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| C:\Users\comas\AppData\Local\Temp\Rar$DRa0.735\jpg\ITU official logo_blue_RGB.jpg**2nd TDAG Web Dialogue on WTDC**  **30 April 2020, Online** |
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| **2nd TDAG Web Dialogue on WTDC** |
| **Date: 24 April 2020** |
| **Title: Background document** |
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**Background**

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (“WTDC”) is held every four years and sets the development agenda of the Telecommunication Development Sector (“ITU-D”). WTDC further offers a unique opportunity for the international community to come together and discuss the future of the ICT sector and its contribution to social and economic development.

On 24 March 2020, BDT organized its first [Web Dialogue on WTDC](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Conferences/TDAG/Pages/TDAG25/default.aspx) where participants had the opportunity to discuss and provide their input on how to improve the effectiveness of WTDC-21. Although circumstances dictated that the membership was unable to gather in person, over 200 participants actively took part in the discussions.

Building on the outcomes of this first event, the membership is again invited to come together on 30 April 2020. This time membership is invited to explore concrete proposals aimed at improving the preparatory process, format and content of the conference.

This background document is designed to facilitate the discussions and should not be considered as exhaustive. The results of this second Web Dialogue will serve as a key input for the WTDC-21 preparation and planning process and will be reviewed by TDAG at its June session.

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| **Topic 1: Preparatory Process** |

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| **Proposals** | **Relevant Legal or Procedural Provisions/Comments** |
| **1.1** A formal inter-regional conference preparatory process could be put in place by ITU. The goal of these inter-regional preparatory meetings (IPMs) would be to foster agreement between regions on key issues ahead of the conference. Three physical IPMs could be organized, each one to be held back-to-back with RPMs 2, 4 and 6, respectively. | WTDC Resolution 31 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) resolves to instruct the BDT Director to organize one regional preparatory meeting (RPM) per region for each of the six regions (if the relevant region deems appropriate). |
| **1.2** The Bureau could advise and assist RTOs with their preparations for the conference, while maintaining independence. This task would include advising the RTOs on the result of the streamlining process undertaken by TDAG and proposing editorial amendments to Resolutions, as appropriate. |  |

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| **Topic 2: Content and Structure** |

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| **Proposals** | **Relevant Legal or Procedural Provisions/Comments** |
| **2.1** The main discussions at WTDC could revolve around how the development-related challenges identified during the preparatory process can be addressed and funded. Any approved action should be linked either to the existing ITU-D budget or to pledges made prior to or during the conference. | The duties of WTDC are reflected in articles 22 of the ITU Constitution and 16 of the ITU Convention.  Section 1 of Resolution 1 addresses the structure of WTDC whereas CV213 addresses the preparation and adoption of the agenda of the conference. |
| **2.2** WTDC could consider delegating the discussion on the ITU strategic plan to TDAG in preparation for the following PP, taking into account the results of WTDC.  **2.3** The High-Level policy session (which includes delivery of policy statements) could be repurposed to become thematic events [details under Topic 4] to address development challenges and clearly identified priorities.  **2.4** Discussions on Resolutions could primarily derive from outcomes of the preceding TDAG meetings which would undertake efforts on streamlining. | Under the ITU Constitution and Convention, WTDC is not required to review the ITU-D contribution to the ITU strategic plan. However, this task is reflected in Resolution 1 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017), in particular in Article 1.8.2. Since Resolution 1 is within the purview of WTDC, it can be amended by the conference, if so desired. |
| **2.5** Study Group Questions could be identified during the preparatory process, in line with the Membership’s needs and regional and inter-regional priorities.  **2.6** The mapping of Study Group Questions from ITU-T to ITU-D and ITU-R to ITU-D could be improved with a view to identifying possible areas of overlap or convergence. |  |
| **2.7** RTOs could elaborate a limited number of ‘Regional Priorities’, based on the defined development scope of the conference. RTOs could be encouraged to identify common priorities across regions which could be implemented within the budgetary limitations of the BDT or linked to pledges and commitments made prior to or during the conference. |  |

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| **Topic 3: Stakeholder Engagement** |

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| **Proposals** | **Relevant Legal or Procedural Provisions/Comments** |
| **3.1** Create target lists of key invited participants by constituent group, including a short list of “stars”, and manage the targeting/invitation process against deadlines.  **3.2** Improve, enhance the existing or create new preparatory events to engage target participants. | Article 25 of the Convention and Article 3 of the General Rules address the issue of invitations / admission to WTDC. The rights of Sector Members and observers are addressed in Article 3 of the Constitution and PP Resolution 145, respectively. Additional provisions on the rights of Sector Members may also be found in PP Resolution 14. |
| **3.3** External stakeholders could “co-chair” specific tracks and sessions in the conference agenda, examples may be:   * 1. a track focused on international/bilateral development agencies and partners;   2. an educational track;   3. track on how to finance the ICT ecosystem. |  |
| **3.4** Develop and execute a targeted promotional campaign for WTDC. |  |

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| **Topic 4: Side events** |

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| **Proposals** | **Relevant Legal or Procedural Provisions/Comments** |
| Design side events to create impact with carefully selected theme(s), stakeholders, clear agenda and value proposition.  For this purpose, there could be:  **4.1** A distinct “side-event” preparatory process.  **4.2** Side-events could be made an integral part of WTDC and constituting a “*development*” track in complement to the current program of the conference.  **4.3** A post-conference process after WTDC to further coordinate or implement “side-event” outcomes with the involved stakeholders. |  |
| Characteristics of the “development” track during WTDC:  **4.4** The development track could be organized around key thematic areas, for example “regional priorities” should be diverse, interactive and dynamic.  **4.5** The High-Level policy session (which includes delivery of policy statements) could be repurposed to become thematic events to address development challenges and clearly identified priorities. The thematic events could aim to find solutions to those challenges, including the financing aspects.  **4.6** The speakers and audience could include 4 types of stakeholders (problem owners, solution owners, fund owners and beneficiaries) to increase chances of interaction and interest.  **4.7** Outcomes of this development track could be new/finalized project proposals and initiatives in relation with the themes, expressions of interest/commitments to finance them, concrete work plans to follow-up on them. |  |

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