

Agenda item: PL 2.2

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Report by the Secretary-General

REPORT ON THE WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE (WTDC-14)

Summary

The sixth World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC) was held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, from 30 March to 10 April 2014. The purpose of this document is to provide the Council with a summary report on its conclusions.

Action required

The Council is invited to **note** this summary report of WTDC-14. The Council is also invited to **take into account** the contribution of the ITU-D to the ITU Strategic Plan, as adopted by WTDC-14, as an input to the draft ITU Strategic Plan to be submitted to the Plenipotentiary Conference.

All documents of the conference are available on the ITU [WTDC-14](#) website.

Reference

Resolution 77 (Rev. Hyderabad 2010), Council [Resolution 1228](#)
[Final Report of WTDC-14](#)

Introduction

1. The sixth World Telecommunication Development Conference was held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, from 30 March to 10 April 2014 under the theme “Broadband for Sustainable Development”. It was attended by 1,313 delegates from 137 Member States and 82 Sector Members and other entities, including 40 media representatives. The Conference was chaired by Mr Mohammed Al Ghanim, Director-General of the Telecommunication Regulatory Authority, United Arab Emirates. The list of Presiding Officers of the Conference as well as the Secretariat members can be found under the respective links.

2. The conference was preceded on 29 March 2014 by the Executive Strategic Dialogue on Broadband for Sustainable Development and an information session on Strategic Planning and Result Based Management. Furthermore, the BDT organized side events that showcased many of its activities.

Dubai Declaration

3. In adopting the Dubai Declaration, the delegates of WTDC-14 declared their commitment to accelerate the expansion and use of telecommunication/ICT infrastructure, services and applications, in particular broadband, as these are powerful tools of economic growth and innovation. It called upon all stakeholders to contribute towards the successful implementation of the Dubai Action Plan.

Contribution of the ITU-D to the ITU Strategic Plan

4. WTDC-14 adopted the ITU-D contribution to the ITU Strategic Plan 2016-2019. This contribution sets out a proposed structure of the ITU Strategic Plan; ITU Vision, Mission and Goals; as well as the Situational analysis of the ITU-D Sector and ITU-D five Objectives, Outcomes and Outputs.

Objective 1: Foster international cooperation on telecommunication/ICT development issues

5. The purpose of Objective 1 is to develop, agree and review the work plan for the four-year development cycle through the preparation and approval of the action plan and draft strategic plan by World Telecommunication Development Conferences, the preparatory process undertaken through the regional preparatory meetings and the advisory role of the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG).

Objective 2: Foster an enabling environment conducive to ICT development and foster the development of telecommunication/ICT networks as well as relevant applications and services, including bridging the standardization gap

6. The main purpose of Objective 2 is to assist the ITU membership in creating and maintaining an enabling telecommunication/ICT policy and regulatory environment, in developing and implementing effective financing policies and strategies; to assist the ITU membership in maximizing the utilization of appropriate new technologies for the development of their telecommunication/ICT networks, applications and services and bridging the standardization gap.

Objective 3: Enhance confidence and security in the telecommunication/ICTs, and roll-out of relevant ICT applications and services

7. The purpose of Objective 3 is to support the ITU membership in facilitating the development and improving access to ICT-based applications and services, particularly in underserved and rural areas, achieving trust and confidence in the safe use of ICTs and increasing the robustness of networks.

Objective 4: Build human and institutional capacity, provide data and statistics, promote digital inclusion and provide concentrated assistance to countries in special need

8. The purpose of Objective 4 is to assist the ITU membership in building human and institutional capacity in the field of telecommunications/ICTs, including through: a) utilizing study groups questions of priority to developing countries; b) fostering digital inclusion that promotes telecommunication/ICT accessibility; and c) providing concentrated assistance to countries in special needs.

Objective 5: Enhance environmental protection, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and disaster management efforts through telecommunications/ICTs

9. The purpose of Objective 5 is to assist the ITU membership by providing assistance to developing countries in disaster risk reduction and prevention, preparedness and relief/response and telecommunication infrastructure reconstruction/rehabilitation in countries affected by disasters, and to provide the ITU membership, particularly developing countries, with assistances in the use of ICTs to mitigate and address the effects of climate change.

Dubai Action Plan (DuAP)

10. The Dubai Action Plan (DuAP) is a comprehensive package that promotes the equitable, affordable, inclusive and sustainable development of telecommunication/ICT networks, applications and services.

11. It consists of a set of five ITU-D Objectives supported by 15 Outputs, two Study Groups considering 17 Questions and Resolution 9. The plan also includes priority regional initiatives (five regional initiatives per development region) focusing on the execution of technical cooperation projects and other direct assistance projects, as well as cooperation with other stakeholders on regional initiatives. The conference adopted 45 resolutions. Furthermore, the Dubai Action Plan also streamlines the WSIS outcomes through incorporating them into its implementation mechanisms.

The Dubai Action Plan follows a results-based management structure based on the objectives of the ITU-D contribution to the ITU strategic plan. It is organized as follows:

For each of the objectives, the following information is provided:

- Title of the objective
- Outcomes
- Description of the related outputs
- Key performance indicators (KPIs) for each output
- An implementation framework including, as relevant:
 - Programmes
 - Regional initiatives
 - Study group Questions
 - WSIS action line facilitation and
 - WTDC resolutions and recommendations.

12. ITU-D will develop products and services through the programmes, regional initiatives, study group Questions, WSIS action line facilitation, and WTDC resolutions and recommendations. The implementation framework guidelines in section 4 below will apply to all elements of the implementation framework.

Programmes, regional initiatives and study groups

Programmes

13. Programmes provide a coordination mechanism among all elements of the implementation framework and are responsible for assisting the membership to develop products such as model policies, regulations, strategies, plans, frameworks, procedures, guidelines, manuals, toolkits and

learning-management systems; economic and financial mechanisms; network and frequency planning tools, and spectrum management tools; conformity assessment and interoperability testing guidance research and analysis of relevant trends, including through reports, case studies, benchmarks and websites; collection and sharing of relevant best practices and technical standards; data and resource collection and dissemination; database development and development of other online resources, such as learning platforms and portals; capacity-building materials, and to provide these products for use by members.

14. In addition, programmes provide services to members, such as the provision of capacity building, legal, policy, regulatory and technical advice, providing platforms to foster cooperation among and exchanges between members and partners on relevant issues and raising awareness among members on key issues and trends. The products and services developed by programmes can be for use by members on a national, subregional, regional or global basis. Programmes can be implemented in partnership with other organizations, including Sector Members, academia, non-governmental organizations and other United Nations agencies.

Regional initiatives and other projects

15. Regional initiatives are intended to address specific telecommunication/information and communication technology (ICT) priority areas, through partnerships and resource mobilization to implement small-, medium- and large-scale projects. Under each regional initiative, projects are developed and implemented to meet the region's needs. The products and services to be developed through regional initiatives, to achieve related objectives and outcomes of the ITU-D contributions to the ITU strategic plan, will be identified in related project documents to be prepared following WTDC-14.

16. In fulfilling the Union's dual responsibility as a United Nations specialized agency and executing agency for implementing projects under the United Nations development system or other funding arrangements so as to facilitate and enhance telecommunication/ICT development, ITU-D offers, organizes and coordinates technical cooperation assistance through regional initiatives and projects.

17. The implementation of regionally approved initiatives is an important area of activity in the Dubai Action Plan. In accordance with Resolution 17 (Rev. Dubai, 2014), BDT has been tasked to facilitate the implementation of regionally approved initiatives at the national, regional, interregional and global level. WTDC-14 adopted five regional initiatives per development region. The execution of these regional initiatives will be carried out under the relevant objective of the Dubai Action Plan.

Study group Questions

18. ITU-D study groups are responsible for developing reports, guidelines and recommendations based on input received from the membership for review by their members. Information is gathered through surveys, contributions and case studies, and is made available for easy access by the membership using content-management and web-publication tools. The study groups examine specific task-oriented telecommunication/ICT questions of priority to developing countries, to support them in achieving their development goals.

19. Outputs agreed on in the ITU-D study groups, and related reference material, are used as input for the implementation of policies, strategies, projects and special initiatives in Member

States. These activities also serve to strengthen the shared knowledge base of the membership. Sharing of topics of common interest is carried out through face-to-face meetings, online e-forums and remote participation, in an atmosphere that encourages open debate and exchange of information and receiving input from experts on the topics under study. The products to be developed under study group Questions will be defined in the work plan of each study group Question.

ITU-D Working Methods

Study Groups

20. The two ITU-D study groups were maintained, however with significantly revised terms of reference, working methods and scope of work. The terms of reference for each of the study group questions were updated, and some questions were merged, which in turn allowed for the creation of questions on new topics of interest to the membership. With the new scope for study groups 1 and 2 and the redistribution of topics under study, the conference recommended that the study groups consider the appropriateness of establishing working parties focusing on topics under the scope of each study group to efficiently progress their work. The renumbering of the study group Questions was also deemed necessary and this was to be carried out by the secretariat in consultation with the study group chairmen.

21. The conference agreed on a revised Resolution 2 which provides for up to two Vice-Chairmen per study group per region. The names of appointed Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen for both study groups are available [here](#).

TDAG

22. The conference adopted the revised Resolution 24, authorizing TDAG to act between WTDCs on specific matters assigned to it. Moreover, the conference requested TDAG to deal with the following specific issues:

- Creation of a Correspondence Group to continue reviewing the complex text in Resolution 1 concerning the working methods. This group would focus on resolving contradictions and further improving the text.
- Elaboration of outcome indicators for the Objectives as well as KPIs for the outputs in the Dubai Action Plan.

23. The conference also elected Chairman and Vice-Chairmen to the [TDAG Bureau](#).

Financial Implications of the Decisions taken at WTDC-14

24. The conference considered estimated financial implications of the decisions, resolutions or any other conclusions of the conference. In this regard, the conference was reminded that the actions called for in the resolutions identified in Document WTDC-14/97 could be undertaken subject to the availability of financial resources.
