



BDT MEMBER COMMUNIQUÉ

Paraguay hosts fourth regional preparatory meeting for ITU's World Telecommunication Development Conference 2025

Asunción, 2 April 2025 – The [Regional Preparatory Meeting](#) (RPM) for Americas was held from 1 to 2 April in Asunción, Paraguay. It was an opportunity for participants to gain insight and detailed reporting on the ongoing implementation of the Kigali Action Plan and propose the next Regional Initiatives to be submitted to the next ITU World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-25) and consider priority ITU-D topics.

WTDC-25 will be held in Baku, Azerbaijan, from 17 to 28 November 2025.

“Hosting this event is a clear demonstration of how Paraguay collaborates, and wishes to continue collaborating, with ITU,” said H.E. Gustavo Villate, Minister of ICT of Paraguay. “We have the mandate from H.E. President Santiago Peña to prioritize security and defence, economic growth, and quality education: it is impossible to advance in these areas without adequate telecommunications and ICT support. Therefore, in Paraguay, we are fully aligned with the priorities of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector, to create a promising regulatory environment to promote affordable connectivity, digital transformation, and foster inclusive and secure telecommunications/ICT for sustainable development.”

“Significant progress has been made in the Americas region to achieve universal and meaningful connectivity through multistakeholder collaboration, especially in addressing the digital needs of Landlocked Developing Countries, Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States, advancing digital skills for all, policy and regulatory frameworks, and cybersecurity, among others,” said Dr Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava, Director, ITU's Telecommunication Development Bureau. “I thank the Government of Paraguay and CONATEL for generously hosting this meeting and all Member States and partners in the region, and beyond, for helping us fulfil our mandate by making tangible impact on the ground.”

Below are the proposed Regional Initiatives for the Americas for 2026-2029:

AMS1: Facilitating Resilient Infrastructure to Enable Deployment of Universal and Meaningful Connectivity: to facilitate delivery of reliable, affordable, universal and meaningful connectivity and digital services in the Americas region through deployment of modern, resilient, secure, and sustainable telecommunication/information and

communication technology infrastructure

AMS2: Digital Inclusion, Digital Skills/Competencies: assisting Member States to promote inclusive, affordable and equitable adoption of effective, safe and secure digital services and solutions to drive sustainable social and economic development.

AMS3: Support for Innovative Digital Ecosystems and the adoption and use of emerging technologies: to promote the digital capacity development, digital Government systems, local e-services, and innovation ecosystems necessary for sustainable and inclusive digital transformation, innovation and entrepreneurship.

AMS4: Promoting cyber resilience and capacity building in cybersecurity and cyber resilience: to promote an enabling environment for a safe and secure connectivity.

AMS5: Governance and Enabling Regulatory Frameworks for Sustainable Digital Transformation: to assist Member States in developing evidence-based telecommunications/ICT policy, legal and regulatory frameworks and regional cooperation mechanisms to promote and support effective governance, and inclusive digital development across various sectors of the economy.

“Paraguay reaffirms its commitment to regional cooperation and to bridging the digital divide. Through our National Telecommunications Plan and in compliance with the precise instructions of the President, H.E. Santiago Peña, we are working to guarantee accessibility and affordability and promoting ICTs as an engine for social and economic growth. The conclusions reached at these events will lay the groundwork for more inclusive and sustainable policies, ensuring that digitalization benefits all citizens. We thank the ITU for its confidence in our country and reaffirm our commitment to building a more equitable digital future for the region,” said Mr Juan Carlos Duarte Duré, President of Comisión Nacional de Telecomunicaciones del Paraguay (CONATEL).

"In the Americas region, we are making great progress in the preparation towards WTDC-25," said Bruno Ramos, Regional Director of the ITU Regional Office for the Americas. "The proposed Regional Initiatives will help address the digital challenges of the region to advance universal and meaningful connectivity."

The meeting was preceded by a [Regional Development Forum](#) (RDF) on 31 March.

Participants at the Regional Development Forum engaged in results-oriented debates and impactful Partner2Connect Matchmaking Roundtables. Discussions also explored the state of digital development and the implementation of the current Regional Initiatives.

The “State of digital development and trends in the Americas” report, launched at the meeting, examines connectivity expansion, innovation, affordability, and digital inclusion, outlining strategies to achieve universal and meaningful connectivity across the diverse region.

During the meeting, a EUR 3 million ‘*Regional Regulatory Innovation for Central America – Sandbox*’ project, in cooperation with the European Union, was announced. The project will strengthen the regulatory and institutional frameworks for digital transformation and regional integration of ICT in Central America.

The Regional Development Forum also featured sessions on the Network of Women in ITU-D and a Generation Connect Youth Session.

This Regional Preparatory Meeting was the fourth such event to be held across the regions. The next Regional Preparatory Meeting will be for the Africa region and will be held in Kenya from 8 to 9 April 2025. It will be preceded by a Regional Development Forum on 7 April.

WTDC-25 will be held in Baku, Azerbaijan, from 17 to 28 November 2025.

Resources and background information

- [“State of digital development and trends in the Americas: Challenges and opportunities”](#).
- [Video](#) on the progress on the implementation of the Kigali Action Plan in the Americas region
- [Schedule](#) of RPMs and RDFs
- The [ITU-D Events mobile app](#) allows users to access on their smart-phones and tablets all relevant information and documents related to the Regional Preparatory Meetings of the WTDC-25.

About the International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is the United Nations agency for digital technologies, driving innovation for people and the planet with 194 Member States and a membership of over 1,000 companies, universities, civil society, and international and regional organizations. Established in 1865, ITU coordinates the global use of the radio spectrum and satellite orbits, establishes international technology standards, drives universal connectivity and digital services, and is helping to make sure everyone benefits from sustainable digital transformation, including the most remote communities. From artificial intelligence (AI) to quantum, from satellites and submarine cables to advanced mobile and wireless broadband networks, ITU is committed to connecting the world and beyond.

Learn more: www.itu.int.