

RESOLUTION 71 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017)

Strengthening cooperation between Member States, Sector Members, Associates and Academia of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector and the evolving role of the private sector in the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Buenos Aires, 2017),

considering

- a) No. 126 of the ITU Constitution, which encourages participation by industry in telecommunication development in developing countries¹;
- b) the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) provisions of the strategic plan for the Union relating to the promotion of partnership arrangements between the public and private sectors in developed countries;
- c) the importance placed, in the outcome documents of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), including the Geneva Plan of Action and the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, on private-sector participation in meeting the objectives of WSIS, including public-private partnerships;
- d) that Sector Members, in addition to their financial contributions to the three Sectors of ITU, also provide professional expertise and support to the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) and, conversely, can benefit from participation in ITU-D activities,

¹ These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

considering also

- a) that ITU-D should undertake actions in order to be responsive to Sector Members' needs, in particular at the regional level;
- b) that it is in the interest of ITU to achieve its development objectives, increase the number of Sector Members, Associates and Academia (cf. Resolution 169 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference) and promote their participation in the activities of ITU-D;
- c) that partnerships between and among the public and private sectors, including ITU and other entities such as national, regional, international and intergovernmental organizations, as appropriate, continue to be key to promoting sustainable telecommunication/information and communication technology (ICT) development;
- d) that such partnerships prove to be an excellent tool for maximizing resources for, and the benefits of, development projects and initiatives,

recognizing

- a) the rapidly changing telecommunication/ICT environment;
- b) the important contribution that Sector Members make towards the increased provision of telecommunications/ICTs in all countries;
- c) the progress achieved, through BDT special initiatives such as partnership meetings and colloquiums, in strengthening cooperation with the private sector and increased support at the national, regional and global levels;
- d) the continued need to ensure increased participation of Sector Members, Associates and Academia,

recognizing further

- a) that telecommunications/ICTs are of critical importance to overall economic, social and cultural development;

- b) that Sector Members, Associates and Academia may face challenges in the provision of telecommunication/ICT services;
- c) the important role played by Sector Members, Associates and Academia in suggesting and implementing ITU-D activities such as initiatives, projects and programmes;
- d) that a large number of ITU-D activities are of interest to Sector Members, Associates and Academia;
- e) the importance of the principles of transparency and non-exclusivity for partnership opportunities and projects;
- f) the need to promote increased Sector Member, Associate and Academia membership and their active participation in ITU-D activities;
- g) the need to facilitate exchange of views and information between Member States, Sector Members, Associates and Academia at the highest possible level;
- h) that these actions should strengthen the participation of Sector Members, Associates and Academia in all ITU-D activities,

noting

- a) that the role of the private sector in a very competitive environment is increasing in all countries;
- b) that economic development relies, among others, on the resources and capacity of ITU-D Sector Members;
- c) that ITU-D Sector Members are engaged in the work accomplished within ITU-D and can provide ongoing support and expertise to facilitate the work of ITU-D;

- d)* that an essential part of the work within the ITU Sectors, and in particular in the development of telecommunications/ICTs, is done by representatives of industry;
- e)* that ITU-D Associates and Academia are engaged in the work accomplished within ITU-D and can provide scientific and knowledge background to support ITU-D's work;
- f)* that ITU-D Sector Members, Associates and Academia have a key role in addressing ways by which private-sector issues can be incorporated into ITU-D strategy development, programme design and project delivery, with the overall goal of increasing mutual responsiveness to the requirements of telecommunication/ICT development;
- g)* that ITU-D Sector Members, Associates and Academia could also advise on ways and means of enhancing partnerships with the private sector and of reaching out to the private sector of developing countries and the many companies that are not knowledgeable of ITU-D activities;
- h)* the excellent results achieved through the high-level discussions that took place between Member States and Sector Members during the Chief Regulatory Officers' (CRO) meetings and the Industry Leaders Debate (ILD),

resolves

- 1 that the ITU-D operational plans should continue to respond to issues relevant to Sector Members, Associates and Academia by strengthening the communication channels between BDT, Member States and ITU-D Sector Members, Associates and Academia at the global, regional and national levels;

2 that ITU-D, and the ITU regional and area offices in particular, should employ the necessary means to liaise with the private sector and to encourage its representatives to take a more active part through partnerships with telecommunication/ICT entities in developing countries, and especially with those in the least developed countries, in order to help close the gap in universal and information access;

3 that ITU-D should take into account the interests and requirements of its Sector Members, Associates and Academia in its programmes so as to enable them to participate effectively in achieving the objectives of the Buenos Aires Action Plan, the objectives set forth in the Geneva Plan of Action and the Tunis Agenda, and the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);

4 that a permanent agenda item dedicated to private-sector issues will continue to be included in the plenary agenda of the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG), dealing with relevant inputs concerning the private sector;

5 that the Director of BDT, when implementing the ITU-D operational plan, should consider the following actions:

- i) to improve regional cooperation between Member States, Sector Members, Associates and Academia and other relevant entities, through the continuation of regional meetings addressing issues of common interest, in particular for Sector Members, Associates and Academia;
- ii) to facilitate the development of public-private sector partnerships for the implementation of global, regional and national flagship initiatives;
- iii) to promote through its various programmes an enabling environment for investment in telecommunication/ICT development;

- iv) to provide support to regional offices so that they have tools within budgetary resources available to encourage representatives of the private sector and universities not previously involved in the Union's activities to participate in regional and global ITU events and projects, in order to demonstrate the advantages of ITU membership and attract investment in the implementation of ITU projects of great importance to Member States,

resolves further

that appropriate steps should continue to be taken for the creation of an enabling environment at the national, regional, and international levels to encourage development and investment in the telecommunication/ICT sector by Sector Members,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

- 1 to continue working closely with ITU-D Sector Members, Associates and Academia for their participation in successful implementation of the Buenos Aires Action Plan;
- 2 to address, as appropriate, in the ITU-D activities, issues of interest to Sector Members, Associates and Academia;
- 3 to facilitate communications between Member States and Sector Members on issues which contribute to an enabling environment for investment, particularly in developing countries, and in particular to further deploy and strengthen the ITU-D Sector Members, Associates and Academia website in order to help exchange and disseminate information for all ITU members;
- 4 to facilitate participation of ITU Sector Members, in their own capacity, at all ITU-D meetings in which they are involved, including those at regional level;

5 to continue to organize meetings for high-level industry executives, for example the Industry Advisory Group for Development Issues (IAGDI), possibly back-to-back with the Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR) and other major ITU events, in order to foster exchange of information and assist in identifying and coordinating development priorities and in identifying regulatory barriers;

6 to further deploy and strengthen the ITU-D Sector Members, Associates and Academia portal in order to help exchange and disseminate information for all ITU members, bring the needs of developing countries to the high-level industry meetings by consulting them prior to the meetings, and encourage the participation of local industry representatives;

7 to develop a comprehensive strategy for raising the motivation of representatives of the private sector, including universities and other academic and research institutions, to become Sector Members, Associates and Academia, as well as a strategy for more active involvement of current Sector Members, Associates and Academia in ITU-D activities, including participation in the work of ITU-D study groups;

8 to encourage participation in IAGDI of a wide representation of industry from the ITU-D Sector Members from all regions;

9 to develop effective mechanisms to organize participation by industry representatives in the meetings (for example, by having a stable composition for IAGDI and regular participation in the group by a member or alternate);

10 to take the results of IAGDI into account in ITU-D work, especially under the dedicated agenda item in TDAG and within the ITU-D study groups, as appropriate;

11 to produce a regular report to TDAG on the follow-up of the CRO meeting conclusions;

12 to produce a report to the next world telecommunication development conference, assessing the outcomes of the CRO group over the period and examining the need to continue or enhance its activities,

encourages Member States, Sector Members, Associates and Academia of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector

1 subject to the relevant provisions of the Constitution and the Convention, to participate together and actively in the work of TDAG, to submit contributions, in particular regarding private-sector issues to be discussed, and to provide relevant guidance for the Director of BDT;

2 to participate actively at the appropriate level in all activities of ITU-D;

3 to identify means of enhancing cooperation and arrangements between the private and public sectors in all countries, working closely with BDT,

encourages Sector Members of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector

to participate at the level of their executives in the IAGDI meetings, and to raise proposals in regard to their priorities and specific needs of developing countries.