



BDT MEMBER COMMUNIQUÉ

Strengthening and streamlining ITU-D's work and activities to deliver BDT4Impact

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

Geneva, 24 May 2024

The 31st meeting of the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG) was held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 20 to 23 May 2024.

The annual meeting helps to guide the work of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D). The 2024 meeting reviewed the outcomes of the 2022 World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-22) and provided advice to guide the work of ITU-D.

TDAG welcomed 172 participants – virtual and physical – representing 134 Member States + Resolution 99. The number of participants showed almost equal participation of women and men, 84 and 88 people, respectively.

“I would like to thank the membership for such rich contributions, active engagement and guidance to help us achieve impactful results as we implement the outcomes of the World Telecommunication Development Conference of 2022 (WTDC-22), and for providing us with forward-looking ideas and strategies for successful preparations towards the next WTDC in 2025,” said Dr Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava, Director of the ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau. “It is inspiring to see our diverse membership rallying around a shared vision to make our work relevant and results-oriented leading to affordable universal connectivity and sustainable digital transformation aimed at accelerating the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals for the benefit of the people we serve. We also celebrate that we reached gender parity at this TDAG in terms of the participants.”

TDAG was chaired by Roxanne McElvane Webber, Deputy Chief, Global Strategy and Negotiations Division, U.S. Federal Communications Commission.

“It is a privilege for me to serve as Chair of TDAG and lead the discussions on the priorities, programmes, and overall operation of the Development Bureau,” said TDAG Chair, Ms Roxanne McElvane Webber. “I am very pleased with the results achieved at this TDAG and

the guidance provided, which will help advance our work as we embark on the journey towards WTDC-25 and the realization of the Kigali Action Plan.”

A total of 49 contributions were received, among them 20 Secretariat documents and 19 Membership contributions, which covered several topics, including: the implementation of the Kigali Action Plan, projects, ITU-D Study Group activities; membership, partnerships, private sector-related matters; and preparations for WTDC-25, among others.

An interactive dialogue with the Regional Directors and the Chiefs of Department of the ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau presented the work done in each region and department to implement the Kigali Action Plan.

This edition of TDAG also featured a partnership segment in recognition of the valuable contributions of members and partners for a BDT4Impact. The session highlighted record-breaking numbers noting that, from January 2023 to April 2024, 63 new Sector Members, Associates and Academia joined ITU-D, and 117 agreements were signed valued 27.8 million USD, resulting in 36 projects. The session included a panel with distinguished speakers from all regions sharing testimonies and success stories on how ITU-D partnerships and projects support digital transformation and deliver impact on the ground.

During the meeting, the Digital Innovation Authority of Malta announced that Malta will be hosting the ITU Global Innovation Forum in Valletta, in October 2024. In a video, H.E. Silvio Schembri, Minister for Economy, Enterprise and Strategic Projects, extended an invitation to TDAG participants to attend the event. Watch the [video](#).

Also at TDAG, the Uganda Communications Commission invited all participants to attend the Global Symposium for Regulators in Uganda from 1 to 4 July 2024 under the theme “Regulation for impact”. Watch the [video](#).

The Network of Women in ITU-D organized a social event titled 'Mainstream Gender: from music to action' where a speaker from the University of Geneva - Giovanna di Marzo - presented her personal story of how she became the Director of ISS at University of Geneva and her challenges. The session continued with a lyric recital performed by Ms Varduhi Khachatryan, Lyric singer and President of the Avetis Association, who sung lyrics from Puccini, Bellini and Bizet.

The TDAG Chairman’s Report will be available in the next few weeks on the [TDAG website](#).

Resources and background information:

- [TDAG highlights video](#)
- [TDAG photos](#)
- [TDAG video on the implementation of the Kigali Action Plan](#)
- [TDAG video on the work done to engage youth throughout the years](#)

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