



Regional Initiative Accelerator

A framework for co-designing regional initiatives projects with beneficiaries and partners

RDF-AFR

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Presented by Mohamed Ba

bdtinnovation@itu.int

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Navigating a VUCA world

Regions today are navigating an increasingly volatile, uncertain, complex, and ambiguous (VUCA) global environment marked by rapid change.

Rapid technological advancement, shifting geopolitical and economic conditions, evolving development priorities, and changing funding ecosystems are reshaping how regional agendas must be conceived and delivered.

VUCA

Volatile

The environment demands you react quickly to ongoing changes that are unpredictable and out of your control

Uncertain

The environment requires you to take action without certainty

Complex

The environment is dynamic, with many interdependencies

Ambiguous

The environment is unfamiliar, outside of your expertise

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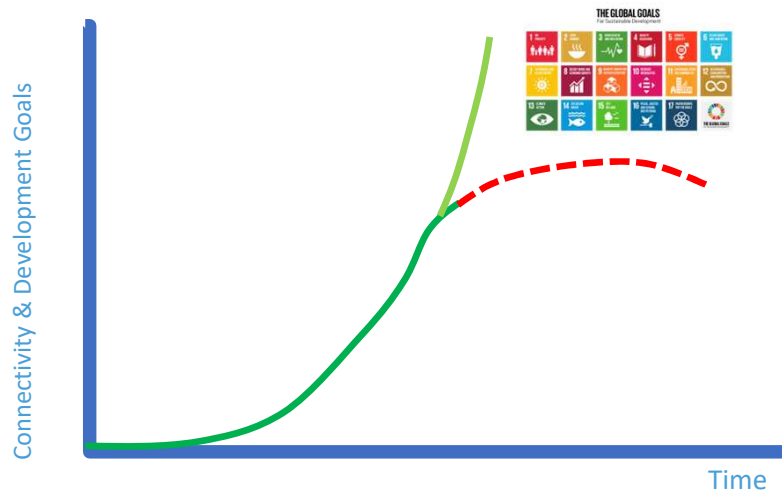
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Rethinking development approaches



Translating regional and global ambitions into tangible, sustainable results requires more than strategic intent.

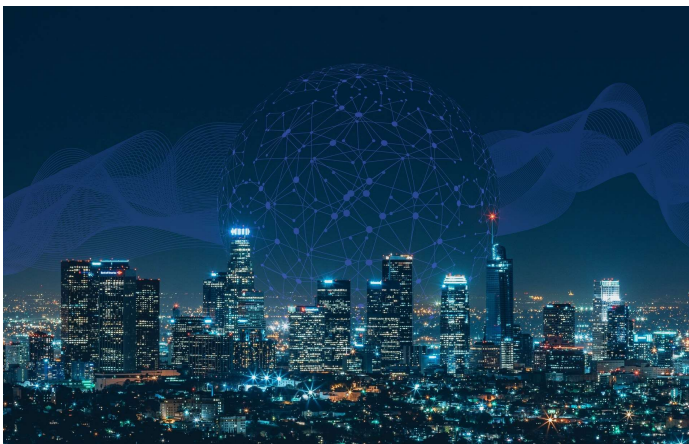
This indicates that priorities must evolve into clearly defined, investable projects that can mobilise the right partners, secure resources, and deliver measurable outcomes for sustainable impact.

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Regional Initiative Accelerator

The big picture: A global Alliance to build innovation capabilities



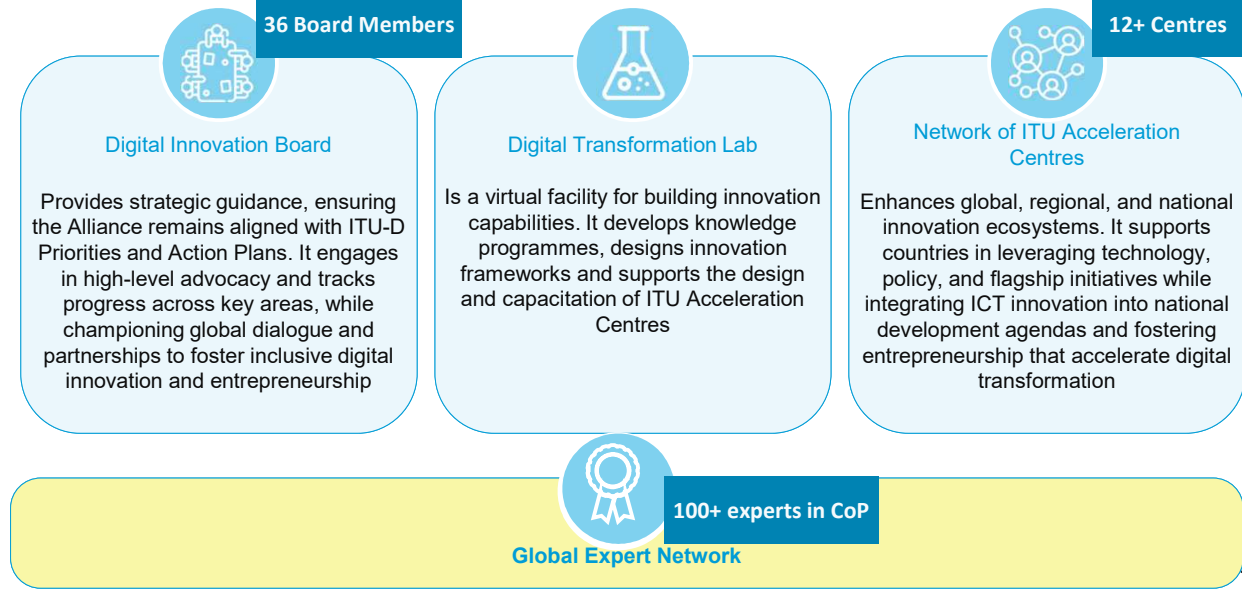
The [Innovation and Entrepreneurship Alliance for Digital Development \(the Alliance\)](#) is a global initiative spearheaded by the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

Launched in 2023, the creation of the Alliance responds directly to pressing and unmet innovation needs identified by ITU Member States, recognized at the World Telecommunication Development Conference 2022 (WTDC-22) in Kigali, reinforced at WTDC-25 in Baku, and further supported in the outcomes of the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2022 (PP-22).

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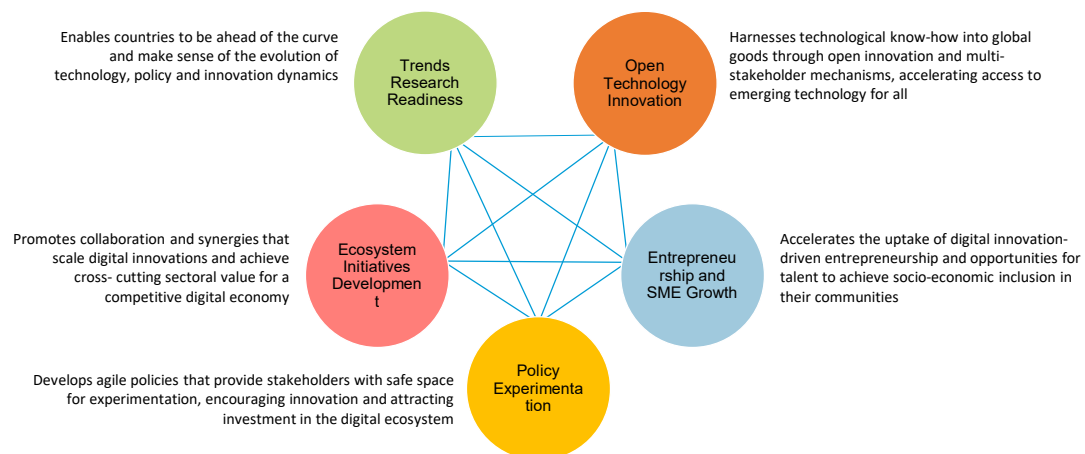
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The three vehicles of the Alliance to deliver impact as one



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The five strategic objectives of the Alliance



Hypothesis Observation: the Alliance objectives align with expected results sought for ITU Regional initiatives and can be repackaged for broader use by ITU memberships and Regional Offices of ITU.

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ITU Regional Initiatives 2026-2029

Regional initiatives reflect priorities identified by each region and are endorsed at the World Telecommunication Development Conferences.

RESOLUTION 17 (REV. BAKU, 2025) Resource mobilization, implementation and cooperation for approved regional initiatives

- Regional Initiatives are expected to be carried out through projects, with BDT supporting implementation, aligning related initiatives, and promoting well-defined proposals and investment cases to help secure funding.

ITU Regional Initiatives for Africa 2026-2029 - AFR1: Boosting digital entrepreneurship and fostering resilient and inclusive sustainable development - AFR2: Developing an inclusive, trustworthy artificial intelligence ecosystem in Africa for socio-economic development - AFR3: Building trust, safety and security in the use of blockchain-based communication and communication technologies - AFR4: Development of digital applications, tools, and services to support economic and digital innovation - AFR5: Sustainable funding mechanisms for Africa's digital transformation Learn more at www.itu.int/africa	ITU Regional Initiatives for the Americas 2026-2029 - AMS1: Facilitating resilient infrastructure to enable connectivity - AMS2: Digital inclusion, digital skills and competencies - AMS3: Support for innovative digital ecosystems and the adoption and use of emerging technologies - AMS4: Training cyber resilience and capacity building in cybersecurity and cyber resilience - AMS5: Governance and enabling regulatory frameworks for sustainable digital transformation Learn more at www.itu.int/americas	ITU Regional Initiatives for the Arab States 2026-2029 - ARB1: Universal meaningful connectivity for inclusive growth - ARB2: Advancing sustainable digital transformation for resilient and inclusive digital economy - ARB3: Enhancing emergency telecommunication preparedness and response in the Arab States region - ARB4: Innovation ecosystems to support the resilience and growth of emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence - ARB5: Cybersecurity resilience for a digital Arab States Learn more at www.itu.int/arabstates
ITU Regional Initiatives for the Asia and the Pacific 2026-2029 - ASP1: Addressing gender equality and digital inclusion through digital skills and digital literacy training, including digital content creation, and digital content creation - ASP2: Harnessing telecommunications/ICTs to support inclusive and sustainable digital transformation - ASP3: Fostering development of infrastructure to enhance digital connectivity and connecting the unconnected - ASP4: Establishing an innovative and sustainable telecommunication information and communication technology ecosystem - ASP5: Supporting safe, secure and resilient telecommunication information and communication technology environment Learn more at www.itu.int/asiapacific	ITU Regional Initiatives for the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) 2026-2029 - CIS1: Introduction of new and emerging telecommunication information and communication technology systems and services - CIS2: Telecommunication information and communication technology education and skills, including for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs - CIS3: Security in the use of telecommunication information and communication technologies, including electronic fraud - CIS4: Establishing environment and telecommunication information and communication technology regulation - CIS5: Development and implementation of artificial intelligence technologies Learn more at www.itu.int/cis	ITU Regional Initiatives for Europe 2026-2029 - EUR1: Digital infrastructure development - EUR2: Digital transformation for resilience - EUR3: Digital inclusion and skills development - EUR4: Trust and confidence in the use of telecommunication information and communication technologies - EUR5: Digital innovation ecosystems Learn more at www.itu.int/europe

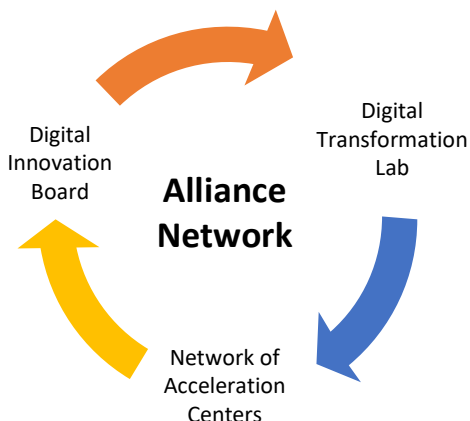
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Need for new innovation capacity for BDT and Member Countries



As part of this effort, the **framework for the Regional Initiative Accelerator** has been developed through the **DT Lab**, offering a structured approach to scaling bankable and projects based on adopted ITU Regional Initiatives for WTDC-25.

From new **Resolution 92 (Baku, 2025) on Strengthening the role of ITU regional offices in accelerating digital transformation and leveraging partnership:**

- That BDT should establish a Regional Initiative Accelerator framework within regional offices, in partnership with Member States, to co-design viable projects aligned with ITU-D priorities, while leveraging the Digital Transformation Lab to enhance innovation in the development and delivery of BDT services.

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Why accelerate Regional Initiative?

ITU Regional Initiatives for Africa 2026-2029

- AFR1** Resilient digital infrastructure and universal, meaningful and affordable connectivity for sustainable development
- AFR2** Developing an inclusive, trustworthy artificial intelligence ecosystem in Africa for socio-economic development
- AFR3** Building trust, safety and security in the use of telecommunications/information and communication technologies
- AFR4** Development of digital applications, micro, small and medium enterprises and digital innovation ecosystems
- AFR5** Sustainable funding mechanisms for Africa's digital transformation

Learn more at www.itu.int/africa

1. Co-design with beneficiaries and partners
2. Sharper articulation of results
3. Defined and measurable KPIs
4. Clear onboarding and offboarding processes
5. Bankable project pipelines
6. Diversified strategic partnerships and funding portfolios
7. Communities of practice and knowledge exchange
8. Cross-regional synergies - global projects
9. Future-ready and adaptive delivery models



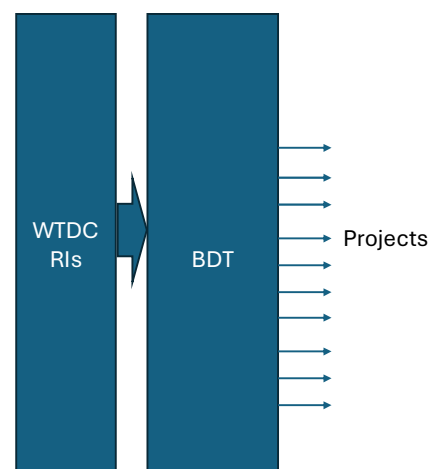
What is the Regional Initiative Accelerator?

The **Regional Initiative Accelerator (RIA)** is a new mechanism that serves as a structured framework designed to assist ITU members in transforming WTDC-endorsed Regional Initiatives into bankable projects.

This model provides a **systematic, collaborative approach for stakeholders to identify and prioritize opportunities, develop projects suitable for funding, and secure essential partnerships and resources** to facilitate successful implementation.

The RIA provides a repeatable approach that integrates analytical reflection, collaborative methods, innovation approaches, practical tools, and core competencies into a single, coherent process.

The **development of the RIA is achieved through a project funded by the ITU-China Collaboration fund** of the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT).





The RIA framework was developed based on two pilots in 2025



Pilot RIA Framework Development Workshop in Podgorica, Montenegro, in February 2025



Pilot RIA Framework Development Workshop in Shenzhen, China, in April 2025



*Framework Development used WTDC-22 approved RIs – EUR2 and ASP4

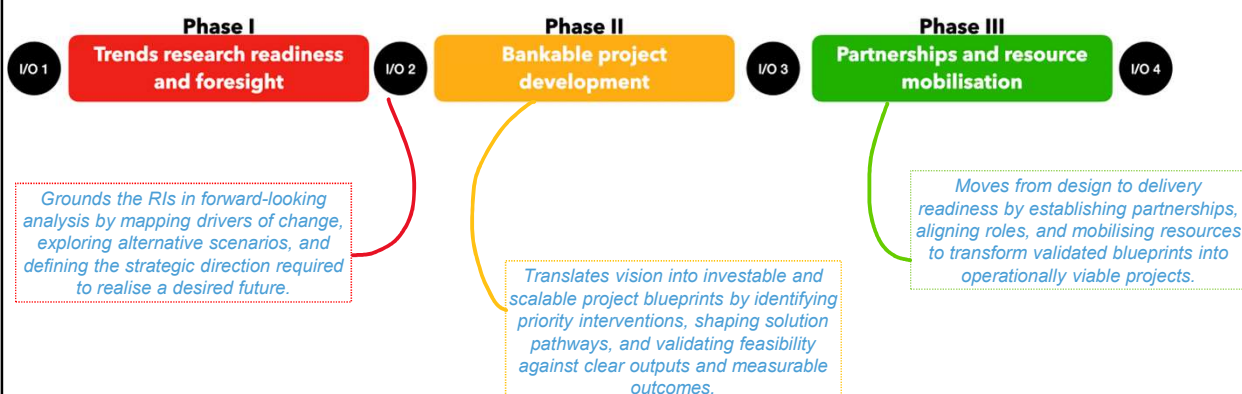
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The Regional Initiative Acceleration Framework:

A framework for co-designing regional initiatives with beneficiaries and partners

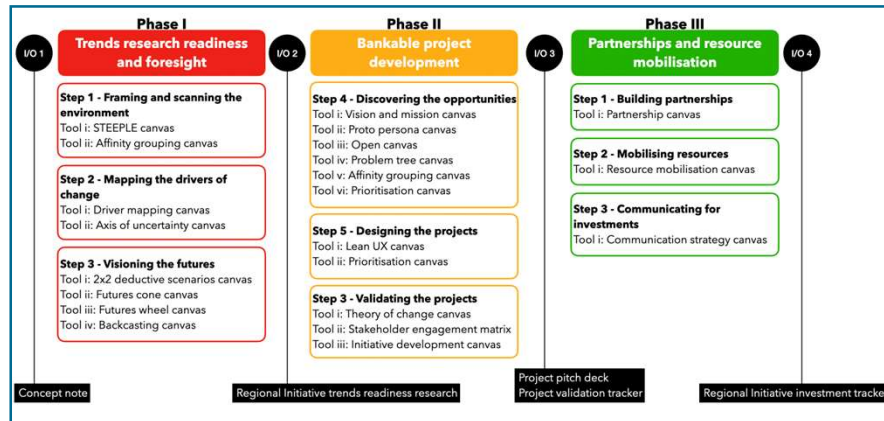


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A Comprehensive Toolbox with many Practical Tools for co-design: Regional offices of ITU will play a leading role to support Membership using the structure approach*



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Road ahead in Q3/Q4 2026

1. Physical workshops will be held for the development of Regional Initiatives portfolio of projects for selected Regional Initiatives in selected ITU regions. Interested host countries are being consulted. Fellowship will be provided for limited number of participants through the MIIT funded project.

- **AFR Workshop – Planned for Q3 2026 (To Be Confirmed)**
- **ASP Workshop – Tentatively scheduled for Q3/Q4 2026 (To Be Confirmed)**

2. An online global workshop will be offered through the ITU Academy platform to selected participants for the development of Regional Initiatives portfolio of projects for all interested ITU regions.

- **Open to all regions – Planned in Q4 2026 (To Be Confirmed)**

3. A self-paced, learning course on ITU Academy based on the RIA toolkit will be available later this year to expand the reach of the RIA methodology and strengthen capacity building across regions. While it is primarily developed for ITU membership seeking to translate ITU regional initiatives into credible, well-defined, fundable projects with clear ownership and delivery pathways, the course is relevant to anyone seeking to build structured, sustainable, and bankable projects in complex environments.

- **Regional Initiative Accelerator 101**



4. Launch of the RIA toolkit:

The Regional Initiative Accelerator (RIA) Toolkit is a practical guide for developing bankable projects that are not only well thought through, but co-designed with beneficiaries and ready to be implemented and sustained. The toolkit provides a clear step-by-step journey that moves from identifying a priority challenge to shaping a validated, fundable, and future-ready project.

This toolkit is designed for stakeholders involved in shaping and delivering development projects, particularly where coordination across actors and sectors is essential.



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