

RESOLUTION 17 (Rev. Baku, 2025)

Resource mobilization, implementation and cooperation for approved regional initiatives¹

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Baku, 2025),

recalling

- a)* Resolution 34 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on support for countries in special need for rebuilding their telecommunication sector;
- b)* Resolution 135 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on ITU's role in the durable and sustainable development of telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICTs), in providing technical assistance and advice to developing countries² and in implementing relevant national, regional and interregional projects;
- c)* Resolution 157 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on strengthening of the project execution and project monitoring functions in ITU;
- d)* Resolution 21 (Rev. Baku, 2025) of this conference, on strengthening coordination and collaboration with regional and subregional organizations;
- e)* Resolution 52 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference, on strengthening the executing agency role of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D), which emphasized the importance of establishing partnerships between the public and private sectors as an efficient way of implementing sustainable ITU projects, and of utilizing locally available expertise in executing ITU projects at regional or country level;

¹ An initiative shall take the form of an all-embracing heading under which a number of projects can be included, leaving it to each region to define these.

² These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

f) Resolution 25 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on strengthening the ITU regional presence;

g) the mechanism for cooperation at regional and international level to implement the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, the Global Digital Compact³, the Partner2Connect Digital Coalition (P2C) led by ITU, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as ITU regional initiatives and regional development forums (RDFs),

considering

a) that telecommunications/ICTs are one of the most vital elements for the growth of national economies and protection of the environment;

b) that, in order to achieve the objectives of developing countries, new policy approaches may be required to meet the challenges of growth, in both qualitative and quantitative terms, including emerging needs related to innovation and digital skills;

c) that developing countries are increasingly experiencing the need for knowledge of fast-developing technologies and the associated policy and strategic issues, and that knowledge exchange and best practice exchange are essential to address rapid technological shifts;

d) that ITU-D is an appropriate platform for the exchange of experiences and best practices on development of the telecommunication/ICT sector;

e) the vital importance of cooperation and partnerships among Member States, ITU-D Sector Members and Associates for the implementation of regional initiatives and maximizing funding opportunities;

f) the satisfactory and encouraging results achieved by projects which have received international cooperation support under an initiative of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) and the critical role of regional and area offices in linking stakeholders and disseminating operational experience;

³ Noting that some countries have not endorsed the Global Digital Compact.

- g) that telecommunication/ICT networks and services for sustainable development are an essential element for national development and improving the social, economic, financial and cultural situation and security capacities of Member States;
- h) the need to coordinate and harmonize efforts to develop telecommunication/ICT infrastructure at the national, regional, interregional and global levels;
- i) that the leadership of the ITU Member States is needed to outline a unified national vision of a connected society that is comprehensive of all stakeholders;
- j) the commitment of the ITU Member States to promote access to ICTs at affordable prices, paying special attention to the least favoured segments;
- k) the importance of the telecommunication/ICT sector and its contribution to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;
- l) that each region's priorities reflect the diverse socio-economic and digital transformation needs of Member States of that region,

recognizing

- a) that developing countries, countries in need and countries participating in regional initiatives aligned with ITU-D priorities and seeking the support of ITU-D are at different stages of development and access to funding;
- b) that, given the resources at the disposal of developing countries, it is an important task for ITU, as the United Nations specialized agency for telecommunications/ICTs, to help these countries meet the requirements cited in *considering c)* above;
- c) the need, therefore, to exchange experiences on telecommunication/ICT development at regional, interregional and global levels in order to support these countries;
- d) that ITU and regional organizations share common beliefs that close cooperation can promote regional telecommunications/ICTs in order to support these countries;

e) that there is a continued need for ITU, using its regional and area offices, to cooperate more closely with regional and subregional organizations, including regional organizations of regulators, in order to support these countries;

f) the important role of ITU's regional and area offices in achieving effective cooperation with regional organizations;

g) that regional telecommunication organizations (RTOs) are instrumental partners in advancing telecommunication/ICT development and regulatory cooperation,

taking into account

a) the vital importance of telecommunication/ICT development initiatives, as defined in the ITU-D action plan, confirmed by the RDFs and endorsed by regional development conferences and the preparatory meetings preceding this conference;

b) the persistent challenges of funding, especially from international agencies, that impede the implementation of such initiatives, and the vital need for diversified partners, including the public and private sector;

c) the satisfactory and encouraging project outcomes achieved in various areas of the regional initiatives;

d) that some Member States' national policies and regulations may pose constraints on the implementation of such initiatives;

e) that partnerships and resource mobilization are essential to scale up the impact of development programmes and projects across all regions;

f) the strategic role of P2C for developing global and regional activities/projects related to digital transformation;

g) that new mechanisms are needed to mobilize funding for priority areas and regional initiatives in order to accelerate progress towards meaningful connectivity and the goals set in the strategic plan for the Union;

h) the important role of the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Alliance for Digital Development and the network of ITU acceleration centres established under this alliance, which builds local and organizational capabilities in innovation and entrepreneurship for the ITU membership,

noting

a) Resolution 73 (Rev. Baku, 2025) of this conference, on ITU Academy training centres (ATCs), which aims to assist membership with capacity building and development;

b) that the relevant regional organizations play a prominent and important role in supporting developing countries in areas such as regional cooperation and technical assistance activities;

c) the development of cooperation and technical assistance activities among regional and subregional organizations of regulators;

d) that there is an increasing demand from Member States for assistance in funding and project co-design to achieve national and regional digital development goals aligned with the ITU-D mandate;

e) that securing sufficient funds is essential to support the implementation of regional initiatives,

resolves

1 that BDT, including through the ITU regional offices, should reinforce strategic cooperation with regional entities to stimulate mutual exchanges of experiences and assistance, focusing specifically on the implementation of the regional initiatives, making the utmost use of available BDT resources and its annual budget;

2 that BDT continue to actively assist the developing countries in elaborating and implementing the regional initiatives which are specified in the ITU-D action plan;

3 that BDT provide an estimate breakdown for cash and/or in-kind contribution items for the implementation of projects under the regional initiatives, and their value in the proposed budget for the projects, taking into consideration *recognizing a)* above;

4 that the budget allocation for the implementation of the regional initiatives shall be individualized in the budget of the Sector to be executed by BDT, identifying funds for ongoing projects and funds for new projects, divided by region;

5 that Member States should consider contributing in kind and/or in cash to the budget foreseen for implementation of these initiatives and the realization of other projects foreseen within the framework of these initiatives at national, regional, interregional and global levels, including through partnerships and coalitions, to secure sustainable funding and implementation capacities;

6 that BDT should continue to actively conclude partnerships with Member States, ITU-D Sector Members, financial institutions and international organizations in order to sponsor implementation activities for these initiatives;

7 that BDT should assist in the implementation of these initiatives at the national, regional, interregional and global levels, integrating as far as possible those initiatives that have the same content or objectives, taking into consideration the ITU-D action plan in force;

8 that BDT, through the ITU regional offices, should provide information accumulated during the implementation of regional initiatives in each region (outcomes, stakeholders, financial resources used, and so on) to the Member States and RTOs, so as to capitalize on the experience and leverage the outcomes, which might be replicated in order to save time and resources when setting up and designing projects in the other regions, using the portal for the execution of projects in the six official languages of the Union;

9 that BDT should present progress reports to the RDFs on the implementation of the regional initiatives, including, *inter alia*, outcomes, stakeholders and financial resources used;

10 that BDT should develop comprehensive, viable project proposals for each of the regional initiatives, outlining the technical assistance required and the financial resources needed to achieve the objectives of the ITU-D action plan;

- 11 that BDT should ensure the development and dissemination of compelling value propositions and investment cases, in order to attract support for regional initiatives;
- 12 that BDT should enhance the governance mechanism involving ITU Member States and funding partners;
- 13 that BDT should advocate for and mobilize funding for each regional initiative and for building sustainable partnerships through collaboration, knowledge exchange and mutual recognition,

appeals to international financial organizations/agencies, equipment suppliers and operators/service providers

to contribute, fully or partially, to financing and supporting these approved regional initiatives,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

- 1 to take all necessary measures for promoting and implementing these approved regional initiatives at national, regional, interregional and global levels, and in particular the similar initiatives agreed at international level;
- 2 to ensure that BDT actively coordinates, collaborates in and organizes joint activities in areas of common interest with regional telecommunication organizations and training institutions, and takes into consideration their activities, as well as providing them with direct technical assistance;
- 3 to consider appropriate measures to enhance the role of existing ITU-D programmes and initiatives (such as the ATCs, ITU acceleration centres and others) in the implementation of regional initiatives with a view to maximizing their impact;
- 4 to issue an appeal at the annual Global Symposium for Regulators and in the RDFs for worldwide and regional support for the implementation of these regional initiatives;

5 to support ITU regional offices with the required human and financial resources for them to have a role in monitoring the implementation of the initiatives approved in their regions, identify the impact of these regional initiatives, considering the possible benefits at the national level, in collaboration with countries served by these regional initiatives, and submit an annual report to the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG) and the ITU Council on the implementation of this resolution;

6 to report annually to TDAG and the Council on the implementation of regional initiatives in each region, highlighting the projects and activities implemented and funded under the regional initiative, including detailed strategies and actions taken, resource mobilization targets and efforts undertaken to achieve these targets;

7 to establish a structured mechanism, in consultation with Member States, for the periodic review and evaluation of the implementation of projects under regional initiatives, including the definition and application of clear performance indicators for each project, and to share the results with Member States, in order to enhance and accelerate implementation, ensure accountability, promote continuous improvement and maximize developmental impact;

8 to continue to promote the dissemination to other regions of the results of projects implemented under regional initiatives;

9 that an annual meeting be held in each region, dedicated to discussing the regional initiatives and projects for each region and mechanisms for implementation of the initiatives adopted and to making known the needs of the different regions, and that an RDF may be held in conjunction with the annual meeting for each region;

10 to promote, by possible means, the holding of consultations with the Member States in each region before implementing and executing approved initiatives in a timely fashion, in order to agree on priorities, enabling RTOs to suggest strategic partners, means of financing, in kind and/or in cash, and personnel for projects under the regional initiatives, and decide on other issues, as appropriate, thereby promoting a participatory, inclusive process of meeting the goals;

11 in consultation and coordination with the Directors of the Radiocommunication and Telecommunication Standardization Bureaux, to promote the joint work of the three Sectors in order to provide suitable, efficient, agreed assistance for Member States to implement the regional initiatives;

12 to ensure that BDT facilitates the active involvement of regional and subregional telecommunication organizations in the different phases of project management established by ITU, as well as in forging partnerships and resource mobilization, with a view to effectively advancing the implementation of regional initiatives,

requests the Secretary-General

1 to continue special measures and programmes to develop and promote activities and regional initiatives, in close cooperation with regional and subregional telecommunication organizations, including regulators, and other related institutions;

2 to make every possible effort to encourage the private sector to take actions to facilitate cooperation with Member States in these regional initiatives, including countries with special needs;

3 to continue to work closely with the coordination mechanism established in the United Nations family and the five United Nations regional commissions;

4 to bring this resolution to the attention of the Plenipotentiary Conference, with an emphasis on digital inclusion, innovation and sustainability, for adequate budget support,

invites Member States and Sector Members

1 to collaborate in identifying funding opportunities and in shaping and co-designing viable projects that fulfil national needs under regional initiatives;

2 to continue supporting ITU in identifying and developing strategic partnerships that strengthen the implementation and impact of regional initiatives.