

**WSIS PrepCom-2**

**Roundtable No. 1  
Infrastructure and Financing**

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## What is the situation today?

- Technology convergence, lower costs, IP as the de-facto channel, network effect and an ever-changing environment.
- Increasingly important role of ICTs in various sectors (e.g., health, education, finance, government and commerce).
- Many new stakeholders in financing, developing and using ICTs.



## What are the *Challenges*?

- Understanding the needs of users and stakeholders for building sustainable models for affordable access to ICTs.
- Addressing issues for national and regional multi-sector policy framework for ICTs.
- Finding mechanisms for building mutually beneficial partnerships for financing infrastructure development.



**What Role can ITU play?**



# International Telecommunication Union

- UN Specialized Agency for telecommunications
- Oldest inter-governmental organization
- Global organization with broad membership
  - 189 Member States
  - 600+ sector members
- Triple global mandate
  1. Coordinate use of radio-communications resources
  2. Establish global telecom standards
  3. Promote the development of ICT sector worldwide
- ITU Development Sector (ITU-D) dedicated to developing countries



# Network of ITU Field Offices





# ITU Development Sector

- The world's only global telecom development programmes
- Defined every 4 years by World Telecommunication Development Conferences (WTDC)
- WTDC-02 (Istanbul):
  - Issue of Digital Divide,
  - Action Plan to bridge the digital divide
  - 1'200 participants representing:
    - 152 Member States
    - 80 sector members
    - 50 private sector, agencies, regional orgs.





# WTDC-02 Results

- Istanbul Declaration
- ITU-D Strategic Plan
- Istanbul Action Plan (IsAP)
  - International Cooperation
  - Regional Initiatives
  - 38 Resolutions and 5 Recommendations including:
    - Res. 30 Role of ITU-D in WISIS preparation
    - Res. 37 Role of ITU-D in bridging Digital Divide
  - IsAP Development Actions
    - Programmes
    - Initiatives





# IsAP Programmes

*Including Activities for ICT Infrastructure Development and Financing*

1. Regulatory Reform
2. Technologies & Network Development
3. E-Strategies and E-Services
4. Economics & Finance
5. Human Capacity Building
6. Special Programme for LDCs



# Evaluating the Divide

1. Provide Indicators
2. Study the requirements
3. Assess the needs of users
4. Agree on the technical, financial and human resources requirements
5. Set targets for evaluation and assessment



# From IsAP to ISAP

## Istanbul Action Plan (IsAP)

- Regulatory Reform
- Technologies and Telecommunications
- Network Development
- E-Strategies and E-Services/Applications
- Economics and Finance
- Human Capacity Building
- Special Programme for LDCs

## World Information Society Action Plan (ISAP)





## A Model Partnership

- Consolidation of partnerships: the main outcome of the WSIS;
- Complementary skills and mandates;
- Pooling of resources to avoid unnecessary redundancies;
- The BDT as model partnership



# Conclusion

1. ITU-D role in contributing towards building a global information society and closing the digital divide can only be fully achieved through partnership and collaboration with all relevant players.
2. ITU-D broad mandate, experience and large membership which includes both public and private sector are unique features that would facilitate the transformation from digital divide to digital opportunities for all.
3. ITU-D network of regional offices and direct contact with national entities is a factor to facilitate dialogue aimed at defining appropriate national and regional policies.
4. ITU-D continues to provide a time-tested framework for establishing partnerships and a WIN-WIN opportunity through strong synergies amongst the parties.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION**

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