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| **Summary:** Proposed amendments to the draft CEPT strategic priorities for WTDC-14 agreed at the Com-ITU meeting 28-29 November 2013 |
| **Proposal:**  |
| For approval |
| **Background:**  |
| See also WSIS. |

**CEPT general principles and list of priorities for the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-14)**

# General Principles

## ITU-D should engage on those priorities that are strictly connected to development and accessibility of telecommunications services.

Support efforts to bridge the digital divide and increase the penetration of basic affordable and accessible telecommunications services for all with special focus ~~[with a focus~~ on groups that are ~~poor, and/or~~ marginalised and~~/disadvantaged/ on~~ underserved ~~groups] groups]~~ in their access to, and utilization of, ICTs. Europe should actively support the proposals strictly connected to this core mandate of ITU-D that are proven to bring added value.

## ITU-D should focus on a limited number of priorities with clear and measurable impact on the developing world

ITU should focus on those activities that can bring maximum benefits for end-users in relation to the incurred costs. The ITU-D planning needs to be shaped in providing reliable and measurable indicators for the impact of each activity. The indicators should play a key role in deciding on the future projects and allocation of funds. In CEPT opinion, the result oriented planning would increase donors trust.

## An enhanced linkage between budgetary planning- projects/actions – results should be promoted

Lack of resources is becoming a reality in all sectors, therefore increased attention to the financial and budgetary planning is crucial and project’s prioritization is needed. The projects’ planning and reporting should be improved and Member States should be given a greater say in the supervision process. More time should be given to assess the four year Rolling Operational Plan. The performance of the ITU-D components (study groups, offices, projects etc.) and their efficiency should be evaluated and made accessible to Membership. While evaluating the results achieved by the regional offices the corresponding regional priorities should especially be taken into account.)

## Programs, projects and study groups activities of ITU-D should be consistent with the general objectives of ITU-D

The structure of ITU-D: programs, projects and study groups activities, should reflect the main objectives which are defined in the ITU-D strategic plan. In this regard, CEPT supports the current structure of two ITU-D study groups and proposes to have maximum 3 objectives for the next WTDC: 1) deployment of networks, 2) support to regulatory measures relevant for the development of telecommunications, and 3) empowering society.

## The work of WTDC should reflect good practice in the field of telecommunications development

The following principles should constitute a precondition to activities performed by ITU-D: promotion of market access, competition and consumer protection. Implementation of these measures has proven to be successful in various parts of the world. CEPT believes that pursuing these will foster telecommunications’ development and in consequence will result in increased benefits for consumers.

ITU-D shall promote the best practices and knowledge sharing. Moreover, CEPT actively supports proposals for ITU-D activities that contribute to the free flow of information and freedom of expression.

Networks developed with the help of the ITU shall support the free flow of information and freedom of expression taking into account the relevant UN decisions.

## Inclusive participation and involvement

ITU-D should promote involvement and participation of all stakeholders in particular from the developing countries in the international organizations relevant to development of telecommunications, especially in ITU-D projects and activities.

# Main objectives for the ITU-D future work

## Deployment of networks

The deployment of networks in a technology neutral way is the precondition for bridging the digital divide between regions and continents. Providing the possibility accessing telecommunication services for all should be the most important priority for ITU-D. Even if the mobile telephony became almost ubiquitous with 6.8 billion subscriptions, internet access, especially broadband at affordable prices, remains a problem to be resolved, as only 40% of global population is online. Connecting the rest of the globe would constitute a big boost to world economy. Therefore, WTDC should make this a number one priority when setting the working plan of ITU-D with concrete and practical solutions to be implemented in the following years.

 Areas of work:

ITU-D should provide assistance and tools to create regulatory and policy environments that:

* promote best practices and national policies that support the development of telecommunications infrastructure and access to affordable telecommunications services, through a sound and transparent regulatory framework that would encourage competition and open market access,
* focus on universal access to broadband networks and services.
* assist and support capacity building and knowledge sharing in cooperation with other relevant international organisations where possible for developing countries, on important aspects of telecommunications such as:
* the robustness, availability, accessibility of networks,
* awareness, education regarding safer use of Internet complying with the general principles set in point 1,
* deployment of IPv6,
* transition to digital broadcasting,
* development of national and regional Internet Exchange Points (IXPs).

BDT shall report to the membership on the outcome of the assistance given in relation to these aims, in order to evaluate its impact and effectiveness. The country reports should also be made available to the membership. The activities should be reported in a transparent manner. If there is a direct relation to the activities, measurable KPIs like: affordability of telecommunications services etc. should be used.

## Support to regulatory measures relevant for the development of telecommunications

One of the most important problems in the developing world is the high price of telecommunication services and lack of affordability . In the majority of the cases this situation could be associated with the lack of competition, high licensing fees or sector specific taxes. It has been shown that competition and open markets are the main factors behind successful transformation of telecommunication services. Beyond affordability questions of accessibility (e.g. people with disabilities) and usability of ICTs as explained in section 2.3 below are also important issues concerning the developing world and could need specific measures or actions by ITU-D in liaison with other ITU sectors.

WTDC should highlight the importance of competitive markets and a stable, transparent regulatory framework that would bring new investments in the sector and assure the usability of ICTs and protection of end-users. ITU-D should implement practical and measurable activities in promoting best practices in the field.

Areas of work:

* capacity building to promote accessibility policies and appropriate regulatory frameworks
* institutional capacity building

If there is a direct relation to the activities, measurable KPIs like: penetration of services, prices/affordability of services, usability of ICTs, level of competition, existence and/or implementation of National Broadband Plans etc. should be used.

## Empowering society

The third objective of ITU-D should focus on empowering people, in particular on youth, women and persons with disabilities, to access ICT services, which support basic human needs as well as their social and economic empowerment. Connecting the un-connected whether in urban or rural or remote areas with the wider world and sharing the benefits of the global economy mean the accomplishment of the ITU’s relevant mission. ITU-D should increase the cooperation with other entities to harness existing and new technologies to become accessible and affordable for all. This would help to spread the benefits from the successful policies and projects developed around the world. Empowerment of people should also include the assistance in disaster prevention, preparedness and relief/response and telecommunications infrastructure reconstruction/rehabilitation in countries affected by disasters.

Areas of work (taking into account the principle of avoiding duplication of the work of other sectors/organizations):

* capacity building on issues within the mandate of ITU in cooperation with relevant international organizations in their respective roles,
* guidelines, best practices and policies to promote usability of ICTs for empowerment of society.
* providing emergency communication when needed.

If there is a direct relation to the activities, measurable KPIs like: number of people with e-skills, number of functional e-government services/users, number of functional available equipment etc. should be used.

***Regulatory measures***

***ICT for Society***

***Deployment of Networks***

***Participation and Involvement***