



## **BDT MEMBER COMMUNIQUÉ**

# **Recommendations and contributions shared to strengthen the work and growth of ITU-D's activities**

### ***The Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG) met to give guidance and advice on the implementation of the Kigali Action Plan***

**Geneva, 26 June 2023**

The 30th meeting of the [Telecommunication Development Advisory Group \(TDAG\)](#) was held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 19 to 23 June 2023.

The annual meeting helps to guide the work of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D). The 2023 meeting reviewed the outcomes of the 2022 World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-22), which took place in Kigali, Rwanda, from 6 to 16 June 2022 and provided advice to guide the work of ITU-D.

“The lively and positive discussions at this TDAG is a pointer to the collective progress in the implementation of the ITU-D priorities set out at WTDC-22,” said Dr Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava, Director of the ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau. “Building a BDT4Impact is the pivot and the driving motivator for our work in implementing the aspiration of members expressed as ITU-D priorities. We remain steadfast and continue to count on TDAG guidance to achieve the set goals and BDT’s pathway to unmask technology and show a human face so that we may impact the lives of people.”

TDAG welcomed 203 participants – virtual and physical – representing 79 Member States + Resolution 99.

A total of 42 contributions were received – 19 Secretariat documents, 19 Membership contributions and four Liaison statements – which covered several topics, including: the implementation of the Kigali Action Plan and preparation of the Operational Plan 2023; ITU-D Projects and special initiatives; ITU-D Study Group activities; preparations for the next Youth Summit, collaboration with the other ITU Sectors; report by the Chairperson of GCBI; Membership, Partnerships, Private Sector-related matters; collection and dissemination of information and statistics, among others.

This year, TDAG featured innovative sessions such as an interactive dialogue with the Regional Directors and the Chiefs of Department of the Telecommunication Development Bureau, who engaged in a conversation on two questions: “What is your message to membership to get support in ensuring impactful implementation of WTDC-22 outcomes?” and “What innovations have you incorporated into your work to implement OP-23?”

There was also an interactive session with the Study Group 1 and 2 Chairs, in which they presented the outcomes of the Rapporteur Group Meetings and public workshops held from 8 May – 2 June 2023.

“TDAG is very happy to advise on the implementation of the Kigali Action Plan. The feedback that is shared by ITU-D Members is a vital part of this process and helps us on our journey to deliver impact,” said Roxanne McElvane Webber, TDAG Chair and Deputy Chief, Global Strategy and Negotiations Division, U.S. Federal Communications Commission. “TDAG continues to provide an opportunity to exchange ideas, success stories and charts a path forward for universal and meaningful connectivity.”

During TDAG, four announcements were made to support the work of ITU-D:

- The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts of Australia will support the implementation of Regional Initiatives in Asia-Pacific, at a value of CHF 591,000;
- The Government of the United Kingdom will provide support to advance cybersecurity, at a value of GBP 83,755;
- The German Federal Foreign Office and the German Agency for International Cooperation of Germany will help strengthen cybersecurity through capacity building to promote the equal, full and meaningful representation of women in cybersecurity, at a value of EUR 437,362.50;
- The Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications of Japan will support Connect2Recover, the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Alliance for Digital Development, ICT Infrastructure in Asia-Pacific and cybersecurity in the Pacific for a total of USD 881,906.

TDAG-23 also provided an opportunity to present a portfolio of ITU’s digital development projects financed by the European Union (EU) within the framework of the EU Global Gateway.

TDAG-23 also featured three special sessions on:

- **ITU-D projects** – a showcase of how ITU-D- projects advance sustainable development through ICTs and benefit ITU Membership. The session included a live demonstration of the new ITU-D Projects Dashboard.
- The **Network of Women in ITU-D** – to discuss how Members can encourage female participation and promote gender balance in their work to advance the full, equal, effective and meaningful participation of women in decision-making in the digital space.
- **Generation Connect** – to share youth voices and experiences in and provided a platform for delegates to engage with young people through an engaging question and answer.

**The TDAG Chairman’s Report will be available in the next few weeks on the TDAG website.**

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#### **Resources and background information:**

- [TDAG highlights video](#)
- [TDAG photos](#)

*Discover what others are saying on social media and join the conversation by searching and posting with the hashtag #ITUTDAG*

#### **About the International Telecommunication Union (ITU)**

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is the United Nations specialized agency for information and communication technologies (ICTs), driving innovation in ICTs together with 193 Member States and a membership of over 900 companies, universities, and international and regional organizations. Established over 150 years ago in 1865, ITU is the intergovernmental body responsible for coordinating the shared global use of the radio spectrum, promoting international cooperation in assigning satellite orbits, improving communication infrastructure in the developing world, and establishing the worldwide standards that foster seamless interconnection of a vast range of communications systems. From broadband networks to cutting-edge wireless technologies, aeronautical and maritime navigation, radio astronomy, oceanographic and satellite-based earth monitoring as well as converging fixed-mobile phone, Internet and broadcasting technologies, ITU is committed to connecting the world. For more information, visit [www.itu.int](http://www.itu.int)