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| Report by Jordan | |
| ENHANCING ITU'S STRATEGIC PLAN THROUGH CAPACITY BUILDING AND PARTNERSHIPS | |
| **Purpose**  This contribution outlines a proposal to enhance the ITU's Strategic Plan for 2028-2031 by emphasizing new financial resource generation and capacity-building initiatives. The proposal advocates for implementing fee-based training programs and strengthening partnerships with NGOs and private-sector organizations like GSMA. These initiatives will help diversify ITU's funding streams, enhance global ICT capabilities, and foster collaboration among stakeholders.  **Action required**  The Council Working Group on Strategic and Financial Plans (CWG-SFP) is invited to consider the integration of these recommendations into the ITU’s strategic and financial planning processes for 2028-2031.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **References**  [*CWG-SFP website*](https://www.itu.int/en/council/CWG-SFP-2028-2031/Pages/default.aspx)*; Council Resolution* [*1428 (C24)*](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CL-C-0139/en) | |

Introduction

As a global leader in ICT development, the ITU has been pivotal in driving innovation and promoting universal connectivity. However, the increasing demand for resources to meet the evolving ICT challenges necessitates exploring new funding models while enhancing the ITU’s impact. This contribution highlights the potential of capacity-building programs and strategic partnerships to address this challenge.

Proposal

1 **Fee-based capacity-building programs:**

– The ITU could design and implement specialized training and certification programs for member states and private entities, focusing on areas like spectrum management, digital transformation, artificial intelligence (AI) governance, and emerging technologies.

– These programs would be conducted online or in person and involve nominal fees, ensuring affordability while generating revenue to support ITU’s initiatives.

– A portion of the revenue could be reinvested into providing free training for least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing States (SIDS), ensuring equitable access to ICT capacity building.

2 **Strengthening partnerships with NGOs and private sector organizations:**

– Collaborations with NGOs like GSMA and private organizations can provide additional resources, expertise, and funding opportunities.

– Joint initiatives could include co-hosting training programs, research collaborations, and resource mobilization efforts aimed at accelerating ICT development.

– The ITU could establish a formal framework for partnership agreements, clearly outlining mutual goals, financial contributions, and expected outcomes.

3 **Incentivizing partnerships:**

– Introduce incentives for private-sector organizations to support ITU initiatives, such as recognition programs, partnership branding, and access to ITU platforms for promoting their work.

4 **Integrating revenue-generating initiatives into the ITU Strategic Plan:**

– Ensure that these capacity-building and partnership efforts are aligned with ITU’s broader goals, including the advancement of universal connectivity and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

– Establish a monitoring and evaluation framework to measure the impact and financial viability of these initiatives.

Expected outcomes and benefits

1 **New revenue streams:**

– Generate sustainable financial resources to fund ITU’s strategic initiatives and operations.

– Reduce dependence on traditional funding mechanisms, enhancing ITU's financial resilience.

2 **Enhanced ICT capacity:**

– Empower member states with the knowledge and skills needed to navigate the evolving ICT landscape.

– Address critical ICT gaps, particularly in LDCs and SIDS.

3 **Stronger global collaboration:**

– Foster partnerships that drive innovation, share knowledge and promote the efficient use of resources.

– Enhance ITU's role as a convening platform for global ICT stakeholders.

Conclusion

By integrating fee-based capacity-building programs and strengthening partnerships with NGOs and private organizations into its Strategic Plan, the ITU can unlock new financial resources, enhance global ICT capacity, and build stronger networks of collaboration. These initiatives will enable the ITU to achieve its goals effectively while remaining agile in the face of evolving ICT challenges.

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