

THE TELECOMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT STUDY GROUPS: A SIGNIFICANT RESOURCE FOR ALL

The Telecommunication Development Study Groups are one of the mechanisms through which the Member States and Sector Members of ITU-D jointly examine through Questions matters of priority to developing countries. By facilitating a free flow of ideas and sharing of experiences, they contribute towards the development of telecommunication networks/Information and Communication Technologies (ICT).

In particular, ITU-D Study Group 1 studies questions of a regulatory nature, such as interconnection and universal access/service, whereas ITU-D Study Group 2 studies questions of network development and management nature such as networks for ICT applications like e-health and e-commerce, transition towards IMT-2000, broadband communication, and spectrum management. We are convinced that the work they carry out can be of great value to national regulatory and to telecommunication authorities. This flyer informs you about the activities of the ITU-D Study Groups.

We are committed to timely and quality work that takes into account new opportunities. Let us work together to take up this challenge.

We look forward to working with you.

Alberto Gabrielli

Chairman, ITU-D Study Group 1

Nabil Kisrawi

Chairman, ITU-D Study Group 2

ITU-D Study Groups are committed to:

- ***Timely delivery of results, preferably at least on an annual basis***
- ***Relevant output delivered to countries***
- ***Flexibility to tackle emerging topics***
- ***Enhanced participation of developing countries***

TAKE A STAKE IN ITU-D STUDY GROUPS: AN OPPORTUNITY TO FACILITATE AND ENHANCE TELECOMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT TOGETHER

What are the ITU-D Study Groups?

A unique neutral worldwide forum where developed and developing countries meet to study through Questions matters of priority to developing countries.

There are two ITU-D Study Groups:

- Study Group 1 covers telecommunication development strategies and policy issues and deals with 7 Questions
- Study Group 2 covers development and management of telecommunication services and networks and deals with 10 Questions.

Who has the right to participate in the Study Groups' activities?

- Member States can participate at no specific cost other than their yearly contributions to the ITU budget.
- ITU-D Sector Members, contrary to the Sector Members from the Standardization and Radiocommunication Sectors, can participate in the activities of the Study Groups of the ITU-D Sector at a class of contribution lower than 1/2 unit and can thus also select the 1/4 or 1/8 unit classes. The minimum class of 1/16 of a contributory unit is reserved for Sector Members from developing countries.
- Associates can participate in the work of a single Study Group and its subordinate groups at a contributory unit determined by the ITU Council.

How do they work?

To facilitate their work, Study Groups may set up groups to deal with specific Questions or parts thereof. There are several mechanisms for dealing with Questions:

- Rapporteurs' Groups: Presided by rapporteurs, this is the traditional way of dealing with a single Question and resembles working parties in ITU's Standardization and Radiocommunication Sectors. The budget is drawn from BDT's Study Group budget.

- **Project Groups:** Presided by a Chairman, they are a newly-created trial mechanism. The priority is on timely delivery (within one or two years) of the product in response to the topic under consideration. The budget is drawn from the Programmes.
- **Focus Groups:** Presided by a Chairman, the priority is on the timely delivery (within one year) of the product in response to the topics under consideration. Focus groups determine their own method of financing, either through voluntary hosting, special funds or a combination of both.
- **Other Groups** such as joint Rapporteur Groups or Joint Groups, for example on Resolution 9 (Rev. Istanbul 2002) on spectrum management and Question 21/2, or Regional Groups, as appropriate.
- **Electronic Document Handling:** In order to advance their work, ITU-D Study Group members extensively exchange documents and information electronically. This reduces the volume of hard copy documentation and permits the Study Group members unable to attend the meetings to have inputs in the development of recommendations and reports.

When do they meet?

The Study Groups hold a meeting every year for four working days each, normally at ITU Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. They are likely to meet in ITU-D regions, when invited by a Member State or a Sector Member.

The other Groups meet at any time or place agreed by the Study Group concerned. They also meet during the annual meeting of the Study Groups.

Between meetings, the rapporteurs, assisted by the BDT secretariat, coordinate the rest of the work electronically. The Study Groups then report on their progress to the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC) and consult with the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG) on other relevant issues.

Where are the results used?

The ITU Development Study Groups prepare:

Reports

Recommendations

Guidelines

which developing countries have found useful in formulating domestic and international policy and strategy.

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ITU-D Study Groups 1 and 2 offer a special platform for stakeholders worldwide to meet and formulate opinions on regulatory and technological issues of common and burning interest. These include interconnection, impact of technological convergence, universal access/service, implementation of IP Telephony in developing countries, application of telecommunications in health care, transition to New-Generation Networks, access technologies for broadband communications, spectrum management, and transition from existing mobile networks toward IMT-2000.

The last World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-02) held in Istanbul, Turkey, in 2002 introduced new working methods in order to speed up the work of the Study Groups and to obtain concrete results. After one year, it is pleasing to note that the Study Groups have already achieved many results such as the completion of the draft final report on the topic of universal access/service, and the draft guidelines for the smooth transition of existing mobile networks to IMT-2000 for developing countries. These results dovetail with our target of achieving high quality, and timely results capable of assisting developing countries in their efforts to restructure and strengthen their telecommunication sector.

I hope that the information provided in this flyer and the ongoing work of the Study Groups will be of great use to policy-makers, regulators, and telecommunication leaders seeking solutions to specific telecommunication and ICT problems. Hopefully, many of you will join the Study Groups and contribute to their work. I therefore join both Chairmen Mr Gabrielli of Study Group 1 and Mr Kisrawi of Study Group 2 in inviting all concerned to participate actively in the work of the ITU-D Study Groups 1 and 2.

There are many challenges facing us. Together, we can transform them into opportunities.



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