The Second Meetings of ITU-D Study Groups 1 and 2

10 November 2023, Geneva, Switzerland

The second meetings of Study Groups 1 and 2 in the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) for the 2022-2025 study period took place in Geneva, Switzerland from 23 October to 2 November 2023.

The meetings reviewed the main conclusions of the May-June 2023 rapporteur group meetings, appointed new vice-chairs, (co-)rapporteurs and vice-rapporteurs, reviewed and approved interim deliverables, presented and discussed contributions, incoming liaison statements and administrative documents.

"ITU-D Study Groups help to shape the future of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT)'s work. Their outputs and insights are key to the successful implementation of the World Telecommunication Development Conference, 2022 (WTDC-22) thematic priorities (meaningful connectivity, enabling environment, digital transformation, international cooperation, and cybersecurity) to help us realize the two strategic goals of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), namely, universal and meaningful connectivity and sustainable digital development," said Dr Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava, Director of BDT at ITU. "Study Groups are the intellectual arm of ITU-D; I have extremely high regard for the expertise of the participants and their contributions which greatly enhance our work and are of foundational importance to connect to the world."

Outcomes of the ITU-D second meetings

The second meetings for ITU-D Study Group 1: Enabling environment for meaningful connectivity took place from 23 to 27 October and for ITU-D Study Group 2: Digital transformation from 30 October to 3 November.

During this time, the delegates had an opportunity to review draft texts and tables of contents of final reports.

"ITU-D Study Group 1 considers the establishment of an environment which will ensure meaningful connectivity. This second meeting was an intensive week of important work which was accomplished with a spirit of cooperation and consensus," said Regina Fleur Assoumou-Bessou, Chair, ITU-D Study Group 1. "My wish is that we continue along the same path and share our expertise in order to achieve the goals set forth by the World Telecommunication Development Conference and allow our administrations to benefit fully from the results. We all have a lot of knowledge to share; we are all ambassadors for the results of the Study Groups.

The meetings were also an opportunity to discuss items for collaboration with other ITU-D study Questions, other BDT work e.g. regional initiatives and projects, and other ITU Sectors and organizations.

"Study Group 2 addresses various enabling components for digital transformation. As we are halfway through this current Study cycle, this meeting allowed us to evaluate the work that has already been achieved and revise our roadmap to better achieve our ambitions," said Fadel Digham, Chair, ITU-D Study Group 2. "Our work will help to fulfill the needs and requirements for all members for digital transformation, to boost economy and improve the quality of life for people everywhere, which is a primary concern for all members. The work achieved at these meetings is based on contributions by all members and its value is beneficial to all members. It allows our participants and delegates to return to their countries with good recommendations to help improve their country's development and build a digital society."

Finally, delegates reviewed work plans and agreed on next steps, and determined the venues and dates for the next ITU-D Study Group meetings and related Rapporteur group meetings.

During the Study Group 1 meeting, a call was made for administrations to include more women and young experts in their delegations, as well as to provide their support for the presence and participation of management team members representing their countries.

Interim deliverables approved

Two interim deliverables were approved during the meetings:
- Q6/1: Best practices being adopted on fit-for purpose digital regulation tools for consumer protection (1/172(Rev.2))
- Q3/2: Cybersecurity assurance practices (2/134)

ITU-D Members have access to the interim deliverables on the ITU-D Study Group website at the links above.

The interim deliverables will be publicly available free of charge in all official UN languages at the beginning of 2024.

Special sessions

A special session on the Digital Regulation Network (DRN) was held during the Study Group 1 meeting. It aimed to trigger a deeper reflection at the study Question level on how to leverage the Digital Regulation Network to provide clear impact-oriented guidelines for readers of the next output reports.

An information session on BDT projects for digital transformation was held during the second meeting of ITU-D Study Group 2 and presented selected ITU projects related to digital transformation and the work of ITU-D Study Group 2, and their impact in the field.

In addition, an information session on cybersecurity assurance practices was held during the ITU-D Study Group 2 meeting to present the draft Question 3/2 interim deliverable.

About ITU-D Study Groups

During the 2022-2025 Study period, the ITU-D Study Groups will address 14 study Questions adopted at the 2022 World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-22).

ITU-D Study Groups allow ITU members to share knowledge, experiences, and innovative ideas on how information and communication technologies (ICTs) can help meet the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

The ITU-D Study Groups produce reports, guidelines, and recommendations to help countries, companies and other organizations implement telecommunication/ICT policies, strategies, projects and initiatives.

Resources and background information:

- [ITU-D Study Groups website](#)
- [Photos: ITU-D Study Group 1](#)
- [Photos: ITU-D Study Group 2](#)

For questions, please contact:

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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, 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