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| **Agenda item: ADM 1** | **Document C25/34-E** |
| **22 April 2025** |
| **Original: English** |
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| Report by the Secretary-General | |
| INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES DEVELOPMENT FUND (ICT-DF) | |
| **Purpose**  This document reports the status of the Information and Communication Technologies Development Fund (ICT-DF) regarding its utilization for the implementation of development projects. It also provides information on the funds available in the Exhibition Working Capital Fund (EWCF), the ICT-DF Capital Account and the Administrative and Operational Services (AOS) amounts generated at the end of 2024.  **Action required by the Council**  At the end of 2024, a surplus of CHF 524 503.51 was generated over the budgeted AOS of CHF 700 000. The transfer of this amount to the ICT-DF is presented for approval by the Council in Document [C25/43](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CL-C-0043/en).  The Council at its 2025 session is invited **to note** this document.  **Relevant link(s) with the Strategic Plan**  Provision of technical assistance, partnerships, and international cooperation.  **Financial implications**  The transfer of CHF 524 503.51 from the surplus AOS generated in 2024 to the ICT-DF Capital Account is contained in Document [C25/43](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CL-C-0043/en).  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **References**  [*Resolution 11 (Rev. Dubai, 2018)*](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts/RES-011-E.pdf) *of the Plenipotentiary Conference;* [*Final Acts (Part III)*](https://www.itu.int/pub/S-CONF-ACTF-2022) *and* [*Minutes of the Sixteenth Plenary Meeting (Section 2.3 and 5.2)*](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-PP-C-0206/en) *of the 2022 Plenipotentiary Conference;  Council Resolutions* [*1111*](https://www.itu.int/itudoc/gs/council/c97/docs/res/131.html) *,*[*1338*](http://www.itu.int/md/S11-CL-C-0106/en), [*1418*](https://www.itu.int/md/S23-CL-C-0116/en) *and* [*1427*](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CL-C-0134/en); *Council Documents* [*C23/34*](https://www.itu.int/md/S23-CL-C-0034/en)*;* [*C24/19*](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CL-C-0019/en); [*C24/34*](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CL-C-0034/en); [*C25/43*](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CL-C-0043/en) | |

# 1 Introduction

1.1 Launched in 1997, the Information and Communication Technologies Development Fund ([ICT-DF](http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Partners/Pages/ICT-DF/default.aspx)) supports the implementation of projects based on multi-stakeholder partnerships with ITU Member States, Sector Members, public and private sector, multilateral organizations, foundations, financial institutions and development agencies.

# 2 Main rules and procedures of ICT-DF

2.1 In principle, the ICT-DF finances up to 25 per cent of the total cash contribution of a project. On an exceptional basis, the ICT-DF may finance more than 25 per cent. This seed funding provided from the ICT-DF is meant to attract extrabudgetary funds raised through resource mobilization for financing projects at national, regional, and multi-regional levels.

2.2 Project proposals are submitted for consideration by the ICT-DF Steering Committee (ICT-DF SC)[[1]](#footnote-2) and assessed to ensure their compliance with the following selection and eligibility criteria, amongst others:

– The project beneficiary shall include one or more countries from among the least developed countries (LDCs), small island developing States (SIDS), landlocked developing countries (LLDCs), countries with economies in transition and countries in special need.

– The project shall fall into one of the categories/themes adopted by the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC) or any other themes deemed important by ICT-DF SC.

– The proposals shall be supported by partner contributions in-cash.

2.3 ICT-DF SC: a) reviews and approves ICT-DF projects submitted; b) approves the amount of funding to be allocated to ICT-DF projects; and c) monitors the implementation and budgetary performance of these ICT-DF projects.

2.4 Following the approval of Council-23 on [Resolution 1418](https://www.itu.int/md/S23-CL-C-0116/en) to transfer CHF 3 million from the EWCF to the ICT-DF Capital Account to support the WTDC Regional Initiatives (RIs), the ICT-DF SC agreed in principle to consider funding for RI project proposals co-financed by the ICT-DF up to 50 per cent.

# 3 Progress of the ICT-DF

3.1 An informative webpage on the ICT-DF and other projects searchable by country, region, areas of action and project status (ongoing and implemented) is available at [www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Projects](http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Projects). As of March 2025, there are 22 ongoing ICT-DF projects (listed in Doc. [C25/INF/4](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CL-INF-0004/en)). Their distribution by region is shown in Figure [1](#Fig1).

3.2 Since 2012, a total of 43 projects received funding from the ICT-DF. Figure [2.1](#Fig2_1) presents the status of these projects, while Figure [2.2](#Fig2_2) presents the funding arrangements. Figure [2.3](#Fig2_3) shows the distribution of project funding by region. These figures demonstrate the importance of the ICT-DF as a key instrument to support ITU’s efforts in raising project funds. External cash contributions are also determined by funding partners’ priorities, and allocations from the ICT-DF have been determined in line with external funds made available to co-finance the projects.

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3.3 In 2024, seven (7) new projects were approved for funding from the ICT-DF. Six (6) of these projects have been signed so far as reflected in Document [C25/INF/4](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CL-INF-0004/en), while the seventh project is near signature.

3.4 In 2025, as of 14 April, four (4) more new projects were approved for funding by the ICT-DF SC and are expected to be signed in the coming months (listed in Table 1 below).

TABLE 1

Projects approved for ICT-DF co-financing in 2025 (as of 14 April)

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Title | Partner | Partner funds | ICT-DF funds |
| AI Technology and Standards Capacity Building in Asia-Pacific | Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communication  (MIC Japan) | USD 120 000 | USD 30 000 |
| International Exchange on E-waste Regulation and Engagement of Electronics Producers – Creating a Circular Economy for Electronics | Agencia Presidencial de Cooperación International de Colombia  (APC Colombia) | USD 150 000 | USD 150 000 |
| HerCyberTracks | Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit  (GIZ Germany) | EUR 251 765 | EUR 112 800 |
| Enhancing Digital Infrastructure and Affordable Access to ICT Services in Asia and the Pacific | Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communication  (MIC Japan) | USD 142 923 | USD 35 730 |

3.5 There is a pipeline of projects currently under development and finalization this year. BDT will continue monitoring the ongoing ICT-DF projects for effective implementation. ICT-DF SC will continue to review project proposals and support selected projects in the various areas of action with special attention to the WTDC RIs, within the limit of the ICT-DF Capital Account.

# 4 Evolution of the ICT-DF Capital Account

4.1 Interest income of the ICT-DF Capital Account by year-end 2024 and interest in projects totalled CHF 279 022.40.

4.2 Following the approval of [Resolution 1427](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CL-C-0134/en) at Council-24, CHF 465 110.56 was transferred from the EWCF to the ICT-DF Capital Account.

4.3 The remaining balance of the ICT-DF Capital Account at the end of 2024 is CHF 3.672 million (see Figure 3 below).

4.4 Resolution 11 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) on ITU Telecom events was abrogated at the Plenipotentiary Conference (Bucharest, 2022). The Conference also approved the recommendation (see the [Minutes of the Sixteenth Plenary Meeting](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-PP-C-0206/en) (Section 2.3)) that “Resolution 11 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) on ITU Telecom events be abrogated and, as a consequence, that the Plenary instruct the Council, at its ordinary session, to transfer the remaining balance of the Exhibition Working Capital Fund to the ICT Development Fund”. At the end of 2024, the available balance in the EWCF is CHF 188 350.32. However, the remaining funds will be transferred after the liquidation of all ITU Telecom financial obligations and final closing of the accounts. The remaining balance retained in EWCF will be reported to the Council at its 2026 session.

4.5 As presented at Council-24, a further step to replenish the ICT-DF is to channel back to the ICT-DF Capital Account any surplus AOS generated beyond the budgeted amount annually from 2024 onwards, with the primary purpose of such funds to support project implementation. At the end of 2024, the AOS generated amounted to CHF 1 224 503.51, which is a surplus of CHF 524 503.51 over the planned budgeted amount of CHF 700 000.

4.6 The draft resolution on the transfer of CHF 524 503.51 from the surplus AOS to the ICT-DF Capital Account is in Document [C25/43](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CL-C-0043/en) for the approval of Council-25. The available balance of the ICT-DF Capital Account following this transfer will amount to CHF 4.197 million.

# 5 Way forward

5.1 Progress on implementation of ICT-DF funded projects will be regularly analysed and updated at [www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Projects/ICT-DF.aspx](http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Projects/ICT-DF.aspx).

5.2 Considering that the ICT-DF is demand-driven, and its aim is to provide seed funding, the ICT-DF SC will continue to consider project proposals based on the rules and criteria while remaining within the limit of the ICT-DF Capital Account, in order to support the development of telecommunications/ICTs in ITU Member States and contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals.

5.3 Any surplus AOS generated beyond the budgeted amount annually from 2024 onwards is planned to be channelled back to the ICT-DF Capital Account, with the primary purpose of such funds to support project implementation.

5.4 For longer-term sustainability and future continuity of the ICT-DF, the ITU membership is encouraged to consider making new voluntary contributions to the ICT-DF Capital Account, which has proven to be instrumental in supporting development projects.

5.5 Steps continue to be taken to seek funding partners’ agreement to transfer any remaining funds following project implementation to the ICT-DF Capital Account.

The Council is also invited **to note** this report and advise as deemed appropriate.

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1. ICT-DF SC is composed of the ITU Secretary-General (Chair), the Deputy Secretary-General and the Director of BDT. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)