the economic and social development of persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs and the work under the relevant ITU-D study Question on telecommunication/ICT accessibility to enable inclusive communication, in particular for persons with disabilities;
- b) the Global Initiative for Inclusive ICTs (G3ict), an ITU-D Sector Member and flagship partnership initiative of the United Nations Global Alliance for ICT and Development, and its activities;
- c) the Model ICT Accessibility Policy Report for policy-makers, regulators and service providers, produced by the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) in partnership with G3ict and available online, in order to: i) facilitate the development of best policies and strategies implementing the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD); and ii) set forth action steps for establishing an effective policy framework;
- d) the ITU-D report "Ageing in a digital world – from vulnerable to valuable, 2021" and *Towards building inclusive digital communities: ITU toolkit and self-assessment for ICT accessibility implementation* (2023), including definitions and key principles related to ICT accessibility;
- e) the related issues being examined in the work of ITU-T and ITU-R in relation to telecommunication/ICT accessibility;
- f) the Internet Governance Forum Dynamic Coalition on Accessibility and Disability, sponsored by the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau and in partnership with ITU-T, as well as involving the participation of ITU-D, in order to promote equal access to the information society by addressing issues of accessibility in relation to Internet governance and digital policies;
- g) the related resolutions from the Global Standards Collaboration meetings;

h) Resolution 214 (Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on artificial intelligence (AI) technologies and telecommunications/ICTs;

i) activities relating to the development of new standards (e.g. ISO TC 159, JTC 1 SC35, IEC TC100, ETSI TC HF and W3C WAI), and the implementation and maintenance of existing standards (e.g. ISO 9241-171);

j) the "Implementation toolkit for accessible telehealth services", developed by the World Health Organization (WHO) and ITU in response to the growing challenges that persons with disabilities and other marginalized populations experience when accessing and using telehealth platforms around the world;

k) the adoption by UNGA, in September 2024, of the Global Digital Compact, in Annex I to the Pact for the Future, which includes digital accessibility requirements with a commitment to: "increase the availability, accessibility and affordability of digital technology platforms, services, software and educational curricula [...] and accessible user interfaces for persons with disabilities" (see UNGA Resolution 79/1, Annex I, § 13 (b)),

considering

a) that WHO estimates that over 1.3 billion of the world's inhabitants live with some form of disability, and that there are different types of disabilities (e.g. physical, cognitive and sensory impairments), each requiring special considerations when designing telecommunication/ICT public policy, and it is to be expected that, in the future, the prevalence of disabilities will rise because of the increasing population of older persons and the risk of disability is greater among older persons;

b) that UNCRPD, which came into force on 3 May 2008, requires States Parties to take appropriate measures;

c) that UNCRPD recognizes that there is discrimination on the basis of disability if there is denial of reasonable accommodation to ensure to persons with disabilities the enjoyment or exercise of all human rights and fundamental freedoms;

- d) that States Parties to UNCPRD are required to collect disaggregated information for formulating and implementing and following up on policies to give effect to that Convention, and helping to identify and address barriers faced by persons with disabilities in exercising their rights;
- e) that the outcome document of the UNGA high-level meeting on the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities considers, *inter alia*, that the universal design approach should be followed in ensuring accessibility of information, accessible devices and other ICTs, including in remote or rural areas, as a means of achieving such goals, so that persons with disabilities can achieve their fullest potential throughout their lives;
- f) that UNGA Resolution 66/288 reaffirms the importance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as well as other international instruments relating to human rights and international law and the responsibilities of all States, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations, to respect, protect and promote human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction of any kind as to race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth, disability age or other status;
- g) that UNGA Resolution 77/189 urges Member States to ensure affordable and accessible Internet for persons with disabilities, and to include them and their representative organizations at every stage of development of ICTs;
- h) that United Nations Human Rights Council Resolution 55/8 (2024) calls for improved accessibility within the United Nations system, ensuring that system facilities, services and Internet resources are fully accessible to persons with disabilities;
- i) that UNGA Resolution 61/106 adopting UNCPRD requests the Secretary-General to implement progressively standards and guidelines for the accessibility of facilities and services of the United Nations system, taking into account relevant provisions of the Convention;

j) that General Comment No. 2 (2014) of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, on Article 9: Accessibility, advocates for the promotion of access for persons with disabilities to new information and communication technologies and systems, including the Internet;

k) that maximizing access to telecommunication/ICT services, equipment, software and applications for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs will enhance digital literacy and facilitate equal opportunities in education, health care and employment;

l) that persons with disabilities, both individually and through relevant organizations, should be actively involved in the process development of legal and regulatory provisions, public policies and standards, pursuant to the rationale of "nothing about us without us",

taking into account

a) that the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) acknowledged that special attention should be given to the needs of older persons, persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs: i) when elaborating national cyberstrategies, including educational, administrative and legislative measures; ii) for using ICTs in education and human-resources development; iii) in order that equipment and services offer easy and affordable access, under the principles of universal design and accessible technology; iv) for promoting telework and increasing employment opportunities for persons with disabilities; v) for creating content that is pertinent to persons with disabilities; and vi) for creating the required abilities for the use of ICTs by persons with disabilities³;

³ Geneva Declaration of Principles, §§ 13 and 30; Geneva Plan of Action, §§ 9 e) and f), 19 and 23; Tunis Commitment, §§ 18 and 20; Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, § 90 c) and e).

- b)* that the implementation of the relevant WSIS action lines will contribute to the achievement of SDG 9 target 9.c (Significantly increase access to ICT and strive to provide universal and affordable access to the Internet in least developed countries);
- c)* the need to apply accessibility principles and features in relation to telecommunication/ICT services, equipment, software and applications in order to be accessible to all, including persons with specific needs, namely: universal design, equal access, functional equivalence and affordability;
- d)* that telecommunication/ICT accessibility for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs should be achieved through the development of coherent policies and cooperation between government bodies, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, civil society and persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs themselves;
- e)* the importance of coordination and the exchange of information on issues concerning persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs among relevant United Nations bodies in order to establish a comprehensive approach to accessibility;
- f)* the prevailing difference in telecommunication/ICT accessibility for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs in the regions, in countries, and within each country, emphasizing that 80 per cent of persons with disabilities live in developing countries⁴, according to the United Nations Development Programme;

⁴ These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

g) the potential of accessible technology to empower young persons with disabilities with essential tools for learning, communication and independent living, in order to help them overcome barriers, reach their full potential and become actively engaged as members of society;

h) that women and girls with disabilities suffer multiple disadvantages, being excluded on account of their gender and their disability,

resolves to instruct the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to ensure that ITU-D programmes, projects, initiatives or activities take into account, where possible, telecommunication/ICT accessibility issues and/or are adaptable for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs;

2 to promote the development and updating of tools and tailored guidelines⁵ for use/reference by Member States in mainstreaming telecommunication/ICT accessibility issues into their national/regional policies and regulations, and in building of necessary capacity, taking into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

3 to assist Member States, as appropriate, in developing their national strategies, including funding strategies, in order to address the needs of persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs in terms of access to telecommunication/ICT services;

4 to continue to work closely with Member States for the sharing and dissemination of best practices, and to encourage them to submit contributions to strengthen efforts in promoting accessibility of telecommunication/ICTs, in order to raise industry awareness of the importance of accessibility of telecommunication/ICT services, equipment, software and applications;

⁵ See ITU, Towards building inclusive digital communities: ITU toolkit and self-assessment for ICT accessibility implementation (2023), which supports ITU members and stakeholders in understanding and implementing ICT accessibility at national and regional levels: <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Digital-Inclusion/Pages/ICT-digital-accessibility/toolkits/towards-building-inclusive-digital-communities/2023/default.aspx>.

5 to support the holding of seminars, symposia or forums on telecommunication/ICT accessibility, involving a wide range of stakeholders, and also support the preparation of the corresponding outcome documents;

6 to collaborate and cooperate with relevant United Nations entities with a mandate to address accessibility issues and with international and regional organizations for persons with disabilities in order to support the social and economic inclusion of persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs through the use of telecommunications/ICTs;

7 to collaborate with ITU-R and ITU-T on issues of telecommunication/ICT accessibility, to take into account the outcomes of their work in preparing toolkits, guidelines and programmes for Member States on telecommunication/ICT accessibility issues and, where necessary, to report to the ITU Council on the outcomes of this collaboration;

8 to consider the development of an internship programme for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs who have expertise in the field of telecommunications/ICTs, so as to build capacity in the development of public policy to meet accessibility requirements;

9 to ensure that the needs of the communities of persons with disabilities are taken into account in the provision of telecommunication/ICT accessibility equipment, services and software, through the work of BDT;

10 to collaborate with relevant stakeholders to drive sustainable solutions and programmes that prioritize accessibility and support inclusive ICT infrastructure;

11 to strengthen the Digital Inclusion programme to promote telecommunication/ICT accessibility for persons with disabilities,

further instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

- 1 to review, in consultation with the Secretary-General, the accessibility of ITU services and facilities, including meetings and events, to consider taking actions, where appropriate, pursuant to UNGA Resolution 61/106, and to inform Member States and Sector Members about the implementation of such actions, as appropriate;
- 2 to contribute, within the scope of BDT, to uniting efforts for the implementation of the provisions of Resolution 70 (Rev. New Delhi, 2024) and Resolution 175 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022);
- 3 to provide advice to, evaluate and supervise initiatives, projects and programmes, so as to determine their impact in terms of telecommunication/ICT accessibility for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs, under Resolution 17 (Rev. Baku, 2025) of this conference, on regional initiatives, where appropriate;
- 4 to provide assistance to countries on the development and implementation of accessible telecommunications/ICTs based on tailored solutions;
- 5 to monitor and evaluate the impact of ITU-D accessibility initiatives, identify challenges and opportunities according to relevant key performance indicators,

invites the Plenipotentiary Conference

- 1 to build on and consolidate past accomplishments, by providing the necessary financial and human resources for the effective and sustained integration of telecommunication/ICT accessibility for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs within ITU's development activities;

2 to instruct the Secretary-General to bring this resolution to the attention of the Secretary-General of the United Nations in an effort to promote increased coordination and cooperation for development policies, programmes and projects for achieving telecommunication/ICT accessibility for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs, in line with the principles of universal design, equal access, functional equivalence and affordability, and fully leveraging the available tools, guidelines and standards, to eliminate obstacles and discrimination,

instructs Study Group 1 of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector

1 to assist in identifying the needs of persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs in relation to telecommunication/ICT accessible services, equipment, software and applications;

2 to assist in identifying best practices related to accessible telecommunication/ICT services, equipment, software and applications, based on contributions from Member States, Sector Members and other stakeholders and in collaboration with ITU-T and ITU-R;

3 to promote the exchange of experiences and best practices in terms of accessibility of telecommunication/ICT services, equipment, software and applications for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs, aiming to reduce digital inequality and achieve the SDGs,

invites Member States

1 to consider the interests of persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs in the development of legal frameworks, including laws, regulations, policies and guidelines, on telecommunications/ICTs at national and local levels, in order to support the social and economic inclusion of all members of society, taking into account the relevant United Nations activities, principles of equal access, functional equivalence, affordability and universal design;

- 2 to mainstream telecommunication/ICT accessibility for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs and to emphasize adopting a comprehensive approach to addressing the matter, which involves taking into consideration accessibility principles in a cross-cutting manner;
- 3 to take the relevant measures to ensure that telecommunication/ICT services, equipment, software and applications are accessible to persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs;
- 4 to develop national legal frameworks, including laws, regulations, policies, guidelines or other national and local mechanisms to ensure telecommunication/ICT accessibility for persons with disabilities, based on the principles of equal access, functional equivalence, affordability and universal design, to guarantee accessibility of telecommunication/ICT services, equipment, software and applications;
- 5 to encourage and enable active participation by persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs, both as individuals and as organizations, in the policy-making process for telecommunications/ICTs and related areas where ICTs have an impact, by ensuring the accessibility of the consultation process, meetings and/or surveys pursuant to the rationale of "nothing about us without us";
- 6 to consider establishing government procurement policies for accessible telecommunications/ICTs, developed in consultation with persons with disabilities and relevant stakeholders, establishing clear accessibility criteria;
- 7 to raise awareness of the activities and decisions of government bodies, the private sector and non-governmental organizations regarding telecommunication/ICT accessibility ensuring that persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs are fully informed of new opportunities in a timely manner;
- 8 to continue strengthening the collection and analysis and dissemination of data and statistics on disability related to telecommunication/ICT accessibility for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs and similarly relevant indicators that will contribute to the design, planning and implementation of public policy in the area of telecommunication/ICT accessibility;

9 to facilitate the introduction and mainstreaming of telecommunication/ICT relay services⁶, captioning and audio description for persons with hearing, speech or vision impairments, or any combination thereof, to ensure accessibility of television programmes and digital television content and multimedia platforms;

10 to consider providing financial incentives on ICT devices and digitally accessible equipment for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs, in accordance with the national policies and regulations on this matter;

11 to promote the development of accessible websites, in particular those of high social significance for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs, such as e-government services;

12 to support the establishment of educational institutions, in particular at the primary level, other institutions and community centres with accessible equipment, ensuring that they are equipped with accessible telecommunications/ICTs to promote inclusive participation for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs;

13 to undertake research and development of telecommunication/ICT equipment and software that are accessible by design;

14 to establish ongoing and permanent collaboration and coordination between developed and developing countries to exchange information, technology and best practices related to telecommunication/ICT accessibility for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs;

⁶ Telecommunication relay services enable users of different modes of communication (e.g. text, sign, speech) to interact by providing convergence between the modes of communication, usually through human operators.

15 to participate actively in telecommunication/ICT accessibility-related studies in ITU-D, ITU-T and ITU-R, and to promote the representation of persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs in the development process, so as to ensure that their experiences, views and opinions are reflected in all the work carried out by the study groups;

16 to promote the development of comprehensive learning and capacity-building opportunities including train-the-trainer courses and distance learning, to equip persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs with the skills to effectively use telecommunications/ICTs for their social and economic development, for a more inclusive and equitable society;

17 to create dissemination and awareness-raising mechanisms that enable persons with disabilities to learn about the rights that can help them and how to require their enforceability, as well as policies for their benefit, current assistance technologies, and accessible equipment available on the market;

18 to initiate and coordinate development of the tailored solutions to facilitate efficient usage of accessible telecommunications/ICTs in their countries;

19 to promote the use of emerging telecommunications/ICTs, including AI to improve access of telecommunication/ICT services to persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs;

20 to seek ways to encourage national manufacturers of smartphones, tablets, computers and other digital devices to integrate accessibility features such as text-to-speech, gesture recognition, contrast enhancement, captioning and tactile interfaces, ensuring inclusive and user-friendly experiences for individuals with disabilities,

invites Sector Members

1 to consider accessibility issues, including the adoption of a self-regulation approach in their activities, in the field of telecommunications/ICTs to promote equal access for all users;

2 to develop, implement and strengthen policies and programmes, as appropriate, to improve access to accessible telecommunications/ICTs for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs to help them to better participate in the socio-economic development activities of their countries;

- 3 to promote research and development of accessible telecommunication/ICT equipment, services, software and applications, ensuring affordability for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs;
- 4 to collaborate with Member States in sharing experiences and best practices related to telecommunication/ICT accessibility, including dissemination and awareness-raising to enable persons with disabilities to learn about existing accessible telecommunications/ICTs and tools, and affordable equipment available on the market;
- 5 to promote collaboration to develop inclusive frameworks and policies that integrate accessibility features into telecommunication/ICT products and services and create platforms for testing and launching new accessible products.

RESOLUTION 59 (Rev. Baku, 2025)

Strengthening coordination and cooperation among the three ITU Sectors on matters of mutual interest

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Baku, 2025),

recalling

- a)* Resolution 123 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on bridging the standardization gap between developing¹ and developed countries;
- b)* Resolution 191 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on strategy for the coordination of efforts among the three Sectors of the Union;
- c)* that the responsibilities of the ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R), the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) and the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) are enshrined in the ITU Constitution and Convention, in particular No. 119 of the Constitution and Nos. 151–154 (relating to ITU-R), No. 193 (relating to ITU-T), Nos. 211 and 214 (relating to ITU-D) and No. 215 of the Convention;
- d)* Resolution 5 (Rev. Baku, 2025) of this conference, on enhanced participation by developing countries in the activities of the Union;
- e)* 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;
- f)* Resolution 44 (Rev. New Delhi, 2024) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA), on bridging the standardization gap between developing and developed countries;
- g)* Resolution 18 (Rev. New Delhi, 2024) of WTSA, 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.

considering

- a) that there is a growing number of issues of mutual interest and concern to all three Sectors, as reflected in Resolution 191 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022);
- b) that the mechanism for cooperation at secretariat level among the three Sectors and the General Secretariat of the Union was established to ensure close cooperation between the secretariats and with the secretariats of external entities and organizations that deal with key priority issues of mutual interest and concern to all Sectors, such as development of telecommunication/information and communication technology (ICT) systems, international mobile telecommunications, big data, artificial intelligence (AI), emergency telecommunications, telecommunications/ICTs and climate change, cybersecurity, access to telecommunications/ICT for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs, conformance and interoperability of telecommunication/ICT equipment and systems, and better use of scarce resources, among others,

taking into account

- a) the expanding sphere of joint studies between the three Sectors and the need for coordination and cooperation among them in this regard;
- b) the growing number of issues of mutual interest and concern to the three Sectors;
- c) the role of ITU-D in capacity building, in particular in developing countries;
- d) the catalysing role of ITU-D, which seeks optimal resource use with a view to building capacities in developing countries;
- e) the ongoing discussion among representatives of the three Sector advisory groups on the modalities for enhancing cooperation among the Sectors;
- f) that the Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG) on issues of mutual interest, which is composed of representatives from the three advisory groups, works to identify issues of common interest and mechanisms to enhance collaboration and cooperation among the Sectors and General Secretariat, and also to consider reports from the Directors of the Bureaux and the Inter-Sectoral Coordination Task Force (ISC-TF) on options for improving cooperation and coordination within the secretariat;

g) that the Secretary-General has established the ISC-TF comprising senior management from the General Secretariat, the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT), the Radiocommunication Bureau (BR) and the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau (TSB) to consider options for improving cooperation and coordination at the secretariat level,

resolves

1 that the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG) and the Director of BDT shall continue to cooperate actively with the Radiocommunication Advisory Group and the Director of BR and with the Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group and the Director of TSB, as called for by Resolution 191 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022);

2 that the participation of developing countries in ITU-D study group and rapporteur group meetings continue to be facilitated through the use of remote participation by electronic means, as appropriate;

3 that cooperation with the Directors of the other two Bureaux continue in enhancing the ability of ITU regional and area offices to provide support for study group activities and the expertise needed to strengthen cooperation and coordination with relevant regional organizations and to facilitate the participation of all Member States and Sector Members in the activities of ITU-D,

invites the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group, in collaboration with the Radiocommunication Advisory Group and the Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group

to assist in identifying subjects common to the three Sectors, or, bilaterally, subjects common to ITU-D and either ITU-R or ITU-T, and in identifying the necessary mechanisms to strengthen cooperation and joint activity among the three Sectors or with each Sector, on issues of joint interest, paying particular attention to the interests of the developing countries, including through participation in ISCG,

invites the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group, the Radiocommunication Advisory Group and the Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group

to continue to assist ISCG in identifying issues of mutual interest to the three Sectors and mechanisms to enhance their cooperation and collaboration,

invites the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau, in collaboration with the Secretary-General, the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau and the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau

1 to continue to create cooperation mechanisms at secretariat level on matters of mutual interest to the three Sectors;

2 to continue to collaborate in developing and updating Handbooks and Reports in order to avoid duplication of this work and in implementing initiatives following the results of ITU-D activities,

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

1 to continue to cooperate among themselves with the aim of strengthening the support of ITU regional and area offices for study group activities, and in facilitating the participation of membership in all activities of ITU-D;

2 to report to ISCG and the respective Sector advisory groups on options for improving cooperation at the secretariat level to ensure the closest possible coordination, including taking an active part in groups established by those advisory groups, in respect of coordination activities,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 in cooperation with the Director of TSB and the Director of BR, to provide an annual report to ITU-D study groups on the latest developments in the activities of ITU-T and ITU-R study groups;

2 to continue the enhancement of bilateral cooperation with ITU-R and ITU-T, as required;

3 to inform TDAG annually on the implementation of this resolution,

instructs the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector study groups

- 1 to identify subjects of potential common interest to be addressed jointly by ISCG with a view to enhancing collaboration and cooperation among the Sectors;
- 2 to continue joint discussions with the study groups of the other Sectors, *inter alia*, through liaison activities and by setting up intersector rapporteur groups or intersector correspondence groups to further discuss matters of a complementary nature;
- 3 to continue cooperation with the study groups of the other two Sectors so as to avoid duplication of effort and proactively make use of the results of work done by the study groups of those two Sectors,

invites Member States and Sector Members

- 1 to support efforts to improve inter-Sector coordination including by participating actively in groups established by the Sector advisory groups in respect of coordination activities;
- 2 to actively participate in the implementation of this resolution and in the overall activities of ITU-D by, *inter alia*, providing experts to assist developing countries and sharing best practices and experiences; contributing to information meetings, seminars and workshops; engaging and contributing with the necessary expertise on matters under consideration by the ITU-D study groups; and accepting interns from developing countries.

RESOLUTION 60 (Hyderabad, 2010)

Assistance to countries in special situations: Haiti

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Hyderabad, 2010),

recalling

Resolution 34 (Rev. Antalya, 2006) of the Plenipotentiary Conference,

further recalling

the purposes of the Union, as enshrined in Article 1 of the ITU Constitution,

recognizing

- a) that the telecommunication infrastructure in the Republic of Haiti has been significantly affected by the earthquake that struck the country on 12 January 2010;
- b) that Haiti at present does not have a sufficient national information and communication infrastructure with adequate international and Internet access;
- c) that an adequate telecommunication system is an essential tool in the process of rebuilding the country;
- d) that, under the present conditions and in the foreseeable future, Haiti will require the support of the international community in order to build a national information infrastructure that is compatible with its socio-economic development objectives,

noting

- a) that Haiti received emergency telecommunication assistance from ITU immediately following the earthquake;
- b) the efforts deployed by the ITU Secretary-General and the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) to assist other countries following armed conflicts or natural disasters,

resolves

that the special action initiated by the Secretary-General and the Director of BDT, with specialized assistance from the ITU Radiocommunication Sector and the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector, should be continued in order to provide assistance and support to Haiti in rebuilding its telecommunication/information and communication technology (ICT) infrastructure, establishing appropriate institutions, human capacity building, developing telecommunication legislation and a regulatory framework and harnessing the recognized potential of telecommunications/ICTs for the country's socio-economic and cultural development,

calls upon Member States

to offer all possible assistance and support to the Government of Haiti, either bilaterally or through the special action of the Union referred to above,

invites the Council

to allocate the necessary funds for the implementation of this resolution,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

- 1 to provide focused assistance in the different fields identified by Haiti;
- 2 to take immediate measures to implement a framework of cooperation allowing the country's systematic adoption of ICTs with a view to its sustainable development,

requests the Secretary-General

- 1 to bring this resolution to the attention of the Plenipotentiary Conference (Guadalajara, 2010) and seek the allocation of the necessary resources;
- 2 to coordinate the activities carried out by the three ITU Sectors in accordance with *resolves* above;
- 3 to ensure that the Union's action in favour of Haiti is as effective as possible, and to report on the matter to the ITU Council.

RESOLUTION 62 (Rev. Baku, 2025)

Assessment and measurement of human exposure to electromagnetic fields

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Baku, 2025),

recalling

a) Resolution 176 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on measurement and assessment concerns related to human exposure to electromagnetic fields (EMF);

b) Resolution 72 (Rev. New Delhi, 2024) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly, on measurement and assessment concerns related to human exposure to EMF, which calls for close cooperation among the Directors of the three Bureaux to implement the resolution within the available financial resources in view of its importance to developing countries¹,

considering

that the World Health Organization (WHO) has issued fact sheets on EMF based on the work of the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP),

recognizing

a) that some publications and information about EMF effects on health address questions to the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T), the ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R) and the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D), in particular for developing countries;

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

- b) that the effect on humans of EMF from handheld devices and other radio-frequency devices used in close proximity to the human body, such as wearables, continues to receive public attention, and use of such devices may expose the user to stronger EMF levels than to those radiated by a base station;
- c) that the cost of the advanced equipment used for measuring, assessing and monitoring human exposure to EMF is very high and difficult for many developing countries to afford;
- d) that implementing such assessment is essential for many regulatory authorities in developing countries, in order to monitor the limits for human exposure to radio-frequency energy, and that they are called upon to ensure that those limits are met in order to license different services;
- e) the work of ITU-T Study Group 5 on this issue under Question 3/5 (Assessment of human exposure to EMF), including the updating of practical and affordable guidelines to help developing countries deal with this issue effectively;
- f) the work of ITU-R Study Group 1 under Question 239/1 and Report ITU-R SM.2452, on measurement techniques to assess human exposure from wireless installations and presenting the measurement results;
- g) the creation of the new EMF guide and mobile application launched by ITU, which provides information and education resources on EMF suitable for all communities, stakeholders and governments, especially in developing countries;
- h) a lack of public understanding and widespread misconceptions about the impact of EMF exposure,

resolves to instruct the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

in response to the needs of the developing countries and consistent with the substance of Resolution 72 (Rev. New Delhi, 2024), and in recognition of the complementary relationship between ongoing work on EMF studies in ITU-T and ITU-R:

- 1 to give the necessary priority to this subject and, within the available resources, allocate the necessary funds for expediting execution of this resolution;
- 2 to conduct international and regional seminars and workshops to identify the needs of developing countries and to build human capacity in regard to EMF exposure assessment expertise, including EMF absorption metrics such as the specific absorption rate (SAR);
- 3 to ensure that those responsible for ITU-D outcomes under the thematic priority of inclusive, safe and secure telecommunication/ICT infrastructure and services in the strategic plan for the Union for 2024–2027 determine the requirements of developing countries and their regulatory authorities (at regional level) in relation to this resolution, contribute to studies on this subject, take an active part in the work of the relevant ITU-R and ITU-T study groups, and submit written contributions on the results of their work in this regard, plus any proposals they deem necessary, to ITU-D Study Group 2;
- 4 to provide the necessary assistance to Member States, in particular developing countries, by supplying them with measurement methods for assessing human electromagnetic exposure, including methods to manage the risk perception by the public;
- 5 to foster the exchange of experiences and best practices in connection with the challenges and opportunities of developing technical regulations on the adoption of limits for reference levels of non-ionizing electromagnetic radiation from radio-frequency stations, as well as SAR levels;
- 6 to establish and maintain dialogue among all interested parties, such as civil society, authorities, industry, the scientific community, associations and the media, in order to provide support for measuring human exposure to EMF, and to adopt a regulatory framework on the reference levels for persons on the basis of the technical specifications drawn up by the international bodies specializing in human health and protection against non-ionizing radiation;

7 to promote the EMF Estimator software that implements the methodology described in Recommendation ITU-T K.70, in particular the calculation of the cumulative radio-frequency exposure levels in the vicinity of transmitting antennas;

8 to implement projects under the United Nations development systems or arrangements funded by international financial institutions and donor agencies to facilitate assessment of non-ionizing radiations and investigations/research in developing countries;

9 to continue to collaborate with ITU-T and ITU-R in developing guidelines on the assessment of human exposure to EMF from all kinds of telecommunication/ICT sources, especially emerging technologies,

invites Study Group 2 of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector

within the framework of its study Questions, to cooperate with ITU-T Study Group 5 and ITU-R Study Groups 1, 4, 5 and 6, as concerned, in order to achieve the following goals:

- i) to update the ITU EMF guide and mobile application, including information on various wireless equipment/sources of EMF, and the guidance on its implementation, as a matter of high priority;
- ii) contribute to the organization of seminars, workshops or training on the subject of EMF;
- iii) ensure wide dissemination of ITU publications and literature on EMF issues in cooperation with ITU-R and ITU-T;
- iv) continue to cooperate with WHO, ICNIRP, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers and other relevant international organizations on guidelines and limits of human exposure to EMF, and to raise awareness and disseminate information to the membership and the public with regard to human exposure to EMF,

invites Member States

- 1 to conduct a periodic review concerning the performance of the operators and mobile equipment and other wearable radio-frequency/Internet-of-Things device manufacturers in this field to verify that they are following the national specifications or ITU recommendations, in order to ensure the safe use of EMF;
- 2 to address public awareness on EMF exposures below the recommended limits with a view to mitigating concerns about the effects of EMF;
- 3 to take appropriate measures, referencing international standards for assessing exposure to EMF, and deploy successful solutions, including regulations;
- 4 to continue to cooperate through the exchange of experts and the organization of seminars, specialized workshops and meetings;
- 5 to adopt international standards for measuring and assessing EMF levels, and use effective methods for verifying compliance,

encourages members from academia and ITU Academy training centres

to participate actively in the work under this resolution through the submission of contributions and proposals.

RESOLUTION 63 (Rev. Baku, 2025)

Promoting, facilitating and accelerating the transition to and deployment of Internet Protocol version 6 in developing countries

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Baku, 2025),

recalling

- a)* Resolutions 101, 102 and 180 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference;
- b)* Resolution 63 (Rev. Kigali, 2022) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC);
- c)* Resolution 64 (Rev. New Delhi, 2024) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly;
- d)* Opinion 3 (Geneva, 2013) of the fifth World Telecommunication/Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Policy Forum (WTPF), on supporting capacity building for the deployment of Internet Protocol version 6 (IPv6);
- e)* Opinion 4 (Geneva, 2013) of WTPF, in support of IPv6 adoption and transition from Internet Protocol version 4 (IPv4);
- f)* the activities of the ITU Council Working Group on international Internet-related public policy issues (CWG-Internet);
- g)* the limited progress that has been made towards the adoption of IPv6 over the past few years;
- h)* that facilitating and accelerating IPv6 deployment has become an issue of the utmost importance today for Member States and Sector Members and stakeholders in the Internet community, because of IPv4 address exhaustion, especially in developing countries¹,

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

recognizing

- a) that Internet Protocol (IP) addresses are fundamental resources that are indispensable for the development of IP-based telecommunication/ICT networks, which are important for the digital economy;
- b) that the exhaustion of IPv4 addresses, calls for promoting, facilitating and accelerating the transition to and deployment of IPv6;
- c) that regional Internet registries (RIRs) are key players in the functioning of Internet networks;
- d) that IPv6 deployment is essential to satisfy the exponential demand for world connectivity, as it facilitates the large-scale deployment of emerging telecommunications/ICTs, driving rapid advancements in technology and business innovation;
- e) that IPv6 deployment is an important enabler of digital transformation;
- f) the importance of facilitating the deployment of IPv6, particularly in developing countries, through the provision of technical assistance from qualified experts, as well as the need to specify the process of requesting such assistance;
- g) that governments play a critical role in facilitating the transition to, and adoption and deployment of, IPv6; and that their efforts are essential in fostering an enabling environment through the formulation of appropriate policies, regulations and national strategies;
- h) that some countries have IPv4-to-IPv6 transition plans in place;
- i) that IPv6 deployment mitigates shortages in the numerical space of IPv4 addresses, enabling the allocation of publicly routable addresses on the Internet to each device;
- j) that delays in the transition to IPv6 may exacerbate the digital divide between developed and developing countries;
- k) that the promotion, facilitation and acceleration of IPv6 deployment is an important issue for Member States and Sector Members,

taking into account

- a) that many developing countries are currently experiencing challenges in the IPv6 deployment process, due to limited technical skills and human capacity in this area;
- b) that it is necessary to encourage the collaboration and cooperation of all relevant stakeholders in order to be able to carry out the deployment;
- c) the collaboration efforts between the Telecommunication Development Bureau and RIRs that aim to promote and accelerate IPv6 deployment,

resolves

to promote the exchange of experiences and information with all stakeholders on all aspects of IPv6 deployment, with the aim of unifying joint efforts and ensuring the contributions that enhance the Union's efforts to encourage the transition to and deployment of IPv6,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

- 1 to strengthen the close cooperation and coordination in the spirit of "One ITU" with the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau (TSB) in this regard, continue ongoing activities to facilitate transition to IPv6 among all members, considering the different specific needs of each Member State, towards the goal of a comprehensive deployment of IPv6, and provide the necessary information on training and education activities being undertaken by ITU and relevant organizations;
- 2 to continue cooperating with relevant international and regional organizations, including RIRs, on capacity building and the enhancement of technical skills for IPv6 deployment, and the possible use of IPv6 deployment statistics as appropriate means to measure progress, identify challenges and guide targeted interventions, in order to respond effectively to the needs of developing countries;

3 to submit an annual report to the Council on the progress made in this regard, and report to the next WTDC;

4 to assist Member States in developing and enhancing guidelines to enable, if necessary, adjustment of the organizational frameworks and national policies necessary for the deployment of IPv6, in collaboration with relevant international and regional organizations, including RIRs;

5 to maintain and update, in collaboration with the Director of TSB, the website which provides information to the entire ITU membership and interested parties on global activities related to IPv6,

invites Member States

1 to disseminate their practices, experience, knowledge and expertise to facilitate the transition to and deployment of IPv6;

2 to continue to stimulate and facilitate the transition to IPv6, towards the goal of a comprehensive deployment of IPv6 and particularly to encourage national initiatives and strengthen interaction with government and private-sector entities, RIRs, academia and civil-society organizations in order to exchange experiences, expertise and knowledge;

3 to encourage the training of technicians and administrators from governmental agencies and private-sector organizations in IPv6 deployment, with theory and labs that show how to deploy IPv6 on their networks;

4 to encourage manufacturers to supply fully-featured customer premises equipment that supports IPv6 in addition to IPv4;

5 to foster cooperation among Internet service providers, other service providers and relevant stakeholders to accelerate IPv6 deployment;

6 to encourage service providers to activate IPv6 in the telecommunication/ICT equipment and networks and offer IPv6 service to users;

7 to encourage governmental agencies and private-sector organizations to make their websites and services such as email available over IPv6,

invites Member States and Sector Members

- 1 to make use of the ITU website and other resources, which provide information about global activities related to IPv6;
- 2 to consider how public procurement frameworks and market mechanisms can promote IPv6 deployment;
- 3 to encourage all stakeholders including ITU membership to make their websites and services, such as e-mail, available over IPv6,

encourages Sector Members and stakeholders

- 1 to invest in IPv6-enabled infrastructure and make services broadly available over IPv6;
- 2 to support local IPv6 capacity-building and development programmes, including by partnering with ITU Academy training centres.

RESOLUTION 64 (Rev. Baku, 2025)

Protecting, supporting and empowering users/consumers of telecommunication/information and communication technology services

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Baku, 2025),

considering

- a)* Resolution 196 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on protecting telecommunication service users/consumers;
- b)* Resolution 84 (Rev. New Delhi, 2024) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly, on studies concerning the protection of users of telecommunication/information and communication technology (ICT) services;
- c)* United Nations guidelines on consumer protection, reviewed and approved by the United Nations General Assembly in Resolution 70/186 of 22 December 2015, which establish the main characteristics that consumer protection laws must have, the institutions in charge of enforcing them, and compensation systems so that they can be effective;
- d)* Resolution 188 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on combating counterfeit and tampered telecommunication/ICT devices;
- e)* Resolution 189 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on assisting Member States to combat and deter mobile device theft;
- f)* § 13 e) of the Geneva Plan of Action of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), which states that governments should continue to update their domestic consumer-protection laws to respond to the new requirements of the information society;
- g)* §§ 4.4 and 4.5 of Article 4 of the International Telecommunication Regulations;
- h)* Goals 2 and 3 of the ITU Connect 2030 Agenda, on bridging the digital divide and providing broadband for all, and managing challenges resulting from telecommunication/ICT development, respectively;

i) the work of Study Group 1 of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector on user/consumer information, protection and rights;

j) the regional workshop on increasing consumer awareness and mechanisms to promote informed consumer decision-making, held in Brasilia from 18 to 20 June 2024, with the objective of identifying and sharing international best practices on consumer protection and empowerment frameworks and mechanisms, including effective strategies and initiatives to increase consumer awareness,

taking into account

a) ITU's mandate to serve as lead facilitator for Action Lines C5 and C6 of the WSIS Geneva Plan of Action;

b) that the basic principles of user/consumer relations include education and outreach on the appropriate consumption and use of products and services, in order to guarantee freedom of choice and fairness in contracting, together with clear and appropriate information of these products and services, with the correct information such as specification of quantities, characteristics, composition, quality and price, taking into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

c) that information is the main input of the digital economy and for meaningful and sustainable digital transformation, for which reason it is recognized that the cross-border flow of personal user/consumer data demands the observance of national laws and regulations;

d) that it is necessary to continue work in promoting user empowerment and updating and redefining the protection of needs of users/consumers in an increasingly connected world, considering new and emerging telecommunication/ICT technologies and services;

e) that there is a need to promote digital skills among users/consumers of telecommunication/ICT services, including to enable them to represent and pursue their own interests within the market, noting that users/consumers will have diverse needs based on their own circumstances;

- f)* that similar measures to protect, support and empower, as well as to enhance the level of digital skills, should be taken with respect to users/consumers of telecommunication/ICT services with disabilities or specific needs, as well as other vulnerable groups¹;
- g)* that the establishment of effective protection for users/consumers must also take into account issues like their economic interests and preferences, economic analysis of user/consumer choice in the telecommunication/ICT market, information about security and protection of their personal data, the coordinated fight against device theft, and advances in financial services, among others;
- h)* that policies on information transparency make it possible to increase the level and quality of the information provided by operators and stakeholders to users/consumers, especially on new and emerging telecommunication/ICT technologies and services, to mitigate information asymmetry in the market and to empower users/consumers to pursue their interests;
- i)* that the same policies should ensure access to telecommunications/ICTs for vulnerable population groups, in conditions of use comparable to all other users/consumers;
- j)* that telecommunication/ICT services provided to users/consumers should be based on quality standards;
- k)* that vulnerable population groups in the digital environment are at increased risk of fraudulent activities, including telephone and Internet fraud, and therefore special measures are required to protect them and improve their digital skills,

¹ Vulnerable groups are intended to include women and girls, persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs, older persons, youth, marginalized communities and Indigenous Peoples.

resolves

to continue efforts to develop guidelines and best practices on support, protection and empowerment for telecommunication/ICT users/consumers, especially in relation to new and emerging technologies, covering key areas such as empowerment of users/consumers in the decision-making process and access to clear, transparent information on available services, tariffs and rates, their quality and security, service resilience, user/consumer choice, and the protection of personal data, among other aspects,

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

1 to continue to support work aimed at raising awareness among decision-makers and regulatory agencies of the importance of keeping telecommunication/ICT users/consumers informed and empowered about the basic characteristics, quality, security, rates and prices of the different services offered by operators, and at creating and promoting other protection mechanisms to facilitate and support the expeditious exercise of users'/consumers' rights, and also of the value of empowering users/consumers within a competitive market to freely choose the services best suited to their needs;

2 to continue regular coordination and communication with the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector and the ITU Radiocommunication Sector on such topics as quality of service and quality of experience of telecommunication/ICT services within their remit that affect user/consumer protection;

3 to issue regular information on collaboration and joint efforts with other international organizations and entities involved in telecommunication/ICT user/consumer protection;

4 to invite Member States to create their end-user/consumer associations that can address issues relevant to this resolution;

5 to organize training programmes, such as workshops and seminars, in order to analyse best practices, to encourage training in telecommunication/ICT services, user/consumer education, education for sustainable consumption and data protection, and to formulate possible recommendations about tools and measures that provide support and protection for users/consumers of ICT services, with targeted training taking into consideration local contexts and the specific needs of users/consumers;

6 to support capacity building on the use of emerging analytical frameworks, considering the user/consumer decision-making process, to support informed and conscientious choices;

7 to facilitate capacity-building programmes to improve digital skills and awareness of user/consumer rights,

invites the study groups of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector, each within its mandate

to continue developing guidelines and best practices to address emerging user/consumer-protection issues related to new and emerging telecommunication/ICT services and technologies, and protection of personal identifiable information,

encourages Member States

1 to empower users/consumers by developing policies that foster transparent and accessible provision of information and best practices in regard to user/consumer education and rights, and the characteristics, quality, security, rates and prices of telecommunication/ICT services from various providers, especially policies that facilitate the provision of free-of-charge, transparent, comparable, timely and accurate information and may empower users/consumers in the decision making process;

2 to consider the creation of an enabling, collaborative and fit-for-purpose regulatory environment that allows telecommunication operators to deliver telecommunication/ICT services to users/consumers, with the appropriate quality, while encouraging competitive, fair and affordable rates and prices, and in which users/consumers are able to effectively exercise choice within a competitive market to find the services best suited to their needs, and to encourage innovation within the telecommunication/ICT sector;

3 to foster measures to ensure that visiting users/consumers are provided with reliable telecommunication/ICT services of adequate quality, while roaming internationally, and to provide users/consumers with timely information about international roaming rates, and relevant applicable conditions;

4 to encourage telecommunication/ICT operators/providers to develop clear, simple offers at affordable prices, with easy-to-understand, transparent and accessible terms of service and contracts with features for persons with disabilities, while improving user/consumer-education practices;

5 to build the trust of telecommunication/ICT users/consumers in the utilization and leverage of telecommunications/ICTs by developing policies to guarantee and encourage the provision of quality services, and transparency of comparable, updated and accurate information, enabling users/consumers to make informed decisions about their services based on clarity, understanding and accessibility;

6 to include users/consumers with disabilities, persons with specific needs, older persons and other vulnerable groups, so that they have access to telecommunication/ICT services on an equivalent basis with others;

7 to consider improving digital skills among users/consumers of telecommunication/ICT services, particularly users/consumers who are persons with disabilities, persons with specific needs, older persons and other vulnerable groups;

8 to support the establishment of efficient, inclusive and transparent user/consumer redress mechanisms, using various platforms;

9 to engage with relevant stakeholders that can address issues relevant to this resolution;

10 to promote collaboration with the relevant stakeholders to strengthen user/consumer protection frameworks through the exchange of best practices, experiences and innovation solutions at national, regional and global levels;

11 to encourage telecommunication/ICT operators and service providers to pursue tailored approaches that support user/consumer protection,

invites Member States and Sector Members of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector

to share inputs that will allow the effective dissemination of best practices and policies that they have implemented in regard to this resolution, taking into consideration ITU Recommendations, reports and guidelines, and to explore public-private partnerships for innovative solutions that will support users/consumers of telecommunications/ICTs.

RESOLUTION 66 (Rev. Baku, 2025)

Information and communication technology, environment, climate change and circular economy

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Baku, 2025),

recalling

- a)* Resolution 182 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the role of telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICTs) in regard to climate change and the protection of the environment;
- b)* Resolution 1429 (C24) of the ITU Council on ITU's role in facilitating the contribution of ICTs to sustainability and climate action;
- c)* Resolution 73/247 (2018) of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), which recognizes the potential benefits for countries to transform their economies to promote sustainable consumption and production patterns, by engaging with partners to integrate or implement concepts such as circular economy and the Fourth Industrial Revolution (Industry 4.0) for more sustainable industrial activity and manufacturing systems, according to national plans and priorities;
- d)* Resolution 34 (Rev. Baku, 2025) of this conference, on the role of telecommunications/ICTs in disaster preparedness, early warning, rescue, mitigation, relief and response;
- e)* Resolution 73 (Rev. New Delhi, 2024) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA), on ICTs, environment, climate change and circular economy, instructing the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) in this area;
- f)* Recommendation ITU-D 21 (Dubai, 2014) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference, on ICT and climate change;
- g)* Resolution 79 (Rev. New Delhi, 2024) of WTSA, on the role of telecommunications/ICTs in handling and controlling e-waste from telecommunication and information technology equipment and methods of treating it;

h) the relevant outcomes of the United Nations Climate Change Conferences, including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), that relate to the telecommunication/ICT sector and the main outcomes of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal;

i) UNGA Resolution 70/1, on transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

considering

a) that climate change is a global challenge and that telecommunications/ICTs contribute to climate change and other environmental problems across their lifecycle through greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions; increased energy consumption, mainly electricity; raw material extraction; land and water use and pollution; biodiversity disruption; the generation of e-waste and rebound effects leading to increased resource use despite efficiency improvements;

b) the growing global recognition of circular economy and sustainability initiatives, which emphasize the integration of telecommunications/ICTs as an enabler of climate action and resource efficiency, and that the environmental impacts of telecommunications/ICTs can be reduced through the integration of circular economy principles to minimize waste and resource use;

c) the need to face the impacts and emergency derived from climate change through effective actions and the role that ITU can play in achieving sustainable use of telecommunications/ICTs, and in monitoring the telecommunication/ICT sector's climate impact and amount of e-waste being generated to support sustainable and inclusive digital transformation and development;

d) that developing countries¹ lack of preparedness poses a risk of significant negative impact, including, but not limited to, the repercussions of rising sea levels for many coastal areas in developing countries;

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

e) that increased digitalization worldwide will require more telecommunication/ICT infrastructure and devices, that the current rise in e-waste generation is outpacing formal recycling, and that some countries are not monitoring the amount of e-waste being generated and do not have e-waste policy, legislation or regulation in place;

f) that the role of ICTs in tackling the challenges of climate change encompasses a wide array of activities, including, but not limited to: the development of energy-efficient devices, applications and networks; the development of energy-efficient working methods; the implementation of satellite and ground-based remote-sensing platforms for environmental observation, including weather monitoring, as well as innovative undersea sensing technology, including scientific monitoring and reliable telecommunication (SMART) submarine telecommunication cables; and the use of ICTs to warn the public of dangerous weather events and provide communication support for governmental and non-governmental aid providers;

g) that telecommunication/ICT products contain critical raw materials which are finite, thus requiring particular attention by the telecommunication/ICT sector to boost the global recycling rate of these materials, and that caution must be exercised over the extraction procedures for these materials to ensure low environmental pollution levels;

h) the outcomes of ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) study groups on environment, climate change and circular economy topics and of other relevant ITU study groups;

i) that telecommunications/ICTs are essential for monitoring and managing the negative impact of climate change, as well as the potential of data and new and emerging telecommunication/ICT technologies to enhance climate adaptation and resource efficiency;

j) that cost-effective, safe and sustainable-by-design telecommunication/ICT solutions with improved carbon footprint are urgently required,

considering further

- a) the outcome document adopted by the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), entitled "The Future we want", reflecting the renewed commitment to advancing sustainable development and achieving environmental sustainability, and recognizing the important role of ICTs;
- b) the ongoing implementation and follow-up process of the Global Digital Compact, as part of the United Nations Secretary-General's *Our Common Agenda*, which aims to outline shared principles for an open, free, secure and sustainable digital future for all, and recognizes the centrality of digital cooperation and sustainable digital transformation in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),

noting

- a) that it is important to facilitate an environment in which ITU Member States, Sector Members and other stakeholders may cooperate to obtain and effectively use data and studies on disaster management and climate change to assist their transition to a circular economy;
- b) that there are a wide range of international forums, platforms and partnerships working towards tackling climate change issues and supporting transition to a circular economy that ITU should cooperate and collaborate with;
- c) ITU activities on climate change and environmental sustainability, such as Green Digital Action led by ITU, which advances climate action through digital innovation by driving industry commitments, and other relevant multistakeholder initiatives,

recognizing

- a) that rapid, deep and sustained reductions in GHG emissions from the global telecommunication/ICT sector, guided by ITU work, including ITU-T L-series Recommendations will help in limiting global warming;

- b) that other environmental impacts associated with the telecommunication/ICT sector must also be addressed, particularly the amount of raw material and natural resources, such as fossil fuel energy sources and minerals, required for the manufacture of devices and network equipment, as well as the amount of e-waste generated after disposal;
- c) the United Nations Joint Task Force to investigate the use of submarine telecommunication cables for ocean and climate monitoring and disaster warning (JTF SMART Cable Systems);
- d) that the information obtained from sensors in SMART cables can be used for climate-change monitoring (ocean circulation, heat content and sea-level rise), seismic monitoring (earth structure and related hazards) and near-to-far field tsunami and earthquake early warning, contributing to disaster risk reduction, among other things;
- e) the work of the Circular Electronics Partnership, of which ITU is a founding member, on a coordination platform for global organizations and businesses that are actively working on creating a circular electronics industry;
- f) that ITU and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research founded the Global E-waste Statistics Partnership, which produces the Global E-waste Monitor to monitor e-waste developments over time and help countries produce e-waste statistics;
- g) the unique vulnerabilities of small island developing states (SIDS) and the national initiatives that they are leading to address climate change, resilience and sustainability through integrated and forward-looking approaches, which require continued support,

resolves

- 1 to give priority and the necessary support to advancing ITU-D activities on climate change and circular economy-related issues, while ensuring appropriate coordination among the three ITU Sectors, to contribute to the wider global efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change;

2 to continue and further develop ITU-D activities on ICTs, environment, climate change and circular economy in order to contribute to the wider global efforts to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change;

3 to include, as a priority, assistance to developing countries in strengthening their human and institutional capacity to address climate change issues and environmental effects of telecommunications/ICTs, particularly in areas such as management of climate-related disasters, and the transition to a circular economy;

4 to increase awareness and promote information-sharing on the role of ICTs in enhancing environmental sustainability, in particular by promoting the use of more energy-efficient² devices and networks and more efficient working methods, as well as ICTs that can be used to replace or displace higher energy consuming technologies/uses;

5 to promote the development and application of renewable energy systems where appropriate, to support ICT operations and in particular continuity and resilience during disasters;

6 to promote circular economy principles in the design of telecommunications/ICTs, in particular by extending the lifespan of equipment, combating software obsolescence, encouraging the repair and refurbishment of devices, improving the recovery of material resources from related waste and applying environmentally sustainable-by-design approaches;

7 to set up e-learning programmes related to ICTs, the environment, climate change and the circular economy, including on relevant ITU recommendations, within available resources;

² With respect to efficiency, promotion of efficient use of materials used in ICT devices and network elements should also be a consideration in ITU-D activities.

8 to encourage the evaluation of the full range of environmental impacts of telecommunications/ICTs across their life cycle, from planning to disposal, to inform policy, innovation and sustainable design practices;

9 to encourage and support Member States, particularly the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and SIDS, in integrating telecommunications/ICTs into climate resilience strategies, policies and long-term sustainability planning, to address their specific challenges and capacity needs;

10 to strengthen knowledge-sharing platforms, including regional and triangular cooperation, to exchange experiences on ICTs, environment, climate change, and circular economy policies, particularly in developing countries,

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

1 to formulate a plan of action for the role of ITU-D in this regard, taking into account the role of the other two Sectors;

2 to ensure that the plan of action is implemented under the relevant objective of the ITU-D action plan dealing with ICTs, environment, climate change and circular economy, taking into account the needs of developing countries, and cooperating closely with the study groups of the other two Sectors and with ITU-D Study Group 2 in its work under the relevant study Questions;

3 to promote liaison with other relevant organizations in order to avoid duplication of work and optimize the use of resources;

4 to organize, in close collaboration with the Directors of the two other Bureaux and with other competent bodies, workshops, seminars and training courses in developing countries at the regional level for the purpose of raising awareness and identifying key issues;

5 to report annually to the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group on progress on the implementation of this resolution;

- 6 to ensure, within the available budget of the Union, in implementing the ITU-D action plan, that appropriate resources are allocated for telecommunication/ICT initiatives related to the environment, climate change and circular economy;
- 7 to support telecommunication/ICT projects related to the environment, climate change and circular economy, in particular for capacity building in the fields of data collection, monitoring, and policy and regulatory frameworks, especially in developing countries, taking into account their needs, and within available resources;
- 8 to support the development of reports on telecommunications/ICTs, related to the environment, climate change and circular economy, taking into consideration relevant studies in ITU-D study groups;
- 9 to assist affected countries with utilizing relevant applications for climate-related disaster preparedness, mitigation and response, and adaptation;
- 10 to support developing countries in reducing their e-waste generation by establishing and strengthening e-waste policy and regulation, and by building capacity in collecting e-waste data;
- 11 to develop and deliver dedicated capacity-building and training programmes on e-waste management and on circular economy, making use of existing toolkits and resources where available, and ensuring their dissemination and accessibility to developing countries, tailored to regional needs;
- 12 to encourage and support developing countries in formulating their respective national action plans to transition to a sustainable and circular economy in the telecommunication/ICT sector;
- 13 to assist developing countries in initiating projects that achieve the sustainable and smart management of water resources through the use of ICTs;

14 to assist developing countries in initiating projects on disaster prediction, detection, monitoring, response, relief and adaptation;

15 to support ITU study groups in examining the benefits of undersea sensing technologies and continue collaboration with relevant stakeholders to increase ITU members' awareness/knowledge of undersea sensing technologies and to exchange up-to-date information that allows the reuse and repair of telecommunication/ICT equipment for sustainable use of ICTs,

invites Member States, Sector Members and Associates

1 to continue to contribute actively to the ITU-D work programmes on the environment, climate change and circular economy, in order to deliver on the targets set out in their nationally determined contributions and the SDGs;

2 to promote the collection of standardized environmental data for the telecommunication/ICT sector and ensure their harmonization across domestic data systems for easier analysis;

3 to continue or initiate public and private programmes that include climate change and circular economy, giving due consideration to relevant ITU initiatives;

4 to take necessary measures to reduce the effects of climate change by developing and using more energy-efficient ICT devices, applications and networks, as well as monitoring the impact of the telecommunication/ICT sector on the environment and finite critical raw materials;

- 5 to continue supporting the work of the ITU Radiocommunication Sector in remote sensing (active and passive) for environmental observation³ in accordance with relevant resolutions adopted by radiocommunication assemblies and world radiocommunication conferences;
- 6 to incorporate environmental indicators, conditions and standards in their national ICT plans and to adopt national strategies aimed at mitigating the carbon footprint of ICTs;
- 7 to implement public awareness campaigns on e-waste disposal and recycling to improve consumer understanding of the environmental impact of telecommunications/ICTs;
- 8 to leverage ITU digital sustainability resources, including the e-waste and circular economy toolkits, greening-digital products, and relevant reports for national plans and policy implementation;
- 9 to continue developing and improving e-waste management and handling policies and regulations, including the management of hazards and the establishment of effective tracking, collection and disposal schemes, with close cooperation across public and private sectors;
- 10 to promote international and regional cooperation, particularly between developing countries, for sharing best practices, policies and solutions on ICT-enabled climate action, circular economy and e-waste management;

³ Environmental observation can be used to forecast weather and warn the public in the case of natural disasters and to gather information on dynamic environmental processes and systems.

11 to liaise with their relevant national entities responsible for environmental issues in order to support and contribute to the wider United Nations processes on climate change and the SDGs, by providing information and developing common proposals related to the role of telecommunications/ICTs in mitigating and adapting to the effects of climate change, so that they can be taken into consideration within UNFCCC and other relevant United Nations bodies.

RESOLUTION 67 (Rev. Baku, 2025)

Role of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector in child online protection

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Baku, 2025),

recognizing

- a) that children's rights is a relevant topic within the framework of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- b) the high Internet user growth rates, particularly among the young population across all Member States;
- c) the urgent need and global demand to protect children from exploitation and exposure to risks and harm in the digital environment (particularly online);
- d) that many young people will participate in youth programmes facilitated by the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) and will become active members in the development of coordination mechanisms with youth forums;
- e) that digital skills development, especially for children and their caregivers, is a key enabler of safe online behaviour, and that national authorities and partners are developing public policies and educational initiatives aimed at promoting online safety and digital skills,

recalling

- a) the memorandum of understanding between the secretariat of the Union and Child Helpline International;
- b) Resolution 1306 (C09, last amended C24) of the ITU Council, under which the Council Working Group on Child Online Protection (CWG-COP) had been set up and its mandate defined by ITU members in close collaboration with the secretariat of the Union;
- c) the outcomes of the work accomplished by CWG-COP and the Correspondence Group on child online protection established under Study Group 17 of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector;

d) Resolution 179 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on ITU's role in child online protection;

e) that the United Nations adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child (New York, 1989), bearing in mind that the need to extend particular care to the child had already been stated in the Geneva Declaration of the Rights of the Child of 1924 and in the Declaration of the Rights of the Child adopted by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on 20 November 1959 and further recognized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (in particular in Articles 23 and 24), in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (in particular in Article 10) and in the statutes and relevant instruments of specialized agencies and international organizations concerned with the welfare of children;

f) that, within the framework of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the States Parties committed themselves to protecting the children from all forms of exploitation and sexual abuse, and for that purpose, in particular, to taking all appropriate national, bilateral and multilateral measures to protect children from information and material that may be harmful to their well-being (Article 17) and to preventing: (a) the inducement or coercion of a child to engage in any unlawful sexual activity; (b) the exploitative use of children in prostitution or other unlawful sexual practices; and (c) the exploitative use of children in pornographic performances and materials (Article 34);

g) that the Convention on the Rights of the Child establishes for States Parties that children have the right to freedom of expression, which includes the freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas, especially those aimed at promoting their social, spiritual and moral well-being, as well as their physical and mental health;

h) that pursuant to Article 10 of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (New York, 2000) on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, the States Parties shall take all necessary steps to strengthen international cooperation by multilateral, regional and bilateral arrangements for the prevention, detection, investigation, prosecution and punishment of those responsible for acts involving the sale of children, child prostitution, child pornography and child sex tourism; and shall also promote international cooperation and coordination between their authorities, national and international non-governmental organizations and international organizations;

- i)* that United Nations Human Rights Council Resolution 20/8, adopted on 5 July 2012, states that "the same rights that people have offline must also be protected online";
- j)* that UNGA Resolution 75/176, adopted on 16 December 2020, on the right to privacy in the digital age, affirms that "the same rights that people have offline must also be protected online, including the right to privacy, with special regard given to the protection of children";
- k)* that the Committee on the Rights of the Child adopted General Comment No. 25 (2021), on children's rights in relation to the digital environment, which outlines how States Parties should implement the Convention on the Rights of the Child in relation to the digital environment;
- l)* that the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), in the Tunis Commitment of 2005 (§ 24), recognized the role of information and communication technologies (ICTs) in the protection of children and in enhancing the development of children, urging Member States to strengthen action to safeguard children from abuse and defend their rights in the context of ICTs;
- m)* that Resolution 45 (Rev. Baku, 2025) of this conference, on mechanisms for enhancing cooperation on cybersecurity, including countering and combating spam, recognizes the role of telecommunications/ICTs in the protection of children and in enhancing their development and that action to protect children from abuse and defend their rights in the context of telecommunications/ICTs should be strengthened, emphasizing that the best interests of the child are a key consideration;
- n)* that, during the 2012 WSIS Forum in Geneva, a meeting was organized with partners in the Child Online Protection (COP) initiative, which achieved an important outcome, namely the agreement to work closely with the Family Online Safety Institute and the Internet Watch Foundation in order to provide the necessary assistance to Member States;
- o)* Resolution 17 (Rev. Baku, 2025) of this conference, which invites nations to pursue regional initiatives;

p) the work under Question 3/2 of Study Group 2 of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D), on cybersecurity, which in previous periods included child online protection, as well as other relevant study Questions and activities in the ITU Sectors, and the activities of CWG-COP and other relevant groups,

taking into account

a) that there are risks that children are exposed to on the Internet, which have diversified and multiplied with the rapid development of information technology and telecommunication devices and online services and applications;

b) that the Internet is a major platform for many different types of educational, cultural and entertainment activities and plays a very important role in the provision of education for children, enriching the curriculum and helping to bridge language and other barriers between the children of all nations;

c) that children, while being among the most active users of telecommunications/ICTs, are often the least equipped to recognize and manage online risks, and therefore require specific protections and support mechanisms;

d) the increasingly widespread access to telecommunications/ICTs worldwide, in particular the Internet, and use thereof by children, at times without proper supervision;

e) the importance of empowering children in the use of telecommunications/ICTs, so that they can develop ICT knowledge and skills to make critical and safe use of the Internet, through digital literacy;

f) the need for children to use telecommunication/ICT tools, with emphasis on the importance of protecting them online;

g) the need to protect children's data when they are being collected and processed to produce statistics and indicators on child online protection;

h) the need to safeguard a child's privacy, including their personal data, when they are online, and the need to understand children's experiences, ensuring that the rights of the child and their interests are fully respected throughout this process;

- i)* the requirement for a multistakeholder approach, as envisaged by WSIS, in order to promote social responsibility in the telecommunication/ICT sector so as to effectively make use of the variety of tools available to build confidence and security in the use of telecommunications/ICTs, reducing the risks identified for children;
- j)* that, in order to address the issue of cybersecurity for children, it is critical that proactive measures be taken in order to protect children online at an international level;
- k)* the technical difficulties involved in establishing a single harmonized global child helpline number, and, given these challenges, the opportunity to provide complementary online help services;
- l)* that the number of children who possess or use devices such as mobile phones is constantly increasing;
- m)* that, as children begin to use telecommunication/ICT devices, they may be exposed to online risks;
- n)* that several countries have adopted restrictions for the use of mobile devices by children in school, when these technologies are not supporting learning activities;
- o)* that several countries are developing national policies that encourage safe use of online services and applications by children, and possible limitations on this use;
- p)* the need to continue working at both global and regional levels to find available technological solutions and tools aimed at protecting children online, such as age assurance systems informed by a risk-based approach, as well as to develop innovative applications to make it easier for children to communicate with child online protection helplines;
- q)* the activities undertaken by ITU in the area of child online protection at regional and international levels, including the development of guidelines and multimedia training courses for children, parents, carers, guardians and educators, and representatives of the private and public sectors;

r) the activities undertaken by many countries in recent years to enhance child online protection, including those related to the regional initiatives approved at world telecommunication development conferences (WTDCs),

resolves to instruct the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to continue and strengthen the activities in the area of child online protection, including supporting activities of the COP initiative with the relevant ITU study group Questions, with a view to providing guidance to Member States on frameworks, strategies, implementation of approaches, best practices, capacity building, and cooperative efforts that can be promoted for the benefit of children;

2 to support the coordination of ITU-D study group work with CWG-COP, including through the mutual provision of information on the results of their meetings in the liaison statement format, so as to work to avoid duplication of efforts and maximize impact related to child online protection;

3 to encourage Member States, Sector Members and Academia to submit best practices and lessons learned on issues of child online protection to CWG-COP as well as relevant ITU-D study group meetings;

4 to support the coordination of the COP initiative with other similar initiatives being undertaken at the national, regional and international levels in order to build partnerships to maximize efforts in this important area, work to avoid duplication, and ensure that available resources are used widely and efficiently for the greatest possible impact;

5 to continue to assist Member States, in particular developing countries¹, in developing their national child online protection strategies, public policies and associated capacity-development programmes, as well as implementing frameworks, approaches and best practices to enhance and promote child online protection, in collaboration with stakeholders;

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

- 6 to promote capacity building, including the dissemination of methodological frameworks for the collection of statistics on child online protection with the purpose of maximizing global data comparison among countries and capacity development;
- 7 to support regional coordination in addressing the issue of child online protection, such as through the development and dissemination of guiding principles, in cooperation with ITU regional offices and relevant entities, including Member States;
- 8 to investigate suitable mechanisms for encouraging developing countries to participate in the work of CWG-COP, including through awareness-raising and the provision of technical or capacity-building support, as appropriate;
- 9 to encourage Member States to develop national educational campaigns, in partnership with all relevant stakeholders, aimed at promoting digital skills, critical thinking and safety online among children, their families, caregivers and educators, with a view to addressing online risks;
- 10 to coordinate with the ITU regional offices on the submission of quarterly reports to CWG-COP and on ways of advancing child online protection efforts at the regional level;
- 11 to promote the use of data and evidence to guide the design and evaluation of national child online protection strategies, including support for the development of indicators and surveys;
- 12 to collect and share information on experiences, indicators and research about restricting the use of mobile devices by children in school, as well as information regarding the possible limitations, and safe use, of online services and applications by children;
- 13 to support the work of CWG-COP by organizing orientation sessions for experts in connection with meetings of the group;
- 14 to continue to mobilize resources to develop, update, foster localization of, and widely disseminate child online protection materials developed by ITU-D, tailored to different groups and stakeholders, as applicable, and translated into all ITU official languages, through the ITU website and ITU regional offices, within the limits of available financial resources;

15 to promote and support regional initiatives and partnerships with international organizations, the private sector and other relevant stakeholders aimed at strengthening national and regional capacities for child online protection, including through awareness-raising, digital skills programmes, policy development, and the deployment of telecommunication/ICT services and technologies;

16 to submit a report on the results of implementation of this resolution to the next WTDC,

invites Member States and Sector Members

1 to participate actively in all relevant ITU activities, including, *inter alia*, CWG-COP, relevant ITU-D study groups, and related programmes within ITU-D, for the purposes of comprehensive discussion and exchange of information on legal, technical, organizational and procedural issues, taking into consideration measures to ensure the protection of data, including personally identifiable information related to telecommunication/ICT services and technologies, as well as capacity building and international cooperation for protecting children online;

2 to facilitate the availability of child online protection resources, bearing in mind national contexts, in order to educate children, parents, carers, guardians, educators, industry and other relevant stakeholders;

3 to enable and encourage the active participation of youth and child rights organizations in the development of policies and programmes related to online safety,

invites Member States

1 to consider establishing national child online protection policies and strategies;

2 to design guidelines and strategies that promote the safe use of telecommunication/ICT services and technologies in schools, prioritizing their application for learning;

3 to implement the above-mentioned actions in collaboration with other stakeholders, such as the private sector, academia and non-governmental organizations, so as to improve the effectiveness of child online protection;

- 4 to work closely with all stakeholders to promote the allocation of national and regional telephone numbers for child online protection;
- 5 to consider working closely with all stakeholders to promote the use of digital support services and contact mechanisms dedicated to child online protection and reporting of online abuse;
- 6 to support the collection and analysis of data to obtain statistics and indicators on child online protection that will contribute to public policy design and implementation, enabling cross-country and regional comparisons;
- 7 to develop different regulatory approaches in cooperation with the private sector, academia and non-governmental organizations;
- 8 to make use of and facilitate the dissemination of training courses, guidance and other materials on child online protection, as well as youth-led initiatives that have been developed through BDT processes, among interested parties and training establishments;
- 9 to consider views and inputs from children and young people, in accordance with national legislation, when developing child online protection strategies,

invites Sector Members

- 1 to incorporate processes and to develop solutions and practical tools to help protect children by making it easier for them to communicate with child online protection helplines;
- 2 to design and develop their services with innovative solutions and practical tools in order to mitigate any risks that they pose to children;
- 3 to take into account their role in child online protection;
- 4 to continue activities in the area of child online protection that foster digital skills development and the empowerment of children to safely use telecommunication/ICT services and technologies;

- 5 to keep Member States informed of new and emerging telecommunication/ICT services and tools for protecting children online, taking into account best practices from industry and other interested stakeholders;
- 6 to share best practices and research findings with ITU and other stakeholders to facilitate coordinated, evidence-based action on child online protection;
- 7 to continue developing transparent child online protection measures in telecommunication/ICT services and technologies aimed at ensuring a safe, open and accessible digital environment for children.

RESOLUTION 69 (Rev. Baku, 2025)

Facilitating the creation and enhancement of national computer incident response teams, particularly for developing countries, and cooperation among them

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Baku, 2025),

recalling

- a) Resolutions 101, 102 and 130 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, which stress the need for collaboration;
- b) Resolution 58 (Rev. New Delhi, 2024) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA), on encouraging the creation and enhancement of national computer incident response teams (CIRTs), particularly for developing countries¹;
- c) Resolution 50 (Rev. New Delhi, 2024) of WTSA, on cybersecurity;
- d) Resolution 214 (Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on artificial intelligence (AI) technologies and telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICTs), which establishes the scope through which the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) can support the work of ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) in addressing the challenges and opportunities that AI gives rise to as a new and emerging technology, as it applies to national CIRTs in responding to cybersecurity incidents,

recognizing

- a) the increasing level of computer use and computer dependency in ICTs in developing countries;

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

- b)* the exposure of developing countries to cybersecurity threats and attacks targeting ICT networks, and that they could be better prepared for such cybersecurity incidents and for the increasing level of fraudulent activities by these means;
- c)* the need to improve cooperation and capacity to respond to cybersecurity challenges;
- d)* the results of work carried out to date under study Question 3/2 by ITU-D Study Group 2 and its reports on this subject, which include support for the creation and coordination of CIRTs and establishing public-private partnerships;
- e)* the work carried out to date by BDT, to bring together Member States and other stakeholders to assist countries in building national incident management capabilities, such as CIRTs;
- f)* the importance of having an appropriate level of cybersecurity emergency preparedness in all countries, particularly developing countries, by establishing CIRTs on a national basis, and the importance of coordination within and among the regions and of taking advantage of regional and international initiatives in this regard, including ITU cooperation with regional and global projects and organizations, such as the Forum of Incident Response and Security Teams (FIRST), the Organization of American States and the Asia-Pacific Computer Emergency Response Team, among others;
- g)* that emerging telecommunications/ICTs are being applied as part of technical measures against cybersecurity attacks and threats;
- h)* the relevant work of Study Group 17 of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T), including cybersecurity information-sharing techniques;
- i)* that countries may benefit from coordination between national sectoral CIRTs, where present, to enhance incident management during major cybersecurity incidents with domestic cross-sectoral impact;
- j)* the outcomes of ITU-D efforts on national CIRT assessment, design, establishment, enhancement and collaboration,

noting

- a) that there is an improved, but still low, level of cybersecurity emergency preparedness within developing countries;
- b) that the high level of interconnectivity of telecommunication/ICT networks could be affected by cybersecurity attacks and threats from networks of less-prepared nations, which are mostly developing countries;
- c) countries may face significant new challenges and opportunities in responding to cybersecurity incidents, as new and emerging telecommunication/ICTs services and technologies continue to develop;
- d) *considering i)* of Resolution 130 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022), which states that, in order to protect these infrastructures and address these challenges and threats, coordinated national, regional and international action is required for prevention, preparation, response and recovery from computer security incidents, on the part of government authorities, at the national (including the creation of CIRTs) and sub-national levels, the private sector and citizens and users, in addition to international and regional cooperation and coordination, and that ITU has a lead role to play within its mandate and competencies in this field;
- e) that the establishment and enhancement of CIRTs requires ongoing and appropriate resourcing in order to be successful and sustainable;
- f) the work of ITU-T Study Group 17 in the area of national CIRTs, particularly for developing countries, and cooperation between them, as contained in the outputs of that study group;
- g) the need for the establishment of CIRTs on a national basis, as appropriate, including CIRTs responsible for government-to-government cooperation, and the importance of coordination among all relevant organizations;
- h) the ITU Global Cybersecurity Agenda (GCA) and the guidelines for utilization of the GCA as approved by the ITU Council;

- i) the increasing use of new and emerging telecommunications/ICTs in all aspects of life, including digitalization of government services, which need to be highly protected;
- j) that CIRTs can help address the urgent need to enhance security and build confidence and trust in the use of ICTs,

resolves

- 1 to facilitate the creation and enhancement of national CIRTs in Member States where support is requested, as appropriate, within existing budgetary resources;
- 2 to encourage ITU-D to continue its work on national CIRT assessment, design, establishment, enhancement and collaboration,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

- 1 to promote national, regional and international best practices for establishing and enhancing CIRTs and information sharing and analysis centres (ISACs), as identified to date by the relevant ITU study groups, such as ITU-D Study Group 2 under Question 3/2 and ITU-T Study Group 17, and by other relevant organizations and experts;
- 2 to provide national CIRTs with capacity development, particularly in areas of new and emerging telecommunication/ICT services and technologies, through the ITU regional and area offices, including support for continuous maturity assessments, taking into account the financial resources;
- 3 to support national CIRTs, particularly those in developing countries, by sharing guidance and best practices related to the challenges and opportunities of responding to cybersecurity incidents arising from new and emerging telecommunication/ICT services and technologies;
- 4 to support national CIRTs in enhancing information sharing and collaboration, and in sharing best practices for cybersecurity incident response, aiming to elevate the level of cybersecurity emergency preparedness, particularly in developing countries globally;
- 5 to promote the related operating frameworks of CIRTs in Member States where CIRTs are established, if applicable;

6 to continue to mobilize resources to promote the training programmes necessary in this field, including tiered learning pathways (introductory, intermediate and advanced) to enable progressive capacity building, and continuing to provide support as appropriate to those developing countries that so wish;

7 to promote best practices in establishing a national structure that can coordinate between national sectoral CIRTs, where present, and enhance incident management during significant cybersecurity incidents with domestic cross-sectoral impact;

8 to continue promoting collaboration between and among national CIRTs, including CIRTs responsible for government-to-government cooperation, industry CIRTs and academia CIRTs, in accordance with national legislation, at the regional and global level, by encouraging the participation of developing countries in regional and global projects and in the work of relevant organizations such as FIRST, and regional organizations, among others;

9 to work to achieve these goals while avoiding duplication of effort with other organizations;

10 to continue to develop programmes on awareness-raising campaigns on the importance of creation and enhancement of CIRTs to elevate the level of cybersecurity posture;

11 to continue enhancing existing toolkits which developing countries may utilize to conduct incident response table-top exercises or drills,

invites Member States

1 to establish national CIRTs, including CIRTs responsible for government-to-government cooperation, where needed or currently lacking, as appropriate;

2 to enhance the maturity, capability and resilience of established national CIRTs to address evolving cybersecurity threats effectively;

3 to contribute to the development of an informational resource platform, based on the provisions of Council Decision 630 (C23), that includes and maintains a repository of best practices for creating and operating national CIRTs;

- 4 to collaborate closely with ITU-D, ITU-T and other relevant organizations, taking into consideration Resolution 58 (Rev. New Delhi, 2024) in this regard, as appropriate;
- 5 to promote and facilitate the exchange of best practices among their national CIRTs, including participation in relevant CIRT initiatives, such as FIRST;
- 6 to encourage the use of new and emerging telecommunications/ICTs to enhance technical capabilities of CIRTs;
- 7 to consider, where appropriate, establishing a national structure for coordination between national sectoral CIRTs, where present, in order to enhance incident management during major cybersecurity incidents with domestic cross-sectoral impact;
- 8 to encourage, on a voluntary basis, sharing of information on cybersecurity vulnerabilities and threats among Member States, including through existing information-sharing platforms;
- 9 to raise their needs with the ITU regional and area offices,

invites Sector Members, Associates and Academia, as appropriate

- 1 to contribute to the creation and enhancement of national CIRTs, particularly for developing countries;
- 2 to support capacity-building initiatives on new and emerging telecommunication/ICT services and technologies by national CIRTs, particularly for developing countries;
- 3 to contribute to discussions, information sharing, capacity building and studies on the challenges and opportunities faced by national CIRTs in responding to cybersecurity incidents as AI technologies continue to develop and be used in telecommunications/ICTs to enhance their efficiency and capabilities.

RESOLUTION 71 (Rev. Kigali, 2022)

Strengthening cooperation between Member States, Sector Members, Associates and Academia of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector and the evolving role of the private sector in the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Kigali, 2022),

recalling

- a) No. 126 of the ITU Constitution, which encourages participation by industry in telecommunication development in developing countries¹;
- b) Article 19 of the ITU Convention, on the participation of Sector Members in the Union's activities;
- c) Resolution 169 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the admission of academia to participate in the work of the Union;
- d) Resolution 209 (Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on encouraging the participation of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the work of the Union;
- e) Resolution 205 (Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on ITU's role in fostering telecommunication/information and communication technology (ICT)-centric innovation to support the digital economy and society,

considering

- a) the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) provisions of the strategic plan for the Union relating to the promotion of partnership arrangements between the public and private sectors in developed countries;

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

- b) the importance placed, in the outcome documents of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), including the Geneva Plan of Action and the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, on private-sector participation in meeting the objectives of WSIS, including public-private partnerships;
- c) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 8 and 9 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, on promoting sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth;
- d) that Sector Members, Associates and Academia, in addition to their financial contributions to the three Sectors of ITU, also provide professional expertise and support to the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) and, conversely, can benefit from participation in ITU-D activities,

considering also

- a) that it is in the interest of ITU to achieve its development objectives, increase the number of Sector Members, Associates, which include SMEs, and Academia and promote their participation in the activities of ITU-D;
- b) that partnerships between and among the public and private sectors, including ITU and other entities such as national, regional, international and intergovernmental organizations, as appropriate, continue to be key to promoting sustainable telecommunication/ICT development and maximizing resources for, and the benefits of, development projects and initiatives,

recognizing

- a) that telecommunications/ICTs are of critical importance to overall economic, social and cultural development;
- b) the rapidly changing environment and rate of development in telecommunications/ICTs and in industry groups dealing with telecommunications/ICTs;
- c) the important contribution that Sector Members, Associates and Academia make towards the increased provision of telecommunications/ICTs in all countries;
- d) the progress achieved, through BDT special initiatives such as partnership meetings and colloquiums, in strengthening cooperation with the private sector and increased support at the global, regional and national levels;

e) the continued need to ensure increased participation of Sector Members, Associates and Academia,

recognizing also

a) that Nos. 241A, 248B and 483A of the Convention describe the principles governing the participation of Associates;

b) that entities or organizations, in particular those with highly focused areas of activity, may be interested only in a small part of the development work of ITU-D and, therefore, do not intend to apply for membership in the Sector, but would be willing to join in the activity of a given study group of the Sector if simpler conditions existed;

c) that Associates in their activities in study groups and its subordinate groups (such as rapporteur groups) are limited to participation in the process of preparing Recommendations within a single study group, including the roles of participating in meetings, submitting contributions and providing comments before the adoption of a Recommendation, and excluded from any other roles;

d) that Associates shall have access to documentation required for their work,

noting

a) the important role played by Sector Members, Associates and Academia in suggesting and implementing ITU-D activities such as initiatives, projects and programmes;

b) that a large number of ITU-D activities are of interest to Sector Members, Associates and Academia;

c) the importance of the principles of transparency and non-exclusivity for partnership opportunities and projects;

d) the need to facilitate exchange of views and information between Member States, Sector Members, Associates and Academia at the highest possible level;

e) that dissemination of the work of the Sector to SMEs can build capacity, transfer telecommunications/ICTs and critical best practices, and serve as a factor in fostering national economic development,

noting further

a) that the role of the private sector is increasing in all countries;

b) that economic development relies, among others, on the resources and capacity of ITU-D Sector Members;

c) that ITU-D Sector Members can provide ongoing support and expertise to facilitate the work of ITU-D;

d) that ITU-D Associates and Academia are engaged in the work accomplished within ITU-D and can provide scientific and knowledge background to support the work of ITU-D;

e) that an essential part of the work within the ITU Sectors, and in particular in the development of telecommunications/ICTs, is done by representatives of industry;

f) that ITU-D Sector Members, Associates and Academia have a key role in addressing ways by which private-sector issues can be incorporated into ITU-D strategy development, programme design and project delivery, with the overall goal of increasing mutual responsiveness to the requirements of telecommunication/ICT development;

g) that ITU-D Sector Members, Associates and Academia could also advise on ways and means of enhancing partnerships with the private sector and of reaching out to the private sector of developing countries and the many companies that are not knowledgeable of ITU-D activities;

h) the excellent results achieved through the high-level discussions that took place between Member States and Sector Members during the Chief Regulatory Officers' (CRO) meetings and the Industry Leaders Debate (ILD),

resolves

- 1 that the ITU-D operational plans should continue to respond to issues relevant to Sector Members, Associates and Academia by strengthening the communication channels between BDT, Member States and ITU-D Sector Members, Associates and Academia at the global, regional and national levels;
- 2 that ITU-D, and the ITU regional and area offices in particular, should employ the necessary means to liaise with the private sector and to encourage its representatives to take a more active part through partnerships with telecommunication/ICT entities in developing countries, and especially with those in the least developed countries, in order to help bridge the digital divide;
- 3 that ITU-D should take into account the interests and requirements of its Sector Members, Associates and Academia in its programmes so as to enable them to participate effectively in achieving the objectives of the Kigali Action Plan, the objectives set forth in the Geneva Plan of Action and the Tunis Agenda, and the targets of the SDGs;
- 4 that a permanent agenda item dedicated to private-sector issues will continue to be included in the plenary agenda of the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG);
- 5 that the Director of BDT, when implementing the ITU-D operational plan, should consider the following actions:
 - i) to improve regional cooperation between Member States, Sector Members, Associates and Academia and other relevant entities, through the continuation of regional meetings addressing issues of common interest, in particular for Sector Members, Associates and Academia;
 - ii) to facilitate the development of public-private sector partnerships for the implementation of global, regional and national flagship initiatives;
 - iii) to promote through its various programmes an enabling environment for investment in telecommunication/ICT development;

- iv) to provide support to regional and area offices so that they have tools within budgetary resources available to encourage representatives of the private sector and universities not previously involved in the Union's activities to participate in regional and global ITU events and projects, in order to demonstrate the advantages of ITU membership and attract investment in the implementation of ITU projects of great importance to Member States,

resolves further

that appropriate steps should continue to be taken for the creation of an enabling environment at the international, regional and national levels to encourage development and investment in the telecommunication/ICT sector by Sector Members,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

- 1 to continue working closely with ITU-D Sector Members, Associates and Academia for their participation in successful implementation of the Kigali Action Plan;
- 2 to continue encouraging the participation of ITU-D Sector Members, Associates and Academia in relevant ITU-D activities;
- 3 to address, as appropriate, in the ITU-D activities, issues of interest to Sector Members, Associates and Academia;
- 4 to facilitate communications between Member States and Sector Members on issues which contribute to an enabling environment for investment, particularly in developing countries, and in particular to further deploy and strengthen the ITU-D Sector Members, Associates and Academia website in order to help exchange and disseminate information for all ITU members;
- 5 to facilitate participation of ITU Sector Members, in their own capacity, at all ITU-D meetings in which they are involved, including those at regional level, as appropriate;

6 to continue to organize meetings for high-level industry executives, for example the Industry Advisory Group for Development Issues (IAGDI), possibly back-to-back with the Global Symposium for Regulators and other major ITU events, in order to foster exchange of information and assist in identifying and coordinating development priorities and in identifying regulatory barriers;

7 to further deploy and strengthen the ITU-D Sector Members, Associates and Academia portal in order to help exchange and disseminate information for all ITU members, bring the needs of developing countries to the high-level industry meetings by consulting them prior to the meetings, and encourage the participation of local industry representatives;

8 to develop a comprehensive strategy for raising the motivation of representatives of the private sector, including academia, to join ITU, as well as a strategy for more active involvement of current Sector Members, Associates and Academia in the Union's activities, including participation in the work of ITU-D study groups;

9 to encourage participation in IAGDI of a wide representation of industry from the ITU-D Sector Members from all regions;

10 to develop effective mechanisms to organize participation by industry representatives in the meetings (for example, by having a stable composition for IAGDI and regular participation in the group by a member or alternate);

11 to take the results of IAGDI into account in ITU-D work, especially under the dedicated agenda item in TDAG and within the ITU-D study groups, as appropriate;

12 to produce a regular report to TDAG on the follow-up of the CRO meeting conclusions;

13 to produce a report to the next world telecommunication development conference, assessing the outcomes of the CRO group over the period and examining the need to continue or enhance its activities,

encourages Member States, Sector Members, Associates and Academia of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector

- 1 subject to the relevant provisions of the Constitution and the Convention, to participate together and actively in the work of TDAG, to submit contributions, in particular regarding private-sector issues to be discussed, and to provide relevant guidance for the Director of BDT;
- 2 to participate actively at the appropriate level in all activities of ITU-D;
- 3 to identify means of enhancing cooperation and arrangements between the private and public sectors in all countries, working closely with BDT;
- 4 to participate actively towards attainment of the SDGs and to contribute to ITU-D activities through the sharing of their experience and expertise,
- 5 to participate at the level of their executives in the IAGDI meetings, and to raise proposals in regard to their priorities and specific needs of developing countries.

RESOLUTION 73 (Rev. Baku, 2025)

ITU Academy training centres

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Baku, 2025),

recalling

- a) Resolution 139 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on use of telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICTs) to bridge the digital divide and build an inclusive information society;
- b) Resolution 123 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on bridging the standardization gap between developing¹ and developed countries;
- c) the terms of the Baku Declaration;
- d) Resolution 15 (Rev. Kigali, 2022) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference, on applied research and transfer of technology;
- e) Resolution 37 (Rev. Baku, 2025) of this conference, on bridging the digital divide;
- f) Resolution 40 (Rev. Baku, 2025) of this conference, on the group on capacity-building initiatives (GCBI);
- g) Resolution 47 (Rev. Baku, 2025) of this conference, on enhancement of knowledge and effective application of ITU Recommendations in developing countries, including conformance and interoperability testing of systems manufactured on the basis of ITU Recommendations;
- h) Resolution 70/125 of the United Nations General Assembly, on the outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society,

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

considering

- a) that ITU centres of excellence (CoEs) operated between 2001 and 2022 in multiple languages, including English, Arabic, Chinese, Spanish, French, Russian and Portuguese, across various regions of the world;
- b) that specialists in the field of telecommunications/ICTs hold great potential for development of the sector;
- c) that there is a need for continuous upgrading of the qualifications of all stakeholders, in particular telecommunication/ICT specialists;
- d) that key ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) projects related to the training of telecommunication/ICT personnel, including the work of the CoEs and the ITU Academy training centres (ATCs), have contributed significantly to enhancing capacity;
- e) that the launch of the ITU ATC programme as a strategic evolution and rebranding of the CoEs followed the comprehensive strategic review conducted during the 2019–2022 cycle;
- f) that ATCs are to maintain financial self-sustainability while expanding their impact,

recognizing

- a) that telecommunication/ICT staff training and capacity building and development, taking into account gender equality, youth and persons with disabilities, as well as the population as a whole, should be constantly developed and improved;
- b) that, under the ITU Academy, ATCs play an essential role in the ITU capacity-building and development framework;
- c) that partnerships and cooperation between ATCs and other relevant stakeholders are fundamental to effective training of specialists;
- d) the sovereign right of each State to formulate policies regarding licensing of capacity-building and development services;

e) the need to attract, first and foremost, qualified experts from academia to the work of ATCs;

f) that human capacity-building activities are conducted in both ATCs and ITU regional and area offices, under the ITU-D operational plan,

resolves

1 that this ITU capacity-building and development activity should be continued and executed in accordance with this resolution, while cognizant of the results of the major strategic review;

2 that the themes of the ITU ATC programme be agreed by the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG), reflecting priorities identified through global and regional needs assessments and constituting a high priority for the ITU members, in particular the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries, and other stakeholders, through consultations with regional telecommunication organizations (RTOs) and the ITU regional offices and in alignment with the strategic plan for the Union and the ITU-D action plan;

3 when setting priorities for the work of ATCs, to proceed from the current needs of the region, which are to be identified based on needs assessment using, *inter alia*, the ITU-D action plan and regional initiatives, regional organizations or associations in the telecommunication/ICT sector, as well as through consultations with ITU members;

4 that human capacity-building and development efforts should focus on ATCs, with their activities integrated into ITU-D operational plans;

5 that a biennial assessment of the activities of ATCs shall be conducted and reported to TDAG for the latter's evaluation and recommendations, and application by the Telecommunication Development Bureau;

6 that in establishing new ATCs, ITU shall take into consideration regional balance and also the capacity needs or challenges of each region;

7 that ITU and ATCs actively engage in seeking programme partners, in order to engage additional sources of support and expertise, including sponsorship for courses and students in order to extend the programme's reach to those who would otherwise be unable to attend, while maintaining the highest quality of training;

8 that the quality of training provided by ATCs continue to be improved so as to contribute further to capacity development among the ITU membership;

9 that ATCs, within available resources, encourage the availability and provision of training materials and courses in all six official languages of the Union, in order to promote inclusiveness, facilitate broader participation and enhance learning outcomes, prioritizing the languages used by target audiences;

10 that ATCs actively encourage collaboration with and support for other academies within ITU member authorities and commissions, by sharing expertise, resources and best practices and by developing joint training programmes to strengthen capacity-building efforts across all ITU member entities,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to support the work of ATCs, providing the necessary priority attention and the required organizational and technical assistance;

2 to facilitate the implementation of the results of the strategic review, in coordination with RTOs and according to ATC operational practices, while updating relevant operational documents;

3 to incorporate activities conducted by ATCs into ITU-D operational plans, in alignment with the regional initiatives;

4 to make the necessary organizational arrangements for the formulation of guidelines for ITU human capacity-building and development activities;

5 to establish, in collaboration with ITU regional and area offices, a database of experts and participants involved in ITU ATC programme activities to promote expert exchanges;

6 to establish mechanisms for ATCs to have contact with designated focal points in regional and area offices, ensuring that emerging demands and priorities in each region are rapidly communicated and addressed;

7 to keep TDAG, the relevant ITU-D study group and GCBI informed of the implementation of the ITU ATC programme, including the ATC selection procedures, and to take into account any relevant discussions and suggestions that may arise during meetings of TDAG, the relevant ITU-D study group and GCBI,

calls upon Member States, Sector Members and Academia of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector

1 to promote, participate actively in, and make the best use of, the ITU ATC programme, including through the provision of recognized experts, training materials, promotion of training courses and also financial support;

2 to adopt strategies that encourage ITU member entities involved in telecommunications/ICTs to use ATCs as preferred training providers.

RESOLUTION 75 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017)

Implementation of the Smart Africa Manifesto and support for the development of information and communication technologies sector in Africa

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Buenos Aires, 2017),

considering

- a) the provisions of the ITU Constitution, as contained in Chapter IV thereof on the Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D), particularly with regard, *inter alia*, to the functions of the Sector for building awareness of the impact of telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICTs) on national economic and social development, its catalytic role in promoting the development, expansion and operation of telecommunication services and networks, especially in developing countries¹, and the need to maintain and enhance cooperation with regional and other telecommunication organizations;
- b) that, at its 22nd ordinary session, it was decided that the African Union Assembly "ENDORSES the key outcomes of the Transform Africa Summit hosted by H.E. Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda in October 2013 which adopted the SMART Africa Manifesto highlighting the need to place ICT at the centre of national socio-economic development agenda and SMART Africa Alliance as implementation framework";
- c) Resolution 30 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on special measures for the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition;
- d) the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2015-2020 adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in September 2015;
- e) the outcome of the Geneva (2003) and Tunis (2005) phases of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) as well as the WSIS+10 Statement and WSIS+10 vision beyond 2015,

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

noting

that, in its Declaration and resolutions, the World Telecommunication Development Conference (Doha, 2006) reaffirmed a commitment to enhancing expansion and development of telecommunication services in developing countries and harnessing capacity for the application of new and innovative services,

taking note of

a) the recognition by the United Nations General Assembly in its Resolution 56/37 of the adoption by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its 37th ordinary session (Lusaka, July 2001) of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD);

b) the actions for NEPAD set out in annex hereto;

c) the declaration by the Economic and Social Council on the role of the United Nations system in supporting the efforts of African countries to achieve sustainable development,

taking cognizance of

a) the work under way to implement the African Regional Action Plan for the Knowledge Economy (ARAPKE);

b) the request, formulated in the Addis Ababa Declaration adopted by the Heads of State and Government during the 14th Conference of the African Union, that an African digital agenda be set;

c) the appeal made by the conference referred to in *b)* above to development partners, especially financing institutions, to integrate telecommunications/ICTs into their priorities by granting them financing conditions similar to those of other basic public utility infrastructures;

d) the African Union's Agenda 2063 and NEPAD;

e) the decisions taken by the Connect Africa summit held in Kigali in October 2007,

recognizing

that, in spite of the impressive growth and expansion in infocommunication services recorded in the African region in recent years, many areas of major concern still exist and considerable disparities persist in the region, and the digital divide continues to widen,

recalling

the Connect Africa summit goals adopted by African Heads of State present on 29-30 October 2007, which reflect the challenges and opportunities in the Africa region,

resolves to instruct the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to mobilize the resources needed to implement this resolution, which complements the resolutions resulting from the 14th Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, held in Addis Ababa in February 2010, on the theme "Information and communication technologies in Africa: challenges and prospects for development";

2 to pay particular attention to implementation of the provisions of the ITU-D action plan relating to the recommendations of the report "Partnership framework for ICT infrastructure development in Africa", earmarking resources so that this can be permanently monitored;

3 to continue supporting the Smart Africa Manifesto in accordance with Resolution 195 (Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, and to provide technical expertise to carry out feasibility studies and project management for the implementation of the Smart Africa Manifesto,

instructs the Secretary-General

1 to engage the different United Nations agencies to support various components of the Smart Africa programmes, in areas within their scope and mandate;

2 to mobilize financial support from the existing networks, including broadcasters, satellite providers, etc.,

invites Member States

- 1 to cooperate with African countries in promoting regional, subregional, multilateral and bilateral projects and programmes for the implementation of the Smart Africa Manifesto;
- 2 to transmit this resolution to the Plenipotentiary Conference (Dubai, 2018) for consideration and in order to make available the financial resources required to implement it.

ANNEX TO RESOLUTION 75 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017)

Recommendations of the report "Partnership framework for ICT infrastructure development in Africa"

1 Infrastructure

- i) Support to the Ministerial Committee of the African Union for the establishment of the Inter-Agency Coordinating Forum
- ii) Preparation of master plans for ICT infrastructure development (PIDA)
- iii) Facilitation of the introduction of digital technologies, especially for broadcasting
- iv) Support for all projects which promote ICT development and subregional and regional integration, for example, the East African Submarine Cable project (EASSy), the NEPAD e-school initiative, the telecommunication/ICT component of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA), RASCOM, e-Post Africa, COMTEL, SRIL, INTELCOM II, the ARAPKE projects, etc.
- v) Establishment and interconnection of national Internet exchange points
- vi) Evaluation of the impact and adoption of measures for strengthening functional capacities and the new missions of subregional maintenance centres
- vii) Encourage the establishment of technological alliances in order to promote research and development at a regional level

2 Environment

Development and implementation of:

- i) an Africa-wide vision, strategy and action plan for ICT
- ii) a national vision and strategies for the development of ICT with maximum linkage to other national development strategies, notably the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP)

- iii) elaboration of a national policy framework and strategy for universal access
- iv) provision of support for the harmonization of policy and regulatory frameworks at the subregional level

3 Capacity building, cooperation and partnerships

- i) Support for the elaboration of the planning and management of the frequency spectrum at national, subregional and regional levels
- ii) Support the strengthening of ICT training institutions and the network of centres of excellence in the region
- iii) Establishment of a cooperation mechanism amongst regional institutions that provide development assistance to African countries in the ICT sector
- iv) Regional or multi-national approach to provision of support
- v) Establishment of an ad hoc regional ICT think tank for Africa
- vi) Strengthening of subregional telecommunication regulatory associations
- vii) Strengthening of public-private partnership
- viii) Establishment of an African ICT database
- ix) Strengthening the capacities of regional economic communities for better implementation of the ICT projects and initiatives.

RESOLUTION 76 (Rev. Baku, 2025)

Promoting information and communication technologies among young women and men for social and economic empowerment

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Baku, 2025),

noting

- a)* Resolution 70 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, which calls for promoting and increasing the interest of, and opportunities for, women and girls in information and communication technology (ICT) careers during elementary, secondary and higher education so as to encourage girls to choose a career in the field of ICT and foster the use of ICTs for the social and economic empowerment of women and girls;
- b)* Resolution 198 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, which calls for empowerment of young women and men through telecommunications/ICT;
- c)* the BYND 2015 Global Youth Summit, held in Costa Rica in September 2013 led by ITU, which brought together some 700 participants and over 3 000 young people around the world who logged in virtually to contribute their ideas to shape the sustainable development agenda in the post-2015 era;
- d)* that the world's young women and men have set priorities for the post-2015 development agenda in their "Costa Rica Declaration", as an outcome of the BYND 2015 Global Youth Summit, which have been presented for consideration to the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) at its 68th session;
- e)* the fact that the United Nations Secretary-General has put "listen to and work with youth" as one of the 12 commitments in his report entitled "Our Common Agenda" towards the acceleration of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
- f)* that the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) advances national, regional and international events that promote ICTs that can be used by young women and men for social and economic empowerment, such as Global Youth Summits;

g) UNGA Resolution 70/1, on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular SDG 8 on promoting sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all, including the development and implementation of a global strategy for youth employment,

recognizing

a) that young women and men are digital natives, the best promoters of ICTs and a world force for progress;

b) that, in 2020, 71 per cent of the world's youth (aged between 15 and 24 years) were using the Internet, compared with 57 per cent of the other age groups and that, on the global scale, young people are therefore more likely to connect than the rest of the population, despite the numerous barriers to connectivity across the world¹;

c) that some young women and men had their education disrupted during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic;

d) that the ITU Youth Strategy, in line with the United Nations Youth Strategy: Youth 2030, on working with and for young women and men, promotes youth engagement in digital development and has supported the empowerment of young women and men, bringing young women and men together to engage with ITU and its members, and is fostering dialogue of young women and men and their participation in ITU activities and decision-making processes;

e) that the United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development Statement on COVID-19 and Youth highlights the unequal impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on marginalized or vulnerable communities of young women and men, including, but not limited to, young women and men living in rural/remote communities, young migrants and refugees, young women, indigenous young women and men, and young persons with disabilities,

¹ Source: ITU, Measuring digital development: Facts and Figures 2021.

considering

- a) the progress made by the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) in promoting gender equality, in the development and implementation of projects that target young women and men and are gender sensitive, as well as in increasing awareness on the importance of education in the ICT sector and awareness on career development for young girls in ICTs and related fields within the Union and among Member States and Sector Members;
- b) the results achieved within the framework of Resolution 70 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022), through which, since 2011, by promoting more than 11 700 celebrations of international Girls in ICT Day, over 377 000 girls and young women in over 171 countries have been made aware of the job opportunities in the ICT sector with the support of BDT²;
- c) the fact that ICTs play an important role in the promotion of education, career development and work opportunities, as well as for social and economic development of young women and men;
- d) the fact that ITU, through the Global Youth Summit, engaged a worldwide community to gather their opinions and ideas on how technology can contribute to a better world and shape the post-2015 development agenda;
- e) the fact that BDT plays a substantive role, through its activities, towards empowerment and engagement of young women and men and their involvement in the decision-making processes related to ICTs for development-related issues,

resolves

- 1 that ITU-D, taking into account the above considerations, shall continue to support the development of activities, projects and events aimed at promoting ICT applications among young women and men in particular, and thereby contribute to the educational, social and economic development and empowerment of young women and men, taking into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

² Source: <https://www.itu.int/women-and-girls/girls-in-ict/home/history/>

- 2 that ITU-D continue leading the implementation of the ITU Youth Strategy and promoting initiatives aimed at young women and men, such as Generation Connect, and continue coordinating the work for young women and men with the rest of ITU;
- 3 that the established ITU-D objective on digital inclusion will continue to support the work promoting ICTs to young women and men;
- 4 to empower young women and men in the use of telecommunications/ICTs, particularly in developing countries, by promoting a greater number of regular dialogues and consultations with young women and men, incorporating their opinions into the implementation of ITU-D activities;
- 5 that ITU-D continue to mainstream engagement and participation of young women and men in the work of ITU to support the achievement of the overall goals of the Union; encourage the participation of young women and men in ITU programmes, events and activities; and contribute to promoting ICT policies related to young women and men within ITU Member States;
- 6 to encourage innovation and engagement of young women and men to foster sustainable development and address current and future challenges such as poverty alleviation, job creation, gender inequality and cybersecurity,

further resolves

- 1 to establish partnerships with academia concerned with development programmes for young women and men;
- 2 to add a dimension related to young women and men to study Questions, wherever possible, and encourage young women and men to contribute to ITU-D study groups,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

- 1 to seek appropriate means to integrate issues related to young women and men into the activities of BDT and to actively pursue diversity through the ongoing implementation of the ITU Youth Strategy;
- 2 to continue to engage with all ITU Sectors in order to coordinate the ongoing implementation of the Youth Strategy throughout the Union;

- 3 to ensure that the necessary resources, within budgetary limits, are allocated to these activities;
- 4 to promote ICTs among young women and men and their social and economic development and empowerment;
- 5 to provide guidance on measuring the extent of the empowerment of young women and men at national and international levels;
- 6 to provide guidance on digital citizenship among young women and men, including digital government services;
- 7 to amplify the representation and participation of young women and men in BDT activities and initiatives,

invites the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

to assist Member States:

- 1 to promote enrolment in ICT-oriented education programmes, including from early education, and to promote ICTs and science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) careers for the social and economic development and empowerment of young women and men, taking into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- 2 to provide concrete advice, in the form of guidelines, to integrate young women and men in the information and knowledge society;
- 3 to establish partnerships with Sector Members, in order to develop and/or support specific ICT projects for the implementation of the ITU Youth Strategy that target young women and men in developing countries, including countries with economies in transition, taking into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- 4 to include a component related to young women and men in BDT activities aimed at raising awareness of the challenges that young women and men are facing in the ICT area, and calling for implementation of concrete solutions;
- 5 to promote ICT-friendly frameworks in education and careers for young women and men without gender discrimination, and thus encourage young girls and women to be part of the ICT sector,

encourages Member States

- 1 to share best practices on national approaches targeting the use of telecommunications/ICTs for the educational, social and economic development of young women and men, taking into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- 2 to develop national strategies for increasing access to and use of ICTs as a tool for the educational, social and economic development of young women and men;
- 3 to promote ICTs for the engagement and empowerment of young women and men and their involvement in the decision-making processes of the ICT sector;
- 4 to support ITU-D activities in the field of ICTs for the social and economic development of young women and men, through the ongoing implementation of the ITU Youth Strategy;
- 5 to promote the relevance of ICTs as facilitators of new ideas for creating alternative work options;
- 6 to acknowledge the importance of entrepreneurship among young women and men, particularly in innovative sectors and new technology, for adding social and economic value and helping to create skilled jobs by promoting the use of ICTs among young women and men;
- 7 to aim to have an impact on the lives of young women and men around the world and to ensure meaningful participation of young women and men in ITU as key stakeholders in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

encourages Member States, Sector Members and Academia

- 1 to coordinate global and regional forums and other initiatives dedicated to young women and men, considering available resources, taking into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- 2 to provide access to telecommunications/ICTs and provide up-to-date digital-skills and literacy training and opportunities for young women and men;
- 3 to foster collaboration with civil society and the private sector in order to provide specialized training for young innovators;

4 to promote participation of young women and men in work related to ITU-D, including in the composition of delegations to ITU-D meetings;

5 to enhance programmes on digital skills for young women and men to ensure the benefits of ICTs are realized,

invites Academia

1 to equip young women and men with job-ready digital skills and, thereby, foster their empowerment and ability to compete in the global labour market to improve their quality of life, including through academic exchange programmes;

2 to promote ICT-related research by university students;

3 to encourage young women and men to use the opportunity of the ITU internship programme to gain their first work experiences,

requests the Secretary-General

1 to bring this resolution to the attention of the Plenipotentiary Conference with a view to releasing appropriate resources, within the budgetary limits, for the corresponding activities and functions;

2 to bring this resolution to the attention of the United Nations Secretary-General in an effort to promote increased coordination and cooperation for development policies, programmes and projects that link ICTs to the promotion and empowerment of young women and men.

RESOLUTION 77 (Rev. Baku, 2025)

Broadband technology and applications for greater growth and development of telecommunication/information and communication services and broadband connectivity

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Baku, 2025),

recalling

- a) Resolution 71 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the strategic plan for the Union;
- b) Resolution 139 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on use of telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICTs) to bridge the digital divide and build an inclusive information society;
- c) the outcome documents of the 2015 World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Forum;
- d) Resolution 135 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on ITU's role in the durable and sustainable development of telecommunications/ICTs, in providing technical assistance and advice to developing countries¹ and in implementing relevant national, regional and interregional projects;
- e) Opinion 2 (Geneva, 2021) of the World Telecommunication/ICT Policy Forum, on affordable and secure connectivity in mobilizing new and emerging telecommunications/ICTs for sustainable development;
- f) Resolution 20 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC), on non-discriminatory access to modern telecommunication/ICT facilities, services and related applications;
- g) Resolution 37 (Rev. Baku, 2025) of this conference, on bridging the digital divide;

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

- h) Resolution 203 (Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on connectivity to broadband networks;
- i) Resolution ITU-R 65-1 (Rev. Dubai, 2023) of the Radiocommunication Assembly (RA), on principles for the process of future development of IMT-2020 and IMT-2030;
- j) Resolution 92 (Rev. New Delhi, 2024) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA), on enhancing the standardization activities of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) related to non-radio aspects of International Mobile Telecommunications (IMT);
- k) Resolution 93 (Rev. New Delhi, 2024) of WTSA, on interconnection of IMT networks;
- l) Resolution 9 (Rev. Baku, 2025) of this conference, on participation of countries, particularly developing countries, in spectrum management;
- m) Resolution 218 (Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on ITU's role in the implementation of the "Space2030" Agenda;
- n) Resolution 219 (Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on sustainability of the radio-frequency spectrum and associated satellite-orbit resources used by space services;
- o) Resolution ITU-R 69-2 (Dubai, 2023) of RA, on the development and deployment of international public telecommunications via satellite in developing countries,

considering

- a) the role of ITU, and in particular its Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D), in supporting the development of telecommunication/ICT infrastructure and services;
- b) the potential benefits of the rapid introduction of new and diverse telecommunication services, including those highlighted in Resolution 66/184 of the United Nations General Assembly, and consistent with § 54 of the WSIS Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, and the role of broadband connectivity are essential elements in attaining the Sustainable Development Goals;

c) the importance of broadband capacity to facilitate the delivery of a broader range of services and applications, promote investment and provide Internet access at affordable prices to both existing and new users in underserved and unserved communities using a technology-neutral approach to bridging the existing digital divide;

d) that innovative telecommunications/ICTs, including terrestrial and satellite telecommunications and submarine cables, can help bridge the digital divide, not only between developing countries and developed countries but also between urban, remote and rural regions where conventional fixed telecommunication services may not be adequate;

e) that ITU and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) set up the Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development, which agreed a set of four ambitious but achievable targets that countries around the world should strive to meet in order to ensure their populations participate fully in tomorrow's emerging knowledge societies;

f) that in accordance with Resolution 9 (Rev. Baku, 2025), the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT), in close consultation with the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau, is collecting pertinent information and preparing, over the period between WTDCs, appropriate documents and other relevant outputs that are responsive to the specific needs of developing countries on national, economic, regulatory and financial approaches to, and challenges of, spectrum management and spectrum monitoring,

taking into account

a) the final report of WTDC (Kigali, 2022), which highlights the importance of expanding digital connectivity through regional initiatives aimed at developing resilient broadband infrastructure, fostering enabling policy and regulatory environments and ensuring access to high-speed networks, particularly in remote and underserved areas, to accelerate progress towards meaningful connectivity for all;

- b)* that many countries are interested in introducing a comprehensive technology-neutral approach for broadband services in activities such as e-health, e-government and e-education;
- c)* that, despite considerable improvements in the availability and affordability of broadband, almost two-thirds of the world population lacks access to affordable broadband;
- d)* that unequal access to broadband telecommunication services does nothing to eradicate social inequality and has an adverse impact on the social and economic situation in different countries and regions;
- e)* the importance of competition in promoting investment, as presented in the report of the ITU/UNESCO Broadband Commission for Digital Development²;
- f)* that, as part of the work of ITU-T Study Group 3, on tariff and accounting principles including related telecommunication economic and policy issues, a series of Supplements to Recommendation ITU-T D.50, on international Internet connectivity, have been adopted for developing countries, with methodological recommendations for reducing the cost of international Internet connectivity;
- g)* that ITU-T Study Group 3 adopted Recommendation ITU-T D.52, on establishing and interconnecting regional Internet exchange points (IXPs), which guides regional collaboration to establish central hubs or IXPs that enable local Internet traffic to be routed locally, thereby saving international bandwidth and reducing international Internet connectivity costs,

² Broadband Commission for Digital Development report "Broadband: A Platform for Progress", (September, 2010). (Available at http://www.broadbandcommission.org/Documents/publications/Report_2.pdf)

recognizing

- a) the important role of ITU-D in coordinating the rational use of resources in the context of various projects aimed at securing more widespread deployment of technology-neutral telecommunication services in different countries of the world;
- b) that broadband-enabled terrestrial, wireless access and satellite communications, such as low Earth orbit (LEO), medium Earth orbit (MEO) and geostationary Earth orbit (GEO), are a factor in eliminating the isolation of certain categories of the population that live in parts of a country where coverage by conventional telecommunication networks remains inadequate and which lack resources;
- c) that studies suggest that broadband penetration is higher in countries with national broadband plans, policies or strategies than in countries without them;
- d) that, pursuant to § 22 of the Geneva Declaration of Principles adopted by WSIS, a well-developed information and communication network infrastructure that is easily accessible and affordable and makes greater use of broadband can accelerate the social and economic progress of countries and the well-being of all individuals, communities and peoples;
- e) that the ITU/UNESCO Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development regularly issues reports on the state of broadband, and in its 2023 report³ highlights the policy considerations related to financing and funding the next phase of digital transformation through connectivity, emphasizing the following strategic actions and encouraging all Member States to:
 - i) define (and re-define) measurable goals for "universal meaningful connectivity" to meet today's needs;
 - ii) close the usage gap by addressing key barriers to people adopting and using the Internet in areas where coverage is available;

³ <https://broadbandcommission.org/publication/state-of-broadband-2023/>

- iii) broaden the contributor base and implement creative funding approaches, including incentivizing infrastructure funding, and reforming universal service and access fund approaches;
- iv) align and incentivize funding contributors, as a key aspect of government connectivity plans and mobilizing all sectors' pools of capital by removing challenges and barriers to network infrastructure investment;
- v) build network infrastructure policies to last, with sustainable and agile plans;
- f) that development and implementation of a national broadband plan, policy or strategy is essential to broadband development and economic growth;
- g) the work of the Internet Society (ISOC), the Internet Exchange Federation (IEF) and the regional IXP associations and other stakeholders to support the establishment of IXPs in developing countries in order to promote better connectivity;
- h) that high-altitude platform stations (HAPS) are solutions in the terrestrial service, among others, which can be used to provide backhaul and direct access connectivity in rural and remote areas, and are defined in No. 1.66A of the Radio Regulations,

resolves

1 to encourage greater coordination by BDT, and encourage the private sector to continue playing a significant role in supporting initiatives that foster access to and uptake of broadband connectivity by utilizing the most appropriate technology mix approach, with the aim of providing citizens greater access to ICT applications in support of national broadband strategies;

2 to promote availability, accessibility, reliability and affordability of broadband in developing countries by enabling Member States to develop national broadband policies and implementation strategies based on careful evaluation of supply and demand for broadband;

3 that BDT should support the implementation of regional and national projects for the use of terrestrial and satellite broadband communication systems to provide the population with services, including mobile services and applications such as e-government, e-health and e-education, as well as mobile financial services, on the basis of cooperation with interested Member States, relevant international organizations and the private sector;

4 that BDT, taking into account available experience and the strategy for bridging the digital divide and building the global information society, should formulate and implement a programme to develop proposals and recommendations on the most effective and efficient use of technology, including telecommunication services for broadband connectivity at regional and national levels, acting in association with ITU connectivity initiatives as appropriate,

resolves to instruct the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector study groups each within its mandate and in collaboration with relevant and study groups of the other ITU Sectors

to develop guidelines, based on national experiences and best practices, on policy and regulatory frameworks to facilitate the use of emerging space-based telecommunication/ICT networks that work together with terrestrial networks, taking into account the international regulatory framework defined by the Radio Regulations, relevant ITU resolutions and recommendations and Member States' rights set out in the ITU Constitution,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to seek partnerships and cooperation with parties directly involved in the provision of services to the population using the most practical telecommunication technology, facilities and networks, to ensure effective implementation of the relevant ITU programmes and activities in the development of broadband connectivity, providing reliable broadband access at affordable prices to both existing and new users in underserved and unserved communities;

2 to work in collaboration with ITU-T, ISOC, IEF and the regional IXP associations and other stakeholders to support Member States, especially developing countries⁴, in establishing regional IXPs in countries having submarine cable landing points, in order to help connect landlocked countries, as well as to provide advice and assistance in the establishment of IXPs for the latter;

3 to establish clear links between the broadband study Question(s), programmes and regional initiatives in order to maximize the use of human and financial resources and, most importantly, better meet the needs of developing countries;

4 to explore options to facilitate broadband connectivity, in close collaboration with the ITU Radiocommunication Sector and ITU-T,

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

1 working with ITU regional offices, to assist developing countries to update their national/regional policy and regulatory frameworks for the adoption of emerging space-based communication services as appropriate;

⁴ In particular landlocked developing countries.

2 to conduct workshops and forums on policy and regulatory approaches and best practices and support the development of tools and resources for the adoption of emerging space-based communications services,

invites Member States

1 to create and promote widespread affordable access to broadband communication infrastructure through enabling legal and regulatory environments, including the availability of spectrum for new broadband wireless access technologies and licensing policies that are fair, transparent, stable, predictable and non-discriminatory;

2 to undertake all efforts to foster an enabling environment for the greater growth and development of technology-neutral broadband connectivity, building on developments in ITU in the area of technology and flexible regulation of broadband access, in particular in developing countries;

3 to actively contribute to the broadband study Question(s);

4 to implement the results of the work performed on the study Question(s), including legal, regulatory and market reforms that create an enabling environment for broadband by promoting competition, private investment and public-private partnerships;

5 to consider and implement, as appropriate, relevant recommendations of the Broadband Commission, taking into account national circumstances and current needs in the field of broadband connectivity;

6 to implement policies and plans to encourage the availability of services, applications and content that stimulate demand for broadband;

7 to adopt measures that promote human capacity building, including digital literacy programmes and technical education, taking account of the need to promote broadband access for women and girls, persons with disabilities, people living in rural and remote areas and Indigenous Peoples;

8 to share strategies for and experience of network evolution, application cases, efficient deployment and operation, implementation and good practices in seminars and workshop events, in particular in developing countries,

invites Member States, Sector Members, Associates and Academia

to share experiences and best practices on the adoption of emerging space-based communication services and submit contributions for the relevant work of the ITU-D study groups.

RESOLUTION 78 (Rev. Baku, 2025)

Capacity building for countering and combating misappropriation and misuse of ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector numbering resources

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Baku, 2025),

considering

the provisions of Chapter IV of the ITU Constitution, on the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D), particularly with regard to, *inter alia*, the functions of ITU-D for building awareness of the impact of telecommunications/information and communication technologies on national economic and social development, its catalytic role in promoting the development, expansion and operation of telecommunication services and networks, especially in developing countries¹, and the need to maintain and enhance cooperation with regional and other telecommunication organizations,

considering further

- a) Resolution 22 (Rev. Baku, 2025) of this conference, on alternative calling procedures on international telecommunication networks and identification of origin in providing international telecommunication services;
- b) Resolution 190 (Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on countering misappropriation and misuse of international telecommunication numbering resources;
- c) Resolution 61 (Rev. New Delhi, 2024) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA), on countering and combating misappropriation and misuse of international telecommunication numbering, naming, addressing and identification (NNAI) resources;
- d) Resolution 20 (Rev. New Delhi, 2024) of WTSA, on procedures for allocation and management of international telecommunication NNAI resources;

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

e) the resolutions from previous world telecommunication development conferences in regard to countries in special need;

f) the work carried out to date in ITU-D to assist countries in understanding and countering the misappropriation of Recommendation ITU-T E.164 telephone numbers, through ITU-D programmes, activities and projects,

noting

a) the significantly reduced number of cases reported to the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau (TSB) regarding misappropriation and misuse of E.164 international telecommunication numbering resources;

b) that Member States are responsible for managing E.164 international telecommunication numbering resources behind country codes assigned to them under Recommendation ITU-T E.164;

c) that many Member States, particularly developing countries, have been significantly and adversely affected by misappropriation of E.164 international telecommunication numbering resources;

d) that many telecommunication operators have been significantly and adversely affected by misappropriation of E.164 international telecommunication numbering resources;

e) Recommendation ITU-T E.156, which sets out guidelines for ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) action on reported misuse of ITU-T E.164 numbers, Supplement 1 to Recommendation ITU-T E.156, which provides a best-practice guide on countering misuse of ITU-T E.164 numbering resources, and Supplement 2 to Recommendation ITU-T E.156, which provides a set of possible actions to counter misuse;

f) the existing limits on available budgetary resources,

recognizing

a) that there is a need to counter and combat misappropriation and misuse of E.164 international telecommunication numbering resources assigned in accordance with Recommendation ITU-T E.164;

- b) that the allocation of global telephone numbering resources is managed by the Director of TSB in accordance with ITU-T Recommendations;
- c) that the management and allocation of national telephone numbering resources is the responsibility of Member States, and that such management is their sovereign right and reflected in national regulatory and legal frameworks;
- d) that differences exist between Member States in their approach to managing their national telephone numbering resources;
- e) that Member States have the right to impose rules on the parties to whom they allocate telephone numbering resources, for example through national numbering plan authorities;
- f) that telecommunication operators and operating agencies must act in accordance with all international rules and applicable national regulatory and legal frameworks of the Member State in which the number is being used,

requests the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

- 1 to publish, identify, promote and use the documents and research produced thus far as a template for future activity in order to allow consistent identification of the issues and to combat misappropriation of E.164 international telecommunication numbering resources;
- 2 to utilize notifications of misappropriation of E.164 international telecommunication numbering resources submitted to support consistent identification of E.164 international telecommunication numbering resource misappropriation issues;
- 3 to assist, at the request of Member States, in developing their capability to counter misappropriation of E.164 international telecommunication numbering resources;

4 to continue to work with regions, subregions and countries, in particular developing countries, to develop national legal and regulatory frameworks and guidelines that are sufficient to ensure best practices in the management of E.164 international telecommunication numbering resources in order to counter their misappropriation,

requests the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau, in cooperation with the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau

1 to ensure that national numbering plans are available, either directly from the Member State or via ITU Operational Bulletin notifications or links to national numbering plans posted on the ITU-T national numbering plan webpage, using the format specified in Recommendation ITU-T E.129, in order to contribute to countering misappropriation of E.164 international telecommunication numbering resources;

2 to respond effectively to Member State requests, particularly those from developing countries, to support and act on best practices in combating misappropriation of E.164 international telecommunication numbering resources, resulting in templates, proposals, guidelines and resolutions to counter and combat such misappropriation;

3 to work cooperatively in order to continue to develop measures based on proven best practices for countering misappropriation of E.164 international telecommunication numbering resources;

4 to support research and pilot projects by Member States using advanced technologies to secure and manage numbering resources more effectively;

5 to proactively promote and encourage Member State engagement with service providers, telecommunication operators and other private stakeholders in both consultation and implementation,

invites Member States

- 1 to collaborate in order to identify, counter and combat activities associated with misappropriation of E.164 international telecommunication numbering resources;
- 2 to support the development and deployment of best practices in the management of E.164 international telecommunication numbering resources within their jurisdiction;
- 3 to work collaboratively with other Member States, with telecommunication operators and with operating agencies in order to keep them informed of the rules, guidelines and allocation methods for E.164 international telecommunication numbering resources within their country;
- 4 to gather information on legislative initiatives for countering the misappropriation and misuse of E.164 international telecommunication numbering resources and to facilitate the dissemination of that information,

invites Member States and Sector Members

to contribute to the development of best practices for countering misappropriation of E.164 international telecommunication numbering resources, and to encourage administrations and international telecommunication operators to ensure that E.164 international telecommunication numbering resources are used only by the assignees and only for the purposes for which they were assigned, and that unassigned resources are not used.

RESOLUTION 79 (Rev. Kigali, 2022)

The role of telecommunications/information and communication technologies in combating and dealing with counterfeit and tampered telecommunication/information and communication devices

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Kigali, 2022),

recalling

- a)* Resolution 177 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on conformance and interoperability (C&I);
- b)* Resolution 188 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on combating counterfeit telecommunication/information and communication technology (ICT) devices;
- c)* Resolution 182 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the role of telecommunications/ICTs in regard to climate change and the protection of the environment;
- d)* Resolution 96 (Hammamet, 2016) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA), on ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) studies for combating counterfeit telecommunication/ICT devices;
- e)* Resolution 174 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on ITU's role with regard to international public policy issues relating to the risk of illicit use of ICTs;
- f)* Resolution 64 (Rev. Kigali, 2022) of this conference, on protecting and supporting users/consumers of telecommunication/ICT services;
- g)* Resolution 76 (Rev. Geneva, 2022) of WTSA, on studies related to C&I testing, assistance to developing countries¹, and a possible future ITU Mark programme;

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

h) Resolution 47 (Rev. Kigali, 2022) of this conference, on enhancement of knowledge and effective application of ITU Recommendations in developing countries, including C&I testing of systems manufactured on the basis of ITU Recommendations, and in particular assistance to developing countries in addressing their fears in relation to counterfeit equipment;

i) Resolution 79 (Rev. Geneva, 2022) of WTSA, on the role of telecommunications/ICTs in handling and controlling e-waste from telecommunication and information technology equipment and methods of treating it,

recognizing

a) the noticeably growing sales and circulation of counterfeit and tampered telecommunication/ICT devices in the markets, which have a negative impact on governments, manufacturers, vendors, operators and consumers through: loss of revenues, erosion of brand value/intellectual property rights (IPRs) and reputation, network disruptions, poor quality of service, data theft and potential hazard to public health and safety, as well as the environmental impact of e-waste;

b) that ITU's Conformity and Interoperability and Bridging Standardization Gap programmes are intended to add value, by bringing clarity to standardization processes and product conformity with international standards;

c) that counterfeit telecommunication/ICT products and devices have become a growing problem in the world, adversely affecting to a large extent all stakeholders in the ICT field (vendors, governments, operators and consumers);

d) that mobile devices rely on unique device identifiers to limit and deter the proliferation of counterfeit mobile devices;

e) that counterfeit telecommunication/ICT devices may negatively impact on security and privacy for users;

f) that Recommendation ITU-T X.1255 provides a framework for discovery of identity management information that can help in combating counterfeiting of telecommunication/ICT devices;

g) that several countries have introduced some awareness-raising campaigns, practices and regulations in their markets in order to limit and deter counterfeit products and devices, which have had a positive impact, and that developing countries may benefit from this experience;

h) that counterfeit telecommunication/ICT devices may contain unacceptable levels of hazardous substances, threatening consumers and the environment,

taking into account

a) that, with the boom in telecommunications/ICTs, counterfeit and tampered telecommunication/ICT devices have increased noticeably in recent times;

b) that these counterfeit devices affect economic growth and IPRs, impede innovation, are hazardous to health and safety and have an impact on the environment and the increasing amount of harmful e-waste;

c) that counterfeiting of these devices poses a complex challenge and increases the risks of network disruption and interoperability difficulties that reduce the quality of telecommunication/ICT services;

d) that ITU and relevant stakeholders have a key role to play in fostering coordination among the parties concerned to study the impact of counterfeit devices and the mechanism for limiting them and to identify ways of dealing with them internationally and regionally,

noting

a) that individuals or entities engaged in manufacturing and trading of counterfeit telecommunication/ICT devices are continually developing and enhancing their capabilities and means of illegal activities to circumvent Member States' and other affected parties' legal and technical efforts to combat counterfeit telecommunication/ICT products and devices;

b) that supply and demand economics for counterfeit telecommunication/ICT products complicate attempts to tackle the global black/grey market, and that no single solution is easily envisaged,

aware

- a) that governments play an important role in combating the manufacture of and international trade in counterfeit and copied devices by formulating appropriate strategies, policies and legislation;
- b) of the related work and studies in ITU-T Study Groups 5, 11, 17, and 20;
- c) of the ongoing work and studies in Study Group 1 and Study Group 2 of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D);
- d) that there is ongoing cooperation with standards-development organizations (SDOs), the World Trade Organization (WTO), the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Customs Organization (WCO) on matters related to counterfeit products,

considering

- a) that a counterfeit telecommunication/ICT device is a product that explicitly infringes the trademark, copies hardware or software designs, or infringes brand or packaging rights of an original or authentic product and, in general, infringes applicable national and/or international technical standards, regulatory requirements or conformity processes, manufacturing licensing agreements, or other applicable legal requirements;
- b) that tampered (making unauthorized changes to) telecommunication/ICT devices are devices that have components, software, a unique identifier, items protected by IPRs or a trademark tentatively or effectively altered without the explicit consent of the manufacturer or its legal representative;
- c) that tampered telecommunication/ICT devices, especially the ones that clone/replicate a legitimate unique identifier, may diminish the effectiveness of solutions adopted by the countries when addressing counterfeiting;

d) that ITU and other relevant stakeholders have key roles to play in fostering coordination between the parties concerned in order to study the impact of counterfeit and tampered telecommunication/ICT devices and the mechanism for limiting their use, and to identify ways of dealing with them both internationally and regionally, particularly through the ongoing work in ITU-T Study Group 11, as the leading expert in the study of combating counterfeit and tampered telecommunication/ICT devices at ITU, and also related work and studies, in particular in ITU-T Study Groups 5, 17 and 20 and ITU-D Study Group 2,

resolves to instruct the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau, in close collaboration with the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau and the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau

1 to continue to increase and develop ITU activities on combating, and ways of limiting the spread of, counterfeit and tampered devices;

2 to assist Member States, particularly developing countries, in addressing their concerns regarding counterfeit and tampered devices, including through information sharing at regional or global level;

3 to continue to work in collaboration with stakeholders (such as WTO, WIPO, WHO and WCO), including academia and relevant organizations, to coordinate activities relating to combating counterfeit and tampered devices through study groups, focus groups and other related groups;

4 to organize seminars and workshops to raise awareness of the health and environmental risks of using counterfeit and tampered devices and ways of limiting them, particularly in developing countries, which are the most at risk from the dangers of counterfeit devices;

5 to continue assisting developing countries in attending these workshops and seminars by providing fellowships and remote participation;

6 to work in close collaboration with relevant stakeholders, such as WTO, WIPO, WHO and WCO, on activities relating to combating counterfeit and tampered telecommunication/ICT devices, including restricting the trading, export and circulation of these telecommunication/ICT devices internationally;

7 to submit periodic reports on the implementation of this resolution,

invites the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

to provide information on a periodic basis on international and regional testing, type-approval and accreditation bodies and laboratories,

instructs Study Groups 1 and 2 of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector, within their mandate, as appropriate, in collaboration with the relevant ITU study groups

1 to prepare and document examples of best practices on limiting counterfeit and tampered telecommunication/ICT devices, for distribution to ITU Member States and Sector Members;

2 to prepare guidelines, methodologies and publications to assist Member States in identifying counterfeit and tampered telecommunication/ICT devices and methods of increasing public awareness to restrict trade in these devices, as well as the best ways of limiting them, taking into account ongoing studies conducted by ITU-T Study Group 11;

3 to study the impact of counterfeit and tampered telecommunication/ICT devices being transported to developing countries;

4 to continue studying safe ways of disposing of the harmful e-waste from the counterfeit devices currently in circulation in the world;

5 to cooperate with relevant ITU-T study groups, in particular Study Group 11 as the lead study group in the area of combating counterfeit and tampered telecommunication/ICT devices,

invites Member States

1 to take all necessary measures to combat counterfeit and tampered telecommunication/ICT devices and to review their regulations;

2 to cooperate and exchange expertise among themselves in this area;

3 to incorporate policies to combat counterfeit and tampered devices in their national telecommunication/ICT strategies;

4 to raise awareness among consumers regarding the negative impacts of counterfeit and tampered devices.

RESOLUTION 80 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017)

Establishing and promoting trusted information frameworks in developing countries to facilitate and encourage electronic exchanges of economic information between economic partners

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Buenos Aires, 2017),

recalling

- a)* Resolution 135 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on ITU's role in the 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;
- b)* Resolution 181 (Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on definitions and terminology relating to building confidence and security in the use of ICTs;
- c)* Resolution 71 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of this conference, on strengthening cooperation between Member States and Sector Members of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D), including the private sector;
- d)* Resolution 50 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC), on optimal integration of ICTs;
- e)* Resolution 48 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of this conference, on strengthening cooperation among telecommunication regulators;
- f)* Resolution 54 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) of WTDC, on ICT applications;
- g)* Resolution 45 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) of WTDC, on mechanisms for enhancing cooperation on cybersecurity, including countering and combating spam,

considering

- a)* current difficulties in establishing business partnerships in developing countries;

- b) the important role that national telecommunication/ICT policy can play in stimulating innovation and investment in new technologies that enable the rapid evolution of the market for goods and services;
- c) the sovereign right of each country to establish its national telecommunication/ICT priorities and policies;
- d) the importance of telecommunication networks and ICT infrastructure for economic development;
- e) that the amount of information being exchanged by electronic means among developing countries at national and regional levels is growing, and its development potential is undeniable;
- f) the potential for broader access to a range of telecommunication/ICT applications and services that are readily available to facilitate economic development, enabling companies to adopt technologies that may potentially broaden their offering through services based on platforms capable of making them more competitive;
- g) that the World Summit on the Information Society adopted specific action lines in its Plan of Action, including in particular:
 - Action Line C1: The role of governments and all stakeholders in the promotion of ICTs for development
 - Action Line C2: Information and communication infrastructure: An essential foundation for the information society
 - Action Line C5: Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs
 - Action Line C6: Enabling environment
 - Action Line C7: ICT applications: Benefits in all aspects of life,

noting

- a) the adoption and implementation of the Hyderabad Action Plan (WTDC-10), which incorporated provisions on the development of telecommunication/ICT services in developing countries through various programmes, in particular Programme 2 on cybersecurity, ICT applications and IP-based network-related issues and Programme 3 on the enabling environment;

b) that this conference has reaffirmed, in its Declaration and resolutions, a commitment to:

- foster international cooperation on telecommunication/ICT development issues;
- create an enabling environment conducive to telecommunication/ICT development;
- enhance confidence and security in the use of telecommunications/ICTs, and roll-out of relevant applications and services,

recognizing

a) that effective deployment and use of ICTs is an important factor in implementing social, cultural, economic and environmental development programmes, especially in developing countries;

b) the growing level of electronic communications and economic information exchanges at the regional level within and between the developing countries;

c) that ICTs have helped to transform business models and organizational structures in countries and are thus a key asset for an enterprise or a country in becoming integrated into the new global economy;

d) that the establishment of trusted information frameworks between economic partners will increase confidence in, and encourage the use of, exchanges of economic information through electronic means, and will be a key factor in future growth of the digital economy at the global level;

e) the work already being carried out by other international and private-sector organizations in the fields of trusted information frameworks and electronic commerce,

conscious

a) that the modernization of telecommunication networks and the development of services and applications associated with ICTs in these countries will be an important factor in their economic development and will offer them an opportunity to lay the foundations of an inclusive information society;

b) of the potential beneficial impact for developing countries of the establishment of trusted information frameworks to facilitate the electronic exchange of economic information in the world of business and, in particular, their importance to actors involved in the digital economy;

c) that the removal of existing obstacles to the development of electronic exchanges of economic information in the developing countries depends on establishing trusted information frameworks that encourage the creation of new regional partnerships between administrations, businesses and individuals, taking account of national regulatory frameworks governing the exchange of such information,

resolves

that relevant ITU-D and ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) study groups, to the extent possible, take into account the aims of this resolution in studies under Questions pertaining to ICT applications,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to act as a catalyst in enhancing international and regional cooperation among Member States, especially regarding the use of ICT applications and services to facilitate electronic exchanges of economic information between economic partners;

2 to invite ITU-D Study Group 2 to take into account the aims of this resolution when studying new Question 1/2 (Creating smart society: Employing ICTs for sustainable social and economic development);

3 to assist developing countries to take advantage of resources and services provided by the public and private sectors and relevant organizations at the regional and international levels on global standards and best practices for establishing trusted information frameworks and mechanisms that facilitate electronic exchanges of economic information between economic partners, taking into consideration the national regulatory frameworks relating to such information,

invites Member States and Sector Members

1 to encourage the creation of an enabling framework for international and regional partnerships in which countries identify their needs in terms of electronic exchanges of economic information, and assess the feasibility of associated operational and technical interoperability frameworks;

2 to organize forums and workshops, at regional and international level, dealing with aspects of the development of trusted information frameworks for electronic exchange of economic information based on global standards and best practices.

RESOLUTION 82 (Rev. Baku, 2025)

Preserving and promoting multilingualism on the Internet for an inclusive information society

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Baku, 2025),

considering

- a)* the provisions of Resolutions 101 and 102 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on Internet Protocol-based networks and ITU's role with regard to international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet and on the management of Internet resources, including domain names and addresses, respectively;
- b)* Resolution 133 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the role of administrations of Member States in the management of internationalized (multilingual) domain names;
- c)* Resolution 154 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on use of the six official languages of the Union on an equal footing;
- d)* Resolution 69 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA), on non-discriminatory access and use of Internet resources;
- e)* Resolution 37 (Rev. Baku, 2025) of this conference, on bridging the digital divide;
- f)* Resolution 48 (Rev. New Delhi, 2024) of WTSA, on internationalized (multilingual) domain names;
- g)* Resolution 30 (Rev. Baku, 2025) of this conference, on the role of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) in implementing the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

h) that the mission of ITU-D falls within the more general framework of ITU's purposes, laid down in Article 1 of the ITU Constitution, including the mission "to foster international cooperation and solidarity in the delivery of technical assistance to the developing countries and the creation, development and improvement of telecommunication equipment and networks in developing countries", and that, pursuant to No. 118 of the Constitution, ITU-D is required "to discharge, within its specific sphere of competence, the Union's dual responsibility as a United Nations specialized agency and executing agency for implementing projects under the United Nations development system or other funding arrangements so as to facilitate and enhance telecommunication development by offering, organizing and coordinating technical cooperation and assistance activities",

recalling

Resolution 20 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference, on non-discriminatory access to modern telecommunication/information and communication technology (ICT) facilities, services and related applications,

recognizing

a) Articles 19 and 27 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948, to the effect that: "Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers", and "Everyone has the right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits...";

b) Article 27 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights of 1966, which stipulates that: "In those States in which ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities exist, persons belonging to such minorities shall not be denied the right, in community with the other members of their group, to enjoy their own culture, to profess and practise their own religion, or to use their own language", and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of 1966, both Covenants having been designed to impose specific obligations in regard to protection against sexual, religious, racial or other forms of discrimination;

- c) United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Resolution 47/135 of 18 December 1992, adopting the Declaration on the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, which states that: "States shall protect the existence and the national or ethnic, cultural, religious and linguistic identity of minorities within their respective territories and shall encourage conditions for the promotion of that identity";
- d) the United Nations Administrative Committee on Coordination Statement of 1997 on universal access to basic communication and information services, which asserts that: "The information and technology gap and related inequities between industrialized and developing nations are widening: a new type of poverty 'information poverty' looms";
- e) § 25 of the Millennium Declaration approved by UNGA, which refers to measures aimed at increasing the effectiveness of the United Nations in human rights and public information efforts;
- f) UNGA Resolution 35/201 of 16 December 1980, transmitting the recommendation on promotion and use of multilingualism and universal access to cyberspace;
- g) the report drawn up by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the Internet Society (ISOC) in 2012, entitled "The relationship between local content, Internet development and access prices", which indicates that there is a strong correlation between the development of local network infrastructure and the growth of local content and highlights: that local content is growing in volume, as a result of investment worldwide; that the composition of local content is evolving, which underscores the importance of Universal Acceptance in ensuring that people from all regions can contribute to and benefit from the growing digital landscape; and that local content is no longer dominated by developed countries, but is increasingly representative of the diversity of multiple cultures, languages and communities existing in the world;

h) the annual Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) Universal Acceptance Readiness Report, which helps users improve the implementation of Universal Acceptance in their systems and highlights Universal Acceptance as fundamental for achieving a digitally inclusive and multilingual Internet,

emphasizing

a) the role played by ITU in the successful organization of the two phases of WSIS, and that the WSIS Geneva Declaration of Principles and Geneva Plan of Action, adopted in 2003, and the WSIS Tunis Commitment and Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, adopted in 2005, have been endorsed by UNGA;

b) the Geneva Declaration of Principles and its commitment to "build a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented information society, where everyone can create, access, utilize and share information and knowledge";

c) that the Internet is a subject of valid international interest and must flow from full multistakeholder cooperation and participation, including collaboration and coordination between ITU and the technical community¹, to facilitate access for all and guarantee stable and secure functioning of the Internet, having due regard to multilingualism, on the basis of the outcomes of the two phases of WSIS;

d) the role of industry, relevant technical and international organizations, and the top-level domain operator communities in continuing to advance the use of internationalized domain names (IDNs) in the domain name system (DNS);

¹ Including, but not limited to, ICANN, the regional Internet registries, the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF), ISOC and the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C), on the basis of reciprocity.

- e)* that the Geneva Declaration of Principles, aimed at building the information society: a global challenge in the new millennium, establishes, as one of its fundamental principles, under § B8 (Cultural diversity and identity, linguistic diversity and local content), that "The creation, dissemination and preservation of content in diverse languages and formats must be accorded high priority in building an inclusive information society, paying particular attention to the diversity of supply of creative work and due recognition of the rights of authors and artists. It is essential to promote the production of and accessibility to all content – educational, scientific, cultural or recreational – in diverse languages and formats. The development of local content suited to domestic or regional needs will encourage social and economic development and will stimulate participation of all stakeholders, including people living in rural, remote and marginal areas";
- f)* that IDNs, and more generally ICTs, must be widely accessible to all citizens without regard to gender, age, location, ability or language;
- g)* that relevant national, regional and international organizations are working to increase the deployment of IDNs;
- h)* that e-mail address internationalization (EAI), as an application of IDNs, contributes to the broader goal of the Universal Acceptance of IDNs;
- i)* that Universal Acceptance of IDNs and their applications, including EAI, is fundamental to achieving a digitally inclusive and multilingual Internet that ensures all valid domain names and e-mail addresses can be used by all Internet-enabled applications, devices and systems, and enables Internet users globally to navigate the Internet and associated services in local languages;
- j)* that, while significant progress in the technical development and availability of IDNs in the DNS has been made, Universal Acceptance of IDNs and their applications, including EAI, remains challenging;
- k)* that the Geneva Declaration of Principles also asserts that "The preservation of cultural heritage is a crucial component of identity and self-understanding of individuals that links a community to its past. The information society should harness and preserve cultural heritage for the future by all appropriate methods, including digitization";

l) that, similarly, at the WSIS meeting in Geneva, UNESCO introduced its concept of knowledge societies, emphasizing plurality, diversity and inclusion, and highlighting that the use of ICTs has to take into account universally recognized human rights, focusing on four principles: freedom of expression, universal access to information and knowledge, cultural and linguistic diversity and quality education for all;

m) that the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expression (Paris, 2005) stipulates that: "Equitable access to a rich and diversified range of cultural expressions from all over the world and access of cultures to the means of expressions and dissemination constitute important elements for enhancing cultural diversity and encouraging mutual understanding";

n) that UNESCO has provided assistance to Member States in the implementation of the policy guidelines assembled in the recommendations for decision-makers, and carried out various training activities in respect of universal access to information and the promotion and use of multilingualism, in conjunction with the Organization of American States;

o) that the Paris Declaration on Open Educational Resources (OER) of the World OER Congress (Paris, 2012) recommends that States, within their capacities and authority, *inter alia*, promote the understanding and use of open educational resources, facilitate enabling environments for use of ICTs, reinforce the development of strategies and policies on open educational resources and encourage the development and adaptation of open educational resources in a variety of languages and cultural contexts,

taking into account

a) that International Mother Language Day, proclaimed by the UNESCO General Conference in November 1999, has been observed yearly since 2000 to promote linguistic and cultural diversity and multilingualism, and that the 2011 edition focused on the theme of ICTs for the safeguarding and promotion of languages and linguistic diversity;

b) that, in the changing telecommunication/ICT environment, a continuing challenge facing the Union is to remain a pre-eminent intergovernmental organization where Member States, Sector Members and Associates work together to enable the growth and sustained development of telecommunication and information networks and applications, and to facilitate universal access so that people everywhere can participate in, and benefit from, the emerging information society;

c) that ITU is deploying maximum efforts, in collaboration and coordination with competent organizations in the field of Internet governance, to bring the greatest possible benefits to the world community;

d) that, at the operational level, ITU has been carrying out the tasks assigned under the WSIS outcomes, in its capacity as: lead facilitator (along with UNESCO and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)) for coordinating the multistakeholder implementation of the Geneva Plan of Action; facilitator for Action Lines C2 (Information and communication infrastructure), C4 (Capacity building) and C5 (Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs) and, at UNDP's request, having accepted to play the role of lead facilitator for Action Line C6 (Enabling environment); co-facilitator for Action Lines C1 (Role of governments and all stakeholders in the promotion of ICTs for development), C3 (Access to information and knowledge), C7 (ICT applications: Benefits in all aspects of life) and C11 (International and regional cooperation); and partner for Action Lines C8 (Cultural diversity and identity, linguistic diversity and local content) and C9 (Media);

e) the 2012 report by the ITU/UNESCO Broadband Commission for Digital Development, which makes it clear that content and broadband-enabled services in local languages as well as the capacities of local communities to create and share content are important drivers of the use of broadband infrastructure by local populations;

f) the 2013 report of the Broadband Commission for Digital Development, which presents a series of strategies that governments worldwide, in particular developing countries² and other entities interested in education, should adopt in order to derive maximum benefit from the advantages offered by ICTs, including promoting mobility of education and open educational resources, supporting the development of content adapted to local contexts and languages, etc., pointing to the need to create ecosystems of online educational applications and services with local and homegrown content, all of which becomes especially relevant during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and possible future pandemics;

g) the relevant goal of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which aligns with ITU-D priorities to support multilingual access to telecommunication/ICTs,

resolves to instruct the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau, in collaboration with the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau

to include in the work programmes of relevant ITU-D study groups necessary actions to preserve and promote multilingualism on the Internet and the provision of a huge range of social services, from health to education, with focus on the development of digital content from popular cultures and minority groups using a range of non-mainstream languages which currently have limited coverage on the Internet, in order to contribute from ITU-D's vantage point, with the Member States, to guaranteeing digital inclusion, building an inclusive and plural information society, promoting digital skills and prompting calls for action within the framework of ITU so as to ensure that the importance of preserving linguistic and cultural diversity and the autonomy of traditional communities, such as Indigenous Peoples, is recognized, within the framework and available budgetary resources of ITU-D,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to ensure that all ITU-D programmes, projects and activities account for the need to resolve the issues that hamper the preservation and promotion of Universal Acceptance;

² These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

2 to consider holding seminars, symposia or forums for policy-makers, telecommunication/ICT regulators, Sector Members and interested stakeholders, at which public policies for protecting linguistic and cultural diversity of communities, peoples and minority groups and persons with specific needs are presented and discussed, so that their voices are heard, the preservation of their languages is promoted, and their identities, lifestyles, etc., are taken into account;

3 to collaborate with the Radiocommunication Bureau and the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau (TSB), in the spirit of "One ITU", in regard to their activities to promote awareness and mainstream policies, and in the creation of programmes and projects that help developing countries to foster linguistic diversity, multilingualism and Universal Acceptance on the Internet and to bring connectivity to minorities and traditional communities, such as Indigenous Peoples;

4 to work with the Director of TSB to promote the use of IDNs;

5 to collaborate with TSB to raise awareness among Member States and ITU Sector Members of the challenges facing Universal Acceptance and IDNs;

6 to actively engage stakeholders to support and promote multilingualism on the Internet and share progress within the ITU-D membership;

7 to provide advice to, evaluate and supervise projects, initiatives and programmes, so as to determine their impact in terms of preserving and promoting linguistic diversity and multilingualism, under Resolution 17 (Rev. Baku, 2025) of this conference, on resource mobilization, implementation and cooperation for approved regional initiatives, where appropriate;

8 to promote greater cooperation between regional and international organizations, stakeholders and governments in the development and implementation of policies and initiatives to support Universal Acceptance and multilingualism;

9 to report to the ITU Council on the implementation of this resolution,

invites Member States and Sector Members, Academia and Associates, as appropriate

- 1 to participate actively in all international discussions and initiatives for guaranteeing the preservation and promotion of multiculturalism and multilingualism in the digital ecosystem of the Internet and associated services, with a view to ensuring universal access and bringing multilingual societies to life, and strengthening dialogue between cultures, openness and mutual understanding, tolerance towards others, etc.;
- 2 to submit contributions within ITU-D in order to facilitate effective implementation of this resolution;
- 3 to promote capacity building and digital skills which foster the development of local digital content or informative resources in rural contexts and within vulnerable groups of the population, in order to preserve multiculturalism and multilingualism and promote their regional, national and local integration;
- 4 to promote initiatives that allow underserved communities, peoples and minority groups and persons with specific needs to become relevant actors in the development of a multiculturalism and multilingualism in the digital ecosystem of the Internet and associated services;
- 5 to contribute, with UNESCO, which is the facilitator for implementation of WSIS Action Line C8, focusing on concerns and requests for assistance, in particular from developing countries, to facilitating and fostering affordability and availability of international Internet connectivity, and thereby overcome language barriers and increase use of the Internet;
- 6 to contribute to the establishment of regional, national and local strategic plans to promote sites which ensure and foster linguistic diversity and multilingualism in the digital ecosystem of the Internet;
- 7 to contribute to studying appropriate mechanisms for converting digital archives in underrepresented languages, with a view to fostering socio-economic development and information- and knowledge-sharing between communities and groups with specific needs, and so that more and new voices can benefit from the potential of telecommunications/ICTs;

8 to recommend measures within their competencies for cooperation with academia, civil society and other interested and involved stakeholders, under a multistakeholder approach, with a view to reducing disparity, exclusion and discrimination in terms of opportunities, by exploiting the potential that protecting and safeguarding languages not present in the digital ecosystem of the Internet offers;

9 to promote awareness among equipment manufacturers and designers regarding the advantages of introducing in the regions already identified by UNESCO alternative alphabets for languages not present in the digital ecosystem of the Internet, to be used by people with different native languages, and thus contribute to moving forward towards digital inclusion, respecting their cultural identity;

10 to promote Universal Acceptance regarding IDNs and to collaborate and coordinate in enabling their applications, including EAI, in the Internet;

11 to urge all stakeholders to ensure the development and deployment of IDNs in all possible language scripts using their specific character sets to enable users to access and navigate the Internet in their preferred language without hindrance;

12 to promote the concept of Universal Acceptance, recognizing its importance in achieving digitally inclusive and multilingual Internet for all;

13 to play a role in sharing best practices for IDNs and raising user awareness of both IDNs and EAI,

invites the Secretary-General

1 to bring this resolution to the attention of the next plenipotentiary conference, for its consideration, taking into account past accomplishments, by allocating the necessary human resources to make effective contributions to ITU-D's activities for institutionalizing the issue of multilingualism within ITU;

2 to bring this resolution to the attention of the Secretary-General of the United Nations in an effort to promote increased cooperation and coordination for development policies, programmes and projects in order to make progress in linguistic diversity and the Internet, in line with the principles of equitable access, Universal Acceptance, functional equivalence, affordability and universal design, fully harnessing the available tools, guidelines and standards, for the elimination of all forms of discrimination and digital exclusion.

RESOLUTION 83 (Rev. Baku, 2025)

Special assistance and support to the Government of Libya for rebuilding its telecommunication networks

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Baku, 2025),

recalling

- a) Resolution 34 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on assistance and support to countries in special need for rebuilding their telecommunication sector;
- b) the noble principles, purposes and objectives enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as well as in the Declaration of Principles adopted by the World Summit on the Information Society;
- c) the purposes of the Union as enshrined in Article 1 of the ITU Constitution,

considering

- a) that reliable telecommunication systems are indispensable for promoting the socio-economic development of countries, in particular of countries in special need, which are those having suffered from domestic conflicts or war;
- b) that the telecommunication infrastructure in Libya has been grievously affected by war;
- c) that, under the present conditions, Libya will not be able to rebuild its war-damaged infrastructure and ensure effective operation of its telecommunication sector to meet its social and economic goals without the help of the international community, provided bilaterally or through international organizations;
- d) that Libya requires sustained support to rebuild critical telecommunication/information and communication technology (ICT) infrastructure and ensure connectivity for all its citizens,

noting

- a) the efforts which have been and are being deployed by the Secretary-General and the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) to provide assistance to countries in special need which have endured armed conflict and war;
- b) the technical assistance from BDT for the purpose of telecommunication/ICT development in Member States;
- c) the progress made in implementing previous phases of assistance to Libya, while recognizing the significant challenges that remain,

resolves

to continue special action, within the framework of ITU and within available resources, with the aim of providing assistance and support to the Government of Libya in rebuilding its telecommunication infrastructure, creating appropriate institutions, building human capacities, formulating legislation in the area of telecommunications, and developing a regulatory framework,

calls upon members

to offer all possible assistance and support to the Government of Libya, either bilaterally or through the special action of the Union referred to above,

invites the ITU Council

to allocate the necessary funds for the implementation of this resolution,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

- 1 to use the necessary funds to implement activities in favour of the Government of Libya, to develop specific projects and activities aimed at supporting digital skills development and capacity building in the field of telecommunications/ICTs;
- 2 to mobilize extrabudgetary resources to assist Libya;
- 3 to provide technical assistance on telecommunication/ICT regulatory reform, within the mandate and available resources of BDT,

requests the Secretary-General

- 1 to coordinate the activities carried out by the three ITU Sectors in accordance with *resolves* above, in order to ensure that the ITU action in favour of the Government of Libya is as effective as possible;
- 2 to report on the implementation of this resolution to the ITU Council and plenipotentiary conferences;
- 3 to bring to the attention of the next plenipotentiary conference the need to allocate the necessary resources for Libya.

RESOLUTION 84 (Rev. Baku, 2025)

Combating mobile telecommunication device theft

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Baku, 2025),

recalling

- a)* Resolution 196 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on protecting telecommunication service users/consumers;
- b)* Resolution 189 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on assisting Member States to combat and deter mobile device theft;
- c)* Resolution 97 (Rev. New Delhi, 2024) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA), on combating mobile telecommunication device theft;
- d)* Resolution 188 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on combating counterfeit and tampered telecommunication/information and communication technology (ICT) devices;
- e)* Resolution 174 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on ITU's role with regard to international public policy issues relating to the risk of illicit use of ICTs;
- f)* Resolution 79 (Rev. Kigali, 2022) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference, on the role of telecommunications/ICTs in combating and dealing with counterfeit and tampered telecommunication/ICT devices;
- g)* Resolution 64 (Rev. Baku, 2025) of this conference, on protecting, supporting and empowering users/consumers of telecommunication/ICT services;
- h)* Resolution 96 (Rev. New Delhi, 2024) of WTSA, on ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) studies for combating counterfeit and tampered telecommunication/ICT devices,

recognizing

- a) that governments and industry have been implementing actions to prevent and combat mobile telecommunication/ICT device theft;
- b) that the theft of user-owned mobile telecommunication/ICT devices may lead to the criminal use of telecommunication/ICT services and applications, resulting in financial losses for the lawful owner and user;
- c) that measures to combat mobile telecommunication/ICT device theft adopted by some countries rely on unique device identifiers, and therefore tampering with (changing without authorization) unique identifiers can diminish the effectiveness of these solutions;
- d) that some solutions to combat counterfeit telecommunication/ICT devices can also be used to combat the use of stolen telecommunication/ICT devices, in particular those devices whose unique identifier has been tampered with for the purpose of re-introducing them to the market;
- e) that studies on combating counterfeiting, including of telecommunication/ICT devices, and systems adopted on the basis of those studies, in some circumstances, can facilitate the detection and blocking of devices and prevention of their further use;
- f) that it is important to find innovative solutions and adopt national, regional and global strategies to fight mobile telecommunication/ICT device theft,

considering

- a) that technological innovation driven by telecommunications/ICTs has significantly modified the ways in which people access telecommunications;
- b) that the positive impact of mobile telecommunications, technological progress and the development generated by all related services have increased the penetration of mobile telecommunication/ICT devices;
- c) that the widespread use of mobile telecommunications in the world has also been accompanied by a rise in the problem of mobile telecommunication/ICT device theft;

- d) that the theft of a mobile telecommunication/ICT device has implications for the device and its user;
- e) that mobile telecommunication/ICT device theft may be significantly reduced when national legislation prohibits tampering with unique device identifiers;
- f) that the act of mobile telecommunication/ICT device theft can sometimes have a negative impact on the health and safety of citizens and on their sense of security;
- g) that problems arising from crimes related to mobile telecommunication/ICT device theft have become a worldwide issue, since these stolen devices may be of high monetary value and are often very easily resold on international markets;
- h) that the illicit trading of stolen mobile telecommunication/ICT devices constitutes a risk to consumers and causes loss of revenue for the industry;
- i) that some governments have implemented regulations, law-enforcement actions, policies and technological mechanisms to prevent and combat mobile telecommunication/ICT device theft;
- j) that some manufacturers of mobile telecommunication/ICT devices, as well as operators and industry, offer solutions for consumers, such as free anti-theft applications, with the aim of reducing the rate of mobile telecommunication/ICT device theft,

aware

- a) of the related ongoing work in ITU-T Study Group 11 on combating counterfeit and mobile telecommunication/ICT device theft;
- b) of the related ongoing work in ITU-T Study Group 17 on security;
- c) that manufacturers, operators and industry associations have been developing a range of technological solutions and governments have been developing policies and, in some cases, regulations to address the global problem of mobile telecommunication/ICT device theft,

resolves

1 that the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) should explore all applicable solutions and develop reports or implementation guidelines, taking into account the needs of countries, especially developing countries¹, in consultation with relevant ITU-T and ITU Radiocommunication Sector study groups, to combat and deter mobile telecommunication/ICT device theft, offering all interested parties a forum for encouraging discussion, member cooperation, exchange of best practices and guidelines and dissemination of information on combating mobile telecommunication/ICT device theft;

2 that ITU-D study groups should include activities relating to combating mobile telecommunication/ICT device theft;

3 to encourage relevant ITU-T study groups, within their mandate, to study topics on combating mobile telecommunication/ICT device theft,

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

1 to provide assistance, within ITU-D's expertise and within available resources, as appropriate, in cooperation with relevant organizations, to Member States, if so requested, in order to reduce mobile telecommunication/ICT device theft and the use of stolen mobile telecommunication/ICT devices in their countries;

2 to compile and share information, including statistics, on best practices developed by governments and other stakeholders and on promising trends and solutions in combating mobile telecommunication/ICT device theft, especially from regions where the rate of device theft has fallen,

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

instructs Study Groups 1 and 2 of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector, each within its mandate and in collaboration with study groups of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector

- 1 to develop guidelines, recommendations and reports to address the problem of mobile telecommunication/ICT device theft and its negative effects;
- 2 to gather information about any technologies and best practices that can be used as tools for combating mobile telecommunication/ICT device theft, and to build capacities in developing countries in this regard,

invites Member States and Sector Members

- 1 to take all necessary measures, including raising awareness, to combat mobile telecommunication/ICT device theft and its negative effects;
- 2 to cooperate and share expertise in this area;
- 3 to participate actively in ITU studies relating to the implementation of this resolution by submitting contributions;
- 4 to take the necessary actions to prevent or discover and control tampering (unauthorized changing) of unique mobile telecommunication/ICT device identifiers and prevent tampered devices from accessing mobile networks, and to share information and experiences on controlling the tampering of unique mobile telecommunication/ICT device identifiers.

RESOLUTION 85 (Rev. Baku, 2025)

Facilitating the Internet of Things and smart sustainable cities and communities, including villages, for global development

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Baku, 2025),

recalling

- a)* Resolution 197 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on facilitating the Internet of Things (IoT) and smart sustainable cities and communities (SSC&C);
- b)* Resolution ITU-R 66-2 (Rev. Dubai, 2023) of the Radiocommunication Assembly, on studies related to wireless systems and applications for the development of IoT;
- c)* Resolution 98 (Rev. New Delhi, 2024) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly, on enhancing the standardization of IoT, digital twins and SSC&C for global development;
- d)* Resolution 50 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC), on optimal integration of information and communication technologies (ICTs);
- e)* Resolution 71 of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the strategic plan for the Union, as revised periodically;
- f)* Recommendation ITU-D 22 (Dubai, 2014) of WTDC, on bridging the standardization gap in association with regional groups of the study groups;
- g)* Resolution 139 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on use of telecommunications/ICTs to bridge the digital divide and build an inclusive information society;
- h)* Resolution 77 (Rev. Baku, 2025) of this conference, on broadband technology and applications for greater growth and development of telecommunication/ICT services and broadband connectivity;
- i)* Resolution 200 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the Connect 2030 Agenda for global telecommunication/ICT, including broadband, for sustainable development,

noting

- a) the work carried out by the United for Smart Sustainable Cities (U4SSC) initiative, launched by ITU together with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) in May 2016;
- b) that applying an SSC&C approach to villages can support the digital transformation of rural and remote areas;
- c) that the smart village initiative is an inclusive approach to delivering essential telecommunication/ICT services to rural and remote communities,

considering

- a) that the development of IoT technologies will have a positive impact on both ICT and non-ICT sectors, including health, agriculture, transport and energy in view of the applications provided;
- b) that IoT deployment will contribute significantly to the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- c) that the development and deployment of IoT will benefit from cooperative efforts at regional and global levels;
- d) that the development and implementation of IoT and the creation of SSC&C will hinge upon the active participation of governments, industry and other relevant international and regional organizations and stakeholders;
- e) that special support should be given to developing countries¹, as they may have limited resources and digital skills to build an inclusive society;
- f) that IoT and SSC&C can be key enablers for the information society and digital transformation, including in rural and remote areas;
- g) that public-private partnerships may support the efficient implementation of IoT and SSC&C,

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

recognizing

- a) the important role of ITU and, in particular, that of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D), in encouraging telecommunication/ICT development at the global level; and in particular the relevant work carried out by ITU-D study groups;
- b) the role of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) and, in particular, that of ITU-T Study Group 20, in carrying out studies and standardization work associated with IoT and its applications, including SSC&C, and coordinating with other organizations working in these two areas;
- c) the role of the ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R) in conducting studies on the technical and operational aspects of radio networks and systems for IoT;
- d) that U4SSC is a United Nations initiative coordinated by ITU, UNECE and the United Nations Human settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) to achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 11;
- e) that smart village initiatives have been able to create scalable and impactful models for digital rural development,

resolves

- 1 that ITU-D, in close collaboration with ITU-T and ITU-R, promote the adoption of IoT and the development of SSC&C, in order to maximize the benefits in advancing socio-economic development and contribute to achieving the SDGs and the Connect 2030 Agenda;
- 2 to promote the expansion of SSC&C initiatives to encompass smart villages, so that rural and remote communities benefit from the technological advancements, telecommunication/ICT services and enduring development approaches on the same basis as urban areas,

instructs the study groups of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector, each within its mandate

- 1 to collect national and regional experiences on the adoption of IoT and SSC&C and prepare guidelines for the implementation of IoT and SSC&C on the basis of ITU Recommendations and contributions from other organizations;
- 2 to carry out studies on the opportunities and challenges in the implementation of IoT and SSC&C;
- 3 to identify case studies on the application of IoT and SSC&C, focusing on factors affecting the roll-out of IoT and SSC&C,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

- 1 to support Member States, in particular developing countries, in adopting IoT and SSC&C through providing relevant information, expertise, capacity building and accumulation of best practices aimed at facilitating the development of enabling environments and infrastructure, attracting investment and fostering digital innovation ecosystems;
- 2 to facilitate deployment and adoption of IoT and SSC&C, especially in developing countries, through projects under the United Nations development systems and in accordance with No. 118 (Article 21) of the ITU Constitution;
- 3 to work in collaboration with the ITU Sectors and in coordination with international and regional organizations and all the stakeholders in order to establish a favourable environment to enable the exchange of knowledge, expertise and best practices to support the deployment of IoT and SSC&C, including applications and services, by organizing workshops and forums at both regional and international levels;

4 to continue providing technical assistance, and capacity building, such as guidance, toolkits, knowledge exchange, best practices, etc., within available resources, for the development and implementation of smart village and smart community initiatives,

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

1 to prepare and/or update a report identifying the needs of developing countries related to IoT and SSC&C, based on the work conducted by ITU-T, ITU-R and ITU-D in connection with U4SSC;

2 to collate the work done within ITU relating to IoT and SSC&C, including studies conducted on technology and standards as well as recommendations on policy and regulation, so as to facilitate the development and adoption of IoT;

3 to facilitate discussions and exchange of best practices through the organization of workshops and training programmes on IoT and SSC&C;

4 to foster collaboration among ITU Sectors to discuss how the IoT ecosystem and SSC&C technologies can further the achievement of the SDGs and the framework of the World Summit for the Information Society;

5 to provide developing countries with capacity-building opportunities in IoT and SSC&C;

6 to continue their collaboration efforts in facilitating the enablement of smart villages,

invites Member States, Sector Members, Associates and Academia

- 1 to participate actively in ITU studies relating to IoT and SSC&C, including applications and services, by providing all possible assistance;
- 2 to collaborate and exchange expertise and best practices in this area;
- 3 to deliver capacity-building courses and training programmes on IoT and SSC&C for developing countries,

encourages Member States

- 1 to adopt appropriate strategies, policies, plans and an enabling environment to facilitate and stimulate the development of IoT and SSC&C, including applications and services using new and emerging telecommunications/ICTs;
- 2 to cooperate and share knowledge, expertise and best practices on IoT and SSC&C;
- 3 to consider SSC&C planning as appropriate to local contexts, using new and emerging telecommunications/ICTs;
- 4 to consider smart village and smart community initiatives as part of national digital transformation strategies.

RESOLUTION 87 (Kigali, 2022)

Connecting every school to the Internet and every young person to information and communication technology services

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Kigali, 2022),

recalling

- a)* the commitment by all Member States of the United Nations to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and related targets, as reflected in Resolution 70/1 of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA);
- b)* the commitment by all Member States of the United Nations to improving digital cooperation, as reflected in UNGA Resolution 75/1, on the Declaration on the commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the United Nations;
- c)* the Connect 2030 Agenda for global telecommunication/information and communication technology (ICT) development, adopted in Resolution 200 (Rev. Dubai 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference;
- d)* Resolution 139 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the use of telecommunications/ICTs to bridge the digital divide and to build an inclusive information society;
- e)* the Buenos Aires Declaration and Buenos Aires Action Plan, as well as relevant resolutions, including Resolution 37 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017), on bridging the digital divide, adopted by the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-17);
- f)* Recommendation ITU-D 19 (Dubai, 2014) of WTDC, on telecommunications for rural and remote areas, which notes that schools, as well as other public ICT facilities, can serve to connect the communities they serve, especially in rural and remote areas of developing countries¹,

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

recalling further

- a) Resolution 71 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the strategic plan for the Union, containing a set of strategic targets whose purpose is to provide the direction where ITU should focus its attention and to materialize the ITU vision for an interconnected world for 2020-2023;
- b) the new set of global targets for "universal and meaningful digital connectivity" to be achieved by 2030, announced by the Office of the United Nations Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology, developed as part of the implementation of the United Nations Secretary-General's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation (Document A/74/821);
- c) the 2025 Global Broadband Targets of the ITU/United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development to support "connecting the other half",

considering

- a) the United Nations system-wide implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and efforts towards achieving the SDGs;
- b) the role of ITU as a United Nations specialized agency to support Member States and to contribute to the worldwide efforts to achieve the SDGs;
- c) the relevant work already accomplished and to be carried out by ITU as part of the implementation of the WSIS outcomes, considering the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- d) the United Nations Secretary-General's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation, which calls for every person to have safe and affordable access to the Internet by 2030, including the meaningful use of digitally enabled services, in line with the SDGs;
- e) the United Nations Secretary-General's report on Our Common Agenda (Document A/75/982), which presents the United Nations Secretary-General's vision on the future of global cooperation through inclusive, networked and effective multilateralism, as requested by Member States in the Declaration on the commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the United Nations,

recognizing

- a) that telecommunications/ICTs can help to accelerate progress towards the SDGs;
- b) that education systems need to be transformed to become more agile, more resilient, shock absorbent, crisis respondent, more innovative and more connected using appropriate telecommunication/ICT solutions that can support such transformation;
- c) the importance of school connectivity to support meaningful learning experiences and to enable teachers to stay abreast of new content, technologies and teaching methods in order to reach more children and young people everywhere irrespective of their circumstances;
- d) that sustainable digital and hybrid learning systems should be inclusive, generate value through contextualized and open educational resources, and celebrate local languages, while benefiting from global ecosystems, initiatives, value chains, resources and knowledge;
- e) that continuous energy supply is required for connected schools,

having noted

- a) that key ITU Telecommunication Development Sector projects that focus on connecting the unconnected in diverse settings can share their findings to inform national school connectivity projects and initiatives;
- b) that Giga, the ITU and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) initiative to connect every school to the Internet and every young person to information technology services, opportunity and choice:
 - i) connects schools and therefore connects students and teachers;
 - ii) is working actively with governments to create investment opportunities for blended public- and private-sector funding, to build the infrastructure needed to provide universal access to every school and to equip learners with high-quality, vetted and safe content;

- iii) supports (through its pillars of Map, Finance, Connect and Empower) governments and national leaders in mapping schools and their connectivity levels and with analysis of the infrastructure requirements and technologies to connect all schools, and in developing sustainable financial models for universal digital access;
- c) ongoing flagship partnerships of ITU with other United Nations agencies such as the World Bank, UNESCO, UNICEF and UN Women in the area of skills and ICTs, such as the Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development, Giga and EQUALS,

resolves

to commit to working towards connecting every school to the Internet, as a contribution to bridging the digital divide and to ensuring that young people everywhere have the means and skills to enable their fruitful participation in the global digital economy,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

- 1 to continue to carry out work on connecting every school and every young person to ICT services;
- 2 to set standards for school connectivity and to provide short-mid-long term global targets for connecting every school in line with the global targets of universal and meaningful connectivity, towards 2030;
- 3 to evaluate models for affordable and sustainable approaches and financing with a view to connecting every young person, especially those in rural or remote areas, to ICT services, based on study of these models;
- 4 to continue to assist Member States and Sector Members in developing policy, regulatory and financial frameworks for connecting every school to the Internet;
- 5 to report annually to the ITU Council on the progress made in the implementation of this resolution;
- 6 to bring this resolution to the attention of all interested parties, including, in particular, the United Nations Secretary-General, UNESCO, UNICEF and other relevant United Nations agencies and programmes, for cooperation in implementing this resolution,

calls upon Member States, Sector Members and Academia of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector

- 1 to promote whole-of-government and public-private partnership approaches for connectivity and infrastructure to bridge the digital divide and support the local development of digital education and training systems;
- 2 to encourage the adoption of a national strategy for school connectivity and digital skills development for life, work and lifelong learning, encompassing students, teachers and educators;
- 3 to make all efforts to bring down the costs of connectivity infrastructure and of the installation and operation of ICT equipment;
- 4 to identify, examine and implement sustainable energy solutions and supply for connectivity to and in schools, taking into consideration the geographical and topographical context;
- 5 to promote innovation in infrastructure and connectivity operating models to ensure inclusive and sustainable digital learning;
- 6 to share knowledge, expertise, skills and experiences in connecting schools and the communities around them.

RESOLUTION 88 (Kigali, 2022)

The ITU Partner2Connect Digital Coalition

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Kigali, 2022),

recalling

- a) United Nations General Assembly Resolution 70/1, on transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- b) Resolution 135 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) 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 countries¹ and in implementing relevant national, regional and interregional projects;
- c) Resolution 139 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the use of telecommunications/ICTs to bridge the digital divide and build an inclusive information society;
- d) Resolution 140 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on ITU's role in implementing the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- e) Resolution 200 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the Connect 2030 Agenda for global telecommunication/ICT, including broadband, for sustainable development;
- f) Resolution 16 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference, on special actions and measures for the least developed countries (LDCs), landlocked developing countries (LLDCs), small island developing states (SIDS) and countries with economies in transition;
- g) Resolution 37 (Rev. Kigali, 2022) of this conference, on bridging the digital divide;

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

h) Resolution 71 (Rev. Kigali, 2022) of this conference, on strengthening cooperation between Member States, Sector Members, Associates and Academia of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector and the evolving role of the private sector in the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector,

considering

a) that, while it is widely recognized that ICTs form the backbone of today's digital economy, and have potential to accelerate progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), 2.9 billion people are still totally offline in 2022, while hundreds of millions more lack the affordable, accessible and reliable connectivity that would meaningfully change their lives;

b) that, the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic spotlighted that having access to the Internet and ICTs is essential, and that access and adoption and creating value through digital ecosystems is fundamental for individuals to work, learn, trade and communicate and to foster the digital economy;

c) the importance of engaging all stakeholders to mobilize resources, partnerships and commitments in order to foster meaningful connectivity and digital transformation in the hardest-to-connect communities,

noting

a) the Partner2Connect Digital Coalition (P2C), a multistakeholder alliance launched by ITU in close cooperation with the Office of the United Nations Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology, and in line with the United Nations Secretary-General's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation, to foster meaningful connectivity and digital transformation globally, with a focus on, but not limited to, hardest-to-connect communities in LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS;

b) the P2C Action Framework, developed through a multistakeholder consultative process in alignment with the WSIS action lines and the SDGs, and based on four focus areas: access, adoption, value creation and accelerating investments,

resolves to request the Secretary-General and the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to continue to follow up on the work of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) pursuant to Resolution 37 (Rev. Kigali, 2022), on bridging the digital divide, and Resolution 71 (Rev. Kigali, 2022), by catalysing concrete joint efforts to accelerate connectivity and mobilizing resources across the four focus areas through the P2C Coalition and the multistakeholder partnership model it represents;

2 to ensure that BDT continues to play a central role in this initiative and actively monitors and tracks commitments and engagements, and reports over time against the overall objective of achieving universal connectivity, in addition to maintaining an active communication channel among strategic stakeholders;

3 to ensure that the necessary resources, within the budgetary limits, are allocated to the above actions,

invites international financial institutions, donor agencies and private-sector entities

to make, implement and report on pledges and commitments to P2C to foster meaningful connectivity and digital transformation,

invites Member States and Sector Members

1 to advance progress towards meaningful connectivity and digital transformation by defining, implementing and scaling pledges and mobilizing new resources and partnerships, in alignment with the SDGs, the WSIS action lines, and the United Nations Secretary-General's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation;

2 to participate actively in reporting and sharing experiences and best practices in the implementation of P2C pledges and commitments.

RESOLUTION 89 (Rev. Baku, 2025)

Digital transformation for sustainable development

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Baku, 2025),

recalling

- a) Resolution 70/1 of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), on transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- b) UNGA Resolution 70/125, on the outcome document of the UNGA high-level meeting on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS);
- c) the WSIS outcome documents, notably the Geneva Plan of Action and the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society;
- d) the outcomes of the United Nations Secretary-General's High-level Panel on Digital Cooperation and its associated roadmap, as well as the United Nations Global Pulse initiative;
- e) the Global Digital Compact adopted as Annex I to UNGA Resolution 79/1 of 22 September 2024, which sets out objectives, principles, commitments and actions related to digital transformation;
- f) Resolution 71 of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the strategic plan for the Union, as revised periodically;
- g) Resolution 130 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on strengthening the role of ITU in building confidence and security in the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs);
- h) Resolution 200 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the Connect 2030 Agenda for global telecommunication/ICT, including broadband, for sustainable development;

- i) Resolution 137 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on deployment of future networks in developing countries¹;
 - j) Resolution 17 (Rev. Baku, 2025) of this conference, on resource mobilization, implementation and cooperation for approved regional initiatives;
 - k) Resolution 11 (Rev. Baku, 2025) of this conference, on telecommunication/ICT services in rural, isolated, unserved and underserved areas;
 - l) Resolution 77 (Rev. Baku, 2025) of this conference, on broadband technology and applications for greater growth and development of telecommunication/information and communication services and broadband connectivity;
 - m) recommendations and other work of ITU related to digital transformation,
- considering*
- a) the role of ITU as a United Nations specialized agency to support Member States and to contribute to worldwide efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
 - b) that ITU is committed to inclusiveness, bridging the digital divides and providing broadband access for all;
 - c) that digital transformation is important for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the WSIS outcomes;
 - d) that digital transformation has enormous potential for, and is an important factor in, positive change, while recognizing the risks and challenges it can pose;
 - e) that incorporating digital transformation into national strategies and policies, with inputs from stakeholders, is an effective way to plan for digital transformation,

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

noting

- a) that developing countries' achievement of the SDGs will depend in large part on their ability to mobilize financial and human resources;
- b) that collaboration among all stakeholders on digital transformation can contribute to addressing the associated challenges and provide opportunities for all,

taking into account

- a) that telecommunications/ICTs are key enablers for social, environmental, cultural and economic development, and consequently for accelerating the timely attainment of the SDGs and associated targets;
- b) that new and emerging telecommunication/ICT services and technologies are key drivers for digital transformation, creating, at the same time, opportunities and challenges;
- c) that it is important to foster access to, and increased use of, telecommunications/ICTs and to facilitate innovation in support of the digital transformation of society;
- d) that methods and criteria to assess the impacts of digital transformation are necessary to ensure that the opportunities are maximized and the challenges effectively addressed,

recognizing

- a) that the digital economy continues to expand, and so, for developing countries to draw full benefit from the digital transformation, capacity building and capabilities are essential to promote socio-economic opportunities;

- b) that digitalization of the economy supports digital transformation;
- c) that telecommunication/ICT infrastructure and services, universal and meaningful connectivity, affordable access and digital skills are important components of digital transformation of the economy and should be factored into national digital transformation strategies;
- d) that, given the electricity, connectivity and other infrastructure needs of the digital economy, developing an enabling environment for digital transformation is critical for developing countries;
- e) that telecommunications/ICTs are enabling technologies for the deployment, resilience and scalability of inclusive digital transformation and innovation,

recognizing further

that the study groups of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) have made significant progress in their ongoing work related to digital transformation,

resolves to instruct the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to facilitate efforts within the Telecommunication Development Bureau, with the assistance of the ITU regional offices, to promote digital transformation in line with ITU-D priorities, regional initiatives, WSIS action lines, SDGs, study Questions and ITU-D projects;

2 to increase attention on projects related to new and emerging telecommunication/ICT services and technologies related to digital transformation through ITU-D priorities and regional initiatives, linking with the associated SDGs and WSIS action lines;

- 3 to continue to address matters related to key telecommunication/ICT enablers of digital transformation for a variety of services and local content, taking into consideration the related financing mechanisms for affordable and cost-effective solutions and the associated policies and strategies, including for a variety of services and local content;
- 4 to undertake studies and projects related to digital transformation policies, methods and strategies, enabling developing countries to reap the full benefits of the digital economy;
- 5 to continue, and further develop, ITU-D activities on digital transformation, including training programmes and awareness campaigns, and to support global capacity-building efforts for digital transformation;
- 6 to promote and support national initiatives dedicated to the telecommunication/ICT dimensions of the digital economy;
- 7 to assist Member States, upon request, and within available resources, to develop national digital transformation strategies using relevant ITU-D tools and resources on digital transformation;
- 8 to assist Member States, upon request and within available resources, to develop strategies to leverage the diversity of telecommunication/ICT networks for the implementation of specific use cases related to digital transformation,

invites the Directors of the Radiocommunication Bureau, the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau and the Telecommunication Development Bureau

- 1 to collaborate actively to fulfil the needs addressed by this resolution in areas of mutual interest related to digital-transformation technologies, within the framework of "One ITU" and enhancing coordination among the three Sectors;
- 2 to ensure that the Sector advisory groups provide for coordination with the other Sectors in relation to digital-transformation technologies,

invites Member States and Sector Members

to provide all possible support for the implementation of this resolution and to contribute actively on relevant work under ITU-D study Questions,

invites the Secretary-General

- 1 to include digital transformation in the list of areas of mutual interest to the three Sectors and the General Secretariat;
- 2 to suggest that the Inter-Sector Coordination Group on issues of mutual interest consider digital transformation an area of mutual interest to the three Sectors.

RESOLUTION 90 (Rev. Baku, 2025)

Fostering telecommunication/information and communication technology-centric entrepreneurship and digital innovation ecosystems for sustainable digital development

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Baku, 2025),

recalling

- a) Resolution 30 (Rev. Baku, 2025) of this conference, on role of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) in implementing the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- b) Resolution 37 (Rev. Baku, 2025) of this conference, on bridging the digital divide;
- c) Resolution 75 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference, on the implementation of the Smart Africa Manifesto and support for the development of the information and communication technology (ICT) sector in Africa;
- d) Resolution 76 (Rev. Baku, 2025) of this conference, on promoting ICTs among young women and men for social and economic empowerment;
- e) Resolution 85 (Rev. Baku, 2025) of this conference, on facilitating the Internet of Things and smart sustainable cities and communities, including villages, for global development;
- f) Resolution 198 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the empowerment of youth through telecommunication/ICT;
- g) 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;
- h) Resolution 209 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on encouraging the participation of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the work of the Union;

i) Resolution 78/160 of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), on science, technology and innovation for sustainable development;

j) the Global Digital Compact adopted as Annex I to UNGA Resolution 79/1 of 22 September 2024, which sets out objectives, principles, commitments and actions related to digital transformation,

recognizing

a) that telecommunication/ICT innovation plays a critical role in enabling infrastructure development for the provision of services in remote, rural and underserved areas, and in the deployment of telecommunications/ICTs to support digitalization of the economy;

b) that digital divides impose an obstacle to telecommunication/ICT entrepreneurship and digital innovation worldwide;

c) that telecommunication/ICT innovation has a transformational effect on individuals, societies and economies throughout the world;

d) that technology-driven entrepreneurial endeavours provide a means to accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through a bottom-up stakeholder approach to problem-solving;

e) that digital innovation ecosystems, which offer a thriving environment to sustain digital development, need focused intervention by decision-makers and partners;

f) that UNGA Resolution 70/1, on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, has substantial implications for the activities of ITU, especially those fostering innovation, for the advancement of SDG 9 (Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation);

g) the importance of digital innovation and the need for an enabling environment to tackle complex issues in communities during a crisis, and the need to ensure every country has the innovation capacity for futureproofing against pandemics and crises;

h) that inclusion of all of society is an essential goal for development,

noting

- a) ITU-D's Innovation and Entrepreneurship Alliance for Digital Development, which builds local and organizational capabilities in innovation and entrepreneurship for the ITU membership;
- b) the ITU Global Innovation Forum, which brings together relevant stakeholders to foster the development of digital innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystems for social and economic development,

resolves to instruct the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

- 1 to support, within existing resources, the sharing of good practices in telecommunications/ICTs developed by Member States to enable blueprints for accelerated development of digital entrepreneurship initiatives, including by leveraging relevant platforms and events and developing technology parks, innovation hubs, incubators, accelerators and mentoring programmes, funds and partnership mechanisms;
- 2 to continue providing technical assistance to developing countries¹ for the development and/or implementation of telecommunication/ICT-related studies, policies, strategies, roadmaps and strategic foresight, where digital entrepreneurship is the key driver for digitalization of the economy, taking into account ITU experience in the matter;
- 3 to continue building capabilities of stakeholders at the national level that promote the uptake of entrepreneurship-driven innovation and the development of sustainable digital innovation communities using telecommunications/ICTs in support of the achievement of the SDGs;
- 4 to coordinate with international and regional organizations and cooperate with other stakeholders in order to establish a supportive environment to enable the exchange of knowledge, expertise and best practices to support the deployment of entrepreneurship-driven innovation projects leveraging telecommunications/ICTs;

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

5 to support local initiatives, startups and SMEs in leveraging telecommunications/ICTs to access domestic and global markets in order to scale up their innovation, including through collaboration with the International Trade Centre and other relevant international and regional organizations;

6 to facilitate the sharing of best practices and strategies that accelerate the development of ICT/telecommunication-driven entrepreneurial universities, technology-based vocational schools and a culture of entrepreneurship, as well as mechanisms to enhance multistakeholder and multisector cooperation at the national level for sustainable digital development;

7 to continue the work of ITU in supporting digital innovation ecosystems without discrimination of any kind, including in respect of age, ability, gender or location, and to promote innovation as a means to bridge digital divides;

8 to continue work, within available resources, to support telecommunication/ICT regulatory authorities and other stakeholders in supporting innovation and competition within the telecommunication/ICT sector;

9 to leverage the regional offices to support local innovators and entrepreneurs,

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

1 to ensure that coordination takes place on all activities relevant to the purposes of this resolution;

2 to collate work done within ITU relating to the objectives of this resolution, including work in study groups, and to facilitate knowledge-sharing and dissemination of good practices in all countries;

3 to promote, within the remit of ITU, digital entrepreneurship and the development of digital innovation,

invites the Secretary-General

to support the activities in ITU-D that enable telecommunication/ICT-centric entrepreneurship-driven innovation and digital innovation ecosystems, including by human and financial means for ITU members,

invites Member States and Sector Members

- 1 to participate actively, in collaboration with other stakeholders, in digital entrepreneurship and digital innovation ecosystem-related activities, while facilitating the participation of technology hubs, entrepreneurial support organizations, local initiatives, SMEs and startups;
- 2 to collaborate with ITU on activities related to the implementation of this resolution to leverage digital entrepreneurship to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs;
- 3 to establish methodologies policies, strategies and regulations in their countries/ regions that foster telecommunication/ICT-centric innovation for all;
- 4 to engage their research and academic institutions and industry in strategic foresight activities that can help developing countries to navigate the rapidly changing digital landscape.

RESOLUTION 91 (Baku, 2025)

Artificial intelligence technologies in telecommunication development

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Baku, 2025),

recalling

a) Resolution 214 (Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on artificial intelligence (AI) technologies and telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICTs);

b) 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;

c) Resolution 101 (New Delhi, 2024) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly, on standardization activities of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector on AI technologies in support of telecommunications/ICTs,

considering

a) the efforts of ITU, in partnership with other United Nations bodies, to convene the AI for Good platform;

b) ITU's collaboration with other United Nations agencies and organizations through the Inter-Agency Working Group on Artificial Intelligence, co-chaired by ITU and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, which provides a solid foundation for system-wide efforts on AI, especially in capacity building,

resolves

- 1 that the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) shall develop activities that support Member States, particularly developing countries¹, in building foundational telecommunication/ICT infrastructure as enablers for AI adoption;
- 2 to promote the exchange of knowledge and experience relating to opportunities and challenges of adopting AI tools and applications in telecommunications/ICTs;
- 3 that ITU-D's work on AI should remain aligned with the mandate set forth in Resolution 214 (Bucharest, 2022), focusing on strengthening the telecommunication/ICT ecosystem to support AI technologies and the use of AI to enhance the efficiency of telecommunications/ICTs,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

- 1 to support Member States to assess their readiness, focusing on the expertise of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) in policy guidance, infrastructure development and capacity building;
- 2 to help Member States, focusing on telecommunication/ICT pillars that AI has an impact on, to identify strategic goals, facilitate enhanced AI adoption and enable the development of their national AI-related telecommunication/ICT infrastructure;
- 3 to facilitate information sharing among the ITU membership about ITU-D's work on AI in telecommunications/ICTs, in order to build understanding, particularly for developing countries, related to AI capacity building in support of telecommunications/ICTs and associated opportunities and challenges,

requests the Secretary-General

to coordinate work across the different Sectors within ITU with a view to achieving an integrated, "One ITU" approach,

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

invites Member States, Sector Members, Associates and Academia

- 1 to promote the use of AI as an enabler of entrepreneurship and the growth of micro, small and medium enterprises in the telecommunication/ICT sector;
- 2 to contribute actively to BDT's work on AI by sharing best practices, providing expertise, and participating in capacity-building and innovation initiatives to ensure that the benefits of AI are shared by all.

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.

RESOLUTION 93 (Baku, 2025)

Provision of assistance and support to the Sudan to reconstruct damaged telecommunication/information and communication technology infrastructure and bridge the digital divide

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Baku, 2025),

recalling

- a)* United Nations resolutions concerning programmes for least developed countries (LDCs), small island developing states (SIDS), landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) and countries with economies in transition;
- b)* 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 countries¹ and in implementing relevant national, regional and interregional projects;
- c)* Resolution 139 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on use of telecommunications/ICTs to bridge the digital divide and build an inclusive information society;
- d)* Resolution 30 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on special measures for LDCs, SIDS, LLDCs and countries with economies in transition;
- e)* Resolution 16 (Rev. Baku, 2025) of this conference, on special actions and measures for LDCs, SIDS, LLDCs and countries with economies in transition,

conscious

- a)* that telecommunication/ICT network infrastructure is indispensable to support the social and economic development of nations, in particular those that have suffered natural disasters or wars;

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

b) that the damage caused to Sudan's telecommunication/ICT infrastructure is a matter of concern for the entire international community;

c) that the Sudan continues to rebuild and develop its telecommunication/ICT infrastructure to an acceptable level, which requires assistance from the international community, provided bilaterally or through international organizations,

recognizing

a) that telecommunications/ICTs are a key tool for implementing the World Summit on the Information Society vision beyond 2015 and a key enabler for social, environmental, cultural and economic development;

b) that ITU aims to achieve a society where all people can benefit from connectivity and digital skills to improve their livelihoods,

noting

a) that the provision of suitable assistance to the Sudan by the Union will help contribute to the development of the country's telecommunication/ICT infrastructure to meet its economic recovery and development needs in the field of telecommunications/ICTs;

b) that LDCs and countries in special need are vulnerable to extreme levels of devastation from natural and human-induced disasters and lack the capacity to respond effectively to such disasters;

c) the efforts which have been and are being made by the Secretary-General and the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) to provide assistance to other countries that have recently emerged from the conditions of war that they had endured,

resolves

1 that special measures need to be taken, within the framework and available budgetary resources of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D), to provide appropriate assistance to the Sudan;

2 to support the Sudan in implementing a programme of telecommunication/ICT assistance for LDCs, within existing budgetary resources, to receive focused assistance for various areas determined to be of high priority by the country, and in developing human resources and setting up training operations outside Sudanese territory if necessary, and to provide other forms of assistance, including technical assistance,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to take immediate measures to assist the Sudan to the extent possible within the framework and available budgetary resources of ITU-D;

2 to mobilize extrabudgetary resources to assist the Sudan;

3 to consider the Sudan as a priority country under any future global development initiatives, projects or programmes launched by BDT;

4 to report annually to the ITU Council on the implementation of this resolution,

calls upon Member States

to offer all possible assistance and support to the Sudan by:

- i) contributing to the development of its telecommunications/ICT sector;
- ii) supporting the Sudan in the field of cybersecurity;
- iii) supporting the Sudan in developing local capacity to most effectively leverage telecommunications/ICTs for economic and social development,

encourages Sector Members

1 to provide support and assistance to the Sudan in order to increase investment in the telecommunication/ICT sector;

2 to contribute in the form of technical and other assistance to the Sudan in order to build human capacities in telecommunication/ICT development and to enhance confidence and security in the use of ICTs,

requests the Secretary-General

to bring to the attention of the next plenipotentiary conference the need to allocate a specific budget for assistance and support to the Sudan.

RESOLUTION 94 (Baku, 2025)

Supporting digital transformation in Pacific island countries pursuant to the Lagatoi Declaration

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Baku, 2025),

considering

a) that information and communication technology (ICT) ministers of Pacific island countries adopted the Lagatoi Declaration on Digital Transformation of the Pacific during the inaugural Pacific ICT Ministerial Dialogue, hosted by the Ministry for Information and Communications Technology of the Government of Papua New Guinea in August 2023, and subsequently reaffirmed through the Pacific ICT Ministerial Dialogue in Suva, Fiji on 8 August 2025;

b) that the Lagatoi Declaration provides a digital roadmap and reflects the shared commitment to work together in the spirit of "Smart Pacific, One Voice: Creating a digital future together for the Pacific",

recalling

a) the Lagatoi Declaration, with its commitment to build an inclusive, connected and digitally empowered Pacific, reflecting the specific geographic isolation, economic and social challenges of Pacific small island developing states (SIDS);

b) the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent, related declarations and the Pacific Islands Forum leaders' commitment for a well-connected region that ensures inclusion and accessible, secure and affordable ICT infrastructure and services,

considering further

a) Resolution 25 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on strengthening the regional presence;

b) Resolution 16 (Rev. Baku, 2025), of this conference, on special actions and measures for the least developed countries, SIDS, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition,

noting with concern

- a) that Pacific island countries (PICs) are particularly vulnerable to extreme levels of devastation resulting from natural disasters and rising sea levels, and lack the capacity to respond effectively to such disasters;
- b) that high-quality, accessible and affordable telecommunications/ICTs are critical to encouraging long-term economic growth and providing faster, more reliable and secure communications, allowing communities to share information, access early-warning systems and ensure resilient telecommunication/ICT infrastructure;
- c) that the geographical situation of PICs is an obstacle to the establishment of international telecommunication network connectivity in these countries;
- d) that, despite all the measures taken so far to address existing connectivity gaps, rural and remote communities in PICs, as SIDS, remain underserved, limiting access to telecommunications/ICTs,

resolves to instruct the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

- 1 to provide development support to PICs and their priorities through the assistance programmes of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT);
- 2 to continue providing the necessary administrative and operational support for identifying the needs of PICs and for proper administration of the resources appropriated for these countries;
- 3 to report annually to the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group on this matter,

requests the Secretary-General

- 1 to mobilize financial support from existing networks, including voluntary contributions and appropriate partnerships, including public-private partnerships;
- 2 to engage the different United Nations agencies to support the needs and priorities in telecommunications/ICTs identified by PICs, in areas within their scope and mandate,

calls upon governments of Pacific island countries

- 1 to foster cooperation in identifying and implementing telecommunication/ICT solutions tailored to the Pacific's unique geographic and economic challenges, and collaborate to align regional ICT priorities;
- 2 to actively engage in enhancing the system of the ITU regional presence,

calls upon other Member States and Sector Members

- 1 to acknowledge the visionary efforts of PICs in identifying their needs and priorities in telecommunications/ICTs through the implementation of the Lagatoi Declaration;
- 2 to cooperate with PICs in promoting regional, subregional, multilateral and bilateral projects and programmes for the implementation of this resolution.

RECOMMENDATION ITU-D 15

Models and methods to determine the cost of national telecommunication services

(January, 2002)

Question 12/1: *Tariff policies, tariff models and methods of determining the cost of national telecommunication services*

The ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau (ITU-D),

recognizing

a) that the level and structure of telecommunication tariffs have an important role to play in creating the internally generated funds needed by telecommunication operators, which in most cases serve to finance telecommunication entities' development programmes and are also used in meeting their recurrent expenditure requirements;

b) that the establishment of a balanced and attractive telecommunication tariff structure can promote efficient use of the network and services, enhance universal service provision and have a positive effect on the development of other sectors of the economy,

noting

a) that many developing countries lack adequate experience and skills in formulating cost-orientated tariffs to enable them to benefit fully from telecommunication tariff policies, strategies and practices;

b) that these countries need assistance in obtaining tools for determining and calculating costs in the context of the implementation of cost-orientated tariff structures and levels,

recommends

1 that, in establishing of their legal and regulatory frameworks, public authorities and administrations should:

a) focus on methods for determining and calculating cost-orientated tariffs for telecommunication services, including interconnection charges;

- b) take the necessary measures to ensure that they are provided with the appropriate tools for determining the costs of telecommunication services;
- c) provide for appropriate training of staff responsible for the tariff structure on the various models and approaches existing worldwide, including in particular the regional tariff models relating to national costs,

2 that the following general principles identified by ITU-T Study Group 3 be implemented in determining and calculating costs:

- a) transparency,
- b) practicability,
- c) objectivity,
- d) cost causality,
- e) cost recovery,

3 that ITU-D, and the Director of BDT in particular, pursuant to WTDC-98 Resolution 12, give support to administrations in the implementation of cost-orientated tariff structures.

RECOMMENDATION ITU-D 16

Tariff rebalancing and cost-oriented tariffs

(January, 2002)

Question 12/1: *Tariff policies, tariff models and methods of determining the cost of national telecommunication services*

The ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau (ITU-D),

recognizing

- a) that the level and structure of telecommunication tariffs play an important role for telecommunication operators in the financing of their development programmes and meeting their recurrent expenditure requirements;
- b) that the establishment of a balanced and attractive telecommunication tariff structure can promote use of the network and the operation of services, enhance universal service provision and have a positive effect on the development of other sectors of the economy,

noting

- a) that many developing countries lack adequate experience and skills in formulating cost-orientated tariffs to enable them to benefit fully from telecommunication tariff policies, strategies and practices;
- b) that these countries need assistance in obtaining tools for determining and calculating costs in the context of the implementation of cost-orientated tariff structures and levels,

recommends

- 1 that, in establishing their legal and regulatory frameworks, public authorities and administrations should take into consideration, where necessary, the impact of high inflation,
- 2 that public authorities:
 - a) gradually rebalance tariffs so as to move to cost-orientated tariffs;

- b) adopt time-limited safeguards to ensure that losses of income due to the lowering of tariffs for certain services and/or in certain areas are not offset by price increases for other services and/or in other areas (peripheral, rural, ...);
 - c) move towards rebalancing of traffic and judges its consequences on the affordability of telecom services, which need to be linked to appropriate measures that regulators and policy makers may derive,
- 3 that public authorities ensure:
- a) that tariffs for access to and use of the fixed public telephone network are independent of the type of application which the operators and users implement, except to the extent that they require different services or facilities;
 - b) that the tariffs for facilities additional to the provision of connection to the fixed public telephone network and fixed public telephone services are sufficiently unbundled so that the user is not required to pay for facilities which are not necessary for the service requested;
 - c) that, in cases where different tariffs exist, in particular to take account of high traffic load during peak hours and low traffic load at quiet times, the differences are commercially justified,
- 4 that ITU-D, and the Director of BDT in particular, pursuant to WTDC-98 Resolution 12, should give support to administrations in the implementation of cost-orientated tariff structures, *inter alia* by conducting case studies, making the questionnaire an annual one and updating the database.

RECOMMENDATION ITU-D 17

Sharing of facilities in rural and remote areas

(January, 2002)

Question 10/2: *Communications for rural and remote areas*

The ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau (ITU-D),

considering

- a) the work of Focus Group 7¹, Focus Group 7's Report², and the updated Report on Communications for rural and remote areas;
- b) the need for provision of and the fundamental goal of providing access to basic and advanced telecommunication services;
- c) the significance of obtaining physical access to and use of public or community communications centres (e.g. public call offices, multi-purpose community telecentres, and other community access centres; and
- d) the benefit brought to underserved communities by these facilities,

bearing in mind

- a) that the success of a community access focal point also depends upon access, availability, cost, community participation, reliability, sustainability, and services offered;
- b) that the success of the community access focal point also depends on analysis and assessment of the needs of the community and the appropriate technology, a community action and business plan, and the development of know-how, expertise and human resources,

¹ Focus Group 7 was established at WTDC-98 to study various mechanisms by which to promote the development of new telecommunication technologies for rural applications. Focus Group 7 completed its work at the end of 2000.

² The Report of Focus Group 7 entitled New technologies for rural applications was published in February 2001. Also see <http://www7.itu.int/itudfg7/>

noting

that there is no single model that meets the needs of an individual community, but that certain elements may be applicable in other community models,

recommends

1 that community stakeholders, policy makers, the private sector, and regulators facilitate the most inclusive framework for sharing community access facilities from practical and partnership perspectives, and collaborate to document successful and sustainable examples of community centres/access facilities, and

2 that stakeholders take advantage of a wealth of knowledge gained by development organizations, non-governmental organizations, ITU members and ITU experts on lessons learned in creating sustainable community access centres.

RECOMMENDATION ITU-D 19

Telecommunications for rural and remote areas

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Dubai, 2014),

recognizing

a) that the following Recommendation resulting from the ITU-D study period 1998-2002 has provided guidance on a number of issues concerning telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICTs) in rural and remote areas:

– RECOMMENDATION ITU-D 17, Sharing of facilities in rural and remote areas (January 2002);

b) that Focus Group 7, on rural telecommunications, addressed technological options, service potential and financing mechanisms for the provision of telecommunications/ICTs in rural and remote areas;

c) that the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT), through the "Connect a School, Connect a Community" initiative, has developed public policy recommendations and best practices for the development of ICTs in indigenous communities, and that therein, based on relevant cases of countries worldwide, it notes the importance of creating conditions for the provision of telecommunication services in those areas, through projects that are organized around achieving economies of scale and run by the communities themselves,

noting

a) that Focus Group 7 paid particular attention to the role of micro-finance institutions (MFI) in promoting access to ICT services and application by supporting small entrepreneurs;

- b) the excellent results of the study period 2006-2010, which consolidate experiences worldwide on the successful provision of telecommunications/ICTs to rural and remote areas, based, *inter alia*, on information submitted to the case library and on e-discussions on the issues identified by the Rapporteur Group¹;
- c) that experiences all over the world with emerging technologies deployed in rural and remote areas providing broadband, wired transmission media and wireless transmission media indicate rapid decrease of costs and increase of range and capacity, and that all these developments make connecting rural areas a feasible option;
- d) that backhaul wireless solutions play a key role in extending broadband service delivery and coverage for rural and remote areas;
- e) that the deployment of IP-based platforms serving wide areas can make a range of developmental services and applications such as education, health, agriculture, etc. available to the rural population;
- f) that, in remote and rural areas, spectrum use might be improved by the use of new spectrum-access approaches;
- g) that these developments make it possible for telecommunication/ICT services and applications to be provided by small and medium enterprises, local governments and non-governmental organizations in rural and remote areas with appropriate business models;
- h) that technical expertise and adoption capacity are important factors to plan, implement and operate such facilities;
- i) that in rural and remote areas of developing countries, low incomes and lack of literacy and computer literacy limit the number of people who can have Internet access in their homes: These communities need public ICT facilities which can be used for communication, delivery of services and various capacity building activities, and there is a role for small entrepreneurs, local governments, schools and post offices in this process;

¹ The case library for Question 10-2/2 can be consulted at http://www.itu.int/ITUd/study_groups/SGP_2006-2010/events/Case_Library/index.asp. The address of the e-discussion web page is: <http://www.itu.int/ituweblogs/ITUd-SG2-Q10/>.

j) that the provision of ICT services and applications by small entrepreneurs in rural and remote areas has the potential to create employment, and these ventures can be supported by financial institutions and receive support from various government schemes;

k) that a well planned maintenance and operation programme in order to keep the infrastructure and associated equipment, including terminal equipment, in good working condition is an essential aspect of the support structures in rural areas;

l) the excellent collaboration between BDT and the Universal Postal Union in promoting the use of post offices as vehicles for the provision of access to telecommunication/ICT services and applications in rural and remote areas;

m) that energy supply is a basic bottleneck for the spread of telecommunications/ICTs in rural and remote areas, and that innovative uses of solar power, mini-hydro power and windmill power sources, sometimes in combination, are being successfully employed in many countries to provide reliable energy sources for mobile base stations,

considering

a) that the provision of telecommunications, ICT services and applications can make significant contribution to the quality of life of the population living rural and remote areas;

b) that stimulation of demand for telecommunications/ICTs through proactive government policies is a key to realizing their benefits;

c) that the accumulation of experiences worldwide on community access institutions (telekiosks, multipurpose community telecentres, multimedia centres) points to the need for proactive and supportive government policies to simulate demand of the services available;

d) that the availability of information should be reinforced by the upgrading of skills and provision of capital in order that information is properly utilized;

e) that access to telecommunications/ICTs for all will maximize social welfare, increase productivity, conserve resources and contribute to safeguarding human rights,

recommends

- 1 that developing countries should include the provision of telecommunications/ICTs in rural and remote areas in their national development plans;
- 2 that, in planning infrastructure development in rural and remote areas, it is important to assess all available technologies in the market, taking into consideration the regulatory environment, geographical conditions, climate, costs (capital expenditure and operational expenditure), maintainability, operability, sustainability, etc., based on the results of the site survey and community needs;
- 3 that community access to ICT facilities and services is particularly important in rural and remote areas: business models which can achieve financial and operational sustainability can be operated by local entrepreneurs supported by a variety of initiatives, and these facilities, where necessary, should also be supported by universal service funds as an essential component of rural communications;
- 4 that it is important to encourage the use of post offices to provide telecommunication/ICT services, owing to their communicative presence in the lives of the population in rural areas;
- 5 that local institutions should be involved in planning and implementing ICT facilities;
- 6 that enhancing local technical expertise and adoption are important for successful implementation of ICT services and applications in rural and remote areas, and attention should thus be paid to training, exchange of information and sharing of maintenance facilities in order to achieve sustainability and viability;
- 7 that adoption of broadband technology should be encouraged;
- 8 that keeping equipment in good working condition through effective preventive maintenance programmes is an essential part of making telecommunications in rural areas viable and should be encouraged, while guarding against making developing countries a dumping ground for obsolete technologies;
- 9 that it is important to take steps to ensure continued reliability of equipment in rural environments, such as developing an appropriate maintenance and operation strategy and encouraging training for technical staff;

10 that it is important to consider small and non-profit community operators, through appropriate regulatory measures that allow them to access basic infrastructure on fair terms, in order to provide broadband connectivity to users in rural and remote areas, taking advantage of technological advances;

11 that it is also important that administrations, in their radio-spectrum planning and licensing activities, consider mechanisms to facilitate the deployment of broadband services in rural and remote areas by small and non-profit community operators;

12 that, given that lack of energy supply is a major bottleneck in the provision of telecommunications/ICTs in rural and remote areas, and taking into consideration environmental issues, renewable energy sources should be used whenever feasible;

13 that, since the high cost of backhaul investment is another bottleneck in the provision of telecommunications/ICTs in rural and remote areas, new regulatory frameworks on shared infrastructure and accelerated licensing processes could help in developing these networks;

14 that collaboration among governments, industry, local agencies and international organizations is desirable in the development of low-cost ICT infrastructure, including renewable energy sources and terminals for the provision of telecommunications/ICTs in rural and remote areas, and should be pursued;

15 that Member States shall promote the best alternatives for the deployment of cost-effective backhaul solutions for broadband access networks in rural and remote areas.

RECOMMENDATION ITU-D 20

Policy and regulatory initiatives for developing telecommunications/ICTs/broadband in rural and remote areas

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Dubai, 2014),

considering

- a) that the significant role of telecommunications/ICTs/broadband in providing services, particularly e-applications, in rural and remote areas of developed countries, countries with economies in transition, developing and least developed countries (LDCs) for the empowerment of their people, promotion of culture, improvement of the quality of life of the rural community, development of the economy, etc.;
- b) that ITU-D Study Groups 1 and 2 have continued their study activities to address the challenges faced by the rural and remote areas of the world in general, and LDCs and developing countries in particular, on various issues including, but not limited to, the range of techniques and solutions to provide services and e-applications, based on the inputs by the membership;
- c) that Recommendation ITU-D 19 (Hyderabad, 2010) compiled the past Recommendations and consolidated them into a Recommendation based on the results of the studies on techniques and solutions for the development of telecommunications/ICTs/broadband for rural and remote areas since the establishment of the dedicated study Question during WTDC-94 (Buenos Aires),

recognizing

- a) that the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT), under the activities of ITU-D Study Group 2 Question 10-3/2, conducted a survey to gather detailed information on policy and regulatory measures that have been taken by the governments around the world and economic and business models for telecommunication/ICT/broadband growth in rural and remote areas;
- b) that the survey also sought to collect information on the possible impact and analysis of such interventions and initiatives;

c) that the inputs received through the survey were useful for the study of ITU-D Study Group 1 and 2 Questions for the 2010-2014 study period to assist countries in strengthening the capacity to address challenges for the development of telecommunications/ICTs/broadband in rural and remote areas,

taking into account

- a) the results of analysis of the survey submitted by BDT to ITU-D Study Group 2;
- b) the analysis of case studies submitted to ITU-D Study Group 2 during the 2010-2014 study period;
- c) the final report of ITU-D Study Group 2 Question 10-3/2, on telecommunications/ICTs for rural and remote areas (2014);
- d) the report of Broadband Commission for Digital development (2012) submitted to ITU-D Study Group 2;
- e) the ITU Report on measuring the information society (2012);
- f) the fact that, in contrast to the large percentage of the global population that subscribe to basic mobile phone services, Internet connectivity in developing countries and LDCs is still limited, in particular in their rural and remote areas;
- g) that many governments have initiated the development of a specific national broadband network plan that would also cater for the needs of their rural and remote areas;
- h) that active and passive infrastructure sharing, along with the sharing of spectrum resources, are already included by some countries in their national telecommunication/ICT policy;
- i) that new licensees, with the support of the universal service fund and the sharing of active and passive network elements based on reference offers, as well as spectrum resources, can service rural and remote areas with incremental addition of their own network infrastructure elements, billing systems and customer services and independent tariff plans,

noting

- a) that the following major interventions/initiatives are observed in the analysis of survey input:

- i) the definition of "rural and remote areas" is based on sparse population and harsh geographical conditions, and some countries have licence obligations to cover a certain percentage of the population in such areas;
- ii) the majority of the countries that responded to the survey have specific government policies in place for the development of telecommunications/ICTs/broadband in rural and remote areas, including the corresponding instruments, such as universal service provisions, universal access funds, licence obligations and targets for broadband coverage, penetration rate and data speed, defined in their telecommunication law and regulation;
- iii) funds are collected by the government ministry or telecommunication regulator of the country as a percentage of annual gross revenue or other scheme in proportion with income/annual net revenue/turnover and also managed and disbursed by the relevant ministry or regulator;
- iv) the development and adoption of an appropriate economic model and business model is critical for the development and sustainability of telecommunication/ICT/broadband networks and service provisioning in rural and remote areas, and it has been found that various kinds of economic and business models have been adopted by Member States based on specific country situations and requirements;
- v) sharing of backbone network infrastructure in rural and remote areas among operators, rather than building network infrastructure using a specific government budget and through a universal service obligation (USO) fund, is one possible option;
- vi) special policy, legal and/or regulatory frameworks for infrastructure sharing in rural and remote areas, for example by using optical fibre cables and base transceiver stations (BTS)/microwave towers and related support infrastructures, is an option worth considering in developing countries and LDCs,

convinced

- a) that the development of telecommunication/ICT/broadband services is essential for overall socio-economic and cultural development as well as for the promotion of other sectors;
- b) that the development of ICT infrastructure is an important measure to prevent the migration of population to urban areas;
- c) that telecommunication/ICT infrastructure is an important tool for measuring factors related to the protection of the environment,

recommends

- 1 that governments and regulators around the world in general and in the developing countries and LDCs in particular should take regulatory and policy measures to accelerate the development of telecommunications/ICTs/broadband in their rural and remote areas through specific policy and regulatory interventions/initiatives, and include them in their national development plans;
- 2 that operators and service providers should implement universal telecommunication/ICT service in rural and remote areas;
- 3 that Sector Members, Associates and Academia should take actions to increase studies on economic, energy-efficient and clean equipment suitable for ICT infrastructure development in rural and remote areas;
- 4 that the state-of-the-art cost-effective techniques and technologies for broadband infrastructure development most suited for the geographical and economic conditions of rural and remote areas be put in place to enable these areas to access various e-applications, especially those which integrate them into national streams like e-governance, e-health, e-education, e-agriculture, etc. for vitalizing rural community through policy and regulatory interventions/initiatives;
- 5 that country/area-specific poverty indices published by the United Nations/ World Bank may be taken into due consideration in the implementation of universal telecommunication/ICT service in rural and remote areas,

invites the Director of BDT

to continue organizing symposiums, seminars, workshops and related activities on the subject.

RECOMMENDATION ITU-D 21

ICT and climate change

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Dubai, 2014),

considering

- a)* that climate change is now an undeniable reality, and global action to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions is urgent in order to avoid devastating impacts on our societies;
- b)* that the World Telecommunication Development Conference (Hyderabad, 2010) (WTDC-10) stated that telecommunications/ICTs can make a substantial contribution to monitoring, mitigating and adapting to the adverse effects of climate change;
- c)* that the World Radiocommunication Conference (Geneva, 2012) (WRC-12) revised Resolution 673 (Rev. Geneva, 2012), on the importance of earth observation radiocommunication applications;
- d)* that the Plenipotentiary Conference (Guadalajara, 2010) adopted Resolution 182 (Guadalajara, 2010), on the role of telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICTs) in regard to climate change and the protection of the environment;
- e)* that WTDC Resolution 66 (Rev. Dubai, 2014), on information and communication technology and climate change, states that radio-based remote sensing applications on board satellites are the main global observation tools employed by the Global Climate Observing System for climate monitoring, disaster prediction, detection and mitigation of the negative effects of climate change;
- f)* that the economic costs imposed by extreme climates and disasters on humans, societies and ecosystems are growing;
- g)* that climate modelling indicates that, in future, continued increases in GHG concentrations may drive more extreme weather events;

h) that, according to Resolution 30 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, countries, particularly small island developing states, least developed countries (LDCs), landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) and low-lying coastal countries, are vulnerable to global climate change and rising sea levels;

i) that the process established by the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the ongoing negotiations of its Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee are important international actions aimed at addressing the threat of climate change, mitigating its adverse impacts and assisting all ITU Member States, especially LDCs, in adapting to its adverse consequences,

noting

a) that ICTs can facilitate faster development of various social and economic sectors in any country and that they lead to especially perceptible equal opportunities for all mankind;

b) the need for improvement for the most vulnerable parts of society in rural and remote areas, contributing to their inclusive growth of society;

c) that providing assistance to developing countries in formulating national and regional strategies and measures on the use of ICTs can help to mitigate and respond to the devastating effects of climate change;

d) that it is necessary to have an updated map of the potential upheavals that may occur in the long term due to the consequences of the warming of the climate;

e) that mapping areas vulnerable to natural disasters and developing computer-based information systems covering the results of surveys, assessments and observations, as part of the development of adequate response strategies, adaptation policies and measures, can minimize the impact of climate change and climate variability;

f) that assisting developing countries in the use of data from active and passive satellite-based remote sensing systems for climate monitoring, disaster prediction, detection and mitigation of the negative effects of climate change is a key issue for understanding the long-term evolution of the climate;

g) that facilitating Member States' participation in bilateral, regional and global research, assessments, monitoring and mapping of climate impacts can help in the development of response strategies;

h) that we can benefit from the experience of some countries, suffering from extreme weather events, which have already integrated in their strategy against climate change a list of concrete principles and actions;

i) that the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) decided to launch projects to promote ICTs in the fields of environment, natural resources, green ICT sector and natural disasters,

recognizing

a) that emissions of global warming gases continue to rise as the world burns ever more coal, oil and gas for energy;

b) that the year 2012 was the tenth warmest year since records began in 1880, with an annually averaged temperature across global land and ocean surfaces 0.57°C above the 1950s average, and around 0.8°C above the 1880 estimated average;

c) that there are changes in rainfall patterns, and wetter regions of the world (mid to high latitudes in the northern hemisphere and tropical regions) are generally getting increasing rainfall, and drier regions less rainfall;

d) that significant temperature increases have been observed over the last 50 years in the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Ocean basins and that these increases cannot be attributed to changes in solar activity, volcanic eruptions or other natural variations;

e) that, with the operation of ground instruments since 1880 and the operation of remote sensing satellites, the constant increase in the mean sea level is a scientific fact that cannot be challenged;

f) that the increase in the mean sea level is threatening small islands and coastal cities,

recognizing further

- a) that telecommunications/ICTs are of critical importance to overall economic, social and cultural development;
- b) that countries believe it is essential to develop Internet access and to encourage training in ICTs as part of adaptation to climate change, as insufficient data is gathered at local level and sent for analysis;
- c) that some countries want to learn more about the reduction of energy consumption and GHG emissions, and also to learn about ICTs that could operate at lower energy consumption and would require less maintenance, together with the corresponding quantified benefit for climatic change;
- d) that some countries would like to learn more about the negative effects or impact of not using "green" ICTs and how can these contribute to helping reduce global warming,

recommends

- 1 that countries elaborate guidelines and best practices and implement national policies and related measures to facilitate the use of ICT to combat climate-change challenges;
- 2 that support be provided to help countries invest more in meteorology monitoring services, in order to prevent extreme events that could be devastating, as better prediction would cost relatively little and helps reduce the carnage caused by floods, droughts and tropical cyclones;
- 3 that, in order to help countries invest in the technologies, they need to know more about climate change in general, and have better access to and understanding of meteorological data (satellite and terrestrial) that are supplied;
- 4 that countries elaborate training programmes with a view to ensuring better usage of all the monitoring data;
- 5 that a program be developed, based on real figures, showing the effect of reduced energy consumption and the benefit of ICT;
- 6 that it is necessary to adopt innovative ICT-enabled strategies to tackle climate-change adaptation and mitigation on the long term;

7 that, as ICTs may need to operate in difficult meteorological conditions (hot weather, high humidity, etc.), it becomes urgent to help countries develop more affordable, as well as more robust and reliable, green ICTs;

8 that better cooperation between countries be established in areas related to the monitoring of meteorological data and for mitigating climate change using ICTs,

recommends further

1 that appropriate steps be taken for the creation of an enabling environment at the national, regional and international levels to encourage development and investment in the ICT sector, in meteorology and in prediction of extreme events by ITU members;

2 that work on further developing the field of ICTs and climate change be continued and treated by countries as a priority and urgent task,

invites the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to continue to contribute actively to enhancing activities related to climate-change mitigation and adaptation;

2 to continue jointly organizing events with other ITU Sectors in order to reduce duplication and enhance sharing of information across the Sectors and Member States.

RECOMMENDATION ITU-D 22

Bridging the standardization gap in association with regional groups of the study groups

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Dubai, 2014),

considering

a) that Resolution 123 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on bridging the standardization gap between developing and developed countries, instructs the Secretary-General and the Directors of the three Bureaux to work closely with each other, in pursuing initiatives that assist in bridging the standardization gap between developing and developed countries, on follow-up and implementation of the operative paragraphs of that resolution supporting coordination in this respect at the regional level through regional offices and organizations;

b) that Resolution 44 (Rev. Dubai, 2012) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA), on bridging the standardization gap, instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau (TSB), in collaboration with the Directors of Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) and the Radiocommunication Bureau (BR), within available resources, to provide the support needed for regional mobilization for standardization as well as to conduct workshops and seminars, as appropriate, to disseminate information and increase understanding of new Recommendations, in particular for developing countries;

c) that Resolution 54 (Rev. Dubai, 2012) of WTSA, on creation of, and assistance to, regional groups, instructs the Director of TSB, in collaboration with the Director of BDT, within the allocated or contributed resources that are available, to provide all necessary support for creating and ensuring the smooth functioning of the regional groups,

taking into account

the *further resolves* of Resolution 44 (Rev. Dubai, 2012), which states that ITU regional offices are to:

- i) be engaged in the activities of TSB in order to promote and coordinate standardization activities in their regions to support the implementation of the relevant parts of that resolution and to carry out the objectives of the action plan, and launch campaigns to attract new Sector Members, Associates and Academia from developing countries to join ITU-T;
- ii) assist the vice-chairmen, within the offices' budgets, in mobilizing members within their respective regions for increased standardization participation;
- iii) organize and coordinate the activities of the regional groups of ITU-T study groups;
- iv) provide the necessary assistance to the regional groups of ITU-T study groups;
- v) provide assistance to the regional telecommunication organizations for the setting-up and management of regional standardization bodies,

recommends

- 1 that a functional structure for regional offices be implemented to support the activities of the regional groups;
- 2 that there be a budget allocation to regional offices to support the activities of the regional groups and their leaderships;
- 3 that the result of the activities of regional groups be sent for use, as appropriate, in the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector,

requests the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

- 1 to implement a functional structure for the regional offices to support the activities of the regional groups;
- 2 to facilitate and support chairmen and vice-chairmen of ITU-T study groups from developing countries in promoting standardization activities and mobilizing members in subregional groups through workshops, seminars and forums.

Part V – ITU-D Study Questions and their terms of reference

STUDY GROUP 1

QUESTION 1/1

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

1 Statement of the situation or problem

Despite the significant progress made towards improving global Internet connectivity, approximately 30 per cent of the world's population remains unconnected, which disproportionately affects people in rural and remote areas and in developing countries¹. This persistent rural-urban digital divide hinders the achievement of the Geneva Plan of Action adopted by the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly those related to inclusive economic growth, education and access to information. The lack of telecommunication/information and communication technology (ICT) infrastructure and affordable broadband services in affected regions limits opportunities for digital transformation and meaningful participation through telecommunications/ICTs.

To bridge this divide, there is an urgent need for comprehensive strategies that leverage the wide range of telecommunications/ICTs, supported by enabling policies, regulatory frameworks and multistakeholder collaboration.

Priority is now given to developing solutions that involve both terrestrial and non-terrestrial technologies to enable the use of common telecommunication/ICT services and applications as required by citizens for digital transformation.

Incentives and an enabling regulatory environment should be promoted to encourage the investments required to meet the growing demand for access to the Internet generally and to satisfy bandwidth and infrastructure requirements for delivering affordable broadband services to meet development needs, including through consideration of public, private and public-private partnerships for investment.

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

Holistic universal access and innovative financing mechanisms, including universal service funds, are required to support network expansion and connectivity for unserved and underserved populations.

The deployment of cost-effective and sustainable digital infrastructure, including emerging technologies such as next-generation high-speed wired/wireless terrestrial and non-terrestrial networks suited to rural and remote areas, is an important aspect that necessitates further study. Specific outcomes need to be made available to communities as a whole in order to guarantee Internet connectivity and support the provision of up-to-date e-services to ensure quality of life for inhabitants.

2 Question or issue for study

2.1 Continuing topics to consider from study Questions 1/1 and 5/1 of the 2022-2025 study period

- 1) National digital policies, strategies and plans which seek to ensure that broadband is available to as wide a community of users as possible.
- 2) Techniques and sustainable solutions that impact the provision of telecommunications/ICTs and the availability of broadband infrastructure in rural and remote areas, with emphasis on those that employ up-to-date, suitable technologies to lower infrastructure and operating costs and support interoperability among telecommunication/ICT systems and services.
- 3) Challenges in building and deploying broadband infrastructure in rural and remote areas.
- 4) Needs, policies, mechanisms and regulatory initiatives to reduce the digital divide between rural and urban areas by increasing connectivity, including broadband digital access, including:
 - methods for planning and implementation of migration to broadband technologies, taking into account existing networks, as appropriate;
 - national policies, strategies and plans that seek to ensure broadband is available to as wide a community of users as possible.

- 5) Improving the quality of services in rural and remote areas, with increased bandwidth and reliable broadband infrastructure (in collaboration with work under study Questions 4/1 and 2/1).
- 6) Licensing approaches and viable business models for considered, long-term deployment of networks in rural and remote areas using new and emerging telecommunication/ICT technologies, including in the form of public, private and public-private partnerships for investment in broadband deployment at large and of initiatives to promote the effective integration of various telecommunication/ICT infrastructure technologies, including terrestrial and non-terrestrial systems (in collaboration with work under study Question 4/1).
- 7) Policies and strategies to take advantage of opportunities and address the challenges to accessing services in locally relevant languages for Indigenous Peoples and for persons with specific needs.
- 8) Affordability of services, especially for users in rural and remote areas, as required to meet their development needs (in collaboration with work under study Question 4/1).
- 9) Strategies to promote small and medium enterprises and complementary access and village connectivity networks, in accordance with national regulations, for providing telecommunication/ICTs services in rural and remote areas and for promoting innovation and achieving national economic growth, with a view to reducing the digital divide between rural and urban areas.
- 10) Cross-border connectivity and challenges for SIDS and LLDCs.
- 11) The regulatory and market conditions necessary to promote deployment of and access to broadband networks and services, including policies and strategies to support competitive markets and innovation.
- 12) Experiences of reducing infrastructure cost by way of co-investment, co-location and co-deployment (in collaboration with work under study Question 4/1).

2.2 New topics for this study period

- 1) Ways to harness the complementarity of terrestrial and non-terrestrial networks.
- 2) Sharing and dissemination of the results of studies with a view to promoting affordable access to satellite telecommunications, including broadband connectivity.
- 3) Sharing of case studies on capacity-building activities regarding broadband connectivity via satellite.
- 4) Inclusive national broadband policies and regulatory frameworks: Examining how national telecommunication/ICT strategies can be designed to promote competition, including by means of licensing, and prioritize universal meaningful connectivity, especially rural connectivity, including through universal access mechanisms and through incentives for underserved areas.
- 5) Integrated national telecommunication/ICT strategies and whole-of-government coordination: Examining how cross-sectoral collaboration (such as between the ICT, finance, energy, education and transport sectors) can be institutionalized to align telecommunication/ICT infrastructure goals with national development priorities.
- 6) Public investment and blended financing mechanisms: Exploring policy frameworks that enable the use of public funds, universal service funds, public-private partnerships and multilateral development financing to de-risk private investment in universal meaningful connectivity.
- 7) Monitoring, evaluation, and data-driven policy design: Exploring frameworks for collecting and using disaggregated policy-related data to inform infrastructure investment decisions and track progress in rural and remote connectivity (in collaboration with work under study Question 4/1).

3 Expected output

- 1) Revision of the Final Reports on study Questions 1/1 and 5/1 for ITU-D study period 2022-2025, as appropriate.

- 2) Annual reports and deliverables to be presented to ITU-D Study Group 1 for its information.
- 3) Guidelines on the topics for study Question 1/1, if any, to be presented to ITU-D Study Group 1 for approval.
- 4) Possible workshop/seminars on the topics for study Question 1/1, if any, to be presented to ITU-D Study Group 1 for approval.
- 5) Final Reports on the topics for study Question 1/1 to be presented at the last meeting of ITU-D Study Group 1 in the 2026–2029 study period for approval.
- 6) ITU-D Recommendations series on the topics for study Question 1/1, if any, to be presented at the world telecommunication development conference to be held in 2029 for approval.
- 7) Joint deliverables with other ITU-D study Questions, if any, to be presented to ITU-D Study Group 1 for approval.
- 8) Reports on participation in ITU events relevant to study Question 1/1, if any, to be issued for information.

4 Timing

Annual progress reports will be presented to Study Group 1 in 2027, 2028 and 2029. The deliverables identified in § 3 could be sent to Study Group 1 for approval when ready, without waiting for the end of the study period.

5 Proposers/sponsors

ITU-D Study Group 1 proposed this study Question as modified herein.

6 Sources of input

- 1) Results of related technical progress in relevant ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R) and ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) study groups.

- 2) Contributions from Member States, Sector Members and Associates, relevant ITU-R and ITU-T study groups and other stakeholders.
- 3) Interviews, existing reports and surveys should also be used to gather data and information for the finalization of a comprehensive set of best practice guidelines.
- 4) Material from regional telecommunication organizations, telecommunication research centres, manufacturers and working groups should also be used to avoid duplication of work.
- 5) ITU publications, reports and Recommendations on broadband access technologies.
- 6) Relevant outputs and information from study Questions related to ICT applications.
- 7) Relevant inputs and information from Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) programmes related to broadband and the various broadband access technologies.

7 Target audience

Target audience	Developed countries	Developing countries
Telecommunication policy-makers	Yes	Yes
Telecommunication regulators	Yes	Yes
Service providers/operators	Yes	Yes
Manufacturers	Yes	Yes
Consumers/end users	Yes	Yes
Standards-development organizations, including consortia	Yes	Yes

a) Target audience

All national telecommunication policy-makers, regulators, service providers and operators, especially those in developing countries, as well as manufacturers of broadband technologies.

b) Proposed methods for implementation of the results

The results of the study Question are to be distributed through ITU-D interim and final reports. This will enable the audience to obtain periodic updates on the work carried out and to provide input and/or seek clarification or more information from ITU-D Study Group 1 should they need it.

8 Proposed methods of handling the study Question or issue

Close coordination with work under ITU-D programmes, other relevant ITU-D study Questions and ITU-R and ITU-T study groups will be essential.

a) How?

- 1) Within a study group:
 - Study Question (over a multi-year study period) ☒
- 2) Within regular BDT activity:
 - Programmes ☒
 - Projects ☒
 - Expert consultants ☒
- 3) In other ways: To be defined in the work plan ☒

b) Why?

The study Question will be addressed within a study group over a four-year study period (with submission of interim results) and will be managed by a rapporteur group. This will enable Member States and Sector Members to contribute their experiences and lessons learned with regard to the policy, regulatory and technical aspects of the migration from existing networks to broadband networks.

9 Coordination and collaboration

The ITU-D study group dealing with this study Question will need to coordinate with relevant ITU-R and ITU-T study groups, the relevant outputs from other ITU-D study Questions, relevant focal points in BDT and ITU regional offices, the coordinators of relevant project activities in BDT and experts and experienced organizations in this field.

10 BDT programme link

This study Question is linked to the ITU-D priorities set out in the Baku Action Plan, specifically on ensuring affordable connectivity and on fostering an enabling policy and regulatory environment. Further information will be included in the work plan.

11 Other relevant information

As may become apparent within the life of the study Question.

QUESTION 2/1

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

1 Statement of the situation or problem

The transition to digital broadcasting presents both opportunities and challenges for policy-makers and regulators. As countries adopt innovative broadcasting technologies and services, including Internet Protocol-based systems, and amid continued interest in cellular network integration, there is a growing need to address the convergence of broadcasting and broadband environments. This convergence demands a holistic approach to policy and regulation that considers the technical relationship between traditional broadcasting and emerging audiovisual content distribution systems such as 5G Broadcast. The shift in user behaviour – towards diverse, on-demand content consumption – further underscores the importance of inclusive strategies that support public awareness and efficient spectrum management, particularly in the context of analogue switch-off and digital dividend allocation.

To enable sustainable and inclusive digital broadcasting ecosystems, regulatory frameworks must evolve with current trends to support service innovation, co-investment and cross-platform service delivery. Broadcast networks should be recognized as foundational elements of infrastructure for delivering innovative applications and services, especially when integrated with other information and communication technology (ICT) networks. Policy-makers must also consider the economic, technical and regulatory implications of new broadcasting standards and technologies, particularly in developing countries¹ that are undergoing digital transitions. As the global broadcasting landscape moves toward more integrated and flexible service models, forward-looking regulation will be essential to foster innovation, reduce costs and support telecommunication/ICT networks that sustain a diverse and competitive audiovisual content market.

Furthermore, the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) has a continued role to play in helping Member States evaluate the technical and economic issues involved in the adoption and implementation of digital technologies and services. On these matters, ITU-D has been collaborating closely with both the ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R) and the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T), thus avoiding duplication.

ITU has been working to analyse and identify best practices for the adoption and implementation of digital broadcasting, including new and innovative systems.

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

In this context, the reports from the most recent study period presented best practices for accelerating digital transition and narrowing the digital divide, in such areas as deploying new services, adopting communication strategies to promote public awareness regarding digital broadcasting, and managing radio spectrum issues related to the analogue switch-off process.

In addition to the adoption and implementation of new and innovative broadcasting services and applications, it is also important to acknowledge the relationship between different environments – notably broadcasting and broadband – and the need to treat broadcasting in a more general manner, and to consider the relationship among the various networks that deliver audiovisual content.

Moreover, the broadcasting arena is changing, and the offers available to users are evolving. New ways of accessing audiovisual content are being provided, one consequence of which is that users no longer have access only to traditional media services or applications and are instead starting to experience different ways of watching audiovisual content through broadcasting services. It is important, in this context, to analyse the various digital audiovisual service offers and new and emerging broadcasting/audiovisual content distribution systems, services and applications, including other distribution platforms, such as satellite and cable networks, to assess the television landscape.

Therefore, to implement new broadcasting technologies, services and applications in this new environment – which seems to be heading towards a global media strategy for service providers and not restricting service offers to the traditional broadcasting market – consolidation, co-investment and infrastructure-sharing are key to reducing costs and enabling massive investment in network deployment and content delivery.

In this context, it is beneficial to study broadcasting as a key element of infrastructure for delivering innovative applications and services when combined with other networks and service platforms. Additionally, it is important to consider these interactions from a regulatory, economic and technical point of view, so as to leverage the strengths of each network for the benefit of users and to make available a more diverse range of services.

Broadcasting systems have been developed and integrated with ICT networks using the Internet Protocol throughout the broadcasting chain, and cellular networks are now used for media transmission. Such developments and convergence between the media and ICT sectors necessitate special consideration from a policy, investment and technology perspective and open the door to a variety of services and applications.

Broadcasting innovations in the ultra-high frequency (UHF) band made possible by new systems such as 5G Broadcast, DVB-I, ATSC3.0 and the expected new Brazilian second-generation system, and with the use of very-high frequency (VHF) Band III for digital audio broadcasting (DAB) or digital terrestrial television (DTT), could lead to new forms of broadcasting services and applications.

The use of the "digital dividend" continues to be widely debated by broadcasters and operators of telecommunication and other services operating in the same frequency bands. Furthermore, it appears that the availability of the digital dividend and its effective usage – for example, to bridge the digital divide and provide new innovative broadcasting applications and services – remains an important issue that needs to be urgently addressed.

Other issues to consider include the studies published by other ITU Sectors, especially taking into account the decisions of the 2015, 2019 and 2023 World Radiocommunication Conferences on exploiting the digital dividend in the future. In this regard, ITU should consider maintaining study topics related to technical and economic aspects of the transition from analogue to digital broadcasting.

Another important issue for the future of broadcasting is the emergence of new broadcasting technologies and standards that could be taken into account when developing countries come to adopting platforms for digital broadcasting and other audiovisual content distribution. At the same time, traditional broadcasting services should also be considered, whether or not they interact with other platforms and networks.

2 Questions or issues for study

The focus of the study Question is on new and emerging broadcasting and distribution systems and services, including distribution platforms, such as satellite and cable networks. Content regulation is outside the scope of this study Question.

Work under the study Question will focus on the following issues:

2.1 Continuing topics to consider from Question 2/1 of the 2022–2025 study period

- 1) Analysis of methods and issues regarding the adoption and implementation of digital broadcasting (sound and television), and the deployment of new services and applications, such as ultra-high-definition television, augmented/virtual reality and interactive applications, for consumers or viewers in various environments (in possible collaboration with work under study Question 1/2).
- 2) Analysis of the impact of the rapid growth of traditional and online linear television and video-on-demand subscription services on public broadcasting services in developing countries.
- 3) National experiences of strategies for the introduction of new broadcasting technologies, applications, emerging services and capabilities, including regulatory, economic, financial and technical aspects, reflecting the massive cost of implementation and the need for investment to cope with the ever-growing demand for video content (in possible collaboration with work under study Questions 1/2 and 4/1, where appropriate).

- 4) Analysis of the development and deployment of broadcasting systems using Internet Protocol-based technologies throughout the broadcasting chain, including production, contribution and transmission.
- 5) Best practices and national experiences regarding spectrum planning for broadcasting and distribution, including the use of the digital dividend, technical, regulatory and economic aspects, and other related matters.
- 6) Analysis of the gradual transition to digital sound broadcasting, study cases, sharing of experiences and strategies implemented, including the use of VHF Band III for DAB or DTT.
- 7) Analysis of possible innovations for broadcasting in the UHF band proposed for use in new broadcasting systems, such as 5G Broadcast, ATSC3.0, DVB-I and other next-generation systems.

2.2 New topics for this study period

Exploration of case studies on the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in technical delivery within the broadcasting chain (in collaboration with work under study Question 5/2).

3 Expected output

- 1) Output reports reflecting the studies outlined in § 2 above, and possible revisions to the Final Report issued for the previous study period, as appropriate.
- 2) Periodic dissemination of relevant data emanating from the organizations and groups listed in § 7 below. Periodic updates on studies taking place in the other ITU Sectors.
- 3) National experiences of strategies, and socio-economic aspects of the introduction of new broadcasting and distribution technologies, services and capabilities.

4 Timing

An annual progress report is expected to be issued at each study group meeting. Other deliverables, including interim deliverables and the revision of the report for the previous study period, should be sent for the study group's approval when ready, as appropriate.

5 Proposers/sponsors

ITU-D Study Group 1 proposed the continuation of this study Question as modified herein.

6 Sources of input

- 1) Collection of related contributions and data from Member States and ITU-D Sector Members, and those organizations and groups listed in § 9 below.
- 2) Updates and outputs of ITU-R and ITU-T study groups, and relevant Recommendations and reports related to digital broadcasting.
- 3) Collection of information on the impact on developing countries of the transition to digital broadcasting, re-planning and interactivity and to implementation across various environments.
- 4) Outputs under Resolution 9 (Rev. Baku, 2025) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC), including relevant Recommendations, guidelines and reports.

7 Target audience

Target audience	Developed countries	Developing countries
Telecommunication policy-makers	Yes	Yes
Telecommunication regulators	Yes	Yes
Service providers/operators	Yes	Yes
Broadcasting operators	Yes	Yes
ITU-D programme	Yes	Yes

a) Target audience

Beneficiaries of the output are expected to be middle and higher-level managers in broadcasters, telecommunication/ICT operators and regulators worldwide.

b) Proposed methods for implementation of the results

Activities include conducting technical studies, observing best practices and developing comprehensive reports that serve the target audience's interests.

8 Proposed methods of handling the study Question or issue

a) How?

- 1) Within a study group:
 - Study Question (over a multi-year study period) ☒
- 2) Within regular Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) activity:
 - Programmes ☒
 - Projects ☒
 - Expert consultants ☒
 - Regional offices ☒
- 3) In other ways: To be defined in the work plan ☒

b) Why?

To be defined in the work plan.

9 Coordination and collaboration

The ITU-D study group dealing with this study Question should coordinate closely with other ITU-R and ITU-T study groups dealing with similar issues and, in particular, other relevant ITU-D groups.

It is beneficial to the membership that collaboration be incentivized with work under other study Questions and ITU Sectors in relation to the analysis of networks and service platforms which can be combined with broadcasting to implement new content delivery experiences and digital audiovisual service offers, and new and emerging broadcasting and distribution systems, services and applications, including other distribution platforms, such as satellite and cable networks, to assess the television landscape, for instance ITU-D study Questions 1/1, 4/1 and 2/2, ITU-R Study Groups 1, 5 and 6 and ITU-T Study Group 21, each within their respective mandates and scope of work.

10 BDT programme link

WTDC Resolution 9 (Rev. Baku, 2025), Resolution 10 (Rev. Baku, 2025), Resolution 17 (Rev. Baku, 2025) and Resolution 33 (Rev. Dubai, 2014).

This study Question is linked to the ITU-D priorities set out in the Baku Action Plan, specifically on ensuring affordable connectivity and on fostering an enabling policy and regulatory environment. Further information will be included in the work plan.

11 Other relevant information

As may become apparent within the life of the study Question.

QUESTION 3/1

Use of telecommunications/ICTs for disaster risk reduction and management

1 Statement of the situation or problem

The importance of telecommunications and information and communication technologies (ICTs) to support disaster mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery is well established. Over the 2022–2025 study period, under study Question 3/1, ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) Study Group 1 examined the use of ICTs in disaster risk reduction through case studies and examples of technologies, applications and planning for ICT resilience for disaster management. Previously, during the 2018–2021 study period, focus had been placed on the utilization of telecommunications/ICTs for disaster preparedness, mitigation and response, in particular drills and exercises.

Disasters – ranging from earthquakes and hurricanes to floods and droughts – have claimed 40 000 to 50 000 lives each year, on average, over the past few decades. In 2023, the Emergency Events Database recorded 399 disasters related to natural hazards. These events resulted in over 86 000 fatalities and affected more than 93 million people, with economic losses exceeding USD 200 billion.

While these figures represent a relatively small fraction of global deaths, disasters can have a disproportionately large impact on specific populations. Extreme events can kill hundreds of thousands of people in a single instance. In the twentieth century, it was not uncommon for disasters to claim over a million lives annually.

Beyond loss of life, disasters also lead to significant displacement, with millions of people left homeless each year. The economic costs of such events can be severe and difficult to recover from, particularly in lower-income countries.

However, human beings are not helpless in the face of disasters. The number of deaths from disasters has significantly decreased over the past century, thanks to early warning systems, better infrastructure, improved agricultural productivity and a more coordinated response.

As climate change increases the frequency and severity of extreme events, strengthening resilience will be critical to preventing recent progress from being reversed. To achieve this, ITU-D must continue enhancing resilience in vulnerable countries and leveraging ICTs and other strategies to reduce the vulnerability of populations and ensure that no one at risk is left behind.

Most developed and developing¹ countries recognize emergency telecommunications as a priority and are taking steps to:

- build national emergency-telecommunications plans
- develop and implement early warning systems
- ensure that technologies and systems are in place and ready to use to ensure disaster-resilience.

Based on the past three years' experience, the focus of the next phase of study will be on preparing checklists, guidance on preparing standard operating procedures, and best practices for using new and emerging telecommunication/ICT services and technologies with a view to creating resiliency in disaster response and recovery.

In view of the above, the focus of the study Question for the 2026–2029 study period will remain the use of telecommunications/ICTs for disaster response and recovery.

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

2 Questions or issues for study

- 1) Utilizing terrestrial, space-based and integrated telecommunications/ICTs to assist affected areas in disaster prediction, detection, monitoring, early warning, response, relief and recovery, including best practices/guidelines for an efficient regulatory environment to enable rapid deployment and implementation of adaptive strategies and information-sharing based on specific needs.
- 2) Sharing national experiences and case studies on the use of telecommunications/ICTs for disaster preparedness, mitigation, response and recovery, including response to pandemics, and analysing lessons learned and common themes.
- 3) Reviewing the role that administrations, Sector Members and other relevant organizations and stakeholders play in collaboratively addressing disaster management and the effective use of telecommunications/ICTs, particularly in the area of planning for ICT resilience for disaster management, including:
 - ensuring proper infrastructure design to guarantee resilience to any potential connectivity interruption (proactive design dimension)
 - determining how to restore connectivity lost as a result of network malfunction or failure (reactive operational aspect)
 - developing measures to ensure telecommunication/ICT infrastructure, services and devices remain resilient and available during emergencies.
- 4) Promoting enablers for more resilient communication networks and for the deployment of emergency communication systems and appropriate telecommunications/ICT services and technologies for emergency preparedness, response and recovery.

- 5) Sharing case studies and best practices to ensure that all persons with disabilities can use ICTs for disaster management and risk reduction (in collaboration with work under study Question 5/1).
- 6) Sharing national experiences, case studies and best practices for the elaboration, implementation and refinement of national and regional disaster management plans or frameworks for the use of telecommunications/ICTs in disaster and/or emergency situations, including pandemics, working in coordination with the relevant Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) programmes, regional offices and other partners. This would include production of a guide to help countries develop national emergency telecommunication plans, operating procedures and early warning systems.
- 7) Studying the use of artificial intelligence (AI), digital twins and other relevant tools in new and emerging telecommunication/ICT services and technologies for disaster risk prediction, reduction and management (in collaboration with work under study Question 5/2).

3 Expected output

Succinct outputs summarizing case studies and capturing lessons learned, best practices and tools/templates will be prepared and presented to the study group for approval.

Additionally, throughout the study period, the study group will welcome contributions regarding new technologies, systems and applications for disaster communications and management to facilitate mitigation, preparedness, risk reduction, response and recovery, as well as considerations for supporting implementation. The focus will be on technology examples and on deployment case studies for new and emerging systems and applications for disaster communications and response.

Other outputs will include:

- output reports reflecting the studies outlined in § 2 above, and possible revisions to the Final Report of the previous study period, as appropriate
- periodic dissemination of relevant data emanating from the organizations and groups listed in § 7 below, and periodic updates on studies taking place in the other ITU Sectors
- national experiences in relation to topics outlined in § 2 above.

4 Timing

- 1) Annual progress reports will be submitted to ITU-D Study Group 1.
- 2) Succinct outputs/annual reports summarizing case studies and capturing lessons learned, best practices and tools/templates on the agreed themes discussed will be issued.
- 3) Draft final reports and any proposed draft Recommendations/guidelines will be submitted to ITU-D Study Group 1 within the study period.
- 4) The rapporteur group will collaborate closely with work under relevant BDT programmes, regional offices, regional initiatives and relevant ITU-D study Questions and will ensure proper liaison with the ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R) and the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T).
- 5) The activities of the rapporteur group will come to an end within the study period.

5 Proposers/sponsors

The new text for this revised study Question stems from the Final Report of ITU-D Study Group 1 for the period 2022–2025.

6 Sources of input

Contributions are expected from Member States, Sector Members and Associates, as well as inputs from relevant BDT programmes, ITU-R and ITU-T study groups and ITU-D study Questions. International and regional organizations responsible for the utilization of telecommunications/ICTs for disaster management are encouraged to provide contributions related to experiences and best practices. The intensive use of correspondence and online exchange of information is encouraged to provide additional sources of inputs.

7 Target audience

a) Target audience

Depending on the nature of the outputs, middle to upper-level managers working for operators and regulators in developed and developing countries will be the predominant users of the outputs.

Target audience	Developed countries	Developing countries
Telecommunication policy-makers	Yes	Yes
Telecommunication regulators	Yes	Yes
Service providers/operators	Yes	Yes
Manufacturers	Yes	Yes

b) Proposed methods for implementation of the results

The results of this study Question are to be distributed through ITU-D reports or as agreed during the study period.

8 Proposed methods of handling the study Question

This study Question will be addressed within a study group over a four-year study period (with submission of interim results) and will be managed by a rapporteur and vice-rapporteurs. This will enable Member States and Sector Members to contribute their experiences and lessons learned with regard to emergency communications.

9 Coordination and collaboration

The ITU-D study group dealing with this study Question will need to coordinate with:

- work under relevant ITU-D Question(s)
- relevant BDT programme(s)
- regional offices
- relevant ITU-R and ITU-T study groups
- the Working Group on Emergency Telecommunications
- international, regional and scientific organizations with relevant mandates.

10 BDT programme link

This study Question is linked to the ITU-D priorities set out in the Baku Action Plan, specifically on ensuring affordable connectivity and on fostering an enabling policy and regulatory environment. Further information will be included in the work plan.

11 Other relevant information

As may become apparent within the life of the study Question.

QUESTION 4/1

Economic aspects of national telecommunications/ICTs

1 Statement of the situation or problem

As recognized in the Final Reports on study Question 4/1, consideration of the economic aspects of national telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICTs) remains important.

With the emergence of new types of telecommunication enterprise, such as mobile virtual network operators, tower companies and capacity wholesale operators, and with the convergence of traditional telecommunication businesses, regulators and operators need to adapt their policies and strategies to this new digital reality. National regulatory authorities (NRAs) can consider identifying suitable authorizations, cost models and business models and using relevant policy and regulatory tools, such as infrastructure-sharing, to help their national markets thrive, as shown in the contributions submitted by NRAs, policy-makers and operators to the rapporteur group for study Question 4/1 during the most recent study period.

At the same time, the global drive towards increased digitalization, as well as national economic and global emergencies like the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, have given rise to many new relevant issues that call for additional study and investigation by the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) during the next study period.

The number of topics has been expanded, given the need to divide up the work on the final reports. The topics which will be continued from the 2018–2021 and 2022–2025 study periods will be reviewed within the scope of the revision of the Final Report on study Question 4/1 for the 2022–2025 study period, whereas new topics will be considered as part of the future final report on the new Question 4/1 for the 2026–2029 study period.

2 Question or issue for study

2.1 Continuing topics from previous study period, with some expansion

The study Question will continue to cover the following main topics from national perspectives, with a view to the possible revision of the Final Reports issued for Question 4/1 since 2018:

- 1) New charging methods (or models, if applicable) for services provided over next-generation networks, including cost-modelling methods.
- 2) The impact of infrastructure-sharing (local loop unbundling, tower companies, etc.) on investment cost, the provision of telecommunication/ICT services, competition and prices available to consumers, including case studies with quantitative analysis.
- 3) Consumer price evolution and impact on ICT service usage, innovation, investment and operator revenues.
- 4) Trends in the development of virtual mobile operators and the relevant regulatory frameworks.
- 5) Impact of new converging ICTs on cost-modelling strategies traditionally carried out by stakeholders in the ICT networked value chain (e.g. telecommunication operators, over-the-top players, digital service providers) (in possible collaboration with work under study Question 2/2), including:
 - the role and design of new tariffs for convergent networks/services (e.g. bundling)
 - the role and impact of tower companies as new entrants in a converging telecommunication/ICT market.
- 6) New types and modes of investment in telecommunications/ICTs, such as blended investment and crowdfunding.
- 7) Analysis of case studies on the economic contribution of digital telecommunication/ICT technologies and services to national economies and gross domestic product.

- 8) Economic incentives and mechanisms for bridging the digital divide and increasing the accessibility, availability and affordability of telecommunications/ICTs (in collaboration with work under study Questions 4/2 and 5/1).
- 9) Economic aspects/implications of digital transformation.
- 10) The economic value of the usage of personally identifiable information (in possible collaboration with work under study Questions 5/1 and 3/2).
- 11) Impact of digital financial inclusion on innovation and productivity and other national economic aspects.

2.2 New topics for next study period

The study Question will cover the following main topics from a national perspective:

- 1) The economic impact of new and emerging telecommunication/ICT services and technologies, including artificial intelligence (AI) and metaverse applications (in collaboration with work under study Question 5/2).
- 2) National aspects of spectrum valuation.
- 3) Case studies on how telecommunication/ICT services contribute to social return on investment.
- 4) Case studies on mobile money.
- 5) Case studies on the impact of taxes on telecommunication/ICT services and devices.
- 6) Economic analysis of consumer choice in the telecommunication/ICT market (in collaboration with work under study Question 5/1).

3 Expected output

- 1) Revision of the Final Report for study Question 4/1 for the 2018–2021 and 2022–2025 ITU-D study periods on the topics set out in § 2.1, as appropriate.
- 2) Revision of the study Question 4/1, on guidelines on cost modelling, as appropriate.

- 3) Final Report for new study Question 4/1 and other deliverables for the 2026–2029 ITU-D study period, covering any or all of the proposed new topics set out in § 2.2.
- 4) New study Question 4/1, on guidelines and other output documents on the topics as set out in § 2, as appropriate.
- 5) Joint deliverables with other ITU-D study Questions on the topics set out in § 2, as appropriate.
- 6) Inputs for ITU regional economic dialogues, as appropriate.
- 7) Inputs for the ITU Tariff Policies Survey, as appropriate.

4 Timing

Annual progress reports will be presented to Study Group 1 in 2027, 2028 and 2029. The deliverables identified in § 3 could be sent to Study Group 1 for approval when ready, without waiting for the end of the study period.

5 Proposers/sponsors

ITU-D proposed the continuation of this study Question as modified herein.

6 Sources of input

The primary source of input will be the experiences of Member States and Sector Members regarding the economic aspects of national telecommunications/ICTs. Contributions from Member States and Sector Members will be essential to the successful study of the issue.

Interviews, existing reports, materials from relevant ITU events (particularly ITU regional economic dialogues) and surveys should also be used to gather data and information for use in producing the outputs expected under this study Question. Material from regional telecommunication organizations, telecommunication research centres, manufacturers and working groups should also be used to avoid duplication of work.

Contributions are expected from Member States, Sector Members, Associates, Academia, ITU-D study groups and relevant ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R) and ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) study groups and working parties, in particular ITU-T Study Group 3 and ITU-R Working Party 1B, in addition to other stakeholders.

7 Target audience

All the target audiences mentioned below, with particular attention being paid to the needs of developing countries¹.

Target audience	Developed countries	Developing countries
Telecommunication policy-makers	Yes	Yes
Telecommunication regulators	Yes	Yes
Service providers/operators	Yes	Yes
Manufacturers	Yes	Yes
ITU-D programme	Yes	Yes

a) Target audience

All national telecommunication policy-makers, regulators, service providers and operators, especially those in developing countries, as well as regional and international organizations.

b) Proposed methods for implementation of the results

The results of the study Question are to be distributed through, among other things, ITU regional offices, ITU-D interim reports, final reports and other relevant deliverables. This will enable the audience to obtain periodic updates on the work carried out and to provide input and/or seek clarification or more information from ITU-D Study Group 1 should they need it.

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

8 Proposed methods of handling the study Question or issue

- 1) Electronic distribution of the reports and guidelines produced to all Member States, Sector Members, their respective NRAs and ITU regional offices.
- 2) Distribution of the reports and guidelines produced at the Global Symposium for Regulators, ITU regional economic dialogues and relevant seminars held by the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT), Radiocommunication Bureau (BR) and Telecommunication Standardization Bureau (TSB).

a) How?

- 1) Within a study group:
 - Study Question (over a multi-year study period) ☒
- 2) Within regular BDT activity:
 - Programmes ☒
 - Projects: regional initiatives ☒
 - Expert consultants ☒

9 Coordination and collaboration

The ITU-D study group dealing with this study Question will need to coordinate with:

- work under relevant ITU-D study Questions, particularly study Questions 1/1 and 3/1
- relevant ITU-T study groups, particularly Study Group 3 and its regional groups for Africa (SG3RG-AFR), Asia and Oceania (SG3RG-AO), the Arab States Region (SG3RG-ARB), Latin America and the Caribbean (SG3RG-LAC) and Eastern Europe, Central Asia and Transcaucasia (SG3RG-EECAT)

- relevant ITU-R study groups and working parties, particularly Working Party 1B
- relevant focal points in BDT and ITU regional offices
- experts and experienced organizations in this field.

10 BDT programme link

This study Question is linked to the ITU-D priorities in the Baku Action Plan, specifically on ensuring affordable connectivity and on fostering an enabling policy and regulatory environment. Further information will be included in the work plan.

11 Other relevant information

As may become apparent within the life of the study Question.

QUESTION 5/1

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

1 Statement of the situation or problem

The rapid advancement of telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICTs) is reshaping how individuals work, learn, communicate, engage with the digital economy, access essential resources and services, and interact with governments, businesses and communities.

By expanding access and improving service delivery, these innovations offer significant opportunities for advancing socio-economic development, particularly in developing countries¹, and contributing to universal sustainable digital connectivity.

However, this transformation is also introducing new challenges for regulators and consumers, especially with regard to ensuring equitable access, affordability and reliability.

As telecommunications/ICTs become more embedded in everyday life, consumer protection and empowerment frameworks must evolve to address the complexities of emerging technologies within the telecommunication/ICT sector, in addition to their impact on diverse populations, and to maintain consumer trust, particularly among ageing populations, persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs.

Consumer vulnerabilities can arise when individuals face barriers or challenges that limit their ability to make informed decisions about accessing telecommunications/ICTs safely. These vulnerabilities may stem from personal circumstances, as well as other factors.

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

The World Health Organization estimates that over one billion people live with some form of disability. Global demographic trends show that, by the mid-2030s, more than 265 million people worldwide will be over the age of 80 years. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization estimates that 750 million people aged 15 and above are illiterate (i.e. they cannot read or write), of whom two thirds are women.

These realities highlight that digital accessibility and the integration of inclusive features and design principles need to be the cornerstone of inclusive development in order to enable communication for all.

In addition, as underscored by the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and the United Nations General Assembly and as stated in Article 9 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, accessibility is essential for ensuring the participation of all individuals, including persons with disabilities, older persons, youth and migrants.

In the context of increasing convergence, and with the advent of advanced communication technologies, consumer protection remains a highly relevant subject and a moving target. The telecommunication/ICT sector is dynamic, and technology and business models keep changing, giving rise to new consumer protection issues. Further, Member States are at various stages with regard to telecommunication/ICT penetration, the adoption of new technologies and policy/regulatory evolution; they therefore face different challenges, which makes the exchange of information and best practices all the more important.

The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and the resulting widespread use of telecommunications/ICTs underline both the importance of digital connectivity and the need to share best practices to harness the benefits of telecommunications/ICTs while protecting the interests of consumers.

There is a need to promote the responsible use of telecommunications/ICTs and foster consumer trust in new technologies while protecting competition and innovation.

Member States must prepare for improved collaborative regulation. Consumer protection is an important policy aspect of telecommunications/ICTs. Various models of policy and regulation, including better self-regulation by service providers and co-regulation, need to be explored.

Consumer protection is necessary to foster consumer trust, which in turn encourages the continued uptake of new technologies in a manner that is safe, secure and respectful of consumer rights. The protection of vulnerable users, such as new users, and especially persons from economically disadvantaged populations, women, children, older persons and persons with disabilities, must be given special attention.

Innovations in telecommunication markets have introduced new regulatory challenges related to consumer protection and empowerment. Consumers are often influenced by market dynamics, service offerings and technology design. In this context, regulators should create clear, objective, transparent and predictable standards and guidelines for market conduct to help consumers make informed decisions. In some countries, consumer choice and behavioural insights can serve as valuable tools when designing regulatory interventions to address particular challenges and to promote transparency and fairness in the telecommunication/ICT markets.

The current global context – characterized by technological acceleration, demographic shifts and rapidly changing markets – and global demographic trends – including ageing populations, the rising numbers of persons with disabilities and widespread literacy challenges – highlight a need for policies that integrate both universal meaningful accessibility and consumer protection, and underscore the urgency of mainstreaming accessibility and inclusion in ICT design and regulation.

Accessibility guarantees that everyone can use telecommunications/ICTs effectively. This applies not only to persons with disabilities but also the expanding elderly population, migrants who do not speak the native language of the country to which they have migrated and persons with low levels of literacy.

Consumer protection ensures that users can participate in an environment that is transparent, fair and empowering. If telecommunication/ICT products and services are not designed to be inclusive, many individuals will be excluded from the benefits of the digital economy.

Universal design principles and accessibility standards must be integrated from the outset to ensure that digital products and services are usable by all. To achieve meaningful and sustainable digital transformation, consumer protection must be rooted in inclusive policy development and the active participation of all stakeholders, ensuring that, in the digital age, no one is left behind on the basis of inaccessibility.

Only by pursuing both agendas – consumer protection and accessibility – in an integrated way can societies build digital ecosystems that are equitable, sustainable and truly inclusive, thereby ensuring that no one is left behind.

2 Question or issue for study

The study Question will continue to cover existing topics within the scope of the possible revision of the Final Reports for study Questions 6/1 and 7/1 for the 2022–2025 ITU-D study period, and new topics linked to new deliverables for the 2026–2029 ITU-D study period, as appropriate.

Work under the study Question will focus on the following issues:

2.1 Innovative consumer awareness and empowerment strategies

- 1) Sharing best practices applied by regulators, service providers and civil society to enhance consumer awareness.

- 2) Sharing methods to equip consumers with the knowledge, skills and confidence to advocate their rights and navigate telecommunication/ICT services effectively and conscientiously.
- 3) Sharing strategies focusing on consumers in developing countries, where vast digital literacy gaps persist.
- 4) Sharing good practices for addressing challenges to consumer confidence and protection.
- 5) Developing guidelines and good practices to address emerging consumer protection issues related to new and emerging telecommunication/ICT services and technologies (in collaboration with work under study Question 5/2).

2.2 Protection of all users

- 1) Examining how data disaggregation and comprehensive policies can help identify and support all users, especially persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs.
- 2) Sharing best practices and experiences regarding how to protect all users, especially persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs, from risks experienced by consumers in the telecommunication/ICT market, such as lack of transparency.

2.3 Market analyses for smarter regulations (in collaboration with work under study Question 4/1)

- 1) Identifying and sharing best practices for consumer protection and empowerment frameworks and mechanisms, including effective strategies and initiatives to increase consumer awareness and improve consumer decision-making.

- 2) Assessing how regulators can improve the consumer decision-making process to strengthen transparency, fairness and accountability in the telecommunication/ICT market.
- 3) Studying how consumer decision-making can inform the design of more effective and fit-for-purpose telecommunication/ICT policies and regulations and contribute to lower compliance costs.

2.4 Modernizing regulatory frameworks

- 1) Examining telecommunication/ICT policy and regulation adopted for the purpose of consumer protection by national regulatory authorities and other national, regional and international organizations in order to enable digital transformation while balancing the interests of all stakeholders, including consumers and service providers. This will include studying institutional and regulatory mechanisms designed to promote cross-sectoral and cross-border collaboration and revisiting policy and regulatory approaches such as co-regulation and self-regulation. In particular it will include sharing national experiences of consumer protection challenges and empowerment and of methods to promote consumer information awareness and rights.
- 2) Studying methods and tools for protecting consumers from unsolicited commercial communications, online fraud and the misuse of personally identifiable information as an integral part of telecommunication/ICT policy.
- 3) Exploring regulatory toolkits that address challenges such as online fraud, fraudulent practices, unsolicited commercial communications and the misuse of personally identifiable information.
- 4) Enhancing and updating the ICT Regulation Toolkit to promote consumer safety.
- 5) Considering proactive models of regulation that go beyond reactive enforcement with the aim of promoting consumer trust.

2.5 Embedding universal design and accessibility standards

- 1) Sharing best practices for integrating accessibility features at the design stage of telecommunications/ICT products, platforms and services.
- 2) Exploring specific legal, economic and financial measures adopted by national authorities in the interest of protecting specific categories of telecommunication/ICT users (such as new users, especially persons from economically disadvantaged communities, older persons, persons with disabilities, women and children). This will include mechanisms to promote the creation of useful information and practical tools for promoting consumer awareness and facilitating consumer protection, including in the use of new technologies.
- 3) Ensuring that telecommunication/ICT solutions are inherently usable by all, including persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs.
- 4) Studying mechanisms or other means implemented by policy-makers, regulators, operators and service providers to incentivize self-regulation or co-regulation and promote confidence among all the actors involved, especially consumers.
- 5) Identifying ways to foster effective consumer protection, cooperation and information exchange among policy-makers and regulators.
- 6) Promoting inclusive design and accessibility in telecommunication/ICT services: Sharing best practices for embedding accessibility features from the design stage, including by using artificial intelligence as a tool, to ensure usability for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs.

- 7) Mainstreaming accessibility in public telecommunication/ICT services: Promoting strategies to ensure that e-government and other public service digital platforms are accessible to all, especially persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs, including through the use of new and emerging telecommunications/ICTs.
- 8) Exchanging best practices for mainstreaming ICT accessibility in planning and design during the development of smart cities and rural areas to ensure that no one is left behind, in line with the concept of "smart for all"² (in collaboration with work under study Question 1/2).
- 9) Studying how universal design principles can empower persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs and enhance usability for all users.

2.6 Inclusive design and accessibility in telecommunication/ICT services

- 1) Promoting strategies to ensure that e-government services and platforms are accessible to all.
- 2) Investigating how new and emerging telecommunications/ICTs can enhance inclusive design in public service delivery.

2.7 Employment and economic inclusion

- 1) Examining how accessible telecommunication/ICT solutions can improve work environments and increase access to employment opportunities, especially for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs.

2.8 Data, evidence and monitoring

- 1) Developing national capacities in data collection and analysis on telecommunication/ICT accessibility.

² See the [ITU Academy training course entitled "Smart for all: beyond smart cities, building inclusive and digitally accessible environments and communities"](#) (available in English, Arabic, Spanish, French and Russian).

3 Expected output

- 1) A report to be issued to Member States and Sector Members, consumer protection organizations, operators and service providers, setting out guidelines and best practices for consumer protection in the provision of all telecommunication/ICT services, to include:
 - i) guidelines on increasing consumer awareness;
 - ii) best practices for collaboration and consultation to promote multistakeholder input on policies and regulations for consumer protection;
 - iii) guidelines and information-sharing about policy frameworks that protect consumers, promote competition and innovation and enhance customer care, in the light of the advent of new and emerging telecommunication/ICT technologies such as the Internet of Things.
- 2) Organization of seminars and workshops on the above topics in relation to consumer protection.

4 Timing

An annual progress report is expected to be provided at each study group meeting. Other deliverables, including annual deliverables, workshops and the revision of the Final Report produced during the previous study period, as appropriate, should be sent for the study group's approval as soon as they are ready.

5 Proposers/sponsors

ITU-D Study Group 1 proposed the continuation of this study Question as modified herein.

6 Sources of input

- 1) Related contributions and data from Member States, ITU-D Sector Members and the organizations and groups listed below.

- 2) Updates and outputs produced by ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R) and ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) study groups, and Recommendations and reports related to consumer protection.
- 3) Collection of information on the impact of new technologies, business models and ongoing digital transformation on developing countries.
- 4) Outputs under Resolution 9 (Rev. Baku, 2025) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference, including relevant Recommendations, guidelines and reports.

7 Target audience

Target audience	Developed countries	Developing countries
Telecommunication policy-makers	Yes	Yes
Telecommunication regulators	Yes	Yes
Telecommunication/ICT consumer protection organizations	Yes	Yes
Service providers/operators	Yes	Yes
Broadcasting operators	Yes	Yes
ITU-D programme	Yes	Yes

a) Target audience

The beneficiaries of the output are expected to be consumers, telecommunication/ICT operators, policy-makers and regulators worldwide.

b) Proposed methods for implementation of the results

Activities will include conducting, observing and sharing best practices and developing comprehensive reports that serve the target audience's interests.

8 Proposed methods of handling the study Question or issue

a) How?

- 1) Within a study group:
 - Study Question (over a multi-year study period) ☒
- 2) Within regular Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) activity:
 - Programmes ☒
 - Projects ☒
 - Expert consultants ☒
 - Regional offices ☒
- 3) In other ways: To be defined in the work plan ☒

b) Why?

To be defined in the work plan.

9 Coordination and collaboration

The ITU-D study group dealing with this study Question should coordinate closely with:

- other ITU-R and ITU-T study groups dealing with similar issues, and in particular other relevant ITU-D groups, such as the ITU-D working group on gender issues and child online protection
- relevant international and regional organizations, as appropriate.

The Director of BDT shall, through the appropriate BDT staff (e.g. regional directors and focal points), provide information to rapporteurs on all relevant ITU projects in different regions. This information should be provided to the meetings of the rapporteur group when the work of the programmes and regional offices is in the planning stages and when it is completed.

It is beneficial to the membership that collaboration with other Sectors and with work under other study Questions should be incentivized in the examination of other networks and service platforms that can be combined with broadcasting to provide new experiences in content delivery, for instance ITU-D Questions 1/1, 4/1, 2/2 and 5/2, ITU-R Study Groups 1, 5 and 6 and ITU-T Study Groups 9 and 16, each within their respective mandates and scope of work.

10 BDT programme link

This study Questions is linked to the ITU-D priorities in the Baku Action Plan, specifically on ensuring affordable connectivity and on fostering an enabling policy and regulatory environment. Further information will be included in the work plan.

11 Other relevant information

As may become apparent within the life of the study Question.

STUDY GROUP 2

QUESTION 1/2

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

1 Statement of the situation or problem

Information and communication technologies (ICTs) and services can play a key role in all sectors of society, including culture, science, business, agriculture, the environment, education, health, transport, trade and tourism. Applications can include protecting persons and property, enhancing smart traffic management, saving electricity, measuring the effects of environmental pollution, improving agricultural yields, increasing efficiency in travel and tourism, managing and delivering health care, managing and controlling drinking water supplies and solving the problems facing cities and rural areas. This is what is meant by the smart society. Similarly, as highlighted by the World Summit on the Information Society, ICT applications can support sustainable development in public administration, business, education and training, health, the environment, agriculture and science within the framework of national cyberstrategies.

A smart society can be realized by achieving smartness and digitalization across either:

- a specific sector, by employing digital services in sectors such as health, education or tourism
- a specific region, such as at the city, village or community level.

Smart service offerings present new opportunities for social and economic development, particularly in developing countries¹. Enabling technologies, such as cloud computing and artificial intelligence (AI), offer increased convenience, improved productivity and industrial development and can improve overall quality of life.

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

In the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the United Nations recognizes the enormous possibilities offered by ICTs and calls for a significant increase in access to such technologies. ITU therefore deems it a priority to support its membership in achieving the SDGs, in close collaboration with other stakeholders.

In 2024, the United Nations approved the Global Digital Compact, which includes actions to map and connect all schools and hospitals to the Internet – building on the Giga initiative implemented by ITU and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) – and to enhance telemedicine services and capabilities.

Delivering the promise of smart sustainable cities and communities (SSC&C) relies on three technological pillars: connectivity, smart collection points and software.

Connectivity and underlying infrastructure, which encompass both traditional and emerging networks and new technologies, are key enablers that support the provision of smart services. Examples include machine-to-machine communication, the Internet of Things (IoT) and resulting applications and services, such as e-government, traffic management and road safety.

Smart data collection points are connected via the underlying infrastructure and connectivity layer for the purpose of exchanging data between the field and the city operation centre. Cars, traffic lights and cameras, water pumps, electricity grids, home appliances, streetlights and health monitors are all examples of things that can be connected to smart devices/terminals.

Capitalizing on connectivity and collected data, the software and processing layer supports the provision of smart services. Software includes both the city platform that interfaces seamlessly with all terminals and data collection points and the service-specific functions tailored either to a vertical application or to a service in a smart city or community.

The work carried out under this study Question will be based on: Resolution 11 (Rev. Baku, 2025) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC), on telecommunication/ICT services in rural, isolated, unserved and underserved areas; WTDC Resolution 46 (Rev. Baku, 2025), on assistance to Indigenous Peoples and communities through ICTs; WTDC Recommendation ITU-D 19 (Dubai, 2014), on telecommunications for rural and remote areas; Resolution 139 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on use of telecommunications/ICTs to bridge the digital divide and build an inclusive information society; Resolution 197 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on facilitating IoT and SSC&C; Resolution 44 (Rev. New Delhi, 2024) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSa), on bridging the standardization gap between developing and developed countries; WTSa Resolution 98 (Rev. New Delhi, 2024), on enhancing standardization of IoT, digital twins and SSC&C for global development; and Resolution ITU-R 66-2 (Rev. Dubai, 2023) of the Radiocommunication Assembly, on studies related to wireless systems and applications for the development of IoT.

2 Questions or issues for study

Based on the statement of the situation set out in § 1 above, the study will focus on three main pillars and other complementary components, as follows:

- 1) Examining SSC&C, and enlarging the scope of study to include smart villages and any form of community, including those in rural and remote areas.
- 2) Raising awareness and sharing experiences regarding ways to improve connectivity and telecommunications/ICTs as an enabler of SSC&C and potential smart services.
- 3) Studying methods and examples of how software and platforms (both open-source and proprietary) enable the provision of smart services.

- 4) Studying policies, business models and regulatory frameworks that ensure the involvement of various stakeholders and that lead to the sustainable and harmonious development of smart services and SSC&C.
- 5) Studying reference data management architectures that promote and enable the development of SSC&C.
- 6) Sharing performance benchmarks and assessment mechanisms for smartness in terms of quality of life, technical aspects and policy mechanisms.
- 7) Sharing experiences and best practices in building SSC&C and in choosing and providing smart services and applications.
- 8) Supporting capacity building and knowledge acquisition in the area of ICTs to facilitate the adoption of the skills required for the development of smart services and SSC&C (in collaboration with work under study Question 5/2).
- 9) Encouraging city planners, city officials and other relevant stakeholders to participate in the study and share their experiences.

3 Expected output

The outputs expected from this study Question will include the following:

- 1) Guidelines on policy approaches to facilitate the development of ICT applications in society with a view to fostering social and economic development and growth.

- 2) Case studies on the application of IoT, communications and ICT applications in building SSC&C, identifying the trends and best practices implemented by Member States as well as the challenges faced, in order to support sustainable development and foster smart societies in developing countries.
- 3) Increased awareness among relevant participants regarding the adoption of open-source strategies for enabling access to telecommunications, the production of studies on the drivers of increased preparedness to use and develop open-source software to support telecommunications in developing countries, and the creation of opportunities for cooperation between ITU members by reviewing successful partnerships.
- 4) Analysis of factors affecting the efficient roll-out of connectivity in order to support ICT applications for use in e-government in SSC&C.
- 5) Organization of workshops, courses and seminars for the development of capacities, with a view to improving the uptake of ICT applications and IoT.
- 6) Annual progress reports, including case studies, and a detailed final report containing a measurement analysis, information and best practices, in addition to any practical experience acquired in the use of telecommunications and other means of enabling ICT applications and connecting devices for the development of smart societies.

- 7) Development of the ability of cities to respond to crises such as global pandemics through the use of smart city infrastructure, with special emphasis on contactless societies and the continuity of urban systems.

4 Timing

A preliminary report will be submitted to the study group. The studies should be concluded by 2029, when a final report will be submitted.

5 Proposers/sponsors

ITU-D Study Group 2.

6 Sources of input

- 1) Progress in the study of relevant study Questions by the study groups in the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) and the ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R).
- 2) Contributions from Member States, Sector Members, Associates, other United Nations agencies, regional groups and Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) coordinators.
- 3) Progress made in collaboration with other United Nations organizations and the private sector towards the implementation of BDT initiatives on using ICT applications for the development of smart societies.
- 4) Progress made in any other relevant activities carried out by the General Secretariat or BDT.

7 Target audience

Target audience	Developed countries	Developing countries
Telecommunication policy-makers	Yes	Yes
Telecommunication regulators	Yes	Yes
Service providers/operators	Yes	Yes
Manufacturers (telecommunication/ICT equipment manufacturers, automobile industry, etc.)	Yes	Yes
Corresponding ministries	Yes	Yes
BDT programmes	Yes	Yes
City planners and operational managers	Yes	Yes

a) Target audience

Relevant policy-makers, regulators and participants in the telecommunication/ICT and multimedia sectors, as well as manufacturers, service providers, city planners and operational managers.

b) Proposed methods for the implementation of the results

This will be set out in the guidelines for implementing regional initiatives.

8 Proposed methods of handling the study Question or issue

The study Question will be handled within ITU-D Study Group 2.

9 Coordination and collaboration

The ITU-D study group dealing with this study Question will need to coordinate with:

- work under relevant study Questions within ITU-D Study Groups 1 and 2, in particular study Questions 1/1 (for broadband and connectivity infrastructure), 4/1 (for business models and economics), 2/2 (on e-services), 3/2 (on data management and trust-related issues) and 5/2 (on adoption of ICTs and improving digital skills);

- the BDT unit responsible for dealing with the issues covered by this study Question;
- relevant work in progress in the other two ITU Sectors;
- other relevant development projects carried out by ITU (e.g. BDT projects);
- other United Nations agencies in fields relevant to creating SSC&C.

10 BDT programme link

All BDT programmes are linked to the study Question, in particular aspects relating to information and communication infrastructure and technology development, ICT applications, enabling environment, digital inclusion and emergency telecommunications.

11 Other relevant information

As may become apparent within the life of the study Question.

QUESTION 2/2

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

1 Statement of the situation or problem

1.1 ICTs and climate change

The issue of climate change has emerged as a global concern that requires global collaboration, in particular by developing countries¹ (which are the most vulnerable to climate change). International initiatives in this domain are aimed at achieving sustainable development and identifying ways and means in which information and communication technologies (ICTs) can be used to help monitor climate change and reduce overall global greenhouse gas emissions. The focus of this study Question is therefore responsible consumption and production.

ICTs have a direct and indirect effect on the environment. While they have their own footprint, they can help emerging economies overcome and thrive despite climate change and climate fluctuations and can help the world mitigate the impact of climate change.

New technologies, systems and applications powered by telecommunications/ICTs, such as big data, can be used to monitor climate change and reduce its adverse impact, which can be pivotal in helping policy-makers and industry players tackle environmental challenges while formulating new policies and setting new standards of production with a view to the reduction of emissions. In addition, artificial intelligence can contribute to the collection of information through various methods and channels of data collection, utilizing both human and historical experience to help communities face extreme and unpredictable weather scenarios.

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

Study Group 5 of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) is the lead study group for the examination of ICT-related aspects of electromagnetic phenomena, environment and climate change, and it produces methodologies and guidance for assessing and reducing environmental effects, such as through the recycling of ICT facilities and equipment. Study Group 7 of the ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R) is the lead study group for the examination of the use of radio technologies, systems and applications, including satellite systems, for environment and climate-change monitoring and climate-change prediction.

In this respect, the outcomes under ITU-T and ITU-R resolutions and Recommendations, in particular Resolution 73 (Rev. New Delhi, 2024) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA) and Resolution 673 (Rev.WRC-23) of the World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC), will serve as a basis for this study Question.

1.2 Telecommunication/ICT waste material

The growth of telecommunications/ICTs, especially in developing countries, has been exponential in recent years. For instance, between 2002 and 2007, mobile telephone penetration in the Americas region grew from 19 to 70 terminals per 100 inhabitants. Globally, the share of mobile telephone subscriptions in developing countries increased by 20 percentage points, from 44 per cent to 64 per cent, over the same period.

The growth of electrical and electronic equipment and their peripherals, as well as the continuous updating of technology, has generated a significant increase in telecommunication/ICT waste. It is estimated that between 20 million and 50 million tonnes of telecommunication/ICT waste are generated every year worldwide. However, recycling and responsible disposal of such waste remain at low levels, making it difficult to even find figures on this issue at regional level.

According to *The Global E-waste Monitor 2020*, the world generated 53.6 million tonnes of e-waste in 2019, while annual global waste generation is predicted to reach 74 million tonnes by 2030 – almost double the figure for 2014. This equates to an average of 7.3 kg per person per year.

As the recycling and efficient disposal of telecommunication/ICT waste have not been handled properly, it is a major challenge even to obtain correct figures for the total amount of ICT waste/e-waste present in the world.

The failure to carry out proper recycling or disposal of e-waste has given rise to large-scale environmental problems and to health issues, especially for developing countries.

Advances in technology, the exponential growth of telecommunication/ICT terminals and the associated high turnover of terminals make it imperative that action be taken in the immediate future to prevent the kind of environmental catastrophe that will likely occur in developing countries if stakeholders fail to produce an adequate regulatory framework and work towards policies to address this problem.

1.3 Human exposure to electromagnetic fields

With the advent of wireless technologies, human exposure to electromagnetic fields (EMF) has become a cause for public concern. The importance of developing strategies and guidance on human exposure to EMF has been extensively discussed. Over the previous study cycle, under study Question 7/2, Study Group 2 of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) studied science-based policies, guidelines, national experiences and assessments of human exposure to radio-frequency EMF (RF-EMF). New versions of EMF standards have also been published during previous study cycles and continue to be revised in line with ongoing technological advancements and monitoring. The current limits established by the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers are largely harmonized, and the power density limits for whole-body exposure to continuous fields are identical above 30 MHz.

Owing to the characteristics of multiple-input multiple-output, beamforming and millimetre-wave technologies used in new communication systems, some pioneer studies have been conducted to evaluate RF-EMF levels. Risk communication, including the benefit of new wireless technologies for people, in particular during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, is important to reduce unnecessary public concerns about RF-EMF exposure. ITU, together with the World Health Organization, is constantly facilitating the exchange of knowledge between countries and regions on the current state of science in this area.

2 Question or issue for study

A number of issues will be addressed in this study Question in the study period. The following steps will play a major role in the study of the Question:

- 1) In close collaboration with the respective Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) programme(s), identify regional needs regarding relevant applications for developing countries.
- 2) Elaborate a method for studying the Question, in particular by gathering evidence and information regarding current best practices in the use of ICTs to reduce overall greenhouse gas emissions, including the ICT sector's own emissions, and considering the progress by ITU-T and ITU-R in this regard.
- 3) Consider the role of Earth observation in climate change, as determined by the implementation of WRC Resolution 673 (Rev.WRC-23), on the importance of Earth observation radiocommunication applications, in order to enhance developing countries' knowledge and understanding regarding the utilization and benefits of relevant applications in connection with climate change.
- 4) Develop best practice guidelines for the implementation of ITU-T Recommendations related to WTSA Resolution 73 (Rev. New Delhi, 2024), both for monitoring changes in the climate and for reducing the impact of climate change through application of the action plan set out in WTSA Resolution 44 (Rev. New Delhi, 2024), comprising four programmes, for the implementation of Resolution 123 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference.

- 5) Draw up strategies to develop a responsible approach to, and comprehensive treatment of, telecommunication/ICT waste, including policy and regulatory actions required in developing countries, in close collaboration with ITU-T Study Group 5 and work under study Question 4/2.
- 6) Study the role of telecommunications/ICTs in monitoring and assessing global biodiversity objectives.
- 7) Collect case studies and identify lessons learned and best practices in relation to human exposure to electromagnetic fields.
- 8) Examine new wireless telecommunications/ICTs and best practices in the harmonization of EMF standards and risk communication.
- 9) Study the role of new and emerging telecommunication/ICT services and technologies, such as artificial intelligence (AI) tools, in efficiently handling e-waste, contributing to climate action and mitigating natural hazards such as flash floods and large-scale fires (in collaboration with work under study Questions 3/1 and 5/2).

3 Expected output

The output will be a report or reports on the results of the work concluded for each step identified in § 2, taking into account the specific needs of developing countries.

Other outputs could include the organization of workshops in collaboration with the relevant ITU-D programmes and in consultation with the relevant ITU-T and ITU-R study groups.

4 Timing

The output will be generated on an annual basis. The output for the first year will be analysed and assessed in order to update the work for the next year, and so on. The final report is due by 2029.

5 Proposers/sponsors

ITU-D Study Group 2.

6 Sources of input

Contributions are expected from Member States, Sector Members and Associates, as well as inputs from the following:

- 1) Relevant BDT programmes, particularly successful ICT initiatives to address climate change and e-waste;
- 2) Regional needs as identified by workshops on the subject;
- 3) Regional and national action plans and national experiences in ICTs and climate change or e-waste;
- 4) Progress achieved by ITU-T and ITU-R study groups in this domain, in particular the results of the Joint Coordination Activity on ICT and Climate Change;
- 5) Progress achieved by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and other similar initiatives.

7 Target audience

Target audience	Developed countries	Developing countries
Telecommunication policy-makers	Yes	Yes
Telecommunication regulators	Yes	Yes
Service providers/operators	Yes	Yes
Manufacturers	Yes	Yes

a) Target audience

The output of this study Question will be used by both developed and developing countries, in particular the least developed countries (LDCs), small island developing states, landlocked countries and countries with economies in transition.

b) Proposed methods for implementation of the results

A set of guidelines and recommendations on strategies for a responsible and comprehensive approach to the treatment of waste related to telecommunications/ICTs, including policy and regulatory actions required in developing countries, in particular LDCs, should be produced.

These guidelines and recommendations could be implemented by developing countries, in particular LDCs, as well as operators and manufacturers, when establishing actions to ensure the responsible and comprehensive treatment of waste related to telecommunications/ICTs.

8 Proposed methods of handling the study Question or issue

Close coordination is essential with ITU-D programmes, other relevant ITU-D study Questions and ITU-R and ITU-T study groups.

a) How?

- 1) Within a study group:
 - Study Question (over a multi-year study period) ☒
- 2) Within regular BDT activity:
 - Programmes ☒
 - Projects ☒
 - Expert consultants ☒
- 3) In other ways ☒

b) Why?

These methods are essential to ensure that the work and output of this study Question are not duplicated and to improve collaboration among BDT, the other ITU Sectors, Sector Members and other United Nations agencies.

When elaborating the proposed set of guidelines, the authors should draw on the experiences of different countries, operators, manufacturers and various organizations concerned with the topic.

9 Coordination and collaboration

Coordination and collaboration should take place with:

- regular ITU-D activities
- work under other study Questions or issues, in particular study Questions 1/1, 2/2, 5/2 and 7/2, with a view to addressing environmental issues
- regional organizations, as appropriate
- work in progress in the other ITU Sectors.

10 BDT programme link

This study Question is linked to the ITU-D priority of fostering an enabling policy and regulatory environment.

11 Other relevant information

As may become apparent within the life of the study Question.

QUESTION 3/2

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

1 Statement of the situation or problem

The use of telecommunications and information and communication technologies (ICTs) has been invaluable in fostering development and social and economic growth globally. However, despite all the benefits and uses that these technologies offer, they also present risks and threats to security.

From personal finances to business operations, and from national to private critical infrastructure and essential services, all transactions are increasingly managed through information and communication networks, making them more vulnerable to some form of attack.

In order to build trust in the use and application of telecommunications/ICTs for applications and content of all kinds – especially those that have a major positive impact in economic and social areas where all players have an effect on the protection of personal data, network security and the actual network user – close collaboration is required between national authorities, foreign authorities, industry, academia and users.

Securing information and communication networks and developing a culture of cybersecurity have therefore become key in today's world for a number of reasons, including the following:

- 1) There has been explosive growth in the deployment and use of ICTs.
- 2) Cybersecurity remains a matter of concern for all, and there is thus a need to assist countries, in particular developing countries¹, in protecting their telecommunication/ICT networks against cyberattacks and threats.

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

- 3) The security of these globally interconnected infrastructures must be ensured if the potential of the information society is to be achieved.
- 4) There is growing recognition, at national, regional and international levels, of the need to develop and promote best practices, standards, technical guidelines and procedures to reduce the vulnerabilities of and threats to ICT networks.
- 5) National action and regional and international cooperation are needed to build a global culture of cybersecurity that includes national coordination, appropriate national legal infrastructures, watch, warning and recovery capabilities, public-private partnerships and outreach to civil society and consumers.
- 6) A multistakeholder approach is required to effectively make use of the variety of tools available to build confidence in the use of ICT networks.
- 7) Resolution 57/239 of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), on the creation of a global culture of cybersecurity, invites Member States "to develop throughout their societies a culture of cybersecurity in the application and use of information technologies".
- 8) UNGA Resolutions 68/167, 69/166 and 71/199, on the right to privacy in the digital age, affirm "that the same rights that people have offline must also be protected online, including the right to privacy".
- 9) Best practices in cybersecurity must protect and respect the right to privacy and freedom of expression as set forth in the relevant parts of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Geneva Declaration of Principles adopted by the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and other relevant international human rights instruments.

- 10) The WSIS Geneva Declaration of Principles indicates that "a global culture of cyber-security needs to be promoted, developed and implemented in cooperation with all stakeholders and international expert bodies". In addition, the WSIS Geneva Plan of Action encourages sharing best practices and taking appropriate action on spam at national and international levels. Furthermore, the WSIS Tunis Agenda for the Information Society reaffirms the necessity of a global culture of cybersecurity, particularly under Action Line C5 (Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs).
- 11) ITU was requested by WSIS (Tunis, 2005), in its agenda for implementation and follow-up, to act as the lead facilitator/moderator for Action Line C5. Relevant resolutions have been adopted by the Plenipotentiary Conference, the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA) and the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC).
- 12) In its Resolution 70/125, UNGA adopted the outcome document of its high-level meeting on the overall review of the implementation of the WSIS outcomes.
- 13) The WSIS 10-year review (WSIS+10) statement on the Implementation of WSIS Outcomes and the WSIS+10 Vision for WSIS Beyond 2015, adopted at the ITU-coordinated WSIS+10 High-Level Event (Geneva, 2014) and endorsed by the Plenipotentiary Conference (Busan, 2014), were submitted as inputs to the UNGA overall review of the implementation of the WSIS outcomes.
- 14) WTDC Resolution 45 (Rev. Baku, 2025) supports the enhancement of cybersecurity among interested Member States.
- 15) Resolution 130 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference resolves to continue promoting common understanding among governments and other stakeholders of building confidence and security in the use of ICTs at the national, regional and international levels.
- 16) WTSA Resolution 50 (Rev. New Delhi, 2024) resolves to continue to raise awareness of the importance of protecting information and telecommunication systems from cyberthreats and cyberattacks, and to continue to promote cooperation among appropriate international and regional organizations in order to enhance exchange of technical information in the field of information and telecommunication network security.

- 17) There have been various efforts to facilitate the improvement of network security, including the work of Member States and Sector Members in standards-setting activities within the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) and in the development of best practice reports by the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D), in addition to the work of the ITU secretariat under the Global Cybersecurity Agenda, ITU-D capacity-building activities under the relevant programme and the activities of experts across the globe.
- 18) Governments, service providers and end users, particularly in the least developed countries, face unique challenges in developing security policies and approaches appropriate to their circumstances.
- 19) The publication of reports detailing the various resources, strategies and tools available to build confidence in the use of ICT networks and the role of international cooperation in this regard is beneficial to all stakeholders.
- 20) Cybersecurity issues, including spam and malware, remain a serious concern. Nonetheless, evolving and emerging threats must also be studied.
- 21) Simplified, basic-level test procedures are needed for security testing of telecommunication networks to promote a security culture.

2 Questions or issues for study

The study group dealing with this study Question will discuss approaches and share experiences regarding how to promote cybersecurity and cyber resilience for the telecommunication/ICT sector, including:

- 1) cybersecurity public policies and regulations that apply to the telecommunication/ICT sector, including obligations, measures and assurance practices;
- 2) specific measures, initiatives and projects to improve the cybersecurity and cyber resilience of small and medium telecommunications service providers;

- 3) the ways in which the ITU membership are addressing the cybersecurity challenges and opportunities presented by new and emerging telecommunication/ ICT technologies and services in the sector, such as artificial intelligence (AI) applications.

3 Expected output

- 1) Three output reports to be delivered to Member States on the issues identified in § 2, which will be delivered during the study period in a staggered manner, and guidelines developed on the basis of those reports.
- 2) The holding of ad hoc sessions, seminars and workshops, including with invited experts from outside the ITU membership, to share knowledge, information and best practices regarding the topics identified as issues for study in § 2. These activities are to be coordinated as far as possible with the meetings of ITU-D Study Group 2 or of the rapporteur group for the study Question.

4 Timing

This study is proposed to last four years, with output reports to be delivered after 12, 24 and 36 months.

5 Proposers/sponsors

ITU-D Study Group 2, the Asia Pacific Telecommunity, the African Telecommunications Union, the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations and the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission.

6 Sources of input

- 1) Member States and Sector Members.
- 2) Relevant ITU-T and ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R) study group work.
- 3) Relevant outputs of international and regional organizations.

- 4) Relevant non-governmental organizations involved in the promotion of cybersecurity and a culture of security.
- 5) Surveys and online resources.
- 6) Experts in the field of cybersecurity.
- 7) Global Cybersecurity Index.
- 8) Other sources, as appropriate.

7 Target audience

Target audience	Developed countries	Developing countries
Telecommunication policy-makers	Yes	Yes
Telecommunication regulators	Yes	Yes
Service providers/operators	Yes	Yes
Manufacturers	Yes	Yes
Academia	Yes	Yes

a) Target audience

National policy-makers and Sector Members, and other stakeholders involved in or responsible for telecommunication/ICT cybersecurity activities, especially those from developing countries.

b) Proposed methods for implementation of the results

The focus of the study programme is on gathering information and best practices. It is intended to be informative in nature and can be used to raise awareness of cybersecurity issues in Member States and Sector Members and to draw attention to the information, tools and best practices available, the results of which may be used in conjunction with ad hoc sessions, seminars and workshops organized by the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT).

8 Proposed methods of handling the study Question or issue

The study Question will be addressed within a study group over a four-year study period and will be managed by a rapporteur and vice-rapporteurs. This will enable Member States and Sector Members to contribute their experiences and lessons learned with regard to cybersecurity.

9 Coordination and collaboration

The study group will coordinate with work under relevant study Questions assigned to ITU-D Study Groups 1 and 2, as well as ITU-T, in particular ITU-T Study Group 17, which is responsible for developing international standards to enhance confidence, security and trust in the use of telecommunications/ICTs.

It will also coordinate with other relevant organizations and agencies, which, given their existing level of technical expertise on the issue, should be given the opportunity to comment and provide input documents as appropriate.

10 BDT programme link

The BDT programme under the ITU-D priority of achieving inclusive, safe and secure telecommunications/ICTs for sustainable development shall facilitate the exchange of information and make use of the output, as appropriate, to satisfy programme goals and the needs of Member States.

11 Other relevant information

As may become apparent within the life of the study Question.

QUESTION 4/2

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

1 Statement of the situation or problem

Indicator 5.b.1 – the proportion of individuals who own a mobile telephone, by sex – is one of the seven information and communication technology (ICT) indicators agreed by the United Nations General Assembly to measure global progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)¹. A similar indicator is also included in the ICT Development Index. As of 2023, according to ITU data, this indicator rests at 81 per cent of men and 75 per cent of women worldwide, with notable disparities by geographic region and by sex.

Several factors affect the availability and affordability of devices around the globe. The policies and regulations adopted by ITU Member States on the affordability of user devices, on conformance and interoperability (C&I) and on counterfeiting and device theft each have an influential impact on the ultimate price that consumers pay for the devices that they use. In addition, barriers such as gender norms can limit the availability of devices and ultimately the collective attainment of the ICT-related SDGs.

This challenge and its related policy and regulatory levers merit study by the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) and necessitate the provision of guidance to the ICT community.

¹ United Nations General Assembly Resolution 71/313.

2 Question or issue for study

The study group dealing with this study Question will examine issues related to the availability and affordability of user devices. The work will cover the following items:

- 1) Sharing national experiences and best practices with regard to broadband policy and regulation on user devices, such as national broadband plans, ICT strategies and the mandates of universal service funds (in collaboration with work under study Questions 1/1 and 4/1).
- 2) Sharing national experiences and best practices in collecting data and measuring the availability and affordability of user devices, with emphasis on disaggregation across geographic regions and other relevant socio-economic indicators (in collaboration with work under study Question 4/1).
- 3) Sharing national experiences and best practices in the public provision of user devices, such as through schools, libraries and other public access points.
- 4) Analysing the impact of availability and affordability of user devices on the attainment of universal meaningful connectivity (in collaboration with work under study Question 4/1).
- 5) Sharing national experiences and best practices regarding the impact of the availability of user devices on digital skills development (in collaboration with work under study Question 5/2).
- 6) Sharing national experiences and best practices regarding consumer awareness of issues relevant to user devices, including device theft (in possible collaboration with work under study Question 5/1).
- 7) Sharing innovations and developments in best practices for C&I.

- 8) Examining how capacity building can strengthen the ability of developing countries² to reduce the risks associated with low-quality equipment and equipment interoperability issues.
- 9) Sharing information regarding the establishment of mutual recognition agreements between countries.
- 10) Assessing the impact of the number of ICT devices on the radiocommunication environment, including the Internet of Things, and providing guidelines to the ITU-D membership for ICT-readiness related to C&I (in possible collaboration with work under study Question 1/2).
- 11) Sharing national experiences and best practices regarding combating counterfeit, sub-standard and tampered devices and the theft of mobile devices.

3 Expected output

The expected output includes studies on the topics outlined in § 2 on the availability and affordability of user devices and related telecommunication/ICT equipment issues. Outputs are to be arranged as deemed appropriate by the study group that deals with this study Question.

4 Timing

- 1) Annual progress reports will be submitted to ITU-D Study Group 2.
- 2) A final report will be submitted to ITU-D Study Group 2.

5 Proposers/sponsors

ITU-D Study Group 2.

² These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

6 Sources of input

- 1) Member States, Sector Members and relevant experts.
- 2) Examination of regulations, policies and practices in countries that have created systems to manage such matters.
- 3) Other relevant international organizations.
- 4) Interviews, existing reports and surveys should also be used to gather data and information for the finalization of a comprehensive set of best practice guidelines.
- 5) Material from regional telecommunication organizations, telecommunication research centres, manufacturers and working groups should also be utilized in order to avoid duplication of work.
- 6) Close cooperation with study groups from the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T), in particular ITU-T Study Group 11 and the Joint Coordination Activity on Conformance and Interoperability Testing, and with other organizations (e.g. the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation, the International Accreditation Forum, the International Organization for Standardization and the International Electrotechnical Commission) involved in C&I activities and other actions within ITU-D is extremely important.

7 Target audience

Target audience	Developed countries	Developing countries
Telecommunication policy-makers	Yes	Yes
Telecommunication regulators	Yes	Yes
Service providers/operators	Yes	Yes
Manufacturers	Yes	Yes
Consumers/end users	Yes	Yes
Standards-development organizations, including consortia	Yes	Yes
Testing laboratories	Yes	Yes
Certification bodies	Yes	Yes

a) Target audience

Depending on the nature of the output, policy- and decision-makers and middle to upper-level managers in operators, laboratories, standards-development organizations, certification bodies, market research agencies, regulators and ministries in developed, developing and least developed countries will be the predominant users of the output. Compliance managers at equipment manufacturers and system integrators could also use the output for information.

b) Proposed methods for implementation of the results

The results of the study Question are to be distributed through ITU-D interim and final reports. This will enable the audience to obtain periodic updates on the work carried out and to provide input and/or seek clarification or more information from ITU-D Study Group 2 should they need it.

8 Proposed methods of handling the study Question or issue

The study Question will be addressed within a study group over a four-year study period (with submission of interim results) and will be managed by a rapporteur and vice-rapporteurs. This will enable Member States and Sector Members to contribute their experiences and lessons learned with regard to conformity assessments, type-approval and interoperability, testing laboratories, recognition of testing reports and the combating of counterfeit devices.

9 Coordination and collaboration

The ITU-D study group dealing with this study Question will need to coordinate with:

- relevant ITU-T study groups, particularly Study Group 11
- relevant focal points in the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) and ITU regional offices
- coordinators of relevant project activities in BDT
- standards-development organizations
- conformity-assessment bodies (including testing organizations and laboratories and accreditation organizations) and industry consortia
- consumers/end users
- experts in this field.

10 BDT programme link

- 1) Resolution 47 (Rev. Baku, 2025) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference
- 2) Resolution 76 (Rev. New Delhi, 2024) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly

- 3) Resolution 123 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference
- 4) ITU Conformity and Interoperability programme.

The study Question is linked to BDT programmes on human capacity development and the provision of assistance to operators in developing and least developed countries and on the provision of C&I-related technical assistance and programmes.

11 Other relevant information

As may become apparent within the life of the study Question.

QUESTION 5/2

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

1 Statement of the situation or problem

With the rapid development and widespread application of new and emerging telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICTs), including artificial intelligence (AI) applications within telecommunications/ICTs, achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and bridging the digital divide remain vital topics. As Member States face varied challenges and opportunities in these areas, fostering dialogue and collaboration can help identify effective solutions.

As a key driver of digital transformation and technological innovation, telecommunications/ICTs have demonstrated their potential and capability to open up new opportunities through various use cases.

In bridging the digital divide, telecommunications/ICTs foster accessibility and inclusion through innovative tools and platforms. Their use by the widest number of different groups and segments of the population is critical to their success and to achieving the greatest benefit in the drive for digital development.

Member States can actively engage in dialogue and explore best practices for utilizing such telecommunications/ICTs to maximize the societal benefits and build a more inclusive and sustainable future.

Broadband technologies are fundamentally transforming the way that people live. Broadband infrastructure, applications and services offer important opportunities to boost economic growth, enhance communications, improve energy efficiency, safeguard the planet and improve lives. Broadband access and adoption have a significant impact on the world economy and are important to bridging the digital divide.

According to the ITU publication *Measuring digital development: Facts and Figures 2025*, an estimated 26 per cent of the world's population remain offline. In developed countries, 94 per cent of the population is estimated to be connected to the Internet. This contrasts with low-income countries, where only 23 per cent of the population is estimated to be online. Of the 77 per cent of people who are offline, many cannot connect even if they wanted to owing to a lack of mobile network coverage (coverage gap), while 32 per cent remain offline for other reasons (usage gap).

Disparities are found across countries. With regard to gender, globally only 71 per cent of women use the Internet compared with 77 per cent of men. In developing countries, women are less likely to use the Internet than men, compared with the relative equality achieved in most developed countries. The gender gap widens further in least developed countries (LDCs) (28 per cent of women versus 39 per cent of men) and in landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) (34 per cent of women versus 41 per cent of men). Broadband adoption directly contributes to the likelihood that a community will participate in and benefit from the digital economy.

In indigenous communities, the digital divide plays an even greater role in widening economic, educational and social divides. The sparse population level in the rural and remote areas where many Indigenous Peoples live, combined with the challenges of broadband mapping and data collection, mean that the data on Internet access and adoption in such areas is often incomplete. Methods to increase Internet adoption in such areas should optimally focus on factors at the household and personal level, including price, the availability of computers or other devices, the provision of content in local languages and digital skills.

Global stakeholders have become increasingly focused on alleviating disparities in broadband adoption by investing in approaches that address the affordability of devices and services and emphasize the importance of digital skills and digital literacy for effectively participating in the global economy. In a survey conducted by ITU, less than 40 per cent of the population in 40 per cent of the countries surveyed had basic ICT skills, less than 40 per cent of the population in over 70 per cent of countries had standard ICT skills, and in over 95 per cent of countries less than 15 per cent of the population had advanced ICT skills.

For a community to participate fully in the digital economy, there must be a significant uptake in broadband services and technologies. As stakeholders around the world work to deploy broadband networks, it is also important to develop and execute strategies that enable citizens to adopt and effectively use broadband technologies, services and devices, supported by adequate digital skills. Increasingly, stakeholders are using local languages and iconography to increase computer and overall literacy. Optimally, all strategies for adoption should be studied in the context of the social, economic and cultural factors faced by individuals in urban, rural and remote areas in both developed and developing countries.

2 Questions or issues for study

- 1) Policy, regulation and initiatives adopted for the development and advancement of new and emerging telecommunication/ICT services and technologies, such as the application of AI, by national regulatory authorities and other national, regional and international organizations with a view to enabling digital transformation.
- 2) The application of AI in advancing telecommunication/ICT networks.
- 3) The application and impact of new and emerging telecommunication/ICT services and technologies in bridging the digital divide.
- 4) Collaboration on new and emerging telecommunication/ICT services and technologies with relevant ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) study Questions, with a focus on digital skills and institutional capacity to support innovation in the telecommunication/ICT sector and the development, deployment and application of new and emerging telecommunication/ICT services and technologies.
- 5) Case studies on the application of emerging technology tools, such as AI and the metaverse, in telecommunications/ICTs, and how they can contribute to digital transformation.
- 6) Ways to foster effective cooperation and information exchange on new and emerging telecommunication/ICT technologies among policy-makers and regulators.

- 7) Adoption opportunities, challenges and disparities regarding telecommunications/ICTs, including broadband, with a focus on the importance of bridging gaps through accessible digital skills training to help unserved and underserved populations overcome barriers to connectivity and digital inclusion.
- 8) Trends in telecommunication/ICT adoption globally, including in urban, rural, remote and other areas, and across different geographies, recognizing that accessible multilingual information plays a vital role in delivering digital skills training and promoting inclusive access to e-services for unserved and underserved communities worldwide.
- 9) Trends and case studies in digital skills development and training programmes to help communities with specific needs and unserved and underserved populations address challenges to connectivity and digital inclusion.
- 10) Methods to promote and encourage digital literacy, training and skills development across all levels of the global socio-economic landscape with a view to closing the digital skills gap.
- 11) Approaches to strengthening digital skills training for the adoption of e-services, including e-agriculture, e-commerce, e-education and e-health in the context of the digital divide that persists in LDCs, LLDCs, small island developing states (SIDS) and countries with economies in transition, particularly in rural and remote areas and among persons with specific needs.
- 12) Ways to encourage the adoption of telecommunication/ICT services and devices among children and youth and to teach them basic, intermediate and advanced digital skills so that they can participate safely and fully in the information society.
- 13) Ways to encourage widespread adoption of new and emerging telecommunication/ICT services and technologies to increase meaningful connectivity for all, including women, persons with disabilities, persons with specific needs and individuals in LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS, including through the use of tools and devices that are mobile-friendly and that enable offline access.

- 14) Strategies and policies to improve the affordability of Internet-enabled devices, including handsets and data services, to meet the growing demand for affordable Internet services and devices (in collaboration with work under study Question 4/1).
- 15) The influence of cultural, social and other factors in producing unique and often creative methods of encouraging the adoption of e-services by residents of developing countries, including through relevant content in local languages.
- 16) Programmes and initiatives to develop relevant digital skills across all levels (basic, intermediate and advanced) with a view to promoting Internet adoption, capacity building and workforce development.

3 Expected output

Reports, best practice guidelines, workshops, case studies and Recommendations, as appropriate, that address the issues for study, including the following expected outputs:

- 1) Policies, strategies and national experiences to stimulate adoption of telecommunication/ICT technologies, services and devices, including for broadband;
- 2) Methods and guidelines for telecommunication/ICT adoption specific to social, cultural and economic environments (in collaboration with work under study Question 4/1);
- 3) Policies, strategies and national experiences to develop and promote digital skills, including training individuals at basic, standard and advanced levels.
- 4) Methods, guidelines and case studies for lifelong skills training on new and emerging telecommunication/ICT services and technologies for people of all ages and socio-economic backgrounds;
- 5) Policies, strategies and case studies promoting telecommunication/ICT adoption and skills development among indigenous communities, women and individuals in developing countries, in particular LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS.

4 Timing

Annual progress reports will be presented to Study Group 2. The interim deliverables identified in § 3 could be sent to Study Group 2 for approval when ready, without waiting for the end of the study period.

5 Proposers/sponsors

ITU-D Study Group 2.

6 Sources of input

- 1) Contributions from Member States, Sector Members and Associates, relevant study groups within the ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R) and the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T), and other stakeholders.
- 2) Results of related technical progress made by relevant ITU-R and ITU-T study groups.
- 3) Interviews, workshops, existing reports and surveys should also be used to gather data and information for the finalization of a comprehensive set of best practice guidelines.
- 4) Material from regional telecommunication/ICT organizations, telecommunication/ICT research centres, manufacturers and working groups should also be used in order to avoid duplication of work.
- 5) ITU publications, reports and Recommendations on broadband deployment, digital inclusion and skills.
- 6) Relevant outputs and information from study Questions related to ICT applications.
- 7) Relevant inputs and information from Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) programmes related to broadband and the different broadband access technologies.

7 Target audience

Target audience	Developed countries	Developing countries
Telecommunication/ICT policy-makers	Yes	Yes
Telecommunication regulators	Yes	Yes
Service providers/operators	Yes	Yes
Additional stakeholders as appropriate	Yes	Yes
Manufacturers	Yes	Yes
Consumers/end users	Yes	Yes
Standards-development organizations, including consortia	Yes	Yes

a) Target audience

All national telecommunication/ICT policy-makers, regulators, service providers and operators, especially those in developing countries, as well as broadband providers and non-governmental or civil society organizations that support broadband adoption and connectivity.

b) Proposed methods for implementation of the results

The results of the study Question are to be distributed through ITU-D interim and final reports. This will enable the audience to obtain periodic updates on the work carried out and to provide input and/or seek clarification or more information from ITU-D Study Group 2 should they need it.

8 Proposed methods of handling the study Question or issue

Close coordination with work under ITU-D programmes, other relevant ITU-D study Questions and ITU-R and ITU-T study groups is essential.

a) How?

- 1) Within a study group:
 - Study Question (over a multi-year study period) ☒
- 2) Within regular BDT activity:
 - Programmes ☒
 - Projects ☒
 - Expert consultants ☒
- 3) In other ways ☐

b) Why?

The study Question will be addressed within a study group over a four-year study period (with submission of interim results) and will be managed by a rapporteur group. This will enable Member States and Sector Members to contribute their experiences and lessons learned related to this study Question.

9 Coordination and collaboration

The ITU-D study group dealing with this study Question will need to coordinate with relevant ITU-R and ITU-T study groups, the relevant outputs from other ITU-D study Questions, relevant focal points in BDT and ITU regional offices, the coordinators of relevant project activities in BDT and experts and experienced organizations in this field.

10 BDT programme link

The study Question is linked to BDT programmes aimed at promoting broadband adoption and affordability, digital inclusion and digital skills.

11 Other relevant information

As may become apparent within the life of the study Question.

Part VI – Annexes

Annex A

**His Excellency Rashad Nabi oghlu Nabiyev
Minister of Digital Development and Transport of the
Republic of Azerbaijan**

**Opening remarks at the
World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-25)**

Good morning. It is my honour to address you in Baku. To all of your excellencies and the President I have sincere wishes for a successful and thoughtful Congress.

Dear participants, I extend my greetings to you in the WTDC in Baku. The holding of the international forum in the field of telecommunications in Azerbaijan for the first time in central Asia is a milestone. This reflects that tradition of long-standing and cooperation between international governments and Azerbaijan and clearly demonstrates the country's leading position on the global stage of digital development. The field of telecommunication and permission technologies is to enhance strategies and regulatory frameworks that facilitate discussions and promote inclusive and sustainable digital transformation to extend accessibility. The growth for a new digital era. Today, development is among the key factors that determine the country's level of development and shape the future of humanity. Inevitably, when growth is significantly, more than two million people still lack access to the Internet. In today's world, no country or individual should be left out of the digital future. Ensuring this remains our primary responsibility. It helps prevent digital cyberattacks. The cybersecurity strategy serves as a corner stone. In accordance with the document, Azerbaijan 2030 National Priorities with, the development of the digital economy has been identified as one of the country's key strategical directions. We place emphasis between the cooperation in the public and private sectors.

Today, we have 100% broadband Internet coverage. Our country is also among the front runners in the field of digital identity. The digital signature has been adopted and integrated into over 80 government information systems. It is not by chance we are included in the highest category of the UN's government development. Our goal is to be ranked among the top 40 countries in the next five years.

Baku today is not only a telecommunication hub but also the centre for the international cooperation in the digital sphere. Within the frame work of the conference, the opening of the innovation center in Baku is also scheduled. As part of the network, the communication centre will serve as the leading performance for the innovation and entrepreneurship to the region. I'm confident that the discussions held, decisions made, and partnerships forged during the conference will help build an inclusive, secure, and sustainable future while having a tangible impact on the lives of billions of people. Once again, I extend my warmest wishes to you and wish you productive discussions and every success in the proceedings. Best wishes from the President of the Azerbaijan. Thank you.

Annex B

Doreen Bogdan-Martin
Secretary-General, International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

Opening remarks at the
World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-25)

Your Excellency Rashad Nabi oghlu Nabiyev,
Minister of Digital Development and Transport of the Republic of Azerbaijan,
Dr Cosmas Zavazava,
Director of the ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau,
Fellow Elected Officials,
Ministers,
Ambassadors,
colleagues, and friends,

I am honoured to welcome you to the World Telecommunication Development Conference.

The WTDC has always had a special place in my heart.

One of my very first projects upon arriving at ITU was supporting preparations for the very 1st WTDC.

That WTDC declared telecommunications an essential component of political, economic, social and cultural development.

Now in its 9th edition, this is my first WTDC as Secretary-General and the first to be held here in the CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States) region.

If it feels like home for you too, it is thanks to our incredible hosts, who have gone above and beyond to create a welcoming, productive environment. One that will enable us to deliver the outcomes everyone in this room has been working so hard towards for the past three years.

Let me add how great it is to be back in Baku: The City of Winds.

The winds of digital change have certainly been blowing, across the region and around the world, since we last met in Kigali in 2022.

Back then, we were emerging from a global pandemic. ChatGPT had not yet become household name.

Three years on, geopolitical headwinds have grown stronger.

And so must be our resolve in terms of AI readiness; in terms of resilient digital infrastructure — including submarine cables — and in terms of space sustainability and of ensuring early warning systems reach everyone, everywhere.

Digital continues to top every agenda, including at the United Nations.

From Belém, where the 3rd Green Digital Action track is highlighting sustainable digital transformation at COP30, to Doha, where the Declaration adopted by the 2nd World Summit for Social Development mentions digital no less than 24 times, to Sevilla, where the 4th Financing for Development Conference committed to unlocking finance for developing countries, including for digital infrastructure, to last year's Summit of the Future in New York, where through the Global Digital Compact countries recommitted to bridging the digital divide, to achieving universal connectivity, and to ensuring all people can gain the digital skills increasingly needed to thrive in the age of artificial intelligence — a technology that is rapidly transforming how we learn, communicate, and earn a living.

That is, of course, if we are connected to the Internet in the first place.

Since the last WTDC, hundreds of millions more people have been brought online — in no small part thanks to your efforts in implementing the Kigali Action Plan.

The fact that more people have access to the Internet than ever before in history is an amazing achievement; one we can all be proud of.

But, I ask BUT, is that connectivity meaningful, affordable, inclusive, and safe enough?

Is the digital transformation we read about in the headlines every day sustainable for all people and our planet?

The answer is: not yet.

Because billions of people still do not use the Internet at all.

Nearly 80 per cent of them live in low-income countries.

The digital divide for women and girls is not closing quickly enough, with 250 million fewer women than men using the Internet worldwide; a gap that remains widest in the least developed countries.

4G mobile service reaches just over half of the population in low-income countries, with decades-old 3G (and in some cases 2G) remaining the only way for many communities to connect — especially in least developed countries (LDCs), small island developing states (SIDS), and landlocked developing countries (LLDCs).

I have just returned from an unforgettable mission to one of the LLDCs that has received more than 1 million refugees from a neighbouring country.

I had the opportunity to meet with this community of forcibly displaced people and their hosts.

And that mission reaffirmed a simple truth: That digital inclusion is more than a development priority. It is a matter of dignity; It is a digital lifeline.

During our visit to a Connectivity Centre located in this refugee settlement, the first of its kind in the region, I saw at least three people using a single computer, with an additional few people standing behind. One learning the basics of making a spreadsheet, another taking a programming course at a top-tier university, another was learning English, another drawing the future he envisioned for himself and his family.

Every young person I met there spoke powerfully, and always with a smile, on how connectivity gives them access to family, to friends, to services, education, and job opportunities. And most importantly – hope.

Hope to rebuild in the wake of unimaginable tragedy and loss.

As the Chair of the last WTDC, Minister Paula Ingabire of Rwanda, so well stated: "Connectivity is and will continue to be a cornerstone for the individual and the collective resilience of humanity."

Because connectivity can mean a child's chance to receive an education; a new business using mobile money to provide essential services; an expectant mother gaining access to critical health information; a young person's chance to build the skills that boost their chances of earning a livelihood.

Here in Baku, our task is to help meet those needs and build that resilience through our policy decisions and resolutions.

We are here at WTDC to make digital opportunities meaningful and accessible to all people. We are here to create the conditions that leave no one behind in a world being reshaped by technology, faster than ever.

We are here to breathe new life into global digital development work that can only be done by all of us, together.

Nowhere is the power of collective progress better captured than by the Partner2Connect Digital Coalition, which has mobilized over 1 000 pledges valued at more than 80 billion USD for meaningful connectivity and sustainable digital transformation globally.

The time has come to ensure the implementation of these commitments.

It's time to make good on our Kigali Declaration and its promise to "spare no effort to expand and use digital infrastructure and services to build truly sustainable digital economies."

Let's continue making those who came before us proud.

Like Sir Donald Maitland who back in the early 80s led the Independent Commission for Worldwide Telecommunications Development which first established the "The Missing Link" between the availability of telecommunication infrastructure and a country's economic growth.

The Report of the Maitland Commission called on the world to close the "intolerable" gap in telephone access between developed and developing countries by putting fixed telephone lines within walking distance of all households by the year 2000.

That very report laid the decisive groundwork for the BDT (ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau)'s creation and defined its foundational mission.

I think Sir Maitland would be amazed and proud to see how far we have come in the decades since the BDT was created.

Because, ladies and gentlemen, when we pool our resources towards the shared goal of "universal, meaningful connectivity and sustainable digital transformation" for all, when we are united to deliver as One ITU and One UN family, there is nothing we can't do.

Here in the City of Winds, strengthened by partnerships within and across industries, countries and regions — let's continue to move mountains.

May our digital development ambitions and investments rise to match each new wave of tech innovation.

Together, let us continue creating a more inclusive, affordable, sustainable digital future for all people, everywhere.

Annex C

World Telecommunication Development Conference 2025 (WTDC-25) Baku, 17 November 2025

Opening Remarks Dr Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava Director, Telecommunication Development Bureau International Telecommunication Union

Your Excellency Rashad Nabi oghlu Nabiyev,
Minister of Digital Development and Transport of the Republic of Azerbaijan,
Ms Doreen Bogdan-Martin, ITU Secretary-General
and the other Elected Officials,
Mr Samaddin Fakhraddin oghlu Asadov,
Deputy Minister of Digital Development and Transport and
Chair-Designate of the WTDC-25,
All the Ministers and other Heads of Delegation here present,
Ambassadors,
Distinguished delegates,
Dear friends,

A warm and sincere good morning to you all.

It is my profound honour to welcome you to the beautiful and historic city of Baku for World Telecommunication Development Conference, 2025 (WTDC-25). I extend my deepest gratitude to the Government and people of the Republic of Azerbaijan for their exceptional hospitality and for hosting this pivotal gathering.

We meet here at a moment of extraordinary transformation. The digital revolution is no longer on the horizon. It is here, reshaping every facet of our societies and economies. It holds the promise of bridging divides, empowering communities, and accelerating progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals.

In 2022 when we met in Kigali at our last World Telecommunication Development Conference, there were 2.7 billion people offline. Today, our statistics show that we have made significant progress with those offline dropping to 2.2 billion and 6 billion people enjoying the benefits of connectivity. But, this progress is neither automatic, nor assured.

We are gathered here precisely because this digital future is not yet a shared reality. The digital divide has morphed from a simple question of connectivity into a complex challenge of affordability, skills, relevance, and safety. While some nations are racing towards the frontiers of artificial intelligence and 6G, others are still struggling to ensure universal broadband access.

This conference, WTDC-25, is our collective opportunity to change that narrative.

Our task over the coming days is both critical and urgent. We are here to build upon the legacy of Kigali and to craft a new, ambitious blueprint for global digital development. The "Baku Declaration" and our new "Action Plan" must be bold, practical, and inclusive.

To guide our work, I see four interconnected pillars:

First, Connectivity with a Purpose. We must move beyond just building networks to ensuring they are meaningful. This means focusing on last-mile connectivity in rural and remote areas, but also on the applications that transform lives—digital health, online education, smart agriculture, and climate-resilient infrastructure. Connectivity is the foundation, but its purpose is human development.

Second, Building Digital Capabilities. A connected device is useless without the skills to use it safely and effectively. Our focus must be on massive digital literacy campaigns, supporting the development of local digital talent, and empowering SMEs, with a special emphasis on women, youth, and persons with disabilities. We cannot afford to leave anyone behind in the digital economy.

Equally important is to ensure that our regulators possess the skills they need to be agile, innovative, and flexible to respond effectively to industry needs.

Third, Fostering Trust and Security. As our world becomes more digital, it also becomes more vulnerable. Cybersecurity threats, online misinformation, and data privacy concerns are eroding trust. Our work must prioritize building resilient digital ecosystems where people feel safe to learn, transact, and communicate. Trust is the currency of the digital age.

And fourth, Forging Innovative Partnerships. The scale of the challenge is too great for any single government or organization to tackle alone. WTDC is a powerful platform for collaboration. I call upon the private sector to continue to drive innovation and investment, academia to bring research and foresight, and civil society to ensure our solutions are grounded in the needs of the people we serve. At this point, I would like to acknowledge and thank all our partners who have over the past three years supported our BDT4IMPACT journey by providing extra-budgetary funding to the tune of over 60 million USD to finance our projects across all the regions. These include governments, development banks, sister UN organizations, and other partners.

Distinguished delegates,

The world is watching. The decisions we make in this hall will resonate for years to come. They will determine whether digital technology becomes a great equalizer or a source of greater inequality.

Let us be ambitious in our vision.

Let us be pragmatic in our solutions.

Let us be united in our commitment to a digital future that is inclusive, sustainable, and prosperous for all.

I am confident that with the spirit of cooperation and shared purpose that defines our Union, we will rise to the occasion.

I wish you all a productive and successful conference.

Thank you.

Annex D

Statements

Recognizing the contribution that NGSO satellite systems can make to global connectivity, as raised in [AFCP/18A7/1](#), [RCC/26A24/1](#), and [AZE/28A2/1](#), the World Telecommunication Development Conference 2025 (WTDC-25) considered the need to assist developing countries, LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS in deploying and using satellite telecommunications to enable sustainable and affordable access to international public telecommunication services.

Therefore, this WTDC calls upon the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT), the BDT, and all ITU Members, in the implementation of WTDC outcomes, to pay due consideration to:

- Plenipotentiary Resolution 218 (Bucharest, 2022), "ITU's role in the implementation of the 'Space2030' Agenda: space as a driver of sustainable development, and its follow-up and review process", which instructs the Secretary-General and the Directors of the Bureaux, *inter alia*, "to undertake activities in strengthening capacity building for developing countries, LDCs, SIDS and LLDCs in the application of the Radio Regulations through collaboration, cooperation and memoranda of understanding with relevant organizations, as well as the organization of world and regional radiocommunication seminars and workshops for regional telecommunication organizations";
- Plenipotentiary Resolution 219 (Bucharest, 2022) "Sustainability of the radio-frequency spectrum and associated satellite-orbit resources used by space services", which "instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Conference to work with regulators, including through the Global Symposium for Regulators, to encourage non-GSO system licensing expertise and capacity building"; and

- ITU-R Resolution 69-2 (2023), "Development and deployment of international public telecommunications via satellite in developing countries", which considers "the need to assist developing countries in deploying and using satellite telecommunications to enable sustainable and affordable access to international public telecommunication services" and "invites the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau to organize workshops, seminars and training courses that specifically address sustainable and affordable access to satellite telecommunications, including broadband connectivity, and to continue activities between the relevant study groups of ITU-D and ITU-R that will assist developing countries in extending and enhancing capacity-building activities on the use of broadband connectivity via satellite"

in order to better address the needs of developing countries, LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDs on the use of broadband connectivity via satellite.

Recognition of the importance of Public Telecommunications Networks and Services to Essential Humanitarian Services to be Safeguarded and Facilitated during armed Conflicts and Disasters

The ITU Member States represented at the World Telecommunication Development Conference 2025, recognize (a) the critical importance of telecommunications services in saving lives, ensuring the operation of rescue and emergency services, providing humanitarian assistance, and maintaining communication continuity among populations during armed conflicts and disasters; (b) the urgent need to ensure safe and reliable communication channels for people affected by armed conflicts and disasters, and for humanitarian organizations providing relief and assistance; (c) that recurrent armed conflicts and disasters have demonstrated the importance of telecommunications/ICT infrastructure for ensuring the safety of civilians and supporting relief and rescue agencies in mitigating life-threatening risks and disseminating essential public information, including in local languages; (d) that the rising number of armed conflicts and disasters has resulted in increasing destruction of infrastructure and tragic loss of life, particularly among children, women, the elderly, and personnel working in telecommunications and relief networks, with a contributing factor being the loss of connectivity; (e) that telecommunications and information technologies play a vital role in supporting early-warning systems, enabling rapid response, rescue, and relief operations, and mitigating the impact of armed conflicts and disasters; they further support decision-making, ensure safe access to information and services, and facilitate communication among and with citizens; (f) the urgent need to maintain reliable communication for affected populations and humanitarian personnel; (g) that maintaining continuity and accessibility of telecommunication networks and services during armed conflicts and disasters directly supports access to information and enables people to exercise their rights; and (h) the pivotal role played by telecommunications networks and services in supporting humanitarian preparedness and response efforts and enhancing security and stability in areas affected by armed conflicts and disasters, and in view of the increasing importance of ICTs in facilitating the delivery of urgent humanitarian aid in times of armed conflicts and disasters.

These Member States instruct the Secretary-General to, in consultation with Member States and relevant stakeholders to: (1) identify the challenges of providing emergency communication services for critical, life-saving, humanitarian aid and public safety and the urgent need to maintain reliable communication for affected populations and humanitarian actors during times of armed conflict or disaster; (2) coordinate with the relevant UN bodies that address the implications of international law applicable to armed conflict and the protection for the civilian population, including customary international humanitarian law, and the safeguarding of civilians exclusively engaged in humanitarian duties; (3) identify potential measures member states could take to protect telecommunication infrastructure from damage during armed conflicts or disasters; (4) take steps to promote continuity of public telecommunication networks and services during armed conflicts or disasters to ensure coordination, early warning, and life protection; (5) identify any potential additional budgetary needs for the ITU secretariat to support efforts to promote the need for UN bodies to support the protection of public telecommunication networks and services during times of armed conflict and disasters; (6) support research and development to build resilient and sustainable telecommunication infrastructure in conflict-affected areas, particularly in emergency communications technologies, and integrate it into ITU capacity-building and training programs; (7) take action to secure international recognition of the importance of public telecommunication networks and services to essential services that must be safeguarded and facilitated during armed conflict and disasters; (8) collaborate with relevant international institutions and within ITU mandate, to document damages and threats to telecommunications infrastructure and report periodically to the ITU Council; and (9) submit reporting to the ITU Council and PP on implementation and recommendations of these actions.

These Member States invite the Plenipotentiary Conference (Qatar, 2026) to consider taking any action as appropriate based on the information provided in this report.

U.S. Statement for the Record at the ITU World Telecommunication Development Conference 2025 (WTDC-25)

The United States would like to make the following statement and request it be recorded in the report of the Plenary.

We believe this conference made significant progress on a number of important telecommunication and ICT development issues. We should all be proud of our accomplishments.

The work of ITU-D remains critical for advancing the goals of the Union in connecting everyone and promoting digital transformation. Here in Baku, we have set out strong actions to guide the ITU's future activities.

Out of respect for other member states and the ITU's important work, the United States entered this conference with a spirit of collaboration and constructiveness. But to be clear, we also entered with an unwavering commitment to represent U.S. interests and positions.

We recognize that some of our positions mark a shift from how we have conducted business in the ITU in the past, and some members may be hearing these policy shifts for the first time.

As a Member State that cares deeply about the ITU and our shared goals of increasing global connectivity, we reiterate that we have made these policy shifts to strengthen the work of the ITU, not the opposite.

Across the UN system, the United States is focusing on a pragmatic, back-to-basics approach. The ITU cannot do everything. We need to return to our core mandates and to deliver real outcomes with real impacts for real people.

For this reason, the United States disengaged from several negotiations at this conference that unnecessarily veered into ideological and politicized issues.

- In the negotiations for the Declaration and several other resolutions, we made clear that the United States will no longer reaffirm the SDGs as a matter of course and that connecting the work of the ITU-D to the SDGs is not foundational to the ITU's mission. We respect the sovereignty and views of other countries and respect that many ITU members take the SDGs quite seriously. While we agree on the goals of increasing connectivity and building capacity, we diverge on a UN mandated system of arbitrary goals that do little to actually advance Member State capabilities.
- The United States seeks to avoid using diversity, equity, and inclusion concepts and terminology at the expense of recognizing hard work, excellence, and individual achievement and upholding the equal dignity and respect of every person. We find these are a distraction and purport themes that seek to divide us rather than unite us.
- The United States also strongly supports protecting women and girls, defending their rights, and promoting their empowerment. In order to do this, we support clear and accurate language that recognizes women are biologically female and men are biologically male.
- Finally, the United States remains opposed to an unnecessary focus on climate change within the ITU. We regret that many industrialized nations focus on climate change, often to the detriment of the needs of developing countries. The United States stands ready to partner with countries- not lecture them- on how they should achieve their own development.

Moving forward, the United States will continue to oppose language that furthers these ideas.

However, we welcome the opportunity to continue to work collaboratively, build consensus, advance our core mission, and ensure the ITU-D delivers tangible results.

It is with this approach we look forward to working with all member states in the future towards a more results-oriented ITU-D.

Thank you.

Statement by the Russian Federation at the WTDC-25 plenary meeting for inclusion in the Chair's report

Chair,

In response to the politicized accusations made at WTDC-25 by Denmark on behalf of the European Union and by Poland and Ukraine, we wish to state the following.

The Russian Federation categorically opposes the politicization of the work of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and its bodies, whose agendas are agreed upon beforehand. ITU has no authority to discuss the territorial integrity and sovereignty of States, to characterize a situation as a 'war' and designate certain territories as 'occupied', to assign responsibility, or to qualify the actions of States as acts of aggression.

As for the baseless accusations of cyberattacks, the fact is that it is the Russian Federation that has faced a wave of computer attacks and telephone fraud originating from Ukrainian territory. It is not a coincidence that, since the 2010s, Ukrainian experts have been trained at NATO cybersecurity centres located on the territory of Baltic States. Ukraine actively participates in the activities of such structures, and is involved in all kinds of exercises rehearsing cyberattacks on the critical information infrastructure of the Russian Federation. Suffice it to mention the notorious IT army of Ukraine, whose malicious activities have also harmed citizens of European States.

We would remind the Polish delegation that the issue of harmful interference is already being actively discussed by the ITU Radio Regulations Board. Consultations are ongoing between the Russian side and other interested States. We consider the raising of this subject to be yet another attempt to politicize the work of WTDC and bring in issues that are extraneous to the mandate of the ITU Development Sector. Furthermore, we have repeatedly stated that European dual-use space systems are being employed for military purposes in the interests of third countries. We reserve our full right to respond to instances of such use in accordance with Article 48 of the ITU Constitution.

We reaffirm our commitment to the Russian Federation's Declaration 81 at the 2022 Plenipotentiary Conference and its declarations at the seventh plenary meeting of the 2023 ITU Council, at the second plenary meeting of the additional session of the 2023 ITU Council, at the fifth plenary meeting of the 2024 ITU Council and at the sixth plenary meeting of the 2025 ITU Council.

The full text of the statement of the Russian Federation will be provided to the Secretariat for inclusion in the Chair's report.

Thank you for your attention.

Annex E

List of resolutions abrogated by WTDC-25

Number	Title
Resolution 53 (Rev. Dubai, 2014)	Strategic and financial framework for the elaboration and implementation of the Dubai Action Plan

Annex F

New numbering and allocation of ITU-D study Questions

Study Group 1

New number	Title	Origin
Q1/1	Enabling policies and strategies for universal connectivity with a focus on underserved, remote and rural areas	Merging of former Question 1/1 with former Question 5/1 under a revised title with updated topics
Q2/1	Enabling policies and regulations for adopting digital telecommunication/ICT services and technologies for distribution and broadcasting	Continuation of former Question 2/1 under a revised title with updated topics
Q3/1	Use of telecommunications/ICTs for disaster risk reduction and management	Continuation of former Question 3/1 with updated topics
Q4/1	Economic aspects of national telecommunications/ICTs	Continuation of former Question 4/1 with updated topics
Q5/1	Consumer protection and empowerment, and meaningful accessibility for all, especially for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs	Merging of former Question 6/1 with former Question 7/1 under a revised title with updated topics

Study Group 2

New number	Title	Origin
Q1/2	Enabling telecommunications/ICTs for digital transformation and smart sustainable cities and communities	Merging of former Question 1/2 with former Question 2/2 under a revised title with updated topics
Q2/2	ICTs for the environment, and assessment of human exposure to electromagnetic fields	Merging of former Question 6/2 with former Question 7/2 under a revised title with updated topics
Q3/2	Securing information and communication networks: Best practices for developing a culture of cybersecurity	Continuation of Question 3/2 with updated topics
Q4/2	Availability and affordability of user devices, and telecommunication/ICT equipment issues, including conformance and interoperability	Continuation of former Question 4/2 under a revised title with updated topics
Q5/2	Adoption and utilization of new and emerging telecommunication/ICT services and technologies, and development of digital skills	Continuation of former Question 5/2 under a revised title with updated topics

Annex G

Status of all resolutions, Recommendations and decisions adopted, revised or abrogated by WTDCs to date

Resolutions

Res.	Title	First approved	History	Status
1	Special Programme of Assistance for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs)	Buenos Aires, 1994	–	Obsolete
1	Adoption of AF-RTDC-96 resolutions and recommendations	Valletta, 1998	Abr. Istanbul, 2002	Abrogated
1	Rules of procedure of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector	Doha, 2006	Rev. Hyderabad, 2010; Rev. Dubai, 2014; Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017; Rev. Kigali, 2022; Rev. Baku, 2025	In force
2	Establishment of study groups	Buenos Aires, 1994	Replaced by Res. 3 (Valletta, 1998)	Abrogated
2	Mechanisms for monitoring, evaluation and progress review of conference resolutions	Valletta, 1998	Abr. Istanbul, 2002	Abrogated
2	Establishment of study groups	Doha, 2006	Rev. Hyderabad, 2010; Rev. Dubai, 2014; Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017; Rev. Kigali, 2022; Rev. Baku, 2025	In force
3	Procedures to be applied by study groups	Buenos Aires, 1994	Replaced by Res. 4 (Valletta, 1998)	Abrogated
3	Establishment of study groups	Valletta, 1998	Rev. Istanbul, 2002; Replaced by Res. 2 (Doha, 2006)	Abrogated
4	Telecommunication Policies and Strategies	Buenos Aires, 1994	–	Obsolete

Res.	Title	First approved	History	Status
4	Procedures to be applied by study groups	Valletta, 1998	Rev. Istanbul, 2002; Replaced by Res. 1 (Doha, 2006)	Abrogated
5	"Buenos Aires Initiative" – Non-Discriminatory Access to Modern Telecommunication Facilities and Services	Buenos Aires, 1994	–	Obsolete
5	Enhanced participation by developing countries in the activities of the Union	Valletta, 1998	Rev. Istanbul, 2002; Rev. Doha, 2006; Rev. Hyderabad, 2010; Rev. Dubai, 2014; Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017; Rev. Kigali, 2022; Rev. Baku, 2025	In force
6	Cooperation between the ITU/BDT and regional organizations	Buenos Aires, 1994	Replaced by Res. 21 (Valletta, 1998)	Abrogated
6	Telecommunication Development Advisory Group working group on private-sector issues	Valletta, 1998	Rev. Istanbul, 2002; Rev. Doha, 2006; Abr. Hyderabad, 2010	Abrogated
7	Disaster communications	Buenos Aires, 1994	Replaced by Res. 19 (Valletta, 1998)	Abrogated
7	Gender and telecommunication policy in developing countries	Valletta, 1998	Abr. Istanbul, 2002	Abrogated
8	Telecommunication support for the protection of the environment	Buenos Aires, 1994	–	Obsolete
8	Collection and dissemination of information and statistics	Valletta, 1998	Rev. Istanbul, 2002; Rev. Doha, 2006; Rev. Hyderabad, 2010; Rev. Dubai, 2014; Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017; Rev. Kigali, 2022; Rev. Baku, 2025	In force

Res.	Title	First approved	History	Status
9	Membership, Rules of Procedure and Working Methods of the Telecommunication Development Advisory Board	Buenos Aires, 1994	–	Obsolete
9	Participation of countries, particularly developing countries, in spectrum management	Valletta, 1998	Rev. Istanbul, 2002; Rev. Doha, 2006; Rev. Hyderabad, 2010; Rev. Dubai, 2014; Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017; Rev. Kigali, 2022; Rev. Baku, 2025	In force
10	Coordination of the advisory bodies	Buenos Aires, 1994	–	Obsolete
10	Financial support for national spectrum-management programmes	Valletta, 1998	Rev. Istanbul, 2002; Rev. Doha, 2006; Rev. Hyderabad, 2010; Rev. Baku, 2025	In force
11	Venue of the Regional Development Conferences	Buenos Aires, 1994	–	Obsolete
11	Telecommunication/information and communication technology services in rural, isolated, unserved and underserved areas	Valletta, 1998	Rev. Istanbul, 2002; Rev. Doha, 2006; Rev. Hyderabad, 2010; Rev. Dubai, 2014; Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017; Rev. Kigali, 2022; Rev. Baku, 2025	In force
12	Telecommunication financing and trade	Valletta, 1998	Abr. Istanbul, 2002	Abrogated
13	Resource mobilization and partnerships for accelerating telecommunication/information and communication technology development	Valletta, 1998	Rev. Istanbul, 2002; Rev. Doha, 2006; Rev. Hyderabad, 2010; Abr. Dubai, 2014	Abrogated
14	Telecom Africa	Valletta, 1998	Abr. Istanbul, 2002	Abrogated

Res.	Title	First approved	History	Status
15	Applied research and transfer of technology	Valletta, 1998	Rev. Istanbul, 2002; Rev. Doha, 2006; Rev. Hyderabad, 2010; Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017; Rev. Kigali, 2022	In force
16	Special actions and measures for the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition	Valletta, 1998	Rev. Istanbul, 2002; Rev. Doha, 2006; Rev. Hyderabad, 2010; Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017; Rev. Baku, 2025	In force
17	Resource mobilization, implementation and cooperation for approved regional initiatives	Valletta, 1998	Rev. Istanbul, 2002; Rev. Doha, 2006; Rev. Hyderabad, 2010; Rev. Dubai, 2014; Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017; Rev. Kigali, 2022; Rev. Baku, 2025	In force
18	Special technical assistance to Palestine	Valletta, 1998	Rev. Istanbul, 2002; Rev. Doha, 2006; Rev. Hyderabad, 2010; Rev. Dubai, 2014; Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017; Rev. Kigali, 2022; Rev. Baku, 2025	In force
19	Telecommunication resources for disaster mitigation and relief operations	Valletta, 1998	Abr. Istanbul, 2002	Abrogated
20	Non-discriminatory access to modern telecommunication/information and communication technology facilities, services and related applications	Valletta, 1998	Rev. Istanbul, 2002; Rev. Doha, 2006; Rev. Hyderabad, 2010; Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017	In force

Res.	Title	First approved	History	Status
21	Strengthening coordination and collaboration with regional and subregional organizations	Valletta, 1998	Rev. Doha, 2006; Rev. Hyderabad, 2010; Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017; Rev. Kigali, 2022; Rev. Baku, 2025	In force
22	Alternative calling procedures on international telecommunication networks and identification of origin in providing international telecommunication services	Valletta, 1998	Rev. Istanbul, 2002; Rev. Doha, 2006; Rev. Hyderabad, 2010; Rev. Dubai, 2014; Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017; Rev. Kigali, 2022; Rev. Baku, 2025	In force
23	Internet access and availability for developing countries and charging principles for international Internet connection	Istanbul, 2002	Rev. Doha, 2006; Rev. Hyderabad, 2010; Rev. Dubai, 2014; Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017; Rev. Baku, 2025	In force
24	Authorization for the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group to act between world telecommunication development conferences	Istanbul, 2002	Rev. Doha, 2006; Rev. Hyderabad, 2010; Rev. Dubai, 2014; Rev. Baku, 2025	In force
25	Assistance to countries in special need: Afghanistan, Burundi, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Liberia, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan and Timor-Leste	Istanbul, 2002	Rev. Doha, 2006; Rev. Hyderabad, 2010; Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017; Rev. Kigali, 2022	In force
26	Assistance to countries in special need: Afghanistan	Istanbul, 2002	Rev. Doha, 2006	In force

Res.	Title	First approved	History	Status
27	Admission of entities or organizations to participate as Associates in the work of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector	Istanbul, 2002	Rev. Doha, 2006; Rev. Hyderabad, 2010; Abr. Kigali, 2022	Abrogated
28	Strengthening the use of electronic document handling for the work of ITU-D study groups	Istanbul, 2002	Abr. Doha, 2006	Abrogated
29	ITU Telecommunication Development Sector initiatives on Sector Member issues	Istanbul, 2002	Rev. Doha, 2006; Abr. Hyderabad, 2010	Abrogated
30	Role of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector in implementing the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	Istanbul, 2002	Rev. Doha, 2006; Rev. Hyderabad, 2010; Rev. Dubai, 2014; Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017; Rev. Kigali, 2022; Rev. Baku, 2025	In force
31	Regional preparations for world telecommunication development conferences	Istanbul, 2002	Rev. Doha, 2006; Rev. Hyderabad, 2010; Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017; Rev. Kigali, 2022; Rev. Baku, 2025	In force
32	International and regional cooperation on regional initiatives	Istanbul, 2002	Rev. Doha, 2006; Rev. Hyderabad, 2010, Abr. Buenos Aires, 2017	Abrogated
33	Assistance and support to Serbia for rebuilding its destroyed public broadcasting system	Istanbul, 2002	Rev. Doha, 2006; Rev. Dubai, 2014	In force

Res.	Title	First approved	History	Status
34	Role of telecommunications/ information and communication technologies in disaster preparedness, early warning, rescue, mitigation, relief and response	Istanbul, 2002	Rev. Doha, 2006; Rev. Hyderabad, 2010; Rev. Dubai, 2014; Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017; Rev. Kigali, 2022; Rev. Baku, 2025	In force
35	Support for development of the African information and communication technology sector	Istanbul, 2002	Rev. Doha, 2006; Rev. Hyderabad, 2010; Abr. Buenos Aires, 2017	Abrogated
36	Support for the African Telecommunications Union	Istanbul, 2002	Rev. Doha, 2006; Rev. Hyderabad, 2010; Rev. Kigali, 2022	In force
37	Bridging the digital divide	Istanbul, 2002	Rev. Doha, 2006; Rev. Hyderabad, 2010; Rev. Dubai, 2014; Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017; Rev. Kigali, 2022; Rev. Baku, 2025	In force
38	Development of the Youth Forum in the Telecommunication Development Bureau	Istanbul, 2002	Rev. Doha, 2006; Rev. Hyderabad, 2010; Abr. Dubai, 2014	Abrogated
39	Agenda for connectivity in the Americas and Quito Action Plan	Istanbul, 2002	Abr. Buenos Aires, 2017	Abrogated
40	Group on capacity-building initiatives	Istanbul, 2002	Rev. Doha, 2006; Rev. Hyderabad, 2010; Rev. Dubai, 2014; Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017; Rev. Kigali, 2022; Rev. Baku, 2025	In force
41	E-health (including telehealth/ telemedicine)	Istanbul, 2002	Abr. Doha, 2006	Abrogated
42	Implementation of tele-education programmes	Istanbul, 2002	Abr. Doha, 2006	Abrogated

Res.	Title	First approved	History	Status
43	Assistance for implementing International Mobile Telecommunications and future networks	Istanbul, 2002	Rev. Doha, 2006; Rev. Hyderabad, 2010; Rev. Dubai, 2014; Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017; Rev. Baku, 2025	In force
44	Mainstreaming gender in ITU-D programmes	Istanbul, 2002	Abr. Doha, 2006	Abrogated
45	Mechanisms for enhancing cooperation on cybersecurity, including countering and combating spam	Doha, 2006	Rev. Hyderabad, 2010; Rev. Dubai, 2014; Rev. Kigali, 2022; Rev. Baku, 2025	In force
46	Assistance to Indigenous Peoples and communities through information and communication technologies	Doha, 2006	Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017; Rev. Kigali, 2022; Rev. Baku, 2025	In force
47	Enhancement of knowledge and effective application of ITU Recommendations in developing countries, including conformance and interoperability testing of systems manufactured on the basis of ITU Recommendations	Doha, 2006	Rev. Hyderabad, 2010; Rev. Dubai, 2014; Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017; Rev. Kigali, 2022; Rev. Baku, 2025	In force
48	Strengthening cooperation among telecommunication regulators	Doha, 2006	Rev. Hyderabad, 2010; Rev. Dubai, 2014; Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017; Rev. Kigali, 2022; Rev. Baku, 2025	In force
49	Special actions for the least developed countries and small island developing states	Doha, 2006	Abr. Hyderabad, 2010	Abrogated
50	Optimal integration of information and communication technologies	Doha, 2006	Rev. Hyderabad, 2010; Rev. Dubai, 2014; Abr. Buenos Aires, 2017	Abrogated

Res.	Title	First approved	History	Status
51	Provision of assistance and support to Iraq to continue rebuilding and re-equipping its telecommunication/ICT systems	Doha, 2006	Rev. Hyderabad, 2010, Rev. Kigali, 2022	In force
52	Strengthening the executing agency role of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector	Doha, 2006	Rev. Hyderabad, 2010; Rev. Dubai, 2014	In force
53	Strategic and financial framework for the elaboration and implementation of the Dubai Action Plan	Doha, 2006	Rev. Hyderabad, 2010; Rev. Dubai, 2014; Abr. Baku, 2025	Abrogated
54	Information and communication technology applications	Doha, 2006	Rev. Hyderabad, 2010; Rev. Dubai, 2014; Abr. Buenos Aires, 2017	Abrogated
55	Mainstreaming a gender perspective in the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector and promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls through telecommunications/information and communication technologies	Doha, 2006	Rev. Dubai, 2014; Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017; Rev. Kigali, 2022; Rev. Baku, 2025	In force
56	Creation of a new Question in Study Group 1 regarding access to telecommunication services for persons with disabilities	Doha, 2006	Abr. Hyderabad, 2010	Abrogated
57	Assistance to Somalia	Doha, 2006	Rev. Hyderabad, 2010	In force
58	Telecommunication/information and communication technology accessibility for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs	Hyderabad, 2010	Rev. Dubai, 2014; Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017; Rev. Kigali, 2022; Rev. Baku, 2025	In force

Res.	Title	First approved	History	Status
59	Strengthening coordination and cooperation among the three ITU Sectors on matters of mutual interest	Hyderabad, 2010	Rev. Dubai, 2014; Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017; Rev. Kigali, 2022; Rev. Baku, 2025	In force
60	Assistance to countries in special situations: Haiti	Hyderabad, 2010	–	In force
61	Appointment and maximum term of office of chairmen and vice-chairmen of study groups in the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector and of the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group	Hyderabad, 2010	Rev. Dubai, 2014; Abr. Kigali, 2022	Abrogated
62	Assessment and measurement of human exposure to electromagnetic fields	Hyderabad, 2010	Rev. Dubai, 2014; Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017; Rev. Kigali, 2022; Rev. Baku, 2025	In force
63	Promoting, facilitating and accelerating the transition to and deployment of Internet Protocol version 6 in developing countries	Hyderabad, 2010	Rev. Dubai, 2014; Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017; Rev. Kigali, 2022; Rev. Baku, 2025	In force
64	Protecting, supporting and empowering users/consumers of telecommunication/information and communication technology services	Hyderabad, 2010	Rev. Dubai, 2014; Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017; Rev. Kigali, 2022; Rev. Baku, 2025	In force
65	Improving access to healthcare services by using information and communication technologies	Hyderabad, 2010	Abr. Dubai, 2014	Abrogated
66	Information and communication technology, environment, climate change and circular economy	Hyderabad, 2010	Rev. Dubai, 2014; Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017; Rev. Kigali, 2022; Rev. Baku, 2025	In force

Res.	Title	First approved	History	Status
67	Role of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector in child online protection	Hyderabad, 2010	Rev. Dubai, 2014; Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017; Rev. Kigali, 2022; Rev. Baku, 2025	In force
68	Assistance to indigenous peoples within the activities of the Telecommunication Development Bureau in its related programmes	Hyderabad, 2010	Rev. Dubai, 2014; Abr. Buenos Aires, 2017	Abrogated
69	Facilitating creation and enhancement of national computer incident response teams, particularly for developing countries, and cooperation among them	Hyderabad, 2010	Rev. Dubai, 2014; Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017; Rev. Kigali, 2022; Rev. Baku, 2025	In force
70	Regional initiative for Central and Eastern Europe on "E-accessibility (Internet and digital television) for persons with disabilities"	Hyderabad, 2010	Abr. Dubai, 2014	Abrogated
71	Strengthening cooperation between Member States, Sector Members, Associates and Academia of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector, and the evolving role of the private sector in the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector	Hyderabad, 2010	Rev. Dubai, 2014; Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017; Rev. Kigali, 2022	In force
72	More effective utilization of mobile communication services	Hyderabad, 2010	Abr. Dubai, 2014	Abrogated

Res.	Title	First approved	History	Status
73	ITU Academy training centres	Hyderabad, 2010	Rev. Dubai, 2014; Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017; Rev. Kigali, 2022; Rev. Baku, 2025	In force
74	More effective adoption of e-government services	Hyderabad, 2010	Abr. Dubai, 2014	Abrogated
75	Implementation of the Smart Africa Manifesto and support for the development of information and communication technologies sector in Africa	Dubai, 2014	Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017	In force
76	Promoting information and communication technologies among young women and men for social and economic empowerment	Dubai, 2014	Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017; Rev. Kigali, 2022; Rev. Baku, 2025	In force
77	Broadband technology and applications for greater growth and development of telecommunication/information and communication services and broadband connectivity	Dubai, 2014	Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017; Rev. Baku, 2025	In force
78	Capacity building for countering and combating misappropriation and misuse of ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector numbering resources	Dubai, 2014	Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017; Rev. Kigali, 2022; Rev. Baku, 2025	In force

Res.	Title	First approved	History	Status
79	The role of telecommunications/ information and communication technologies in combating and dealing with counterfeit and tampered telecommunication/ information and communication devices	Dubai, 2014	Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017; Rev. Kigali, 2022	In force
80	Establishing and promoting trusted information frameworks in developing countries to facilitate and encourage electronic exchanges of economic information between economic partners	Dubai, 2014	Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017	In force
81	Further development of electronic working methods for the work of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector	Dubai, 2014	Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017; Abr. Kigali, 2022	Abrogated
82	Preserving and promoting multilingualism on the Internet for an inclusive information society	Dubai, 2014	Rev. Kigali, 2022; Rev. Baku, 2025	In force
83	Special assistance and support to the Government of Libya for rebuilding its telecommunication networks	Buenos Aires, 2017	Rev. Baku, 2025	In force
84	Combating mobile telecommunication device theft	Buenos Aires, 2017	Rev. Kigali, 2022; Rev. Baku, 2025	In force

Res.	Title	First approved	History	Status
85	Facilitating the Internet of Things and smart sustainable cities and communities, including villages, for global development	Buenos Aires, 2017	Rev. Kigali, 2022; Rev. Baku, 2025	In force
86	Use in the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector of the languages of the Union on an equal footing	Buenos Aires, 2017	Abr. Kigali, 2022	Abrogated
87	Connecting every school to the Internet and every young person to information and communication technology services	Kigali, 2022	–	In force
88	The ITU Partner2Connect Digital Coalition	Kigali, 2022	–	In force
89	Digital transformation for sustainable development	Kigali, 2022	Rev. Baku, 2025	In force
90	Fostering telecommunication/information and communication-centric entrepreneurship and digital innovation ecosystems for sustainable digital development	Kigali, 2022	Rev. Baku, 2025	In force
91	Artificial intelligence technologies in telecommunication development	Baku, 2025	–	In force
92	Strengthening the role of ITU regional offices in accelerating digital transformation and leveraging partnerships	Baku, 2025	–	In force

Res.	Title	First approved	History	Status
93	Provision of assistance and support to the Sudan to reconstruct damaged telecommunication/information and communication technology infrastructure and bridge the digital divide	Baku, 2025	–	In force
94	Supporting digital transformation in Pacific island countries pursuant to the Lagatoi Declaration	Baku, 2025	–	In force

Recommendations

Rec.	Title	First approved	History	Status
1	Application of telecommunications to health and other social services	Buenos Aires, 1994	–	Obsolete
1	Role of World Telecommunication Development Conferences	Valletta, 1998	Abr. Istanbul, 2002	Abrogated
2	Development partnership with international education agencies	Buenos Aires, 1994	–	Obsolete
2	Future membership and functions of the Telecommunication Development Advisory Board	Valletta, 1998	Abr. Istanbul, 2002	Abrogated
3	Application of information and communication technologies for development	Valletta, 1998	Abr. Istanbul, 2002	Abrogated
4	Liberalization and competitive business environment	Valletta, 1998	Abr. Istanbul, 2002	Abrogated
5	Role of telecommunications in economic, social and cultural development of indigenous peoples	Valletta, 1998	Abr. Istanbul, 2002	Abrogated
6	Information Infrastructure	Valletta, 1998	Abr. Istanbul, 2002	Abrogated
7	Role of telecommunication and information technologies in the protection of the environment	Valletta, 1998	Rev. Istanbul, 2002; Abr. Doha, 2006	Abrogated
8	Timely implementation of Global Mobile Personal Communications by Satellite (GMPCS)	Valletta, 1998	Rev. Istanbul, 2002; Abr. Hyderabad, 2010	Abrogated
9	Telemedicine	Valletta, 1998	Abr. Istanbul, 2002	Abrogated

Rec.	Title	First approved	History	Status
10	The importance of partnerships in support of human resources initiatives: The example of the TEMIC declaration	Valletta, 1998	Abr. Istanbul, 2002	Abrogated
11	Operational planning in the International Telecommunication Union	Valletta, 1998	Abr. Istanbul, 2002	Abrogated
12	Consideration of disaster telecommunication needs in telecommunication development activities	Istanbul, 2002	Abr. Doha, 2006	Abrogated
13	Requests for technical assistance for developing countries	Istanbul, 2002	Rev. Doha, 2006; Abr. Hyderabad, 2010	Abrogated
14	Pilot integration project for information and communications technologies	Istanbul, 2002	Abr. Doha, 2006	Abrogated
15	Models and methods to determine the cost of national telecommunication services	January 2002	–	In force
16	Tariff rebalancing and cost-oriented tariffs	January 2002	–	In force
17	Sharing of facilities in rural and remote areas	January 2002	–	In force
18	Potential benefits for rural telecommunications	Doha, 2006	Abr. Hyderabad, 2010	Abrogated
19	Telecommunications for rural and remote areas	March 2010	Rev. Dubai, 2014	In force

Rec.	Title	First approved	History	Status
20	Policy and regulatory initiatives for developing telecommunications/ICTs/broadband in rural and remote areas	Dubai, 2014	–	In force
21	ICT and climate change	Dubai, 2014	–	In force
22	Bridging the standardization gap in association with regional groups of the study groups	Dubai, 2014	–	In force

Decisions

Dec.	Title	First approved	History	Status
1	Minimum budget for ITU-D study groups in 2006	Doha, 2006	Abr. Hyderabad, 2010	Abrogated

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