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ITU World Telecommunication Development Conference 2025 (WTDC-25)

Internet Society Background Paper

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Summary

This background paper is intended to provide the Internet Society community and interested parties with a general overview of the ITU WTDC-25 and our perspectives on some of the main issues which may be discussed.

Delegates will gather this November in Baku, Azerbaijan, for the 9th ITU World Telecommunication Development Conference ([WTDC-2025](#)) to set the development agenda and priorities for the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) for 2026 through 2029. WTDC-2025 will serve as a discussion forum on the opportunities and challenges of bridging the digital divide, as well as act as a catalyst for partnership and investment in infrastructure development. Preparations for the WTDC began well over a year ago and will continue through November 2025.

Internet Society's Objectives at WTDC-25

As the Internet Society is a Sector Member of ITU-D, we will be present at WTDC with a strong focus on supporting Internet Infrastructure development, particularly in least developed countries, small island developing states, and landlocked developing countries. The [ITU-D priorities](#) of affordable connectivity, an enabling policy and regulatory environment, resource mobilization and international cooperation, inclusive and secure telecommunications/ICTs for sustainable development closely align with our strategic objectives.

Our priorities include:

- **ITU-D Action Plan for 2026-2029:** We will work to ensure that the ITU-D Action Plan for 2026-2029 focuses on the telecommunications development work that is urgently needed to connect the unconnected, provide meaningful connectivity, and ensure local Internet stability and resilience.
- **Connectivity policies and regulation:** We will support the adoption of policy and regulatory language that enables innovative policies in spectrum management, funding, and licensing mechanisms to connect the unconnected, deliver meaningful connectivity, and provide technical capacity building to strengthen local Internet ecosystems. We will promote policies that not only expand access but also strengthen security, trust, and resilience.
- **Community-centered networks:** We will promote policies and language within WTDC Resolutions that enable the emergence of complementary connectivity solutions to bridge the digital divide, such as [community-centered networks](#). These are local initiatives proven to be effective in connecting communities to the Internet, especially for those who need it the most.

They empower unconnected and underserved communities to gain access to government services and education, enhance local business opportunities, and address social challenges, including enabling women and girls to break through gender barriers. Importantly, they empower local communities, including First Nation and Indigenous communities, to design and build networks and Internet access that meet their needs.

- **Sustainable peering infrastructure:** We will work with ITU Members to promote open and transparent policy and regulatory processes that foster sustainable peering infrastructure. This includes promoting local investment, collaboration among content providers, data center operators, Internet exchange points (IXPs), and local technical communities with the aim of developing local conditions that will attract investment and growth in local content and content that is locally accessible. IXPs contribute to Internet resilience by localizing traffic, reducing latency, and dependency on international links. We will keep supporting the addition of these topics as part of the next Study Group period (2026-2029)
- **The Internet's critical role in achieving the SDGs:** We will foster constructive dialogue among delegates about the Internet's critical role in achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as well as the importance of preserving the Internet's fundamental characteristics of global reach, open and collaborative governance, general-purpose technology, open and voluntary standards, innovation without prior permission, interoperability, decentralized networks, and confidentiality and integrity, to ensure the Internet continues to evolve to meet future development needs.
- **Digital public infrastructure (dpi):** For the Internet Society, digital public infrastructure describes multistakeholder collaborations in developing and providing application-level infrastructure (such as digital payment systems) to serve the public interest. We will encourage the use of application technologies built, governed, and operated in the public interest, using opensource software, open standards, and other digital public goods.
- **Multistakeholder Internet governance:** We will ensure that a multistakeholder approach continues for Internet governance and in development activities. We will highlight the effectiveness of the multistakeholder model, the role of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF), and national and regional Internet governance initiatives in helping to close development gaps, and how it is essential that the WSIS+20 review upholds and continues the multistakeholder model for Internet governance.
- **Informing policy through data:** We curate data from trusted sources to help everyone understand the availability, evolution, and resilience of the global Internet. This includes the adoption of key new and enabling Internet technologies, which help identify where more

efforts are needed. We make that data publicly available on [Pulse](#). We will encourage strategies to collect and use data to inform policymaking, especially regarding local resiliency.

After WTDC-25, throughout the forthcoming study group period (2026-2029), the Internet Society will continue to collaborate with all stakeholders, including governments, to achieve meaningful connectivity for everyone. We will provide our expertise and share our experience working with communities on community-centered connectivity solutions to expand affordable and reliable Internet access in the hardest-to-reach areas.

We also look forward to engaging delegates in the broader UN development agenda and collaborating closely to advance the priorities that address the digital divide.

Background

Background on the International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

The ITU was created in 1865 to facilitate international telegraphy in Europe and has evolved to address the advances in communications globally. Since 1948, it has been a United Nations (UN) specialized agency headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland. The ITU has played an important role in forging cooperation in the global communications system, telecommunications infrastructure development, and the allocation of radio frequency spectrum. The ITU's mandate is clearly focused on international telecommunications as stated in Article 1 of the ITU Constitution. However, innovation in communication technologies and applications and the supplanting of traditional telephony systems by global Internet protocol networking systems have raised some questions about the appropriate role for the ITU. As Internet public policy issues have found their way into the ITU agenda, discussions continue about the ITU's proper role, scope, and activities.

ITU Structure and Governing Bodies

The ITU Plenipotentiary Conference (Plenipot), held every four years, acts as the governing body of the ITU, providing its overall strategic and financial guidance. The Plenipotentiary establishes the General Rules of Conferences, Assemblies and Meetings of the Union and elects leadership for the ITU. As a treaty-level conference, the Plenipotentiary Conference is the venue for revising the ITU's controlling treaties, the Constitution of the International Telecommunication Union ("ITU Constitution") and the Convention of the International Telecommunication Union ("ITU Convention").

Since 1998, the ITU has become more involved in a range of policy and substantive matters related to Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) and the Internet. Plenipotentiary Resolutions¹ have largely been the vehicle for its enhanced role.

¹ ITU Plenipotentiary resolutions are formal expressions of the opinion or will of the ITU Plenipotentiary.

The ITU Council meets annually and serves as the governing body during the intervening years between Plenipotentiary conferences. It is composed of one-fourth of the ITU's Member States, and the election of ITU Council Members occurs at Plenipotentiary Conferences. The ITU Council addresses decisions that do not involve changing treaty text or elections.

The ITU is managed by its General Secretariat, headed by the Secretary General (currently Doreen Bogdan-Martin of the USA). The ITU includes three Sectors that carry out the activities mandated by the Plenipotentiary Conference: The Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R), the Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T), and the Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D). The Sector work programs are defined by a Sector-specific assembly or conference, usually held every four years. (see Table 1)

The membership of the ITU comprises Member States, Sector Members (private industry and other approved organizations), Associates, and Academia. At a WTDC, only Member States have voting rights; however, Sector Members² can fully participate in the discussion and contribute to the consensus-building towards the outcomes of the conference. Other organizations and individuals, as described in Article 25 of the ITU Convention, can attend as observers.

As of publication, there are 194 Member States and over 500 Sector Members and Associates. The Internet Society participates as a Sector Member. Membership in the ITU is fee-based, with some fee reductions or exemptions available to members that meet the ITU's eligibility criteria. Sector Members may participate in the activities of the Sector which they join, including leadership positions of the Sector Study Groups and Sector Conferences. Associates participate in only one Study Group in a Sector. Each Sector has rules of procedures for decision-making in Study Groups.

Table 1. International Telecommunication Union Sectors

Item	ITU-R	ITU-T	ITU-D
Sector	Radiocommunication Sector	Telecommunication Standardization Sector	Telecommunication Development Sector
Mandate	Coordinate the allocation of Radio Frequency Spectrum and adopt Radiocommunication Recommendations <i>(Chapter II of the ITU Constitution)</i>	Study technical, operating and tariff questions and adopt recommendations to standardize telecommunications <i>(Chapter III of the ITU Constitution)</i>	Facilitate and improve telecommunications development <i>(Chapter IV of the ITU Constitution)</i>

² List of Sector Members: https://www.itu.int/online/mm/scripts/gensel11?_sect=T

Item	ITU-R	ITU-T	ITU-D
Conference/ Assembly	World Radio Conference (WRC)	World Telecommunications Standardization Assembly (WTSA)	World Telecommunications Development Conference (WTDC)
	Considers revisions to the ITU Radio Regulations	Defines the Work Program, Working Methods and Structure of Study Groups for the next 4 Years in ITU-T	Defines the Work Program, Working Methods and Structure of Study Groups for the next 4 Years in ITU-D
	Every 3—4 years	Every 4 years	Every 4 years
	WRC 2027	WTSA 2028	WTDC 2025

The ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D)

The ITU-D was created as a result of the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference in 1989 and the Additional Plenipotentiary Conference in 1992. The ITU-D “works to close the digital divide and drive digital transformation to leverage the power of ICTs for economic prosperity, job creation, digital skills development, gender equality, diversity, a sustainable and circular economy, and for saving lives.”³ The ITU-D is chartered in Chapter IV of the ITU Constitution and Section 7 of the ITU Convention.

The ITU-D is led by the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT), elected by the Plenipotentiary Conference every four years. The BDT Secretariat acts as the executing agency to implement projects and programs that are defined by the ITU membership at the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC). The BDT also provides expert assistance to the ITU-D’s two Study Groups. The BDT and its regional offices work in partnership with other government agencies, the United Nations, ITU Sector Members, and other partners in order to fund and implement development programs and projects.

The work of the ITU-D is carried out in its two Study Groups:

SG1: Enabling environment for meaningful connectivity

SG2: Digital Transformation

The Study Groups are organized as Questions which study a particular topic with a Rapporteur leading each Question. The Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG) “reviews priorities, strategies, operations and financial matters of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D).

³ <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Pages/About.aspx>

It meets in the interval between ITU World Telecommunication Development Conferences (WTDCs) to advise the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) on the implementation of the WTDC Action Plan, including issues relating to the budget and the operational plan of the Sector.”⁴

About WTDC-25

WTDC is a conference hosted by the ITU every four years which sets the development agenda for the next four-year period (2026-2029). WTDC is a non-treaty conference, and does not provide regulatory outcomes. Rather, the Member States adopt a four-year action plan to focus the work of the ITU Members and BDT to realize the Development Sector's goal of bridging the digital divide. The conference provides a forum for discussion of telecommunication/ICT trends and development issues such as the cost of international Internet connectivity, digital inclusion, affordable broadband access, and emergency telecommunications.

WTDC-25 will take place in Baku, Azerbaijan, from 17 to 28 November 2025. The theme is “Universal, meaningful and affordable connectivity for an inclusive and sustainable digital future.”

Who Attends

The membership of the ITU comprises Member States, Sector Members (private industry and other approved organizations), Associates, and Academia. At a WTDC, only Member States have voting rights; however, Sector Members⁵ can fully participate in the discussion and contribute to the consensus-building towards the outcomes of the conference. Other organizations and individuals, as described in Article 25 of the ITU Convention, can attend as observers.

Other non-statutory events may be held under the WTDC framework. These will be announced by ITU-D as they are organized.

Activities and Main Outcomes of WTDC-25

The World Telecommunication Development Conference 25 will define the work program, working methods and structure of Study Groups for the ITU-D for the 2026-2029 study period. As mandated in Article 16 of the ITU Convention, World Telecommunication Development Conferences (from Article 16):

- Shall establish work programs and guidelines for defining telecommunication development questions and priorities;
- Shall provide direction and guidance for the work program of the Telecommunication Development Sector;

⁴ <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Conferences/TDAG/Pages/default.aspx>

⁵ List of Sector Members https://www.itu.int/online/mm/scripts/gensel11?_sect=T

- Shall decide, in the light of the above-mentioned programs of work, on the need to maintain, terminate, or establish study groups and allocate to each of them the questions to be studied;
- Shall decide on the need to maintain, terminate, or establish other groups and appoint their chairmen and vice-chairmen;
- Shall establish the terms of reference for the groups referred to above;
- Should fix the objectives and strategies for the balanced worldwide and regional development of telecommunications, giving particular consideration to the expansion and modernization of the networks and services of the developing countries, as well as the mobilization of the resources required for this purpose;
- Shall serve as a forum for the study of policy, organizational, operational, regulatory, technical, and financial questions and related aspects, including the identification and implementation of new sources of funding;
- Shall consider reports submitted to them (e.g., from study groups) and recommendations from regional telecommunication development conferences, and evaluate the activities of the Sector;
- May also consider telecommunication development aspects related to the activities of the other Sectors of the Union.

At a WTDC, decisions can only be taken by Member States; however, the preparations on the outcome documents that define the ITU-D's focus for the next four years are the culmination of efforts by all ITU-D members, including non-governmental stakeholders. The main outcome documents will be as follows:

- WTDC-25 Declaration ("Baku Declaration"): A baseline draft of the WTDC-25 Declaration can be found at [TDAG-25/18\(Rev.3\)](#)
- ITU-D contribution to the ITU's 2028-2031 Strategic Plan, which will be adopted at the next Plenipotentiary Conference in Doha in 2026
- WTDC-25 (Baku) Action Plan, which serves as the operational plan for ITU-D, providing direction for the work program and activities in accordance with the WTDC's priorities. Document [TDAG-25/21\(Rev.3\)](#) contains baseline text for the Baku Action Plan
- WTDC Resolutions, including Resolution 2, which contains the Study Groups and Questions for the next Study Period. Document [TDAG-25/19](#) contains baseline text for Resolution 2 (Appendix 4).

Structure of WTDC-25

The WTDC-25 will be structured similarly to the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA) and other ITU conferences, with a main plenary and committees with their respective working groups. Most of the work of interest will be done in the following:

- Committee 3 (Objectives) and its Working Groups: This committee will focus on the work program of ITU-D including study group questions, resolutions and regional initiatives.
- Committee 4 (Working Methods) and its Working Groups: This committee will focus on the working methods of ITU-D (e.g., Resolution 1).
- Working Group of the Plenary: This working group will focus on the WTDC-25 Declaration and ITU-D's input to the ITU Strategic Plan (for the next Plenipotentiary Conference).

Ad-hoc groups will be formed during committee and working group meetings to address specific topics that arise during the conference.

Youth Celebration

As described in Document [TDAG-25/12\(Rev.3\)](#), "A Youth Celebration will be held on 16 November 2025 prior to WTDC-25 in Baku. The celebration will feature intergenerational dialogues, inspiring talks, and activities designed to highlight youth roles in digital development." The Youth Celebration will not produce an official outcome document for WTDC-25.

Preparation for WTDC-25

The Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG)

The Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG) acts between WTDCs, meets annually, examines priorities, strategies, operations, and financial matters for ITU-D, and advises the Director of the Development Sector on implementing the WTDC Action Plan. Member States, Sector Members, chairmen and vice-chairmen of Study Groups, and invited development experts may participate in the TDAG meetings.

The TDAG establishes working guidelines, facilitates cross-regional communications, and oversees the functioning of the Study Groups. In this latter role, the TDAG is empowered to redefine or delete Study Group Questions, to restructure the Study Groups, and to determine the priority, financing, and urgency of the work on the Questions.

TDAG established several working groups for the preparation for [WTDC-25](#):

- **TDAG Working Group on Streamlining Resolutions (TDAG-WG-SR)**: This working group was created to review WTDC resolutions and to "consider streamlining, to avoid repetitions and duplication with the Resolutions of the Plenipotentiary Conference." In addition, it is "To analyse and identify specific instructions for ITU-D contained in the final documents of PP-22, including those not reflected in the relevant WTDC resolutions;" Final Report: [\(Document TDAG-25/20\)](#),
- **TDAG Working Group on the Future of Study Group Questions (TDAG-WG-futureSGQ)**: This working group was created to provide a platform for discussions on new and modified

Study Group Questions to be included in updates to Resolution 2 at WTDC-25. Final Report: [\(Document TDAG-25/19\)](#)

- **TDAG Working Group on ITU-D Priorities (TDAG-WG-ITUDP)**: This working group was created to review relevant documents (e.g., current ITU-D Priorities, proposals to WTDC25 on regional initiatives, outcomes of the Regional Preparatory Meetings, the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and relevant WSIS Action Lines) and develop proposals for the ITU-D Priorities for WTDC-25, including input to the ITU Strategic Plan (2028-2031), proposals for the next Action Plan and recommendations for the next Operational Plan. Final Report: [Document TDAG-25/21](#)
- **TDAG Working Group on the WTDC Declaration (TDAG-WG-DEC)**: This working group was created to develop recommendations for the WTDC-25 Declaration. Final Report: [TDAG-25/18](#)

These TDAG working groups allow ITU Members to discuss and possibly reach consensus on topics prior to WTDC-25.

WTDC-25 Regional Preparatory Meetings

Regional Preparatory Meetings (RPMs) were held in each of the ITU regions prior to the conference to facilitate regional coordination and preparation for WTDC-25. They also received reports on progress on implementations of the WTDC-22 Kigali Action Plan (including Regional Initiatives), activities of other ITU Conferences, Assemblies, and meetings related to ITU-D, and preparations for WTDC-25 (e.g., from TDAG, BDT, and Azerbaijan).

Regional Preparatory Meetings (RPM)

- Europe (RPM-EUR), 25-26 February 2025, [Report](#)
- Asia and the Pacific (RPM-ASP), 20-21 March 2025, [Report](#)
- Africa (RPM-AFR), 8-9 April 2025, [Report](#)
- Arab States (RPM-ARB), 4-5 February 2025, [Report](#)
- CIS Region (RPM-CIS), 24-25 April 2025, [Report](#)
- Americas Region (RPM-AMS), 1-2 April 2025, [Report](#)

The main outcomes of the RPMs are the Chairman's Reports that summarize information shared at the RPM and proposed draft Regional Initiatives for WTDC-25 (if agreed).

Draft Regional Initiatives from the RPMs:

Note that the proposals on regional initiatives will be finalized by the Regional Telecommunication Organizations (discussed below) and could be modified in meetings subsequent to the RPMs.

Africa ([RPM-AFR25/DT/3](#))

- **AFR1:** Meaningful connectivity and resilient infrastructure- for sustainable development, including emergency telecommunications and multi-hazard early warning systems in the Africa region
- **AFR2:** Developing an inclusive, trustworthy AI ecosystem in Africa for socio-economic development
- **AFR3:** Building trust, safety, and security in the use of telecommunications/ information and communication technology, and data protection and privacy
- **AFR4:** Digital infrastructure applications, SMEs development, and emerging technologies and innovation ecosystems
- **AFR5:** Sustainable funding mechanisms for Africa's digital transformation

Americas ([RPM-AMS25/DT/3\(Rev.2\)](#))

- **AMS1:** Facilitating Resilient Infrastructure to Enable Deployment of Universal and Meaningful Connectivity
- **AMS2:** Digital Inclusion, Digital Skills/Competencies
- **AMS3:** Support for Innovative Digital Ecosystems and the adoption and use of emerging technologies
- **AMS4:** Promoting cyber resilience and capacity building in cybersecurity and cyber resilience
- **AMS5:** Governance and Enabling Regulatory Frameworks for Sustainable Digital Transformation

Arab States ([RPM-ARB25/18](#))

A regional workshop organized by the UAE developed a set of draft regional initiatives that were presented to the RPM (D22-RPMARB-C-0018). The RPM noted the contribution from the workshop and agreed that the League of Arab States Arab Preparatory Working Group for WTDC-25 would develop a final proposal to WTDC-25 based on the outcomes from the workshop, listed below:

- Sector Specific Transformation: Sustainable Digital Futures
- Infrastructure and connectivity
- Fostering Economic Development and Digital Inclusion
- Skills Development & Job Creation
- Advancing Cyber Resilience in the Arab World
- Innovation Ecosystems and Emerging Tech

Asia-Pacific ([RPM-ASP25/18\(Rev.1\)](#))

- **ASP1:** Addressing the special needs of Least Developed Countries, Small Island Developing States, including Pacific Island countries, and Landlocked Developing Countries
- **ASP2:** Harnessing telecommunications/ICTs to support inclusive and sustainable digital transformation
- **ASP3:** Fostering the development of infrastructure to enhance digital connectivity and connecting the unconnected
- **ASP4:** Enabling an innovative and sustainable telecommunication/ICT sector
- **ASP5:** Supporting a safe, secure, and resilient telecommunication/ICT environment

Commonwealth of Independent States ([RPM-CIS25/18](#))

- **CIS1:** Introduction of new and emerging telecommunication/ICT systems and networks
- **CIS2:** Telecommunication/ICT education and skills, including for persons with disabilities and specific needs
- **CIS3:** Security in the use of telecommunications/ICTs, including countering fraud
- **CIS4:** Creation of an enabling environment and telecommunication/ICT regulation
- **CIS5:** Development and implementation of artificial intelligence technologies

Europe ([RPM-EUR25/30](#))

- **EUR1: Digital infrastructure development:** The objective of this initiative is to facilitate the attainment of universal and meaningful connectivity through resilient and synergistic infrastructure development and an enabling environment, ensuring ubiquitous coverage.
- **EUR2: Digital transformation for resilience:** The objective of this initiative is to facilitate the digitalization processes of services in different sectors (e.g., agriculture, health, government, education), including those of public administrations, to ensure greater resilience in responding to critical situations, including the challenges of pandemics, natural hazards, or human-introduced crises.
- **EUR3: Digital inclusion and skills development:** The objective of this initiative is to facilitate equitable access to information and communication technologies (ICTs) and necessary digital skills for all groups of society, including persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs, as well as women and youth, to take advantage of telecommunications/ICTs.
- **EUR4: Trust and confidence in the use of telecommunications/ information and communication technologies:** The objective of this initiative is to support the deployment of resilient infrastructure and secure telecommunications/ICTs, allowing all citizens, especially children, to use telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICTs) in their daily lives with confidence.
- **EUR5: Digital innovation ecosystems:** The objective of this initiative is to foster environments that are conducive to innovation and entrepreneurship through systemic

approaches based on digital telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICTs), aimed at closing the growing digital innovation divide in the region.

Regional Telecommunication Organizations

The Regional Telecommunication Organizations hold preparatory meetings to develop regional common proposals for WTDC-25 (e.g., on Resolutions, Study Group work, Action Plan, Declaration) and common views or positions on matters to be discussed at WTDC-25. These proposals will be uploaded to the WTDC-25 website after they are approved regionally.

Regional Telecommunication Organizations and common proposals

- Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT), APT Common Proposal (ACP)
- African Telecommunications Union (ATU), African Common Proposal (AfCP)
- European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT), European Common Proposals (ECP)
- Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL), Inter-America Common Proposals (IAP).
- Regional Commonwealth in the Field of Communications (RCC)
- League of Arab States (LAS), Arab States Common Proposal (ARB)

Inter-Regional Meetings (IRM)

Two inter-regional meetings were endorsed by TDAG-25:

- **IRM-1:** 14-15 July 2025 (virtual)
- **IRM-2:** 29-30 September 2025 (virtual)

The IRMs follow up on the topics discussed at the RPMs and allow for more interregional dialogue on issues of interest for WTDC-25. The IRMs were open to all ITU-D members.

Main Focus Areas

ITU-D Priorities from the draft Baku Action Plan (TDAG-25/21(Rev.3)) are:

- **Affordable connectivity**
 - Improved broadband
 - Improved telecommunication/ICT infrastructure and service, in particular, broadband coverage
 - Strengthened the capacity of Member States to use telecommunications/ICTs for disaster risk reduction and management, to ensure the availability of emergency telecommunications
- **Digital transformation**

- Enhanced capacity to accelerate digital transformation and sustainable development through the use of new and emerging telecommunications/ICTs and services
- Enhanced human and institutional capacity of the ITU membership in telecommunications/ICTs to foster digital transformation
- Strengthened capacity to develop and integrate telecommunication/ICT innovation and digitalization in national development agendas
- Enhanced capacity to develop telecommunication/ICT strategies and solutions on climate-change adaptation and mitigation, and the use of green/renewable energy
- **Enabling policy and regulatory environment**
 - Strengthened the capacity of Member States to produce and collect high-quality, internationally comparable statistics which reflect developments and trends in telecommunications/ICT, empowered by new and emerging technologies and services, based on agreed standards and methodologies
 - Strengthened the capacity of Member States to enhance their telecommunication/ICT policy, legal, and regulatory frameworks conducive to sustainable development and digital transformation
 - Strengthened the capacity of Member States to produce and collect high-quality, internationally comparable statistics which reflect developments and trends in telecommunications/ICT, empowered by new and emerging technologies and services, based on agreed standards and methodologies
- **Resource mobilization and international cooperation**
 - Strengthened resource-mobilization strategy through cooperation with international and regional financial and development institutions
 - Strengthened United Nations-wide joint planning, collaboration, and cooperation with financial and development institutions at the international and regional levels on achieving the 2030 SDGs related to telecommunication/ICT development matters.
- **Inclusive, safe, and secure telecommunications/ICTs for sustainable development**
 - Increased literacy and awareness of cybersecurity issues, including online Child Protection
 - Enhanced capacity of Member States to develop national cybersecurity strategies and CIRTs
 - Strengthened partnerships to adequately resource and support capacity building and cybersecurity activities
 - Increased secure online services, including child online protection

- Strengthened capacity of the ITU membership to develop strategies, policies, and practices for digital inclusion and equity, in particular for the empowerment of women and girls, persons with disability

In general, topics of interest in WTDC reflect the new proposals from previous ITU conferences (e.g., WTSA) as well as ITU-D work in the previous study period. Some of the topics so far:

- Artificial Intelligence (note Plenipotentiary Resolution 214). The use of AI may be proposed for study in ITU-D across all study questions as opposed to concentrated in a single question.
- Space-based infrastructure
- Blockchain
- Metaverse
- Quantum communication
- Digital Transformation
- Technology transfer
- Economic and regulatory barriers
- Cybersecurity and data privacy
- WSIS+20: The UN is holding its 20-year review of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) in 2025. Since WTDC-25 will be held just before the UN General Assembly's High-Level Meeting in December 2025, it is likely that it will also be a topic of discussion at WTDC-25.

Looking Ahead to Plenipotentiary 2026

The WTDC-25 outcomes will set the ITU's development sector's work program for the next four years. The ITU Development sector's inputs to the 2028-2031 Strategic and Financial Plan, which will be set at the WTDC-25, will be submitted to the next Plenipotentiary conference in 2026. However, any unresolved issues at WTDC-25 may be forwarded to the Plenipotentiary for consideration. We will be following these issues as we prepare for our participation in the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference in Doha, Qatar, in 2026.