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| **Agenda item: PL 2** | **Document C25/25-E** |
| **19 May 2025** |
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| Report by the Secretary-General |
| STRENGTHENING ITU’S REGIONAL PRESENCE |
| **Purpose**This document reports on the contribution of the ITU Regional Presence to the fulfilment of the mandate of ITU. It provides information on the regional work towards the implementation of the ITU Strategic Plan, the Kigali Action Plan, and Regional Initiatives.**Action required by the Council**The Council is invited to **take note** of the report provided in this document.**Relevant link(s) with the Strategic Plan**Regional presence.**Financial implications**Within the allocated budget 2024-2025.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**References***Resolutions* [*25 (Rev. Dubai, 2018)*](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts/RES-025-E.pdf)*,* [*25 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022)*](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts-2023/RES-025-E.pdf)*,* [*135 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022)*](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts-2023/RES-135-E.pdf) *and* [*157 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022)*](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts-2023/RES-157-E.pdf) *of the Plenipotentiary Conference;* [*Kigali Action Plan, Final Report of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (Kigali, 2022);*](https://www.itu.int/en/publications/ITU-D/pages/publications.aspx?parent=D-TDC-WTDC-2022&media=electronic) *Document* [*TDAG-31/2*](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG31-C-0002/en)*.* |

# 1 Background

1.1 In recognition of Article 1 and Article 21 of the ITU Constitution as well as Article 5 and 14 of ITU Convention, together with WTDC Resolution 17 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017), Resolution 25 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference on strengthening the ITU regional presence calls upon ITU, among others, to *“*continue to strengthen the functions of the regional and area offices so that they can play an important role in implementation of the ITU strategic plan, programmes, and projects, and the regional initiatives set out in the Kigali Action Plan, pursuant to Resolution 17 (Rev. Kigali, 2022) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC), within available resources, including those allocated by the financial plan and from other relevant sources such as voluntary contributions and sponsorships.”

1.2 Resolution 25 emphasizes the important role of the regional and area offices to enable ITU (the three sectors and the General Secretariat) to work as closely as possible with its membership, serving as a channel for executing programmes, projects, and activities, disseminating information on the Union’s activities, developing closer ties with regional and subregional telecommunication organizations and the United Nations organizations, and providing technical assistance to countries, including LDCs, with specific needs. It also places importance on the participation of developing countries in ITU activities.

1.3 The Plenipotentiary Conference 2022 (PP-22) requested reporting on the activities of regional and area offices, by implementing region-specific actions aligned with the Union’s Strategic Plan, to facilitate the overarching objective of achieving ITU’s strategic goals, while ensuring effective representation of the Union’s work as well as the geographical diversity and the region’s specific needs.

1.4 This report provides information on the implementation of activities on the ground by the ITU Field Offices related to the three sectors of the Union.

# 2 Activities related to ITU’s Development Sector and BDT

## 2.1 Regional Development Forums (RDFs) and Regional Preparatory Meeting (RPMs)

In 2025, the Regional Development Forums were held back-to-back with the Regional Preparatory Meetings for WTDC-25 as shown in the table below:

Table 1

Dates and locations of RDFs and RPMs organized in 2025

| Region | Dates | City and host country  | Final RPM Report | Link to the video on implementation of Kigali Action Plan (KAP) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| [RDF](https://www.itu.int/itu-d/meetings/rdf/arb/) & [RPM-ARB](https://www.itu.int/itu-d/meetings/wtdc25/rpm/arb/) | 3 February 20254-5 February 2025 | Amman, Jordan | [Report](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-RPMARB-C-0020/en) | [Video](https://youtu.be/_TmRrANEy9Y?feature=shared) |
| [RDF](https://www.itu.int/itu-d/meetings/rdf/eur/) & [RPM-EUR](https://www.itu.int/itu-d/meetings/wtdc25/rpm/eur/) | 24 February 202525-26 February 2025 | Budapest, Hungary | [Report](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-RPMEUR-C-0030/en) | [Video](https://youtu.be/KbGUKDoOwoU?feature=shared) |
| [RDF](https://www.itu.int/itu-d/meetings/rdf/asp/) &[RPM-ASP](https://www.itu.int/itu-d/meetings/wtdc25/rpm/asp/) | 19 March 202520-21 March 2025 | Bangkok, Thailand | [Report](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-RPMASP-C-0018/en) | [Video](https://youtu.be/n-9xwzs0i9I?feature=shared) |
| [RDF](https://www.itu.int/itu-d/meetings/rdf/ams/home/) &[RPM-AMS](https://www.itu.int/itu-d/meetings/wtdc25/rpm/ams/) | 31 March 20251-2 April 2025 | Asuncion, Paraguay | [Report](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-RPMAMS-C-0021/en) | [Video](https://youtu.be/0Q1A-_uFb2U?feature=shared) |
| [RDF](https://www.itu.int/itu-d/meetings/rdf/afr/) &[RPM-AFR](https://www.itu.int/itu-d/meetings/wtdc25/rpm/afr/) | 7 April 20258-9 April 2025 | Nairobi, Kenya | [Report](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-RPMAFR-C-0019/en) | [Video](https://youtu.be/TQMlkFoVHQ4?feature=shared) |
| [RDF](https://www.itu.int/itu-d/meetings/rdf/cis/home/) &[RPM-CIS](https://www.itu.int/itu-d/meetings/wtdc25/rpm/cis/) | 23 April 2025 24-25 April 2025 | Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan | [Report](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D22-RPMCIS-C-0018) | [Video](https://youtu.be/lWymn4RNG0I?feature=shared) |

**2.2 Regional Development Forums**

2.2.1 In 2025, between February and April, Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) organized a series of six RDFs back-to-back with the ITU Regional Preparatory Meetings for WTDC-25. The Regional Development Forums promote multi-stakeholder partnerships among Member States, industry, academia, civil society, the UN system as well as regional and international development agencies and organizations, on specific regional telecommunication and ICT matters. RDFs provide an opportunity for high-level dialogue between the Telecommunication Development Bureau, Member States and ITU-D Sector Members, primarily on the implementation of the Regional Initiatives, and the Kigali Action Plan as adopted by the [WTDC-22](https://www.itu.int/wtdc).

2.2.2 P2C Matchmaking: Each Regional Development Forum included Partner2Connect (P2C) Matchmaking Roundtables as follows:

– Arab States (RDF/ P2C Matchmaking Roundtables) took place on 3 February 2025 in Amman, Jordan

– Europe (RDF/ P2C Matchmaking Roundtables) were held on 24 February 2025 in Budapest, Hungary.

– Asia and the Pacific (RDF/ P2C Matchmaking Roundtable) took place on 19 March 2025 in Bangkok, Thailand

– Americas (RDF/ P2C Matchmaking Roundtables) were held on 31 March 2025 in Asunción, Paraguay

– Africa (RDF/ P2C Matchmaking Roundtables) took place on 7 April 2025 in Nairobi, Kenya

– Commonwealth of Independent States – CIS (RDF/ P2C Matchmaking Roundtables) were held on 23 April 2025 in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

2.2.3 The ITU Regional Development Forum for Africa (RDF-AFR) 2025 was held on 7 April 2025 in Nairobi, Kenya. Hosted by the Communications Authority of Kenya (CA) in cooperation with the African Telecommunications Union (ATU), the event preceded the Regional Preparatory Meeting for WTDC-25. It gathered 304 participants (representing 35 Member States, ITU-D Sector Members, Academia, observers, and ITU staff) for a high-level dialogue on achieving meaningful connectivity and sustainable digital transformation in Africa. Discussions focused on evaluating progress since the Kigali Action Plan, addressing challenges like connectivity costs and the digital divide, and fostering partnerships, including through the Partner2Connect (P2C) coalition which reported 189 pledges valued around USD 32 billion for Africa. The forum emphasized regional cooperation, infrastructure investment, digital skills, and innovation to leverage ICTs for attaining the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) across the continent. The event also saw the launch of the Africa Broadband Mapping Systems (Africa-BB-Maps) project.

2.2.4 The ITU Regional Development Forum for the Americas (RDF-AMS) 2025 was organized by the BDT and hosted by the National Telecommunication Commission (CONATEL) of Paraguay in Asunción on 31 March 2025. Held back-to-back with the Regional Preparatory Meeting for WTDC-25 and a CITEL meeting, the forum facilitated high-level dialogue on achieving meaningful connectivity and sustainable digital transformation in the Americas. It welcomed 168 participants representing 29 Member States, ITU-D Sector Members, and other stakeholders. Discussions highlighted regional progress. The P2C Digital Coalition's role was emphasized, with reports indicating around 225 pledges worth over USD 25 billion had been secured for the region, focusing on access, affordability, and cybersecurity. Matchmaking roundtables were held to advance these commitments. The forum also saw the announcement of a new EU-funded project on Regional Regulatory Innovation for Central America.

2.2.5 The ITU Regional Development Forum for the Arab States (RDF-ARB) 2025 was organized by the BDT and hosted by the Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (TRC) of Jordan in Amman on 3 February 2025. The forum, held back-to-back with the Regional Preparatory Meeting for WTDC-25, provided a platform for high-level dialogue among 111 participants representing 17 Member States and various stakeholder groups, including Sector Members, Academia, UN agencies, and regional organizations. Key discussions centered on implementing the WTDC-22 Arab Regional Initiatives, addressing challenges and opportunities in achieving meaningful connectivity, and fostering sustainable digital transformation. A significant focus was placed on the P2C Digital Coalition, with matchmaking roundtables designed to align partner pledges with Member State needs; it was noted the Arab Region has secured P2C commitments valued at USD 24.7 billion. The event also featured the signing of a Joint Declaration between ITU and RIPE NCC to promote internet infrastructure development and IPv6 deployment in the region.

2.2.6 The ITU Regional Development Forum for Asia and the Pacific (RDF-ASP) 2025 was organized by the BDT and hosted by the National Broadcasting and Telecommunication Commission (NBTC) of Thailand, in cooperation with the Asia Pacific Telecommunity (APT). Held in Bangkok on 19 March 2025, the forum convened 167 participants from 36 Member States, Sector Members, and other stakeholders. The dialogue focused on achieving meaningful connectivity and sustainable digital transformation across the region, setting strategic priorities, and reviewing progress on regional initiatives and the Kigali Action Plan implementation. Challenges such as the digital divide, particularly in SIDS and LDCs, cybersecurity, and sustainability were discussed alongside opportunities in emerging technologies. The P2C coalition reported pledges worth USD 17.5 billion for the region, focusing on access, affordability, and cybersecurity, with matchmaking sessions designed to foster partnerships. Collaborations with partners like Japan (on AI capacity building and digital infrastructure) and Thailand (on Girls in ICT Day 2025) were also highlighted.

2.2.7 The ITU Regional Development Forum for the Commonwealth of Independent States (RDF-CIS) 2025 was held on 23 April 2025 in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic, hosted by the Ministry of Digital Development and Innovative Technologies of the Kyrgyz Republic. Bringing together 75 participants from Member States, Sector Members, Academia, UN agencies, regional organizations, and others, the forum served as a platform for high-level dialogue on achieving meaningful connectivity and sustainable digital transformation to accelerate the attainment of the SDGs in the region. Discussions reviewed progress on implementing the outcomes of WTDC-22, including the five Regional Initiatives for the CIS region, and addressed regional trends, challenges, and opportunities outlined in the "State of Digital Development and Trends in the CIS Region" report. The forum also dedicated sessions to the P2C Digital Coalition, featuring matchmaking roundtables aimed at fostering partnerships and aligning the 60 pledges (worth USD 4.4 billion) received for the region with priority needs to advance digital development.

2.2.8 The ITU Regional Development Forum for Europe (RDF-EUR) 2025 was held on 24 February 2025 in Budapest, Hungary, hosted by the National Media and Infocommunications Authority of Hungary in cooperation with CEPT, and held back-to-back with the RPM-EUR meeting. Attended by 98 participants representing 32 Member States, ITU-D Sector Members, and guests, the forum facilitated high-level dialogue on achieving meaningful connectivity and sustainable digital transformation. Discussions reviewed the implementation of the five Regional Initiatives for Europe and addressed regional trends, challenges, and opportunities, including Europe's leadership in areas like cybersecurity and broadband affordability, alongside persistent rural connectivity gaps. The forum included P2C matchmaking sessions aimed at fostering partnerships for development. Key announcements included support for the Western Balkans on Early Warning Systems, agreements with Cyprus on infrastructure resilience capacity development and with Andorra on child online protection, and a UN agreement with the ILO focused on digital literacy in Moldova.

## 2.3 Regional Preparatory Meetings for WTDC 2025

2.3.1 In accordance with Resolution [31 (Rev. Kigali, 2022)](https://www.itu.int/dms_pub/itu-d/opb/res/D-RES-D.31-2022-PDF-E.pdf), six Regional Preparatory Meetings (RPMs) were organized as shown in Table 1 above. The RPMs aimed at engaging the membership in the preparations of the WTDC-25 in order to achieve regional coordination before the conference itself. They also seek to identify issues at the regional level that need to be addressed to foster the development of telecommunications and ICTs, taking into account the most pressing needs faced by the Member States and Sector Members of the region. Outcomes of RPMs are consolidated at the inter-regional coordination meeting and discussed at TDAG 2025. The outcomes of TDAG are submitted to WTDC as draft documents for consideration.

2.3.2 The RPMs reviewed several documents, including those on the implementation of the WTDC-22 Kigali Action Plan, state of digital development and trends in Europe, decisions of other ITU Conferences related to ITU-D work, progress of the TDAG Working Group on ITU-D Priorities and Future Study Group Questions, and efforts on streamlining resolutions and the WTDC Declaration.

2.3.3 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 elaborated on draft regional initiatives for each region for the 2026-2029 period. For more information on the contributions made to each RPM, please visit the [RPMs website](https://www.itu.int/itu-d/meetings/wtdc25/rpm/home/).

## 2.4 Implementation of ITU-D Operational Plan

2.4.1 The effectiveness of ITU’s regional activities significantly contributes to its global mission of connecting the world and fostering sustainable digital transformation, thereby creating impact at local level as part of BDT’s development activities and delivery in the Member States. These efforts are strategically designed to ensure that ITU remains responsive to the fast-evolving needs of digital economies and societies worldwide.

2.4.2 The ITU-D Operational Plan is aligned with the structure of the strategic plan for the Union for 2024-2027. The structure follows the Kigali Action Plan (KAP), outlining the ITU-D Priorities and Enablers, and their corresponding outcomes, products and services as well as the performance indicators (KPIs) to measure their achievement level produced by the activities of the Sector. Currently, a total of one hundred and thirty-five (135) activities are being deployed globally and across regions. To enhance implementation, synergies are sought among regional outputs, as well as between regional and global initiatives, in collaboration with other ITU Bureaux and the General Secretariat.

2.4.3 Regional offices are an integral part of the operational planning process, demonstrated by the BDT dashboards for OP and projects. ITU’s Regional and Area Offices work closely with Headquarters on the identification, implementation and monitoring of the operational plans, as well as on the design, implementation and monitoring of projects for technical assistance within their respective regions. Budget allocation and performance evaluation are carried out jointly with the regional offices. This includes the delivery of outputs (ITU-D products and services) and outcomes (results) to Member States as well as addressing country specific needs, in alignment with the ITU-D Priority and Enablers and Regional Initiatives adopted at the WTDC-22. This integrated approach allows BDT to provide impactful results to ITU Member States, and to leverage on the synergies between the regular and extrabudgetary activities undertaken by the Bureau.

2.4.4 Operational plans for BDT, based on KPIs outputs and outcomes, are seamlessly developed, managed, and reported jointly by regional offices and headquarters. The regional offices are close to membership and can effectively address their needs.

2.4.5 For Operational Plan activities, Regional and Area Offices are responsible for the implementation while BDT services at HQ manage multi-regional activities. For projects that are region or country specific, project managers are based in the Regional or Area Offices. All results from operational planning activities and projects are measured through KPIs adopted by the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG).

2.4.6 ITU Regional and Area Offices work in coordination with BDT Departments and Divisions in the implementation of the KAP, approved by the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-22). The KAP follows a result-based management (RBM) framework based on the ITU-D priorities identified as key work areas that support the achievement of the ITU strategic plan for 2024-2027.

2.4.7 The detailed information related to the implementation of activities on the ground from June 2024 until May 2025 related to the BDT can be found in Document [TDAG-25/2](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D22-TDAG32-C-0002), highlighting key achievements across regions.

## 2.5 Regional Offices’ engagement in ITU-D Project Implementation

2.5.1 ITU-D projects, designed to facilitate and enhance telecommunication/ICT development through technical cooperation and assistance, are implemented across all six ITU regions: Africa, the Americas, the Arab States, Asia and the Pacific, CIS, and Europe. BDT is responsible for project design, development, implementation, and assessment within these regions.

2.5.2 Regional and Area Offices play a vital role, serving as the frontline for ITU’s engagement with local stakeholders and governments. They work in close coordination with Headquarters on the identification, implementation, and monitoring of projects delivering technical assistance, ITU-D products, and services, and addressing country-specific needs aligned with the Kigali Action Plan and Regional Initiatives. This integrated approach, leveraging synergies between regular and extrabudgetary activities, allows BDT to provide better services to Member States.

2.5.3 BDT has strengthened project management practices, including reinforcing the skills of project managers through training, establishing clear governance via the BDT Projects Board, enhancing reporting to partners, and implementing robust monitoring systems. Project implementation is monitored continuously and reported quarterly through assessment reports and internal dashboards to support data-driven decision-making. The BDT Projects Board plays an important role in ensuring that projects are formulated and implemented in alignment with the Kigali Action Plan, as well as ensuring the proper governance of the BDT project portfolio.

2.5.4 The successful implementation of the project portfolio, which included activities in 105 ongoing projects in 2024, is a result of the close coordination and cooperation among all BDT teams, both in the field (regional offices) and at headquarters. This collaborative effort ensures that ITU projects effectively contribute to the Kigali Action Plan and provide impactful technical assistance and digital development solutions to Member States

2.5.5 Following WTDC-22, the BDT, in collaboration with relevant partners, has identified, formulated and implemented a wide range of projects that have contributed to the implementation of the priorities defined for WTDC-22. These projects also contribute to the implementation of Regional Initiatives to meet the regions’ particular needs. BDT projects contribute to the development of a variety of products and services in alignment with the ITU-D priorities and enablers defined by the Kigali Action Plan, as well as by the ITU Strategic Plan in each of the ITU’s six regions.

2.5.6 All projects that are implemented in the regions by project managers from the concerned Regional or Area Office, supported by headquarters, and using products and services developed by the headquarters. They receive support from other BDT Services on project formulation, monitoring, and evaluation. Quarterly reports are reviewed and assessed by independent teams (Project Support) not involved in implementation, so that an unbiased assessment of the progress can be made. The projects implemented and/or ongoing under each Regional Initiative adopted at WTDC-22 for the period 2023-2025 are mapped in Information Document [TDAG-25/INF/4](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG32-INF-0004/en).

2.5.7 BDT has continued during 2024 to strengthen project management practices across all ITU projects. Actions implemented during the year include the strengthening of reporting submitted to funding partners, the operation of the BDT Projects Board and the refinement of the structure of the Bureau to further strengthen the support to project implementation. Further details of ITU-D projects are available in Document [TDAG-25/5](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG32-C-0005/en).

2.5.8 From May 2024 and March 2025, ITU signed a total of 35 new projects and addenda valued at CHF 26.7 million. These figures confirm the success in the resource mobilization efforts undertaken by BDT. Further details on the ITU-D project portfolio are available in Document TDAG-25/5, as well as in the ITU-D projects portal.

2.5.9 From May 2024 to March 2025, ITU signed 73 agreements with a wide range of partners. Further details are posted on the ITU-D Partnership webpage.

# 3 Activities related to ITU’s other sectors and Bureaux

## 3.1 General Collaboration

BDT, in collaboration and close coordination with BR, TSB, and the General Secretariat, has been actively working to strengthen regional presence, aiming to improve service delivery to Member States.  In addition, three staff from TSB are seconded to the Regional Office for Africa Region. Similarly, ITU Regional Office for the Asia and Pacific Region also has one staff member seconded by TSB.

## 3.2 Regional Office for Africa (RO-AFR) / Africa activities

BR-related activities

– RO-AFR supported the ITU Workshop on National Tables of Frequency Allocation (NTFA) for region 1, held May 20-23, 2024, in Addis Ababa.

– RO-AFR is providing support to organization of the ITU Regional Radiocommunication Seminar 2025 for Africa (RRS-25-Africa), 5-8 May 2025, Djibouti.

– Technical training on the Harmonized Calculation Method for Africa (HCM4A) software (for frequency coordination) was conducted in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (March 2025), attended by representatives from 45 Member States.

– The Africa Broadband Mapping Systems project, supported by the European Commission, was launched to assist 11 countries in establishing infrastructure mapping systems. (BR relevance implied for spectrum aspects).

TSB related activities

– In collaboration with TSB, a series of Digital Financial Services (DFS) Security Clinics were held for The Gambia, South Sudan, Ghana, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Lesotho, Ethiopia, Eswatini, Sierra Leone, Burkina Faso, and Gabon.

– In collaboration with the African Telecommunications Union (ATU), BDT delivered a webinar on the Early Warning for All initiative (EW4ALL).

– BDT provided support in the development of National Emergency Telecommunication Plans (NETPs) in Guinea Bissau, The Gambia, Namibia, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Cabo Verde, Botswana, Seychelles, and Zambia. Regional NETP frameworks were also developed for SADC and English-speaking African countries.

### 3.3 Regional Office for Americas (RO-AMS) / Americas activities

BR-related activities

– Satellite equipment was deployed to Jamaica, Grenada, St. Vincent and the Grenadines as support to hurricane response efforts. (Pre-positioning hub also established in Barbados.)

– BDT and Intelsat announced a cooperation agreement to enhance disaster preparedness and response through satellite telecommunications, including equipment donation and training.

– The Regional Office and Area Offices have collaborated in organizing regional radiocommunications seminars; the next one will take place from June 12 to 16 in Tegucigalpa, Honduras.

– Likewise, BDT has collaborated on various capacity-building programs on topics related to Radio Spectrum Management, in partnership with the ATCs of Peru and Brazil.

TSB-related activities

– BDT, in collaboration with the Emergency Telecommunications Cluster, delivered a workshop in the Caribbean which strengthened collaboration among stakeholders to operationalize NETPs and enhanced capacity to implement EWS.

– Through its Regional Offices, BDT has promoted the active participation of Member States of the Americas and industry members in TSB study groups at various meetings.

– UN Coordination and Cooperation Frameworks

– BDT and AMS RO have actively participated in the UNCTs and coordinated actions with the UN Resident Coordinator offices and other entities.

– BDT and AMS RO have also signed and implemented actions through cooperation frameworks with countries such as Brazil, El Salvador, Honduras, and the Dominican Republic, and is currently working on drafting the new cooperation framework for Panama.

## 3.4 Regional Office for Arab States (RO-ARB) / Arab States activities

BR-related activities

– The ITU Regional Workshop Towards Universal and Meaningful Connectivity for the Arab Region was organized in Algiers, addressing infrastructure development and connectivity challenges.

– National consultation workshops, including NETP and Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) trainings, were held in Comoros, Djibouti, Somalia, Mauritania, and Sudan. (BR relevance implied for spectrum/cell-broadcast).

TSB-related activities

– BDT provided support in the development of NETPs in Djibouti, Comoros, and Mauritania.

## 3.5 Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (RO-ASP) / Asia-Pacific Activities

BR-related activities

– BDT supported BR in organizing the Regional Radio Seminar (RRS) for Asia and the Pacific in September 2024 in Samoa, sharing best practices on topics like Analog to Digital transition and SMS4DC.

– RO-ASP supported the ITU Workshop on National Tables of Frequency Allocation (NTFA) for Region 3, held 28-31 May 2024, in Shanghai.

– ITU organized training on the Spectrum Management System for Developing Countries (SMS4DC) during the PITA Annual General Meeting in Vanuatu (April/May 2024).

TSB-related activities

– Following consultations with TSB and discussions with the Government of Australia’s Department for Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), the ITU team successfully signed a grant agreement on 4 June 2021 with DFAT on this project, under its Cyber and Critical Tech Cooperation Program. This project was successfully extended in 2022 for the full four-year duration and was successfully concluded on 31 December 2024 ITU Regional Office and Area Office in Delhi supported the organization of WTSA24 in multiple ways including monthly/weekly coordination meetings with the Indian government, organization of side events with various partners, suggestion for speakers and arranging the participation of the UN Country team for UN Day on Oct 24, side events as well as the SDG exhibition zone.

– Following consultations with the Government of Australia’s Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts (DITRDCA), ITU signed a project agreement on 18 June 2024 for the SAPEIC project. This project aims to enhance the engagement of ITU’s Asia and the Pacific developing country member states in global ITU conferences by capacitating them to meaningfully contribute to upcoming ITU conferences, namely the 2024 World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA) and the 2025 World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC).

– To achieve this, structured and dedicated training will be provided to build understanding of ITU’s Standardization and Development Sectors, and the working methods of WTSA and WTDC, to ensure delegates can meaningfully contribute to these conferences. During this reporting period, 23 participants from 13 ITU member states underwent the WTSA portion of the program. They joined the virtual training on WTSA from 10-13 September 2024 and an optional office hour on 18 September 2024. The training was led by ITU staff from the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau (TSB) and the ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, featuring interactive exercises and mock contribution creation. Subsequently, the 23 participants were granted fellowships through the SAPEIC project to join the Global Standards Symposium (GSS) and the WTSA in Delhi, India, on 14 October 2024 and 15-24 October 2024 respectively. The fellows successfully participated in both events and are completing their reporting requirements.

– Following consultations with TSB and discussions with the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC) of Japan, the ITU team and MIC exchanged letters on 6 February 2025, post which the funds were allocated to ITU to conduct activities under this project. It is currently funded for a period of one year, until February 2026.

– On 2-3 September 2024, the Area Office in collaboration with the National Communications Academy – Finance (NCA-F, erstwhile NICF) and the Department of Telecommunications organized a workshop on Bridging the Standardization Gap (BSG) at Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore. With over 270 participants from the government, industry, academia and startups, the workshop guided the participants on how to contribute to and negotiate for the development and implementation of ITU-T standards; and helped build capacity to eventually play leadership roles in this field through interactive role plays and quizzes.

– ITU Regional Office and the Area Office in Delhi facilitated discussions with the Bhutan InfoComm and Media Authority (BICMA) and TSB on the DFS Security Lab on 10 October 2024. Following this discussion, ITU and BICMA are now discussing a potential ITU knowledge transfer programme for DFS Security.

– Following these discussions, there was an exchange of letters between TSB Director and BICMA on 14 and 22 October 2024. BICMA is currently evaluating the financials at their end, and a formal response from them is awaited.

## 3.6 Regional Office for CIS (RO-CIS) / CIS Activities

BR-related activities

– A project on Digital Audio Broadcasting (DAB) frequency planning in 174 - 230 MHz for Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia has been launched.

– A roundtable on VoLTE (Voice over LTE) interconnection and VoWiFi was organized in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, addressing technical aspects and implementation strategies.

– The AI for Early Warnings for All Sub-group, coordinated and led by ITU, aims to explore, implement, and scale AI applications supporting the EW4All initiative. (BR relevance implied through spectrum/propagation data.)

– A global ITU/WMO Regional Seminar "Earth observations for Sustainable Development Goals: technologies, spectrum, applications, impacts" was organized in September 2024 jointly with BR in Almaty, Kazakhstan, attended by over 100 specialists. It was held back-to-back with the meeting of the working groups of ITU-R Study Group 7.

– In February 2025, BDT, jointly with Intersputnik and with the participation of BR experts, organized a workshop "Space activities in modern realities”. The event, attended by the satellite communications community and highly appreciated by the participants, offered a unique opportunity to share the best practices in creating or improving national legislation for space activities while addressing the challenges surrounding national market access policies for satellite systems.

TSB-related activities

– Through awareness raising activities RO CIS has supported adoption of Recommendations and KPIs related to Smart Cities and Communities developed within U4SCC initiative.

– Preparations are ongoing jointly with TSB for the ITU Regional Forum “Future Technologies: Artificial Intelligence, Metaverse, Holography and other ICT Applications and Services. Vision 2030”, to be held from 9 to 11 June 2025 in St. Petersburg, Russian Federation. It will be held back-to-back with meetings of the regional groups of ITU-T Study Groups 11, 13 and 20.

## 3.7 ITU Office for Europe / Europe activities

BR-related activities

– An executive briefing on BR-related issues to the EU Council Working Party on Telecommunications and Information Society was organized on 27 March 2025 in Brussels.

– BR Experts have been contributing to the technical assistance to Ukraine in line with the ITU Council Resolution 1408. This included expert support to the technical assessment of broadcasting stations, holding a special spectrum-related online workshop for the Ukrainian officials, organization of the ITU-EC TAIEX Workshop, held in December 2024, Warsaw, Poland.

– BR Experts contributed to the EaPeReg workshops, further strengthening our cooperation between ITU and members of EaPeReg.

– The ITU Regional Radiocommunication Seminar for Europe has been scheduled for February 2026 to further develop the human capacities of European countries.

TSB-related activities

– A workshop on the Future of Television for Europe, in cooperation with BR and TSB, took place in November 2024.

– A synchronization workshop between TSB and the European Commission was organized on 19 February 2025 in Brussels, aiming at the identification of areas of potential strengthened cooperation.

– An executive briefing on TSB-related issues to the EU Council Working Party on Telecommunications and Information Society was organized on 20 February 2025 in Brussels.

## 3.8 Cross-regional coordination

BR related activities

Strategic pre-positioning of emergency telecommunication satellite equipment established in Dubai (covering Arab States, Africa, Asia-Pacific), Zimbabwe (serving SADC), and Barbados (serving Americas/Caribbean).

TSB related activities

As part of the AI for EW4All group, ITU is developing an AI Solutions Catalogue, an online repository of AI tools relevant to early warning systems. The BDT team also spoke at TSB's 15th Symposium on ICT, Environment, Climate Change and Circular Economy (May 2024).

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