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| BDT Director | | |
| Briefing note on Intersectoral Task Force on Capacity Development Background The Intersectoral Task Force on Capacity Development was established at the beginning of 2022, following discussions within the ITU Secretariat and among the ITU membership on how to harmonize and strengthen capacity development approaches across the ITU to better respond to the emerging needs of the membership.  Council recommendation:  The ITU Council, at its virtual consultation in June 2021, considered the final report on the feasibility study on establishing an ITU training institute. Council concluded that the secretariat would review ITU’s capacity-development activities and develop a proposal on how they could be improved and strengthened, taking into consideration the findings and recommendations of the report.  One of the main recommendations of the feasibility study report was to harmonize ITU capacity development activities across the ITU and to develop a common framework for ITU’s activities. The ITU Academy should be further enhanced and strengthened in this regard, to become the main entry point for ITU capacity development and training. This would reduce duplication of efforts, create synergies across the bureaux, as well as leverage on existing resources and training content. It would also facilitate easier access to training opportunities for ITU’s membership through the ITU Academy platform and improve the quality of the training delivered by applying a harmonized framework and training delivery process.  The ITU Council, at its session held in 2022, considered the proposal presented by the ITU Secretariat for working towards a harmonized capacity development framework in ITU, through an internal task force, including representatives of the three Bureaux and the General Secretariat, with the objective to oversee the harmonization of capacity development in ITU and work towards consolidating ITU’s capacity development and training activities under the ITU Academy umbrella. Council 22 approved the proposal and invited future Councils to review periodically the implementation of ITU training activities.    I-CoDI process:  In 2021, the ITU secretariat used the I-CoDI co-design process to explore and advance the discussion on an ITU harmonized capacity development framework. The process helped to identify key challenges and opportunities and elaborated the main goals and new practices for a future harmonized capacity development approach. The process revealed that, currently, different bureaus are running capacity development activities for the same clients, using different materials on the same topic, applying different assessment tools and different standards of quality. A key outcome of the I-CoDI co-design process was the proposal to set up an internal task force to advance work in this area.  Following the I-CoDI workshop and its outcomes, the three Directors adopted a series of recommendations. They established an intersectoral task force and mandated it to oversee the harmonization of capacity development in ITU. The task force should work towards consolidating all ITU capacity development work under the ITU Academy[[1]](#footnote-2) and report to each respective advisory group (RAG, TDAG, TSAG). Objective In early 2022, the intersectoral Task Force on Capacity Development was set up under the leadership of BDT, including representatives of the three bureaux and the General Secretariat.  The main objective of the Task Force is to bring together different training and capacity development practices across ITU bureaus and sectors, including the regional offices, and to consolidate all ITU capacity development work under the ITU Academy.  By carrying out its work, the Task Force should work towards:   * the reduction of duplication across the bureaux and building on existing training content; * developing clear guidelines for organizing capacity development activities resulting in faster and more impactful delivery; and * utilizing the established e-learning platform of the ITU Academy for training delivery, leveraging recognized ITU certification and a user base of 35,000 people from across the world.  Progress to date The Task Force is composed of representatives from the three ITU bureaux as well as representatives from the General Secretariat. It is chaired by BDT, which also provides secretarial support.  Between March 2022 and April 2023, the Task Force has met nine times and made progress on several activities:   * Reviewing the Task Force’s terms of reference. * Developing an implementation plan to harmonise capacity development in ITU. * Stocktaking of training activities across the bureaux. * Identifying differences across each bureau’s platforms on capacity development activities. * Identifying courses that could be featured on the ITU Academy platform. * Starting to develop a taxonomy of ITU capacity development terminologies. * Starting to develop guidelines on harmonizing processes, including content development, quality assurance, planning and delivery of courses and workshops. * Briefing of ITU Directors on progress made. * Preparing consultative sessions with each bureau.  Next steps In 2023, the Task Force plans the following:   1. **Information campaign**: An information campaign will be launched to raise awareness about the work of the Task Force among ITU staff. Information sessions will be organized for the bureaux and regional offices to share updates and engage stakeholders. 2. **Harmonization**: Guidelines will be finalized for harmonizing processes related to capacity development, including content development, quality assurance, review and upgrade of content, as well as planning and delivery of courses and workshops. The guidelines will be shared with bureaux and regional offices for feedback and adjustments will be made accordingly. The guidelines will eventually be consolidated into an ITU-wide Manual on capacity development. This Manual will help improve the quality of ITU’s capacity development and training activities for better impact. 3. **Links with ITU Academy**: A dedicated space will be developed to enable the inclusion of courses from all bureaux in the ITU Academy platform. Capacity development activities that could be integrated or linked to the ITU Academy will be identified, and integration exercises with bureaux and regional offices will be conducted. A final proposal will be presented based on the outcomes of these exercises.   \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | | |

1. The ITU Academy is the main online gateway to ITU’s capacity development activities, offering over 150 courses online and in-person annually, training over 23,000 ICT professionals and policymakers since 2018, with nearly 70% of participants from developing countries. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)