

Guiding questions for contributions on Vision for ITU-D from the Chair of PT WTDC-21

17 November 2020

The ITU World Telecommunication Development Conferences (WTDC) set the main guidelines to the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) for several years ahead. At regional level, preparation period to the WTDC-21 is the good opportunity to share the views about the role of the Development Sector and build a common European vision for ITU-D. Europe has agreed (*ECP 1 on ITU-T*) that, among other important goals, ITU shall focus on support for developing countries, and this is the task for ITU-D. The main functions of the Telecommunication Development Sector are provided in the ITU Constitution (Article 21).

Yet, the Members of ITU in Europe may have their ideas on the areas that may need some additional consideration. These ideas and proposals may be valuable for Telecommunication Developments Bureau (BDT) to keep their efforts in conformity with the needs and expectations of the ITU Membership.

Therefore, the representatives of European region are invited to express their views on the role of the Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D). The questions below are provided for reference as the starting points. But the contributors are free to express their opinion on other ITU-D vision-related aspects and are invited to do so.

1. What you consider to be the main purpose of ITU-D?

The main purpose for ITU-D should be to promote the use and deployment of telecommunication/ICT technology as an important base of furthering the sustainable development goals

2. What the BDT as “institution with impact” means to you? How this concept may be implemented?

BDT can play an important role in matching the available resources that exist amongst the various stakeholders, for instance in capacity building, to those places, organisations and people who need them. The main impact should probably come for facilitating a global dialogue that focuses on sharing of best practices that allow for telecommunication/ICTs to be deployed efficiently and without constraint.

3. What are your expectations from the ongoing BDT reform?

The involvement and inclusion of other stakeholder groups, matching the success of having a multi-stakeholder approach in other forums and organisations, should provide important guidance for BDT to reform and meet the 21st century challenges in deploying telecommunications/ICT technologies, which involves actions and investment by a variety of stakeholders.

4. How should BDT work with ITU Membership in future to achieve the development goals?

The involvement of sector members, especially from SMEs and academia to define meaningful advice on actions is an essential element to ensure that all stakeholders can add their bit in helping to further the goals that global community has set upon themselves.

5. What areas or groups should be the main target of ITU-D activities?

Creating an enabling environment for the deployment of modern telecommunication/ICT infrastructure, involving all members and stakeholders, especially from SMEs and under-developed regions. For instance by facilitating human capacity building and collecting, generating and distributing measurement data that can help to create benchmarks and monitor progress.