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| Note by the Secretary-General |
| 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ITU TELECOMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT SECTOR |

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| SummaryThis document provides information on the 25th Anniversary of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D).Action requiredThis document is submitted to the Council **for information**. |

1. **Background**

In accordance with Resolution 55, adopted in 1989 by the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference which was held in Nice, the ITU membership established a High-level Committee to examine how ITU could respond effectively to the challenges of a changing telecommunication environment, based on a review of the structure and functioning of ITU. The Committee concluded its work with a report entitled “Tomorrow’s ITU: The Challenges of Change”, which recommended that the substantive work of ITU was to be organized in three Sectors: Development, Standardization and Radiocommunication”.[[1]](#footnote-1) The recommendations contained in the report were adopted by the 1992 additional Plenipotentiary Conference held in Geneva, Switzerland.

1. **25thAnniversary celebrations**

Several activities are planned to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D). These activities include:

* 1. **Debates**: Two debates to be held at WTDC-17 on Wednesday, 11 October 2017. The debates will feature thought leaders who will discuss the impact of ICTs on SDGs and debate on the future of the digital economy.
	2. **Gala Dinner**: The debates will be followed by a Gala dinner which is scheduled to be held on 11 October in the evening from 19:30 to 22.30. The Gala dinner will be a major gathering to celebrate ITU-D. ITU-D long-standing Members will be awarded and some of them will be recognized for their past and current contributions to ITU-D projects. The dinner will also feature musical performances, and will be open to all WTDC-17 participants who are encouraged to bring and wear their national costumes to the gala.
	3. **Interviews**: A number of interviews are planned. These will be done by past BDT Directors, former and current WTDC and TDAG Chairs, as well as former and current personalities who have played a key role in the 25 years of the Sector. The interviews will be posted on the ITU website, promoted via social media, and screened at WTDC-17.
1. **Sponsorship opportunities**
	1. The ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) offers a number of sponsorship packages for the Anniversary. An overview of the sponsorship packages is available at the following link: [www.itu.int/go/en/itudsponsorships](http://www.itu.int/go/en/itudsponsorships).
	2. Each sponsorship package features a wide range of benefits. Sponsorship funds will be used to organize sponsored activities as well as partially finance Regional Initiatives that will be adopted at WTDC-17.
2. **Promotional and Communication activities**

A number of activities have been planned to promote the 25th Anniversary. They include:

* 1. A special 25th Anniversary logo has been designed. It integrates the official colour icon of the Sustainable Development Goals. The logo will be used in all promotional materials and official correspondence, and will also be featured on a 25th Anniversary pin which will be distributed at various events in 2017. Special ties and scarves will be designed and made available for sale.
	2. A dedicated webpage featuring, among others, the ITU-D achievements over the past 25 years will be created.
	3. Featured stories on the activities of the Sector will also be pitched.
	4. Social media will be one of the key communication channels and will use the hashtag: #ITUd25.

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1. “The substantive work of the ITU should be organized in three Sectors: Development, Standardization and Radiocommunication. The Standardization Sector should include the current work of the International Telegraph and Telephone Consultative Committee (CCITT) and some standardization work currently done by the International Radio Consultative Committee (CCIR). The Radiocommunication Sector should include most of the current CCIR work and that of the International Frequency Registration Board (IFRB) and its specialized secretariat. The division of responsibilities between the Standardization and Radiocommunication Sectors will be kept under review and adjusted when necessary to meet changing needs and to ensure efficiency. The Development Sector should encompass the current work of the Telecommunications Development Bureau (BDT). The distinct functions originally envisaged for the Centre for Telecommunications Development should be integrated into the BDT.” [↑](#footnote-ref-1)